

ABOUT AGU

AGU Journals Increase in Importance According to 2010 Impact Factors

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AGU journals continue to rank highly in many categories in the 2010 Journal Citation Report (JCR), which was released by Thomson Reuters on 28 June. JCR reports on several measures of journal usage, including a journal's Eigenfactor score, its Article Influence score, its Impact Factor, and its rank within a cohort of similar journals.

According to the 2010 statistics, AGU again has outperformed its larger competitors. Four different AGU titles are ranked in the top three journals in six different cohorts. The Impact Factor of several AGU journals increased significantly over the previous year.

The Impact Factor is calculated by dividing the number of citations in the JCR year by the total number of articles published in the 2 previous years. The Eigenfactor score is based on the number of times articles from the journal published in the past 5 years have been cited in the JCR year, but it also considers which journals have contributed these citations so that highly cited journals will influence the network more

than lesser cited journals. The Article Influence determines the average influence of a journal's articles over the first five years after publication. It is calculated by dividing a journal's Eigenfactor score by the number of articles in the journal, normalized as a fraction of all articles in all publications.

Paleoceanography is a stellar performer in several categories; since 1995, *Paleoceanography* has been the top-ranked Paleontology category journal (of 48 titles in 2010) for Impact Factor (4.030). It holds the top rank for Article Influence in 2010, and it is second for Eigenfactor. In the Oceanography grouping (59 journals total), *Paleoceanography* ranks third in Impact Factor and Article Influence and moves up to fifth in Eigenfactor, this in a category where the number of journals increased by 18%.

Reviews of Geophysics, with an Impact Factor of 9.538 (an increase of 1.517 from the prior year's score of 8.021) ranks second in Geochemistry and Geophysics out of a total of 77 journals in this cohort. *Reviews* also ranks second in Article Influence. *Reviews* is joined in the top 20 Impact Factors in this cohort by *Geochemistry*, *Geophysics*,

Geosystems, which is ranked tenth, and by *Tectonics*, which is ranked twelfth.

In the Geosciences, Multidisciplinary category, which includes 165 journals, AGU takes two of the top 10 slots and four of the top 20 slots in Impact Factor. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles (GBC)* moves up to fifth with an impact factor of 5.263, *Paleoceanography* remains eighth, *Geophysical Research Letters (GRL)* moves up to twelfth, and *Journal of Geophysical Research (JGR)* (all sections) moves up to fifteenth. AGU journals also stand out from the crowd when looking at other measures. *JGR* and *GRL* retain the top two spots in Eigenfactors, with *GBC* seventh and *Paleoceanography* twelfth. In the Article Influence scores, fourth and fifth place belong to *GBC* and *Paleoceanography*, with *GRL* ninth and *JGR* fourteenth. In this cohort, AGU holds 3% of the titles, publishes 23% of the articles, and garners 39% of the citations.

Water Resources Research (WRR) climbs to second place in the Water Resources group, which has a cohort of 76 titles, 10 more than in 2009; *WRR* ranks second in both Article Influence and Eigenfactor. *WRR* ranks second in another cohort, Limnology (18 titles), where the journal is ranked first in Eigenfactor and second in Article Influence.

These rankings are one indication of the excellent quality of the journals published by AGU. The journal editors and the AGU Publications Division staff remain dedicated to continuing this level of excellence and to continually improving the quality of AGU journals.

—BILL COOK, Director of Publications, AGU;
E-mail: wcook@agu.org

Earth and Space Science Funding at Risk

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With debt ceiling deadlines quickly approaching, U.S. lawmakers are still markedly divided over how to address the nation's economic and budgetary troubles. AGU is closely monitoring these debates and any cuts directed at funding for scientific research and development. Cuts beyond the already reduced levels from the current fiscal year 2011 continuing resolution have the potential to be devastating not only for the scientific community but also for the health, safety, and welfare of the public and America's economic competitiveness.

It is not clear how the current proposals would apply to cutting scientific research and development, but it is very likely that federal funding levels for fiscal year 2012 will be even lower than those seen in 2011, a trend that could continue for a number of years. The Obama administration and congressional leadership are reported to be negotiating up to \$4 trillion in reduced expenditures, with cuts of at least \$1.1 trillion being made in discretionary appropriations over the next 10 years, starting in fiscal year 2012. While it is possible that a smaller, interim deal could pass, which would bring another debt ceiling vote before November 2012, there is significant opposition to such a stopgap measure.

For several weeks, AGU has been actively communicating with Congress and the administration in an effort to educate key decision makers on the important role investing in science can and should play in America's economic stability and national security. This effort has also included coordinated outreach to members across the country, encouraging them to contact their legislators and local media to express concerns about the current threats to science funding. For more information on these efforts, including ways for AGU members to get involved, visit http://www.agu.org/sci_pol/.

—JOAN BUHRMAN, Manager, Strategic Communications, AGU; E-mail: jbuhrman@agu.org