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For urgent Comments please.

JE 13/3/17

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Subject: <u>A Journal Prestige Measurement System (JPMS) For Journals of Different Knowledge Domains</u>

My dear Vice-Chancellor/Rector,

السلام علیکم ورحمة الله وبرکاته

1. It gives me a great pleasure to inform you that the total number of research publications from Pakistani universities has significantly increased to a respectable total of (more than) 12000 journal articles in the year 2015. However, this impressive increase in the number of research publications has always received a criticism that most of them are not published in Tier-1 prestigious journals. Some studies suggest that the prevailing HEC's policies to access the quality of publications by using a single metric of *Impact Factor (IF)* of a journal (and putting all impact factor journals in one "W" category) is the root cause of this outcome. Moreover, using IF to access the quality of research publications across different knowledge domains also remained a debated issue since its adoption by HEC.

2. HEC also realized this shortcoming and launched a series of consultation workshops and awareness presentations during the last two years in a number of HEIs and at HEC in Islamabad to better understand the quality measurement frameworks for research journals. During these extensive consultations with different stakeholders, the unanimous conclusion was: A research article in a highly prestigious journal shall never be equated with that of an ordinary unknown poor quality journal to encourage publications in top quality research journals.

3. The most valuable outcome of this comprehensive exercise is a better understanding of a separate knowledge domain, namely *Scientometric*, that deals with the study of measuring and analyzing the impact of science, technology and innovation. The major research problems investigated are: how to use scientific citations to measure the prestige and impact of journals, researchers and institutes; and propose quantifiable indicators to assist decision makers for evidence based Policy making[1].

4. The other valuable outcome of these deliberations are that measuring the prestige of a journal is an active area of research and in the last two decades a significant amount of research has been devoted towards proposing more than 39 new measures to quantify the prestige of a research journal[2].
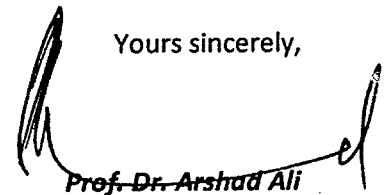
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[1] *Refer to a recent article written by Leydesdorff & Milojević and is available at [https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/1208/1208.4566.pdf].*

[2] The Article written by Bollen J, Van de Sompel H, Hagberg A, Chute R with a title *A Principal Component Analysis of 39 Scientific Impact Measures* published in PLoS ONE 4(6): 6022.doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0006022 is worth reading *[Available at http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0006022]*

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5. After undertaking such a rigorous effort, HEC has finally decided to take the initiative to design and launch a novel, multi-metrics, robust, and effective Journal Prestige Measurement System (JPMS). The objectives of JPMS are: (1) to provide a global quality score and a research area specific quality score to a research journal; and (2) to provide a global rank and a research area specific rank to a research journal. The motivation for using more metrics is: a better representation of quality and robustness against any compromise by unethical publishers, authors and reviewers.

6. HEC has also shortlisted a tentative list of measures to judge the quality of a research journal. These measures are widely accepted by prestigious projects (including EigenFactor Project[3] and Scimago Project[4]):
   a. Eigen Factor
   b. Article Influence
   c. Scimago Journal Rank
   d. H-Index
   e. Cites per Doc (CD2) [Impact Factor computed from Web of Science or Scopus]
   f. Source Normalized Impact Per Paper (SNIP)[5]

7. You are requested to circulate this letter among your faculty and ask for their feedback on how to develop an innovative world class JPMS by utilizing the above-mentioned measures. HEC is planning to review the existing policy regarding recognized research journals to encourage faculty to publish in top quality journals. Please communicate consolidated feedback from your faculty by 25th March positively.

8. Please feel free to contact me, if you have any suggestion to revolutionize the research landscape of Pakistan by focusing on world class quality research that creates not only an impact in their area of research but also on our society

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Arshad Ali

The Vice Chancellor/Rector All Public and Private Universities of Pakistan

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[3] [http://www.eigenfactor.org/]

[4] [http://www.scimagojr.com]

[5] [http://www.journalindicators.com/]