



## 2008 Impact Factor Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### What is a journal's impact factor?

The impact factor is a tool for ranking, evaluating, and comparing journals. It is a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in a particular year.

#### What is the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews impact factor (IF) for 2008? **5.182**

**How is the IF calculated?** The impact factor is calculated by dividing the number of IF year citations to the source items published in that journal during the previous two years. So for the 2008 IF:

Cites in 2008 to reviews published in: 2006 = 3595  
2007 = 2686

Number of reviews published in: 2006 = 575  
2007 = 637

Cochrane IF Calculation:  $\frac{\text{2008 cites to reviews published in 2006-2007}}{\text{Number of reviews published in 2006-2007}} = \frac{6281}{1212} = 5.182$

#### What is the comparison data for 2007 vs 2008?

Subject : Medicine, General & Internal	2007	2008	% change
Impact factor for CDSR	4.654	5.182	11%
Median impact factor for subject	1.331	1.492	12%
Aggregate impact factor for subject*	4.705	4.627	-2%
Ranking**	14th	12th	+2
Cited half-life for CDSR***	3.6	3.9	8%
Cited half-life for subject***	7.1	7.3	3%
Immediacy index for CDSR****	0.846	1.131	34%
Immediacy index for subject****	1.229	1.295	5%

\*The aggregate impact factor for a subject category is calculated the same way as the impact factor for a journal, but it takes into account the number of citations to all journals in the category and the number of source-articles from all journals in the category.

\*\*The number of journals included in Medicine, General & Internal in 2007 was 100, and in 2008, 107 journals were included in this category.

\*\*\*The cited half-life is the median age of the papers that were cited in the current year, e.g. a cited half-life of 3.9 years means the citations made to the journal from all papers published in 2007, half were to papers over 3 years old.

\*\*\*\*The immediacy index is the average number of times the source-article is cited in the year it is published and indicates how quickly articles in a journal are cited.

#### What is included in the source items for the denominator? Are protocols included?

All new and substantively updated (new citation version) reviews that appeared in CDSR during 2006 and 2007 are included in the source items for the 2008 IF calculation. Protocols are not included.

#### How can authors track citations to their reviews?

Authors can use the ISI Web of Science, however ISI link and then track only citations that have been correctly referenced. However, a high percentage of citations are not being linked back to the original author's review. Therefore, authors viewing their citations need to be aware that some of the numbers may not be a true



representation of *all* citations for an individual review. Members of the Wiley-Blackwell team are currently working with Thomson ISI, to identify these cases and where sufficient information exists, to allocate these citations back to the original reviews. Please encourage citing authors to correctly reference Cochrane reviews using the “this record should be cited as” guidance in the header of each review article.

### What is the benefit of having an IF?

To date, authors have not been able to measure citations to their reviews and have not been able to cite CDSR as having an “impact factor” when listing their publications when applying for grants, or being evaluated as part of the research assessment exercise. However, it is clear that Cochrane reviews have wider impacts than just those tracked by ISI and that the IF is an under estimate of the true impact of Cochrane reviews worldwide, which contribute and impact guideline development, policy setting, consumers and many others in order to inform and improve healthcare decision-making.

### How does internal cross referral or self-citation work?

Internal cross referral or self-citation can have an effect on the impact factor. The following information highlights the number of internal cross-references made to CDSR:

	2007	2008
<b>Total cites</b>	<b>14622</b>	<b>19444</b>
<b>Cites to years used in impact factor calculation</b>	<b>5240</b>	<b>6281</b>
<b>Impact factor</b>	<b>4.654</b>	<b>5.182</b>
<b>Self-cites</b>	<b>1085 (7% of 14622)</b>	<b>1099 (5% of 19444)</b>
<b>Self-cites to years used in impact factor calculation</b>	<b>319 (6% of 5240)</b>	<b>282 (4% of 6281)</b>
<b>Impact factor without self-cites</b>	<b>4.370</b>	<b>4.950</b>

### What is the Eigenfactor?

The *Eigenfactor Score* measures the number of times articles from the journal published in the past five years have been cited in the year.

Like the Impact Factor, the *Eigenfactor Score* is essentially a ratio of number of citations to total number of articles. However, unlike the Impact Factor, the *Eigenfactor Score*:

- Counts citations to journals in both the sciences and social sciences.
- Eliminates self-citations. Every reference from one article in a journal to another article from the same journal is discounted.
- Weights each reference according to a stochastic measure of the amount of time researchers spend reading the journal.

### EIGENFACTOR Table with ranking 2007 vs 2008

	2007	2008	% Change
Eigenfactor	0.09347	0.10078	8% increase
Ranking	7	7	-

### Where can I find out more information?

For further information on the impact factor or associated information, please visit <http://isiknowledge.com>.

**NB: Please note you will be required to have access to ISI to search the data.**