
EDITORIAL

Thai Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology: Impact Factor

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Almost all or probably all of us must have heard about the word “impact factor.” The word has certain place in the modern medicine to compare different journals within the same fields. Despite recognizing its importance, some may not be absolutely clear what is actually reflects to and how it impacts the researchers, the readers as well as the publishers of the journal.

Impact factor is a measure of the frequency of the articles in each journal has been cited in relation to the total numbers of articles in a particular year of that journal. In short, it indirectly implies the degree of popularity of the journal.

Impact factor has been created and reported by Eugene Kerik Garfield from the Institution of Science Information (ISI), now part of Thomson Reuters, since 1961. The impact factor is calculated and reported yearly from the journals indexed in Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports. It is calculated from the number of times the articles in the specified journal published in the past two years were cited by the indexed journal in the calculated years divided by the total number of articles in the specified journal published in the past two years. For example, the impact factor of Thai Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the year 2011 equals to the number of times articles in the Thai Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology published in the year 2009 and 2010 were cited by the indexed journal in the year 2011 divided by the total number of articles in Thai Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology published in the year

2009 and 2010. However, the journals that could have impact factor should be only the journals indexed in Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports.

In Thailand, Prof. Dr. Narongrit Sombutsompop from King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi established the Thai-Journal Citation Index center (TCI) under the support of Thailand Research Fund. TCI reported Thai Journal impact factor for the first time in 2002. The journals that could have Thai impact factor are only the journals that have been included in TCI database. Currently, a total of 456 journals are in the TCI database: 214 are journals of Science and Technology and 242 are journals of Anthropology and Sociology.

Thai Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology is the official journal of the Royal Thai College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. It has been published since 1989. The journal was published 2 issues per year during the first seven years. Since 1996 when there was a substantial increase in numbers of submitted manuscripts, the publication was increased to 4 issues per year. Unfortunately, the Thai Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was suspended for 6 years (2002-2007), however, resumed the publication again in 2008. In 2010, the journal had been indexed in TCI database and the journal's impact factor in 2010 was 0.029. From the major contribution of all respectable authors and valuable reviewers as well as hard work of every member in the Editorial Board, we are expecting a higher impact factor for the journal in

2011 which should be released this coming July 2012.

In the upcoming future, Thai Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology plans to revolute to be an electronic journal. All submission and review process will be accessed online via the ThaiJo (Thai Journals Online) website which is sponsored by the TCI. Our next aim is to open a gateway to the world of literature by

proposing our journal to the SCOPUS which is another large database of the journals, which has extended their work through a local committee in Thailand.

Finally, we would like to invite all members to submit various types of paper such as original articles, case report, special articles and topic review for publication in our journal.