

Publication in peer-reviewed journals is considered a fundamental indicator of scientific productivity as well as an essential means of communicating findings to other scholars.

The Social Science Index (SSCI), the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) (Social Science Edition) and other web-based products produced by ISI Thomson Scientific provide useful information on citation patterns of various journals and measures of journal impact and influence. The JCR Report also includes an Impact Score which is calculated by totaling the number of citations a journal's article received in the two previous years, divided by the total number of articles the journal published during that period of time. A comparison of impact factor scores across several of the top journals in social science fields indicates that the American Sociological Review, the American Sociological Association's flagship journal, lead other professional societies' flagship journals, according to this measure.

