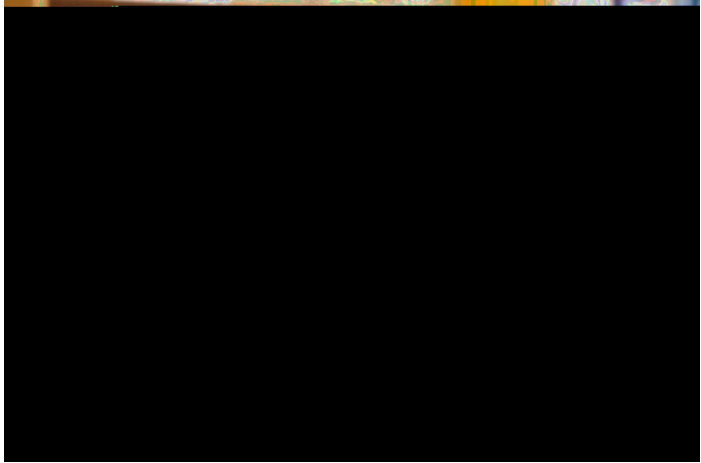


'Change fatigue' dampens desire to scrap journal impact factors

Turbulence caused by pandemic may have reduced appetite for radical reform of research assessment and rewards, suggests study



Only about one in five academics say abolishing journal impact factors would be the best way to reform how research quality is measured, according to a global survey that suggests the sector could be "losing its appetite" for different metrics in academia

This year the movement to end the use of [journal impact factors](#) (JIFs) in hiring, promotion and funding decisions will celebrate its 10th anniversary, with more than 19,000 individuals and 2,500 organisations subsequently

Of the 2,128 academics who responded, 70 per cent said that they were assessed on the basis of journal citations and impact factors but only 18 per cent felt dropping citation metrics such as JIFs was the main change they would like to see

Many more respondents (47 per cent) say they would instead prefer the introduction of additional metrics beyond citation metrics as the main way to change how research quality is measured. Nearly half (49 per cent), however, worried about what measures would replace the ranking of journals to assess quality

Academics were also slightly less keen about leading change than they did in previous years when polled by Emerald, with 34 per cent saying they were very open to change compared with 38 per cent in 2019. That may suggest "waning support for new impact measures", the report says

Sally Wilson, publishing director at Emerald, which is a Dora signatory, said

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