Citation Analysis Studies

Citation analysis reflects the real world of science, not a fantasyland where all scientists' work is equally valuable, where there is no scientific elite and no mediocrity, or where scientific results are directly proportional to money spent.

It is ironic that Nicholas Wade, in his otherwise excellent article on citation analysis (News and Comment, 2 May, p. 429), neglected to cite any of the relevant literature. It is equally ironic—and significant—that subsequent critics of citation analysis (Letters, 13 June, p. 1064) ignore the wealth of published information on citation analysis (1), in which each of their points has already been assessed.

Those who read this literature will find that citation analysis is not without its pitfalls, but that anomalies or abuses have a very small effect. Statistical routines have been developed to deal with derogatory and self-citations, multiple authorships, the stature of the journal in which an article appears, and unusual techniques papers. In addition, a confidence statement appropriate to statistical indicators is usually included in citation analyses.

Original, informed criticism of citation analysis is welcome.

EUGENE GARFIELD
Institute for Scientific Information, 325 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

A. E. CAWKELL
European Branch, Institute for Scientific Information, 18 North Common Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1PD, England

References
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The Faculty of the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology of the University of Arizona invites applications for appointments at the Assistant Professor level. One appointment will be available 1 January 1976, and the other in September 1976. The appointees should expect to establish vigorous research programs and participate in a departmentally administered graduate course. Applicants should be distinguished in originality, competence and productivity at the postdoctoral level. Appointments will be made from applicants with demonstrated potential in the following areas: (i) mammalian cell genetics; (ii) animal virus genetics; (iii) assembly of subcellular structures; (iv) molecular fine structure.

A curriculum vitae, bibliography, short (less than 500 words) description of prospective research program, up to two recent research publications, and names of three references should be sent to the Chairman, Faculty Search Committee, Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Ph.D. Biochemist/Physiologist. Research postion available at instructor level. Qualifications: Postdoctoral experience, good background in kinetics and statistics, experience in bone metabolism. Salary dependent upon qualifications. Female and minority candidates are encouraged to apply. For information write: D. J. Baylink, M.D., Seattle VA Hospital, Seattle, Wash. 98108.

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