What it Means to be Indexed at Scopus... and More

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After almost two years of stringent re-evaluation process by the Scopus Content Selection and Advisory Board (CASB), PJIM has finally been restored to the active status as an indexed scientific medical journal last January 2017. At present, there are 14 Philippine-based medicine journal listed at Scopus, which also includes nursing, dental and veterinary publications. Unfortunately only five of these are of active status.

Why is it important for a journal to be listed or indexed? Indexing done by a reputable database company gives a journal an authoritative stance in its field of expertise. Indexing is considered a reflection of the publication's quality. Indexed journals are considered to be of higher scientific quality as compared to non-indexed journals[1] since most reputable databases have minimum requirements that follow good and acceptable publication standards for scientific journals. Being listed in leading databases, of which Scopus is one of them, means more exposure for the journal to be read and cited in an international level. Since literature review is the first step that a researcher does to support his research question, the utilization of databases, particularly of the established ones will give this opportunity for an indexed journal to be cited. Thus, the journal gains a wider audience and this accessibility gives the journal a higher reputation that the quality of the information it provides to the readers is reliable and that it follows a standard editorial process.

Another important advantage of an indexed journal is being able to measure its "performance" in terms of quality and usefulness of the researches and articles it publishes. Journal ranking is a widely used measure in academic circles to identify or reflect the place of a journal within its field, the relative difficulty of being published in that journal and the prestige associated with it.[2] Impact factor is another measure of a journal's performance as to how often its published articles are cited or used as reference by other authors.

With PJIM now being listed at Scopus as a Title (Journal Publication), what advantages or benefits does it have? Scopus is currently considered globally as the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature covering scientific journals, books and conference proceedings. Scopus was established by Elsevier-- a company noted for its leadership in scientific publications. Scopus is delivering a comprehensive overview of the world's research output in the fields of science, technology, medicine, social sciences, and arts and humanities. Scopus includes Titles from more than 5,000 publishers worldwide. As research becomes increasingly global, interdisciplinary and collaborative, Scopus is able to make available critical research from around the world covering 22,794 peer-reviewed journals, of which 3,643 are full open access (see the Scopus Source List) containing 67 million records. Scopus also has 562 Book serials, accounting for 34,000 individual book volumes and 1.39 million items. Finally, Scopus helps increase the visibility of a publication, gives access to a global audience of researchers and experts for peer review programs, and track performance of a publication.

At Scopus, the final decision whether a Title is approved for indexing goes through its 15-chair member CSAB. The approval is based on five main categories of performance of the Title on its journal policy, content, journal standing, regularity and on-line availability. With PJIM having passed these qualifying categories, the challenge is now for our journal to maintain and continuously improve this high standard of publication. As an incentive to maintain this high content quality, Scopus uses metrics and benchmarks with other journals of the same categories to monitor and evaluate its listed journals, PJIM included. The metrics which Scopus currently uses are: citations, self-citations, impact per publication, article output, abstract usage and full text links.[3]

Translating all of these advantages that PJIM now have as an indexed journal in Scopus, what does it mean for PCP as a whole? Being indexed in Scopus helps PCP realize its vision through its published researches at PJIM. The vision to be a world class organization of physicians that sets the highest standards and ethical ideals in the practice of Internal Medicine and provides dynamic leadership in the promotion of health and quality of life in the management of disease and in the formulation of relevant health policies. This means that the world can now see and cite the researches conducted by PCP physicians.

Finally, PJIM looks forward to more accomplishments and challenges as well. However, no challenge is too hard when there is a conscientious effort by the PJIM editorial board together with the full support of the PCP body. At this point, the "baton" has to be passed, and the new leadership in the editorial board will take place. Therefore, I would like to thank and acknowledge the hard work and cooperation that the PJIM editorial board has done in the past years, specially to Dr. Joven Jeremius Q. Tanchuco, who served as the managing editor—and who will be taking on the challenge as the next Editor-in-chief, to Dr. Ma. Margarita T. Cayco, Dr. Jubert P. Benedicto, and Dr. Evelyn Victoria E. Reside. By God's grace, the 17 years that I have served PCP as PJIM associate editor (2000-2009) and as Editor-in-chief (2010-2017) has been challenging, yet gainful years for me in countless ways. I would like to thank the college for recognizing my contribution, by being given the PCP Distinguished Fellow Award for 2017. I also would like to thank Ms. Danafe Conopio, our editorial assistant, who made things

a lot easier for the ever-busy editors; for those who worked with us, Ms. Judy Concepcion and Ms. Marilyn Ho; Mr. Ivan dela Cruz and Mr. Rey Palana who dutifully laid out the journal so we can meet the deadline. Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the numerous authors and peer-reviewers who made possible the continued existence and the enhanced status of PJIM.

References

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