

# Citation Growth Index: An Index to Monitor Researchers' Citation Growth

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## Dear Editor In Chief

There are a variety of scientific contributions, productivity and impact indicators include h-index, g-index, hg-index and AR index as citation based indicators.<sup>1-4</sup> It is evidenced both strengths and weaknesses of such indicators in the literature.<sup>5,6</sup> Majority of the scientific output measures focus on most cited papers. However, no one has considered predictability of researcher's impact during next years and ignore non cited publications.

This work is aimed to quantify growth of the received citations by researchers according to average growth of citations and introduced a simple index called "*Citation Growth Index* (CGI)". In the following, steps of calculation CGI and *estimated citation growth* (ECG) are explained using Equations 1 and 2:

*Step1:*  $ECG = [(Average\ citation\ growth\ value\ during\ three\ last\ years + 1) \times Number\ of\ citations\ in\ the\ last\ year] + (0.5 \times Number\ of\ published\ documents\ without\ citations\ except\ current\ year\ published\ documents)$

*Step2:*  $CGI = Number\ of\ citations\ in\ current\ year - ECG$

Where, average growth value for young researchers can be calculated according to two or one year instead of average of three past years. If CGI for a researcher equals or greater than one, this means the researcher has received expected counts of citations in the specific (current) year. If CGI is less than zero like -1, -2 or so on, indicated that researcher has not received expected citations.

Accordingly, CGI may get positive values (*Citation+*), negative values (*Citation-*) and zero one, which represents positive growth, negative growth and no growth regarding citations respectively. Required data elements to calculating CGI is summarized in the following dummy Table (Table1).

In conclusion, interested peoples and academic institutions are recommended to monitoring their own researcher's impact and predict expected counts of citations using CGI to represent not only most or highly cited publications but also non cited publications.

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## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Authors have no conflicts of interests to declare.

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**Table 1: Minimum data elements to citation growth index calculation**

Author ID	Number of citations during three last years			Average citation growth value	Number of citations in a specific year (2015)	Number of published documents without citation	Estimated Citation Growth (ECG)	Citation Growth Index (CGI)
	Year(-3) 2012	Year(-2) 2013	Year(-1) 2014					

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