Elsevier journals – key facts on article growth, value and quality

Our support for authors at a glance

2020
Elsevier journals - growth, value and quality

As a global leader in scientific, technical and medical publishing, Elsevier is proud to support authors and research communities in ensuring quality research can accelerate progress for society.

Our 2,600 journals are integral to the record of knowledge as we apply high standards of quality and integrity in everything we publish and ensure trusted research can be accessed, shared and built upon by others. Our 24,000 editors work with 1.4 million expert reviewers around the world.

In 2020, remarkable progress has been made thanks to dedicated researchers and health professionals. The number of article submissions to our journals grew by over 25% to 2.5m submissions, almost double the total of articles that were submitted five years ago.

Here, we have brought together some data to provide a transparent and consistent overview of the growth of our scientific and health content, the value we offer and the levels of impact and quality we strive to ensure. We update this information annually.

Quick take-aways on the growth, value and quality of our journals

- Submissions to Elsevier journals continue strong growth: +12% CAGR over the last ten years.
- Fast growth of our open access article volume: +55% CAGR in the last ten years.
- We publish more articles and at higher quality relative to other publishers – yet our average list price per subscription article remains lower (by 2-3x) than our competitors.
- When compared to the significant increase in our article volume and consistently high article quality over the last 5-10 years, our average list prices have remained stable and much lower than other publishers, whose price increases have been c6-7% per annum over the last five years.
- Articles published in Elsevier journals account for 18% of global research output while garnering 27% of citations, demonstrating our commitment to delivering research quality significantly ahead of the industry average.
Editorial, peer review and publishing value chain

Elsevier’s support for authors at a glance

- **Solicit & manage submissions**
  - >2.5m article submissions
  - 564,000 published articles
  - 24,000 editors
  - 90,000 editorial board members
  - ~1.4 million reviewers

- **Filtering/Editing**
  - >2.5m article submissions
  - 564,000 published articles
  - 24,000 editors
  - 90,000 editorial board members
  - ~1.4 million reviewers

- **Dissemination**
  - >1.3 billion articles consumed

- **Archiving**
  - ~17 million articles

- **Community building**
  - 2,650 journal brands

- **Production**
  - Technological enrichment

- **Publish & disseminate**

- **Edit & prepare**

- **Archive & promote**

- **Manage peer review**
Article Volume Growth: Article Submissions
Continued growth in submissions, with +25% growth in 2020

Elsevier Submitted Articles (Units, Millions)

CAGR +12%
Article Volume Growth: Published Articles
Consistent published article growth; rejections underscore quality focus

Elsevier Published Articles (‘000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Articles</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>336</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>471</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>564</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAGR +7%
Published Articles: Subscriptions

Elsevier Subscription Articles Published (‘000)

2010: 296
2011: 319
2012: 333
2013: 359
2014: 365
2015: 380
2016: 395
2017: 408
2018: 436
2019: 448
2020: 483

CAGR +5% from 2018-20

2010-2020 CAGR: +5%
Published Articles: Open Access
Strong growth of OA articles published in our journals

Elsevier Open Access Articles Published (‘000)

- **Open Access Articles in Full OA Journals**
- **Open Access Articles in Hybrid Journals**

**CAGR +55%**

**2018-20 CAGR: +52%**
Journal and Article Quality
Article and citation share

Journal and Article Quality
Share of articles per journal quality tier

Share of articles per journal Field Weighted Citation Impact Tier*

* Field Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) is calculated on the basis of citations in 2015-19 to articles published in 2015-19 and accounts for article type, publication year and subject field. Source: Scopus data.
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Indexed Average Subscription Article List Price*

* Indexed weighted average of list prices for 2019 subscription year versus articles published in 2019 taking Elsevier as baseline. Source: Publisher websites, Scopus data.
Journal Article Price
Average list price per subscription article over time

Growth Rate of Average Subscription Article List Price*

* 5-year (2015-2019) and 10-year (2010-2019) compound annual growth rates
Source: Publisher websites, Scopus data.
Thank you