



Domestic medical journals in the Web of Science – The main route to inclusion of Serbian medicine in the world scientific streams

Domaći medicinski časopisi u *Web of Science* – glavni put za uključenje srpske medicine u svetske naučne tokove

Silva Dobrić

Institute for Scientific Information, Military Medical Academy, Belgrade, Serbia

In late July 2014, almost at the same time when new impact factors (IF) of scientific journals for the previous year 2013 were published, in the journal *Scientometrics* an article of Ivanovic and Ho¹ was published dealing with the analysis of articles from the Republic of Serbia published in the period 2006–2012 in journals that are indexed in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) database. As a reminder, the SCIE is the largest bibliographic and citation database of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI, Philadelphia, USA), now a part of the Thomson Reuters, which together with the other two databases, Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) and the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI), is the backbone of the so-called world scientific network – the Web of Science (WoS), in which a little more than 12,000 journals with the highest impact in the world of science are included. On the basis of citations of articles published in journals that accompany the WoS, their officially recognized IFs are calculated and published in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR). In the JCR scientific journals are distributed in 232 scientific disciplines and within each discipline are listed according to the value of IF, from the most influential (with the highest IF) to the least influential (with the lowest IF). Indexing of a journal in the WoS databases provides it greater visibility on international scientific scene and potentially a greater impact on the international scientific community. It is therefore the understandable desire of scientists to publish their articles primarily in such journals.

The abovementioned analysis of Ivanovic and Ho¹ showed that the Serbian scientists in the period 2006–2012 published a total of 14,293 articles in journals covered by the SCIE database, out of which the largest number (1,633 or 11%) was published in the category “General and Internal Medicine”, which means that the domestic researchers from the medical scientific field in the reporting period were the most productive. It should be noted that this number of articles by domestic authors in the category “General and Internal Medicine” accounts up to 1.5% of all articles that were published in this period in the SCIE covered journals in that category. A significant increase in the number of articles of our scientists in the field of “General and Internal Medicine” was featured after 2008, which coincides with the inclusion in the SCIE

Krajem jula 2014, gotovo istovremeno kada su objavljeni i novi faktori uticaja (impakt faktori – IF) naučnih časopisa za prethodnu 2013. godinu, u časopisu *Scientometrics* objavljen je članak Ivanovića i Ho-a¹ u kome je izvršena analiza radova srpskih naučnika objavljenih u periodu 2006–2012. u časopisima uvrštenim u bazu naučne publicistike *Science Citation Index Expanded* (SCIE). Podsećanja radi, baza SCIE je najveća bibliografsko-citatna baza Instituta za naučne informacije (*Institute for Scientific Information, Philadelphia, USA*), sada u sastavu kompanije *Thomson Reuters*, koja zajedno sa druge dve baze, *Social Science Citation Index* (SSCI) i *Arts and Humanities Citation Index* (AHCI), čini okosnicu tzv. svetske naučne mreže – *Web of Science* (WoS) u koju je trenutno uključeno nešto više od 12 000 časopisa sa najvećim uticajem u svetskoj nauci. Na osnovu citiranosti članaka iz časopisa koje prate baze WoS-a izračunavaju se zvanično priznati IF pojedinih časopisa koji se, potom, objavljuju u publikaciji *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR). U JCR-u časopisi su raspoređeni u 232 naučne discipline, a unutar svake discipline navedeni su prema vrednosti IF, od najuticajnijeg (s najvišim IF) prema najmanje uticajnom (s najnižim IF). Ulazak nekog časopisa u sistem praćenja baza WoS-a obezbeđuje mu veću vidljivost na međunarodnoj sceni i potencijalno veći uticaj na međunarodne naučne tokove. Stoga, razumljiva je i želja naučnika da svoje radove prvenstveno objavljuju u takvim časopisima².

Napred pomenuta analiza Ivanovića i Ho¹ pokazala je da su srpski naučnici u periodu 2006–2012. godine u časopisima koje prati baza SCIE objavili ukupno 14 293 članka, od kojih je najveći broj (1 633 ili 11%) objavljen u kategoriji „Opšta i interna medicina“, što znači da su domaći istraživači iz medicinskog naučnog polja u posmatranom periodu bili najproduktivniji. Treba istaći da ovaj broj članaka domaćih autora u kategoriji „Opšta i interna medicina“ predstavlja čak 1,5% svih članaka koji su u tom periodu objavljeni u časopisima iz te kategorije. Značajan porast broja objavljenih članaka naših naučnika u oblasti „Opšte i interne medicine“ bio je najizraziti posle 2008. godine, što koincidira sa uključanjem u bazu SCIE dva domaća medicinska časopisa: Vojno-

two domestic medical journals: the *Vojnosanitetski Pregled* (VSP) and the *Srpski Arhiv za Celokupno Lekarstvo*. In these journals (particularly in the VSP) the most articles in the category "General and Internal Medicine" were published by domestic authors. Although the VSP and *Srpski Arhiv za Celokupno Lekarstvo* have at the moment very low IF (0.269 and 0.169, respectively), which calls into question the actual impact of Serbian scientists from medical scientific fields to the world scientific streams, it is obvious that these two journals represent the main route to access international scientific scene for most domestic medical experts and thanks to them they and their articles, have a chance to be recognized and cited by international scientific community.

This is probably why already a few previous years, especially after inclusion of the VSP in the SCIE database in 2008, we recorded a constant influx of a large number of manuscript in the Editorial Office of the Journal. In the past year, namely from December 15, 2013 to December 15, 2014 the Editorial Office of the VSP received a total of 314 manuscripts: 74 (23.6%) from the military medical facilities, 194 (61.8%) from the civilian medical and academic institutions, and 46 (14.6%) from abroad. This number is about 28% higher than in 2013, or about 12% higher than in 2012, and is an indicator of continuously high interest of both domestic authors and those from abroad to publish their articles in our journal. We are particularly pleased with the fact that more and more authors from abroad want to publish their articles in the VSP making it to be a "real" international scientific journal.

As in previous years, the largest number of manuscripts received during 2014 belongs to the category of Original articles (202 or 64.3%), followed by those from the category Case reports (76 or 24.2%), and those from the category Current topics and General review (19 or 6%). From these papers 43 (13.7%) were archived as inappropriate without sending to reviewers, so the remaining 271 (86.3%) of the received papers came in the reviewing process. Out of these papers, 146 (53.9%) have been already evaluated by reviewers (of that number 70.5% after revisions were accepted for publication, and 29.5% were rejected), while the remaining 125 (46.1%) papers are still under review.

In the past year, a total of 185 articles from different categories were published in the VSP (Table 1). As in previous years, the largest number of articles belonged to the categories of Original articles (54.6%) and Case reports (22.7%), which corresponds to the structure of received papers in earlier years. As in the earlier few years, during 2014, each month, along with the printed issue of the Journal, 4–6 articles were electronically published as *OnLine-First*, with the corresponding DOI numbers, so that these articles were available to readers at the website of the Journal and *via doiSerbia* service before publication in the printed version of the Journal.

When analyzing the published articles in the VSP in 2014 by the authors' affiliations, once again, as in previous years, the largest number of them (including book reviews) was by the authors from the so-called 'civilian institutions', domestic and foreign civilian and Military medical institutions (69.2 %), followed by the articles co-written by authors from both civilian and military medical institutions (16.7%), while the lowest number of articles was by the authors from the Military Medical Academy and other military medical centers (14.1%). Analysis of the published

sanitetskog pregleda (VSP) i Srpskog arhiva za celokupno lekarstva. Upravo u njima, pogotovo u VSP-u, objavljen je i najveći broj članaka domaćih autora. Iako i VSP i Srpski arhiv za celokupno lekarstvo imaju trenutno skroman IF (0,269, odnosno 0,169), što dovodi u pitanje stvarni uticaj srpskih naučnika iz medicinskog naučnog polja na svetske naučne tokove, očito je da su ova dva časopisa za većinu domaćih medicinskih stručnjaka glavni izlaz na međunarodnu naučnu scenu i da zahvaljujući njima oni, odnosno njihovi radovi, imaju šansu da budu prepoznati i citirani u međunarodnim naučnim krugovima.

Ovo je verovatno razlog što već nekoliko prethodnih godina, pogotovo posle uključenja VSP u bazu SCIE 2008. godine, beležimo konstantno veliki priliv radova u Redakciju našeg časopisa.

U protekloj godini, tačnije od 15.12. 2013. do 15.12. 2014. godini u Redakciju VSP-a stiglo je ukupno 314 radova: 74 (23,6%) iz vojnozdravstvenih ustanova, 194 (61,8%) iz civilnih zdravstvenih i akademskih institucija i 46 (14,6%) iz inostranstva. Ovaj broj je za oko 28% viši nego u 2013. godini, odnosno oko 12% viši nego u 2012, i pokazatelj je nesmanjenog interesovanja kako domaćih autora, tako i onih iz inostranstva da objave rad u našem časopisu. Posebno raduje podatak o 14,6% pristiglih radova čiji su autori iz inostranstva, što pokazuje zainteresovanost i međunarodne naučne javnosti da objavljuje radove u VSP-u, što ga sve više čini „pravim“ međunarodnim časopisom.

Kao i prethodnih godina, najveći broj pristiglih radova tokom 2014. godine pripada kategoriji Originalnih članaka (202 ili 64,3%), zatim slede Prikazi slučajeva (76 ili 24,2%), pa radovi iz kategorije Aktuelne teme i Opšti pregledi (19 ili 6%). Od ovih radova 43 (13,7%) su arhivirana kao neodgovarajuća bez prethodnog slanja recenzentima, tako da je u postupak recenzije ušao 271 (86,3%) rad. Od tog broja recenzentski je obrađeno 146 (53,9%) radova (od njih je 70,5%, nakon učinjenih korekcija prihvaćeno za publikovanje, a 29,5% je odbijeno), dok se preostalih 125 (46,1%) još nalazi u postupku recenzije.

U protekloj godini, na stranicama VSP-a objavljeno je ukupno 185 članaka iz različitih kategorija (Tabela 1). Kao i do sada, najveći broj objavljenih članaka pripadao je kategoriji Originalni članci (54,6%) i onima iz kategorije Prikaz bolesnika (22,7%), što odgovara i strukturi primljenih radova u ranijim godinama. I tokom 2014, svaki mesec, uz štampani broj časopisa, 4–6 članaka bilo je objavljeno elektronski kao *OnLine-First*, sa pripadajućim DOI brojem, tako da su ti radovi bili dostupni čitaocima preko sajta časopisa i servisa DOI*Serbia* i pre objave u štampanoj verziji.

S obzirom na institucije autora čiji su radovi objavljeni u VSP-u u toku protekle godine, ponovo je, kao i prethodnih godina, najveći broj objavljenih radova (uključujući i prikaze knjiga) bio od autora iz civilnih institucija, domaćih i stranih (69,2%), zatim slede zajednički radovi autora iz civilnih i vojnozdravstvenih institucija, uglavnom iz VMA (16,7%), dok je najmanje radova bilo od autora iz VMA i drugih vojnozdravstvenih centara (14,1%). Ako se posebno analiziraju radovi čiji su autori, odnosno koautori iz inostranstva, njih je među objavljenim radovima u 2014. godini bilo 28 (15,1%).

Table 1

**Categories and the number of articles published in the Vojnosanitetski Pregled in 2014/
Kategorije i broj članaka objavljenih u Vojnosanitetskom pregledu u 2014.**

Category / Kategorija	Articles/ Članci	
	n	%
Editorial/ Uvodnik	6	3.2
Original Article/ Originalni članak	101	54.6
General Review/ Opšti pregled	6	3.2
Current Topic/ Aktuelna tema	10	5.4
Practical Advice for Physicians/ Seminar praktičnog lekara	1	0.5
Case Report/ Prikaz slučaja	42	22.7
Preliminary Report/ Prethodno saopštenje	1	0.5
Short Communication/ Kratko saopštenje	5	2.8
History of Medicine/ Istorija medicine	5	2.8
Letter to the Editor/Pismo uredniku	2	1
Book Review/ Prikaz knjige	6	3.3
Total/ Ukupno	185	100.0

articles whose authors or co-authors were from abroad revealed that their number in 2014 was 28 (15.1%).

Of the most important events for the Journal that occurred during 2014, we must mention the reconstruction of national and international Editorial board at the beginning of the year ³, entered by several new members, prominent experts from various fields of medicine, then obtaining a new IF for 2013 (at the end of July) that increased from the previous 0.21 in 2012 to 0.269 (the increase of 28%), as well as marking of the 70th birthday of the Journal (in September) ⁴. For that occasion bibliography of all articles published in the Journal over the past 70 years was prepared in an electronic form (on CDs) and a film about the Journal that can be found on our website.

Taking into account the above-mentioned, we can say that 2014 was successful for our Journal, even according to some indicators and more successful than previous years. With the hope that this trend of success will go on in the New Year 2015, I want to thank for very fruitful cooperation to all the editors, reviewers and authors of the VSP. In particular, I would emphasize a significant contribution of our reviewers to improving the quality of articles published in the Journal providing it better positioning in the international scientific scene. The names of reviewers who were involved in reviewing the manuscripts received in the past year are given in Table 2.

Od važnijih događaja za časopis koji su se odigrali u toku 2014. godine, svakako treba spomenuti rekonstrukciju domaćeg i međunarodnog uređivačkog odbora početkom godine ³, u koji je ušlo nekoliko novih članova, istaknutih stručnjaka iz različitih oblasti medicine, zatim dobijanje novog IF za 2013. godinu (krajem jula) čija je vrednost povećana sa prethodne 0,21 na 0,269 (povećanje za 28%), kao i proslavu 70. rođendana časopisa (u septembru) ⁴. Za tu priliku izdata je u elektronskom obliku (na CD-u) bibliografija svih radova objavljenih u časopisu tokom proteklih 70 godina. Takođe, urađen je i film o časopisu koji se može pogledati na našem sajtu.

Uzimajući u obzir napred navedeno, možemo slobodno reći da je 2014. godina bila uspešna za naš časopis, čak prema nekim pokazateljima i uspešnija od prethodnih godina. Sa nadom da će se ta tendencija uspešnosti nastaviti i u Novoj 2015. godini želim da se zahvalim na dosadašnjoj veoma plodnoj saradnji svim urednicima, recenzentima i autorima VSP-a. Posebno bih istakla značajan doprinos recenzenata u podizanju kvaliteta radova koji se objavljuju na stranicama časopisa, a time i u njegovom boljem pozicioniranju na međunarodnoj naučnoj sceni.

Imena recenzenata koji su bili angažovani za recenziranje radova za VSP u protekloj godini data su u Tabeli 2.

Table 2

Reviewers of the Vojnosanitetski pregled in 2014 / Recenzenti Vojnosanitetskog pregleda u 2014. godini

Aćimović Slobodan	Beleslin Branko	Čovićković Šternić Nada	Dragojević Simić Viktorija
Aldawood S. Abdulaziz	Berisavac Milica	Čutović Tatjana	Dragović Tamara
Aleksić Dragan	Bokonjić Dubravko		Drapšin Miodrag
Aleksić Petar	Brkić Zlata	Čuk Vladimir	Duka Miloš
Antić Branislav	Bulat Petar		Dulović Olga
Antonijević Biljana	Bumbaširević Marko	Daković Dragana	
Arsenijević Nebojša	Carević Momir	Dankuc Dragan	Djordjević Brižita
Arsenović Ranin Nevena	Cartea María Elena	Davidović Lazar	Djurović Branka
Arsović Nenad	Cvijanović Vlado	Dedić Gordana	Djordjević Snežana
		Dimić Nadežda	Djukanović Ljubica
Baletić Nenad		Dinčić Evica	Djukić Mirjana
Balint Bela	Čabarkapa Milanko	Dobrić Silva	Djurić Tatjana
Bančević Vladimir	Čekanac Radovan	Doder Radoje	Djurović Aleksandar
Baškot Branislav	Čolić Miodrag	Dopsaj Violeta	Djurović Branislav

Gazivoda Dragan	Magić Zvonko	Peković Sandra	Stevanović Goran
Glibetić Marija	Maksić Đoko	Perić Aleksandar	Stimmelmayer Michael
Grđinić Aleksandra	Mandić Gajić Gordana	Peruničić Jovan	Stojanov Marina
	Manojlović Nebojša	Petronić Marković Ivana	Stojanović Miodrag
Hajduković Zoran	Marić Nađa	Petronijević Milan	Stošić Sanja
Hajjar M. Waseem	Marjanović Ivan	Petrova Guenka	Stošić Srboľjub
Haroche Julien	Marjanović Marjan	Petrović Silvana	
	Marković Dejan	Popović Nada	Šarac Momir
Ignjatović Mile	Martinović Milica	Popović Zoran	Šašić Mirjana
Ilić Dragan	Matić Smiljana	Potpara Tatjana	Šipetić Grujičić Sandra
Ilić Radoje	Medenica Ivica		Šuljagić Vesna
Ilić Tihomir	Meštrović Arijana	Rabrenović Milorad	Šurbatović Maja
Ivanović Mirjana	Micić Dragan	Rabrenović Violeta	Šušnjar Snežana
	Mičić Sava	Radaković Sonja	
Jakovljević Mihajlo	Mihaljević Biljana	Raden Slavica	Tambur Zoran
Jakovljević Vladimir	Mikić Dragan	Radojčić Ljiljana	Tang Shao-Tao
Janković Borisav	Mikov Momir	Radosavljević Vladan	Tarabar Dino
Janković Slavenka	Milenković Marina	Rafajlovski Saša	Tarabar Olivera
Janković Slobodan	Milenković Svetislav	Raičević Ranko	Till Viktor
Jovanović Dragana	Milovanović Dragan	Resan Mirko	Todorović Ljubomir
Jovanović Ida	Milović Novak	Risović Dušica	Todorović Milena
Jovanović Miloš	Minić Predrag	Ristić Anđelka	Todorović Veljko
Jović Jasna	Mirković Darko	Ristić Arsen	Tomić Aleksandar
Jović Nebojša	Mirković Ljiljana	Ristić Ljubiša	Trifunović Zoran
Jović Stošić Jasmina	Mirović Veljko	Roganović Zoran	Tukić Ljiljana
Jovićić Bojan	Mitić Igor	Rutter Victoria	Tulić Cane
	Mujović Nebojša		
Kandolf Sekulović Lidija	Mitrović Jovanović Ana	Sabo Ana	Ušaj Knežević Slavica
Kanjuh Vladimir		Sekulović Leposava	
Konstantinović Ljubica	Nagorni Ljudmila	Sen Indrani	Vasilijić Saša
Konstantinović Vitomir	Nešković Konstantinović	Sharma Shalini	Vasiljević Ivana
Kostić Vladimir	Zora	Shoenfeld Yehuda	Vasiljević Nađa
Kostov Miloš	Nežić Duško	Simić Snežana	Veličković Radovanović
Kot Jacek	Nikolić Branka	Slavković Slobodan	Radmila
Kovačević Nada	Nikolić Đurović Marina	Slavković Zoran	Vezmar Kovačević Sandra
Kozarski Jefta	Nikolić Ljiljana	Spasić Slavica	Vojvodić Danilo
Kozomara Ružica	Nikolić Ljubiša	Spasojević-Kalimanovska	Vučetić Dušan
Krivokapić Zoran	Novaković Marijan	Vesna	Vučević Dragana
Krsteš Srmena	Nožić Darko	Stamatović Dragana	Vučičević Katarina
Kulesher R. Robert		Stamenković Dragoslav	Vučinić Slavica
Kumar Kushwaha Jitendra	Obradović Dragana	Stamenković Dušica	Vukomanović Aleksandra
Kundaković Tatjana	Obradović Slobodan	Stamenković Miroslav	Vukosavljević Gvozden
	Opinčal Stošić Tatjana	Stančić Ivica	Tatjana
Lakić Dragana	Ostojić Gordana	Stanić Vojkan	Vukosavljević Miroslav
Lazić Miodrag		Stanković Goran	
Lazić Srđan	Paunić Mila	Stanković Nebojša	Zelić Obrad
Lazić Zoran	Paunović Katarina	Stanojević Paović Anka	Zoranović Uroš
Lečić Toševski Dušica	Pavlović Drašković Biljana	Stefanović Dara	
Lepšanović Zorica	Pavlović Milorad	Stefanović Dušan	Žarkov Marija
Lukač Marija	Pekić Sandra	Stepanović Jelena	Životić Vanović Mirjana

REFERENCES

1. *Ivanović D, Ho Y-S.* Independent publications from Serbia in the Science Citation Index Expanded: a bibliometric analysis. *Scientometrics* 2014; 102(1):603-22. (published online: 29 July 2014)
2. *Dobrić S.* Domestic biomedical journals: from scientific periphery to Web of Science. In: Vučković-Dekić Lj, Arsenijević N. editors. *Evaluation of science and scientists. Monographs of Scientific Meetings of Academy of Medical Sciences of Serbian Medical Society*, vol. 5, No 1, 2014. Kragujevac: Academy of Medical Sciences of Serbian Medical Society and Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Kragujevac; 2014. p. 51-67. (Serbian)
3. *Dobrić S.* The new editors at the Vojnosanitetski pregl. *Vojnosanit Pregl* 2014; 71(5):429-31.
4. *Dobrić S.* Seventy years of the Vojnosanitetski pregl. *Vojnosanit Pregl* 2014; 71(9): 805-8.