

Presence of Algerian Scientific Journals in the Arab Impact Factor (Arcif) " An Analytical Study (2016-2024) "

تواجد الدوريات العلمية الجزائرية ضمن معامل التأثير العربي (Arcif)

"دراسة تحليلية للفترة (2016-2024)"

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Abstract:

The study aims to explore the status and prominence of Algerian scientific journals within the Arab Impact Factor (Arcif) from 2016 to 2024. Utilizing a descriptive analytical approach, the study scrutinizes nine annual reports published by Arcif, identifying a pronounced increased number of Algerian journals indexed by the impact factor from 46 journals in 2016 to 447 by 2024. Similarly, the journals that achieved an Arcif impact factor surged from 19 to 416 during the same period. Furthermore, there was a substantial expansion in the number of publishing entities, growing from 23 to 89, with universities and educational institutions being predominantly the most active participants.

Keywords: Algerian Journals; Impact Factor; Arcif Impact and Citation Index; Scientific Journals.

الملخص: سعت هذه الدراسة إلى التعرف على واقع المجالات العلمية الجزائرية، ومكانتها لدى معامل التأثير العربي (Arcif) للفترة (2016-2024). واعتمدت الدراسة على المنهج الوصفي لتحليل مجموع التقارير السنوية الصادرة عن معامل "آرسياف" والبالغ عددها (9) تقارير، وخلصت إلى ارتفاع عدد المجالات

الجزائرية المفهرسة لدى معامل التأثير من 46 مجلة عام 2016 إلى 447 مجلة بحلول 2024، ازدياد عدد المجلات الجزائرية الحاصلة على معامل التأثير آرسيف خلال نفس الفترة من (19) إلى (416) مجلة. كما شهدت عدد المؤسسات الناشرة نموًا ملحوظًا من (23) إلى (89) مؤسسة، وكانت الجامعات والمؤسسات التعليمية أكثر الجهات اشتراكًا في المعامل.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المجلات الجزائرية؛ معامل التأثير؛ معامل التأثير والاستشهاد المرجعي ARCIF؛ المجلات العلمية.

1. INTRODUCTION

Scientific publication is a crucial element reflecting the growth of nations and their progression in various fields, playing a pivotal role in the dissemination of knowledge and fostering academic cooperation both regionally and globally. Worldwide, universities and research institutions are dedicated to promoting scientific output by publishing in peer-reviewed journals that adhere to rigorous quality standards, ensuring that research maintains a high global ranking.

The impact factor (IF) is employed as a significant metric for evaluating the relative importance of journals and research, calculated by the frequency of cited references ⁽¹⁾. Leading databases such as Web of Science and Scopus deploy this metric to categorize journals, thus recognizing those with high impact factors as benchmarks of scientific excellence and scholarly thoroughness.

In addressing the challenges that confront Arab scientific output and the endeavours to amplify its academic stature, regional initiatives like the Arab Impact Factor (Arcif) inaugurated in December 2013 have been pivotal. Arcif operates based on a comprehensive database including over 5000 Arab journals from 28 countries, encompassing 19 Arab nations. ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ Despite these initiatives, journals published in Arabic continue to experience underrepresentation in global databases predominantly focused on English-language content, resulting in their marginalization. Arcif seeks to bridge this divide by implementing stringent citation analysis standards,

thus elevating the academic visibility and impact of Arab journals.

Within this framework, the realm of Arab scientific publishing encounters persistent challenges in securing a global presence and achieving significant academic impact, making the integration of Algerian journals within the Arab Impact Factor (Arcif) a pivotal endeavour to boost their visibility and quality. From 2016 to 2024, the presence of Algerian journals in Arcif notably expanded from merely 46 journals to 447 ⁽⁴⁾. This raises the following problematic question:

- What is the status of the presence of Algerian scientific journals in the Arab Impact Factor (Arcif) during the period 2016-2024?

Accordingly, the following sub-questions emerge:

- What are the temporal trends affecting the impact factor development of Algerian journals indexed in "Arcif" during the study period?

- How are Algerian journals distributed among different publishing entities within "Arcif" from 2016 to 2024?

2. Study Objectives:

This study aims to:

- Analyze the nature and presence of Algerian scientific journals within the Arab Impact Factor (Arcif) during 2016-2024, with an emphasis on the temporal trends of their impact factor development.

- Identify and evaluate the temporal trends affecting the impact factor of Algerian journals indexed in "Arcif" during the period under review.

- Investigate the distribution patterns and dynamics of Algerian journals within "Arcif," as categorized by their publishing entities, from 2016 to 2024.

- Develop practical recommendations to elevate the quality of Algerian scientific publishing and enhance its recognition within Arab and international academic rankings.

3. Study Importance:

This research delineates its significance by addressing the knowledge void regarding the progression and status of Algerian scientific journals

within the Arab Impact Factor (Arcif) from 2016 to 2024. It delivers comprehensive analytical insights into the academic trajectories and realities of these journals, aiming to elevate their visibility on both regional and international platforms.

Moreover, the study furnishes practical recommendations aimed at enhancing the quality of scientific publishing and aiding Algerian researchers in reaching exemplary standards of academic publication. It underscores the role of publishing in Arabic as a vital scholarly foundation and advocates for national policies that boost the competitiveness of Algerian scientific research, positioning it as a leader on the global research stage.

4. Study Terms:

4.1 Peer-reviewed scientific journals:

Peer-reviewed journals are distinguished academic channels that employ a stringent review methodology to safeguard the integrity of published scientific work. The peer-review process is essential for verifying the accuracy and quality of research articles prior to their publication, involving expert evaluations to ensure adherence to scientific norms and augmenting the literature's credibility.

As noted by Miguel (2022) ⁽⁵⁾ and Harris and Davison (2020) ⁽⁶⁾, a peer-reviewed journal meticulously selects research articles to ensure their quality, significantly contributing to knowledge advancement across various research domains. Walker emphasizes the role of scientific journals as crucial conduits in the scientific communication landscape, having notably stimulated research and bolstered communication among scholars. He also points out that regular publication schedules ensure swift and ongoing dissemination of research findings, bolstering academic standards and elevating scientific quality.⁽⁷⁾

Academic journals are pivotal in providing researchers with timely information that may not be accessible through conventional books or other publications. With the transition to electronic formats subjected to rigorous review and scientific scrutiny, the quality of content has improved, fostering more effective scientific discourse.⁽⁸⁾

4.2 Impact Factor:

The Impact Factor (IF) is a bibliometric measure devised to evaluate the significance and influence of academic journals within their respective scientific disciplines, serving as a crucial metric for journal ranking based on their relative impact across academic fields. This metric was initially developed in 1958 by Eugene Garfield to aid librarians in managing journal collections efficiently. ⁽⁹⁾

The Impact Factor is defined as the average number of citations received by articles published in a specific journal over a designated period, serving as a benchmark for gauging a journal's influence in academic circles. It is computed by dividing the total number of citations of the articles published in the journal (R) by the number of articles issued during the previous two years (S), thus providing an annual assessment based on citation frequency. ^{(10) (11)}

The formula for the Impact Factor is as follows:

$$\text{Impact Factor} = \frac{\text{Total number of citations to articles published during the previous two years (R)}}{\text{Number of source articles published during the previous two years (S)}}$$

Number of source articles published during the previous two years (S)

4.3 Arab Impact Factor (Arcif):

The Arab Impact Factor (Arcif) serves as a rigorous scientific and methodological tool designed to assess the impact of Arab peer-reviewed scientific journals through the analysis of their citation metrics. Arcif employs mathematical formulations and adheres to stringent international standards to gauge the quality of academic publications, underlining its critical role in bolstering the credibility of Arab scientific research and promoting its recognition at both regional and international levels. ⁽¹²⁾

5. Previous Studies:

A notable investigation by Al-Khatib (2023) ⁽¹³⁾, titled "*The Status of Yemeni Scientific Journals at the Arab Impact Factor and Arab Arcif: An Analytical Study for the Period (2015-2022)*", embarked on a descriptive analysis of 15 impact factor reports. The study revealed that out of 54 Yemeni journals, only 27 were indexed, spanning 68 governmental and

private institutions. This disparity highlights the pressing need for enhanced scientific research policies and improved academic publishing standards to elevate the stature of Yemeni journals in regional and international academic echelons.

Another significant study by Al-Omar (2024) ⁽¹⁴⁾, "Saudi Scientific Journals in the Arab Impact Factor Arcif: An Analysis of Their Reality During the Period (2016-2023)", utilized a descriptive-analytical approach to examine eight pertinent reports. The study found that 81 Saudi journals were indexed, placing Saudi Arabia as the fourth-ranked Arab nation in 2020, which slightly declined to fifth by 2023. Notably, 62% of these journals were affiliated with 19 governmental universities, with prominent contributions from Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University and Umm Al-Qura University. The highest recorded impact factor was 2.096, achieved by "The Arab Journal for Security Studies." The conclusions drawn emphasized recommendations to enhance the quality of scientific publishing and bolster participation in the Arab Impact Factor, aiming to increase the regional competitiveness of Saudi journals.

Al-Dahchan's (2018) ⁽¹⁵⁾ research, " *Towards an Arab Impact Factor for the Quality and Evaluation of the Journals and Scientific Research Published in Arabic: Necessities and Requirements*," underscores the significance of scientific publishing and the influential role of various rankings in ameliorating research quality. The study advocates for the establishment of a specialized entity to rank and evaluate research published in Arabic, mirroring the impact factors used for English-language research. It thoroughly reviews the impact factor's concept, its influences, and the mix of accolades and criticisms it has garnered. Moreover, the paper examines exemplary Arab initiatives aimed at setting standards for evaluating scientific output in Arabic. The discussion extends to the motivations behind the Arab Impact Factor's inception and the essential conditions for its sustained success and growth. This segment highlights the pivotal role that Arab universities and research institutions play in advancing Arab scientific publishing, thereby enhancing global academic competitiveness and refining the Arab scientific research framework.

A study by Al-Khatib and Al-Hadrami (2023) ⁽¹⁶⁾ titled: *"The Reality of Arab Scientific Publishing Applied to Journals Indexed by Arab Impact Factors,"* meticulously assessed the landscape of Arab scientific publishing by examining peer-reviewed journals indexed within Arab impact factors and Arcif for the year 2022. Employing a comprehensive descriptive methodology complemented by both quantitative and qualitative analyses of the annual reports from these indexing bodies, the study revealed that a total of 1,557 scientific journals were indexed, spanning 19 Arab nations along with various Islamic and foreign countries. Algeria emerged as the leader in this regard, followed by Egypt, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. At the journal level, "The Egyptian Journal of Scientific Education," published by the Egyptian Association for Scientific Education, notched the highest Arcif impact factor with a score of 2.4746. The findings culminated in a series of recommendations that underscore the necessity to ameliorate the quality of Arab scientific publishing and bolster support for indexed journals, thereby ensuring sustained academic excellence on both regional and international platforms.

A study by Qanbar Saadi (2020) ⁽¹⁷⁾ titled: *"Iraqi Scientific Journals and Arab Impact Factors: An Analytical Study,"* explored the evolution of impact factors among Iraqi scientific journals over the period from 2015 to 2019. This analysis documented a notable escalation in the number of journals indexed, rising from just 4 to 60. Specifically, the "Date Palm Research" journal achieved an impact factor of 2.7 in 2019. The study highlighted the instrumental role of the IASJ platform in promoting Iraqi scientific output on an international scale and the active participation of Iraqi journals in Arab impact factor (IF) and ARCIF initiatives. It proposed the establishment of an "Iraqi Impact Factor (IIF)" to augment local evaluation measures and elevate the global profile of Iraqi journals, to support the dissemination of scientific knowledge in Arabic.

5.1 Commentary on Previous Studies:

Previous research has primarily focused on categorizing and tracking the growth of Arab scientific journals within the Arab Impact Factor and

ARCIF frameworks, highlighting the role of national platforms in scientific publishing. However, these studies have not deeply explored national contexts or institutional strategies, a gap this study aims to fill.

Building on prior methodologies that blend quantitative and qualitative analyses, this study aligns with past research in analyzing trends and journal rankings. However, it stands out by concentrating on Algeria, a previously underexplored region. It examines the distribution of Algerian journals across publishing entities, linking findings to national academic policies, and covers a more extended period (2016–2024) for a broader perspective on journal evolution.

By addressing this research gap, the study provides a comprehensive analysis of Algerian journals in ARCIF and offers practical recommendations to enhance publication quality and competitiveness, contributing to the advancement of Arab scientific publishing.

6. Study Methodology and Procedures:

The methodology employed in this study is descriptive, incorporating content analysis to scrutinize the classification of Algerian scientific journals within the ARCIF database over the period from 2016 to 2024. Data were meticulously gathered from ARCIF reports, where content analysis was instrumental in identifying trends and determining factors influencing the rankings. To fulfil the objectives of this study, the following research tools and procedures were utilized:

6.1 Data Collection:

This was carried out by relying on officially published annual reports and the summaries available on the website of the Arab Impact Factor "Arcif" for the period 2016-2024, as follows:

Table (1): Arab Impact Factor and Citation Index (Arcif)

Name of Index	Time Period	Number of Reports	Link
Arab Impact Factor and Citation Index (Arcif)	2016-2024	09	https://emarefa.net/arcif/ar/

The Arcif website includes nine (09) annual reports covering the period from 2016 to the end of 2024. A separate report was issued for each year, as noted by Al-Khazandar (2024)⁽¹⁸⁾⁽¹⁹⁾

These reports provide exhaustive and detailed data concerning the Arabic-language scientific journals that have achieved an ARCIF impact factor, as illustrated in Figure 1 on the ARCIF official website.

Figure (1): ARCIF official website.



JOURNAL TITLE	IMPACT FACTOR	ISSN	PUBLISHER	COUNTRY
Arab Journal of Business and Law	5.2222	2543-3830	Al-Farabi University (Al-Farabi Arab Sciences), Studies Graduate and Research	United Arab Emirates
Arab Journal of Management	0.0000	2543-3830	University of Omdurman (Omdurman Arab Sciences), Studies Graduate and Research	Algeria
Arab Journal of Education	0.0000	2543-3830	University of Omdurman (Omdurman Arab Sciences), Studies Graduate and Research	Algeria
Arab Journal of Science	0.0000	2543-3830	University of Omdurman (Omdurman Arab Sciences), Studies Graduate and Research	Algeria

Source: (ARCIF official website, 2024)

The data presented in Figure (1) elucidates that the Arab Impact Factor (Arcif) furnishes meticulous and detailed identification data for the journals it assesses. This pivotal data encompasses the journal’s name in both Arabic and English, the publishing entity (be it a university, research centre, or other), the country of publication, the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), the impact factor, and the journal’s ranking within the Arab domain. Such information is indispensable for the precise identification and differentiation of journals, particularly when there are similarities in names or other details. The inclusion of ISSN plays a critical role in eliminating any ambiguity, ensuring the verification and authenticity of the journal’s identity.

Moreover, the Arcif website is equipped with advanced search functionalities to enable users tailor their search in various parameters: country, year, journal, publisher, and ISSN. These tools facilitate access to needed information and offer a user-friendly and efficient experience. The availability of the impact factor and rankings within the Arab context

provides researchers with a definitive benchmark for evaluating the quality and scientific influence of journals, thereby fostering transparency and building trust in the documented journals, and assisting researchers in selecting the most appropriate venues for their scholarly publications.

6.2 Data Analysis:

The focus of the current study is the analysis of data pertaining to Algerian scientific journals indexed within the Arab Impact Factor and Citation Index "Arcif." It is important to note that while this data offers insights into notable characteristics of these journals during the period from 2016 to 2024, it does not encompass the full scope and diversity of scientific publication and peer-reviewed journals in Algeria, which, according to the ASJP platform, number approximately 883 ⁽²⁰⁾. A significant observation is that around 436 Algerian scientific journals had not registered their data with "Arcif" at the time of this study.

7. Results Discussion:

The current study delves into the status of Algerian scientific journals as classified by the Arab Impact Factor and Citation Index (Arcif), focusing on the following aspects:

7.1. Development of Algerian Scientific Journals within the Arcif Impact Factor for the Period (2016-2024):

An examination of the Arcif reports since its inception in 2016 highlights a consistent and expanding presence of Algerian scientific journals within its database. This trend indicates a progressive enhancement in quality standards and compliance with classification criteria.

7.1.1 Numerical Leadership of Algerian Journals in Arcif:

Algerian scientific journals have demonstrated substantial growth within the reports of the Arab Impact Factor "Arcif," signifying a gradual elevation in quality standards and adherence to classification requisites. This progress is against the backdrop of growing competition among Arab nations and aims to chart the quantitative trends of Algerian journals and juxtapose their performance against that of scientific journals from other Arab countries. This comparison is further detailed in Table Number (2), which elucidates Algeria's positioning within the Arab scientific panorama.

Table (2): Number of Algerian Journals Relative to Arab Journals in Arcif
 Impact Factor

Journals	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Arab	344	350	362	499	681	877	1000	1155	1201
Algerian	46	61	64	167	255	296	370	445	447
Ratio (%)	13.37	17.43	17.68	33.47	37.44	33.75	37.00	38.53	37.22

Source: (Saidi, 2024)

The analysis of the development of Algerian scientific journals within the Arab Impact Factor "Arcif" from 2016 to 2024 highlights a swift ascent in Arab scientific publishing, positioning Algeria as a prominent force in this domain. The overall count of Arab journals in the "Knowledge Database," which administrates Arcif, climbed from 344 in 2016 to 1201 in 2024, marking a total growth rate of 249%. This expansion was punctuated by significant qualitative advancements, particularly in 2019 and 2020, with growth rates of 37.5% and 36.4%, respectively.

Within this broader regional trend, Algerian journals have exhibited extraordinary expansion, outpacing the general growth trajectory of Arab journals. The number of Algerian journals escalated from a mere 46 in 2016 to 447 by 2024, representing an impressive growth rate of 871%. The interval between 2018 and 2019 proved to be crucial, as the number of journals surged from 64 to 167, reflecting a growth rate of 160%. This remarkable performance is indicative of effective strategic initiatives undertaken by Algeria, aimed at elevating the standards of its journals to meet "Arcif" criteria while enhancing scientific publishing both in volume and quality, and aspiring to secure a presence in various databases, both Arab and international. Moreover, Algeria has significantly increased its proportional representation among total Arab journals classified under Arcif, where this proportion grew from 13.4% in 2016 to 38.5% in 2023, with an average annual increase rate of 29.5%. Since 2019, Algeria has consistently led the region, breaching the 33% mark of the total share and

maintaining the top position Arab-wide for five consecutive years according to "Arcif" reports. A substantial portion of this success is attributed to the pivotal role of the ASJP (Algerian Scientific Journal Platform).

ASJP has markedly enhanced the visibility of Algerian journals by providing a robust platform for open electronic publishing and streamlining the scientific arbitration process in accordance with stringent standards. It has also been instrumental in ensuring that journals meet the criteria of Arab database standards, thus boosting their prospects of inclusion in the Arab Impact Factor "Arcif." The strategic emphasis on international visibility has led Algerian journals to pursue inclusion in numerous databases, such as the Knowledge Base that administers Arcif, further solidifying their academic and scientific standing globally.

7.1.2 Relative Share of Algerian Journals Compared to Other Arab Countries:

Table (3): Relative Share of Algerian Journals Compared to Other Arab Countries

Journals	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Algeria	46	61	64	167	255	296	370	445	447
	13.37	17.43	17.68	33.47	37.44	33.75	37.00	38.53	37.22
Egypt	30	46	38	64	108	192	238	291	308
	8.72	13.14	10.50	12.82	15.86	21.89	23.80	25.19	25.64
Iraq	97	93	89	108	120	145	150	155	159
	28.20	26.57	24.58	21.64	17.62	16.53	15.00	13.42	13.24
Saudi Arabia	54	49	50	48	56	57	61	63	65
	15.70	14.00	13.81	9.62	8.22	6.50	6.10	5.45	5.41
Jordan	24	24	27	30	34	35	32	32	38
	6.98	6.86	7.46	6.01	4.99	3.99	3.20	2.77	3.16
UAE	12	9	9	11	11	11	12	12	11
	3.49	2.57	2.49	2.20	1.62	1.25	1.20	1.04	0.92

Source: (Saidi, 2024)

Table (3) shows the evolution of the number of scientific journals from 2016 to 2024, underscoring Algeria’s prominent superiority over other Arab nations in this sector. While Egyptian journals also experienced notable growth, escalating from 30 to 308 journals, they still lagged behind

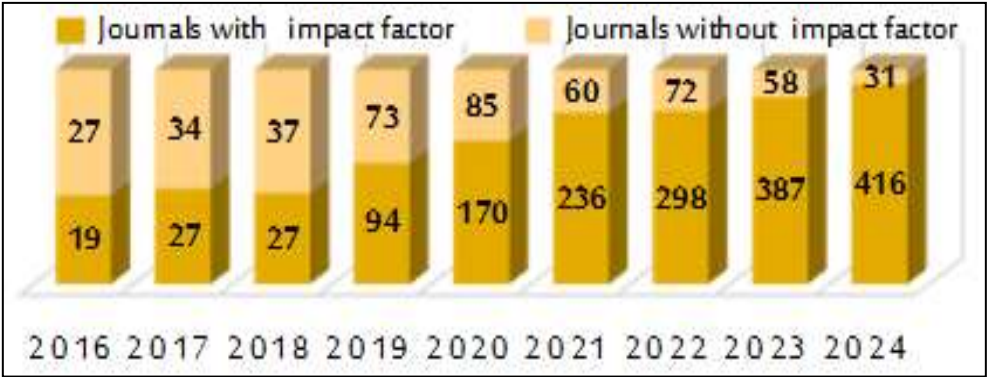
the Algerian performance, stabilizing at a share of 25.64% in 2024. In contrast, Iraqi journals observed a decrease in their relative share from 28.20% to 13.24%, despite numerical stability, whereas Saudi journals witnessed a reduction from 15.70% to 5.41%, indicative of a deceleration in their development and expansion.

Countries like Jordan and the UAE maintained modest journal counts without significant qualitative advancements. This varied performance across the region reinforces Algeria’s dominance in the Arab scientific publishing landscape, sustained by its robust commitment to enhancing publishing standards and developing the scientific community.

7.2 Impact Factor of Algerian Scientific Journals at Arcif 2016- 2024:

7.2.1 Development of the Impact Factor:

Analysis of the Arab Impact Factor "Arcif" reports reveals a marked increase in the number of Algerian scientific journals obtaining an impact factor, signifying a substantial enhancement in their performance, as



depicted in the subsequent Figure (2):

Figure (2): Number of Algerian Journals with an Impact Factor

Figure (2) showcases the significant evolution in the impact factor of Algerian scientific journals. Initially, in 2016, only 19 journals had an impact factor, accounting for 41.3% of the total 46 journals, while the remaining 27 journals, or 58.7%, were not classified. By 2024, the number of journals with an impact factor surged to 416, representing 93% of the total 447 journals, with the non-classified journals reducing to 31, or 7%.

Arab Impact Factor (Arcif): An Analytical Study (2016-2024)

These dynamics indicate a transformative shift in the academic landscape, where the consistent growth in journals with an impact factor correlates with a decrease in the number of non-classified journals. This shift is attributed to Algeria's adoption of an open access philosophy, facilitating the Knowledge Base to include articles from Algerian journals and index them within its system, thereby enhancing their citation metrics and elevating their impact factor. In terms of the magnitude and percentage of the impact factor for Algerian scientific journals, they have attained advanced positions within the Arab Impact Factor classification. The highest impact factor achieved by an Algerian journal was 1.3033, placing it 32nd among Arab journals. This was accomplished by the journal "Social Empowerment" issued by Amar Thelidji University in Laghouat, Algeria, which is affiliated with the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Laboratory for Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development in the Desert Environment.

At the Arab level, the journal "Accounting Thought" issued by Ain Shams University (Cairo, Egypt), Faculty of Commerce – Department of Accounting and Auditing, recorded the highest Arab impact factor of 5.5745 for the year 2024. The subsequent Table (4) provides a summary of the top three positions as reported by Arcif on their website:

Table (4): Distribution of the Top Three Ranks of Algerian Journals Indexed in Arcif for the Period 2016-2024

Year	Arab Rank	Impact Factor	Journal (Publisher)
2024	32	1.3033	1. Journal of Social Empowerment (Amar Thelidji University of Laghouat, Faculty of Social Sciences)
	33	1.2903	2. Journal of Wisdom for Media and Communication Studies. (Treasures of Wisdom Publishing and Distribution (Algeria).
	42	1.1515	3. Journal of the Sports System (Ziane Achour University of Djelfa, Institute of Physical and Sports Activities Sciences).
2023	21	1.1077	1. Journal of Social Empowerment Amar Thelidji University of Laghouat, Faculty of Social Sciences
	46	0.8669	2. Journal of Ijtihad for Legal and Economic Studies (Amin Al-Akhal Haj Moussa Ag Akhmouk University Center for Tamanghasset, Institute of Law and Political Science)
	49	0.8421	3. Journal of Translation and Languages (University of Oran, Faculty of Letters, Languages, and Arts)
2022	21	0.6491	1. Journal of Economics and Finance (Hassiba Ben Bouali University of Chlef, Faculty of Economic)

	32	0.5823	2. Namaa Journal for Economics and Commerce (Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia University, Jijel)
	34	0.5796	3. Journal of Finance and Business Economics (Abdelhafid Boussouf University Center of Mila, Institute of Economic)
2021	38	0.54	1. Journal of Economics and Finance (Hassiba Ben Bouali University, Faculty of Economic)
	41	0.5196	2. Journal of North African Economies (Hassiba Ben Bouali University of Chlef, Laboratory of Globalization and North African)
	50	0.4328	3. Algerian Journal of Economic Development (Kasdi Merbah University Ouargla, Faculty of Economic)
2020	2	0.9688	1. Algerian Journal of Economic Development (Kasdi Merbah University Ouargla, Faculty of Economic)
	6	0.6667	2. Algerian Journal of Globalization and Economic Policies (University of Algiers 3, Laboratory of Globalization and Economic)
	7	0.625	3. Notebooks of Politics and Law (Kasdi Merbah University Ouargla, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences)
2019	11	0.4167	1. Journal of Performance of Algerian Institutions (Kasdi Merbah University Ouargla)
	17	0.3651	2. Notebooks of Politics and Law (Kasdi Merbah University Ouargla)
	19	0.3571	3. Journal of Psychological and Educational Sciences (University of El Oued)
2018	27	0.1495	1. Academy of Social and Human Sciences (Hassiba Ben Bouali University of Chlef)
	30	0.1346	2. Journal of Psychological and Educational Studies (Blida University 2)
	40	0.1102	3. Journal of the Researcher in Human and Social Sciences (Kasdi Merbah University Ouargla)
2017	19	0.1711	1. The Researcher Journal (Ibn Khaldoun University of Tiaret)
	27	0.1546	2. Academy of Social and Human Sciences (Hassiba Ben Bouali University of Chlef)
	31	0.1379	3. Journal of Economic Sciences and Management (Ferhat Abbas University Sétif 1)
2016	23	0.1522	1. Journal of Psychological and Educational Studies (Blida University 2)
	29	0.134	2. The Researcher Journal (Ibn Khaldoun University of Tiaret)
	32	0.125	3. Academy of Social and Human Sciences (Hassiba Ben Bouali University of Chlef)

Arab Impact Factor (Arcif): An Analytical Study (2016-2024)

This table underscores a notable progression in the standing of Algerian journals within the Arab rankings, marking a significant qualitative leap in 2020 when they ascended to the second rank. This advancement is reflective of improvements in research quality and an enhanced scientific impact, driven by supportive policies aimed at bolstering scientific research and refining both publishing and refereeing practices. Nevertheless, the data reveals notable fluctuations in rankings, beginning at rank 23 in 2016, improving to rank 19 in 2017, but then regressing to rank 27 in 2018. These shifts highlight the inherent challenges in maintaining high-quality standards amid escalating regional competition.

In 2021, a precipitous decline to rank 38 was observed, which can be attributed to the global trend during the COVID-19 pandemic where many journals made their articles freely accessible, leading to a reduction in citations for Algerian journals. Although there was a relative stabilization with a rank of 21 during 2022 and 2023, a further slide to rank 32 in 2024 signals the pressing need for the adoption of sustainable strategies aimed at boosting performance and competitiveness within the Arab context.

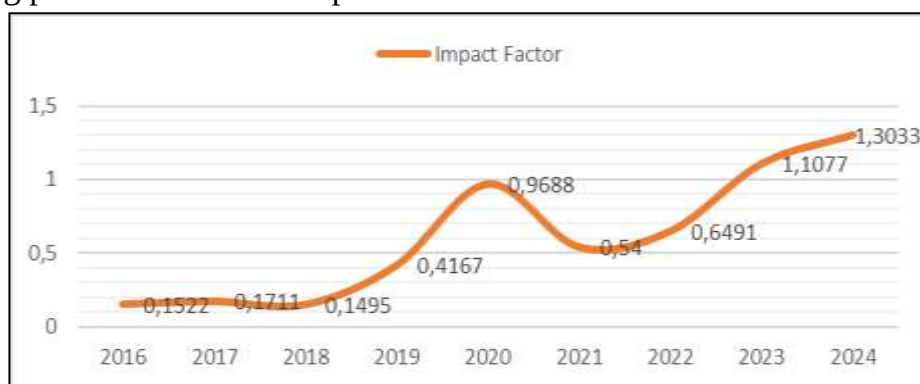


Figure (3): Impact Factor of Algerian Journals Divided Over the Years

Figure (3) reveals a significant progression in the impact factor of Algerian scientific journals from 2016 to 2024, starting from a modest 0.1522 in 2016 and climbing to 1.3033 by 2024. This upward trend signifies a gradual enhancement in the calibre of academic publishing and scientific integrity, thus bolstering the stature of Algerian journals in the Arab

scientific arena. The period from 2019 to 2024 proved critical, with the impact factor of journals surpassing the 1.0 mark in 2023, peaking in 2024.

This peak was notably achieved by the "Journal of Social Empowerment," which benefited immensely from advanced editorial policies and its inclusion in the European database ERIH PLUS, leading to its categorization in group B on the Algerian journals platform.

However, the trajectory of development exhibited some oscillations, such as the decline observed in 2018 relative to 2017, underscoring the ongoing need to enhance the quality of scientific research and optimize editorial processes to ensure the continuity and sustainability of these improvements.

7.2.2 Analysis of the Evolution of Average Impact Factor:

Table (5): Evolution of Average Impact Factor from 2016 to 2024

Year	Algeria	Egypt	Iraq	Saudi Arabia	Jordan	UAE
2016	0.0189	0.0488	0.0245	0.0452	0.0495	0.0876
2017	0.0199	0.0373	0.0229	0.0325	0.0715	0.0376
2018	0.0192	0.0573	0.0231	0.0410	0.1085	0.0594
2019	0.0500	0.0595	0.0534	0.0909	0.1305	0.1043
2020	0.0670	0.0781	0.0531	0.0974	0.1355	0.0773
2021	0.0850	0.1488	0.0694	0.1931	0.1971	0.1760
2022	0.1152	0.1615	0.0776	0.1491	0.0070	0.1559
2023	0.1792	0.2888	0.1067	0.2662	0.2559	0.3408
2024	0.2345	0.4193	0.1197	0.3348	0.0072	0.4082

Source: (Saidi, 2024)

Arab nations have demonstrated significant variability in the evolution of their average impact factors (ARCIF) from 2016 to 2024. Algeria's ARCIF has seen a steady ascent, rising from 0.0189 in 2016 to 0.2345 in 2024. This modest growth underscores consistent efforts in Arabic-language scientific research without substantial qualitative leaps. In stark contrast, Egypt has experienced a remarkable surge in its average ARCIF, reaching 0.4193 in 2024, propelled by effective strategies aimed at elevating research quality and establishing it as a leader among Arab countries in this metric.

Arab Impact Factor (Arcif): An Analytical Study (2016-2024)

Iraq has displayed relative stability, with a slow increase from 0.0245 in 2016 to 0.1197 in 2024, which suggests persistent challenges in boosting research quality and publishing. Conversely, Saudi Arabia has shown impressive growth, with its ARCIF climbing to 0.3348 in 2024, thanks to concerted efforts to improve journal quality and enhance citation rates.

Jordan's performance has been volatile, initially growing until 2021 before experiencing a sharp decline to 0.0072 in 2024, indicative of significant obstacles in maintaining publishing quality or sustaining citation rates. The UAE has started from a lower base but has realized substantial growth, achieving an average ARCIF of 0.4082 in 2024. This reflects its commitment to enhancing the quality of scientific journals and establishing a prestigious publishing landscape as a formidable competitor to countries like Egypt. This variance in performance among the countries highlights the disparities in policies and investments directed towards ameliorating the quality of research and scientific publishing in Arabic.

Both Egypt and the UAE have exhibited remarkable dominance in average impact factors, showcasing their effectiveness in balancing the proliferation of journals with their quality. These nations have prioritized publishing high-impact research, thereby augmenting their stature within the Arab scientific community.

This standout performance is a testament to the adoption of scientific policies that support high-quality research and foster publications in esteemed scientific journals. In comparison, Algeria and Saudi Arabia have demonstrated steady progress in improving their average ARCIF, marking significant advancements in performance. However, they have yet to achieve the quality and impact levels seen in Egypt and the UAE, signaling a need for intensified efforts to elevate the quality of scientific journals and promote high-value research. Meanwhile, Iraq and Jordan face pronounced challenges, as the development of their average ARCIF has been tepid and erratic. This modest performance underscores the urgency to focus efforts on enhancing publishing quality and amplifying the impact of research published. The average impact factor in ARCIF is intricately linked to citation frequencies of journal articles. Some journals have implemented a

citation policy that mandates citing previous articles from the same journal in new publications, contributing to the stability and possibly the inflation of their impact factors.

7.3 Distribution of Algerian Scientific Journals Indexed by Publisher from 2016-2024:

Table (6): Classification of Indexed Journals by Institution or Publisher

Year	Type	Universities and Educational Institutions	Research Centres and Institutes	Scientific and Professional Associations	Commercial Publishers	Ministries and Governmental Bodies
2016	Publisher (23)	20	2	1	0	0
	Journals (46)	39	6	1	0	0
2017	Publisher (31)	25	3	1	1	1
	Journals (61)	47	4	1	8	1
2018	Publisher (31)	26	3	1	1	1
	Journals (64)	49	5	1	8	1
2019	Publisher (55)	50	3	1	1	0
	Journals (167)	155	3	1	8	0
2020	Publisher (65)	56	5	2	1	1
	Journals (255)	236	7	2	8	2
2021	Publisher (65)	58	4	1	1	1
	Journals (296)	280	6	1	7	2
2022	Publisher (71)	61	7	1	1	1
	Journals (370)	352	9	1	6	2
2023	Publisher (86)	69	10	3	1	3
	Journals (445)	418	14	3	5	5
2024	Publisher (89)	71	12	4	1	1
	Journals (447)	419	17	4	5	2

Source: (Saidi, 2024)

The table elucidates a marked growth in the number of publishers between 2016 and 2024, expanding from 23 to 89.

This increase began with a period of stability from 2017 to 2018, followed by a substantial surge in 2019 and consistent growth in subsequent years, particularly accelerating since 2022. Such expansion reflects a

significant boom in publishing activities and an uptick in institutional contributions, showcasing dynamic developments within the scientific landscape during this period.

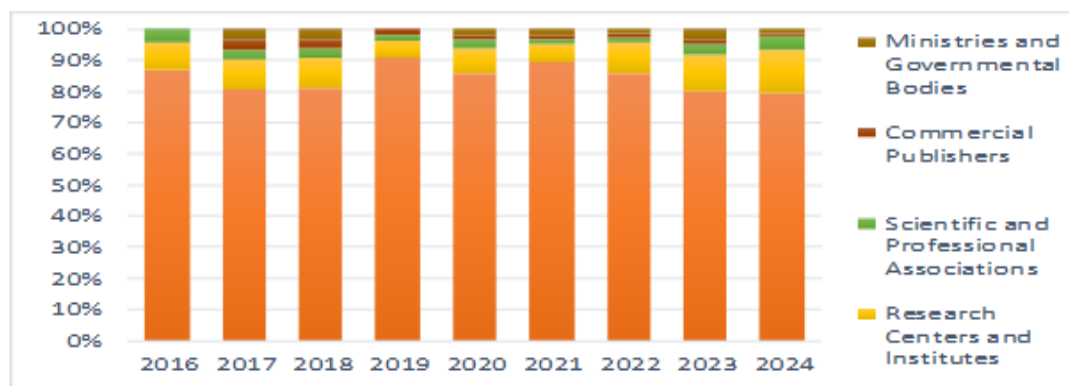


Figure (4): Distribution of Algerian Journals in Arcif According to the Nature of the Publishing Entity

The data illustrates significant growth in the number of institutions involved in publishing, from 23 in 2016 to 89 in 2024, accompanied by an increase in the number of journals from 46 to 447 over the same timeframe. Universities and educational institutions have spearheaded this expansion, with their numbers rising from 20 to 71, and the journals they publish increasing from 39 to 419. In contrast, research centres experienced more modest increases, while the engagement of professional associations, commercial publishers, and governmental bodies remained limited. This underscores the critical role of universities in bolstering scientific output, with a direct correlation between institutional growth and the surge in indexed research activities.

This distribution highlights that in Algeria, scientific journals issued by universities and academic institutes not only mirror the institutions' academic stature but also their scientific reputation. While there are commercial publishers involved, journals supported by such entities face significant deficits. This scenario is largely due to Algeria's adoption of an open-access philosophy, whereby universities publish journals that are freely accessible, diminishing the allure for commercial publishers and

reducing competition in this sector. This effect is starkly evident from the data presented in the previous table.

8. General Findings:

The study has culminated in a series of noteworthy findings and conclusions:

- The outcomes reflect the dedication of those responsible for Algerian journals to align with the strategic directives of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, aiming to advance Algerian scientific publications.

- There has been a rapid evolution in both Arab and Algerian scientific publishing. Arab scientific journals have witnessed a substantial growth of 249% from 2016 to 2024, while Algeria has seen an extraordinary surge in its own scientific journals by 871%, increasing from merely 46 journals in 2016 to 447 in 2024. This represents not only a boost in the infrastructure supporting scientific publishing but also Algeria's implementation of robust strategies to enhance the quality and standards of its scientific journals to meet the criteria of the Arab impact factor "Arcif."

- Algeria has significantly bolstered its share of indexed Arab journals, escalating from 13.4% in 2016 to an impressive 38.5% in 2023. This robust growth, positioning Algeria as the leader since 2019, is largely attributed to the ASJP (Algerian Scientific Journal Platform), which has enhanced the visibility of Algerian journals and ensured adherence to regional and international standards.

- Despite the substantial growth of Egyptian journals, reaching a 25.64% share in 2024, and the relative decline in the shares of Iraqi and Saudi journals, Algeria has maintained its leading position. This reflects a sustained commitment to developing the quality and standards of scientific publishing in comparison to the varied performances of other Arab countries.

- There has been a significant increase in the number of Algerian journals receiving an impact factor, rising from 19 journals (41.3%) in 2016 to 416 journals (93%) by 2024, accompanied by a decrease in unclassified

journals. This indicates a marked improvement in quality standards, significantly enhancing the regional standing of Algerian academic publishing.

- Algerian journals have attained advanced ranks within the Arab impact factor classification. Notably, the "Journal of Social Empowerment" achieved the highest Algerian impact factor at 1.3033, ranking 32nd Arab-wide. This is indicative of Algeria's endeavours to boost research performance and academic excellence. Comparatively, the "Accounting Thought" journal from Ain Shams University in Cairo recorded the highest Arab impact factor of 5.5745 in 2024.

- The impact factor of Algerian journals has seen a considerable increase, from 0.1522 in 2016 to 1.3033 in 2024, surpassing the 1.0 threshold in 2023. Such progress underscores ongoing enhancements in the quality of academic publishing, propelled by advanced editorial policies. However, fluctuations like the decrease noted in 2018 underline the necessity of ongoing improvements to scientific research quality and editorial processes to ensure sustainable progress.

- The ranking of Algerian journals experienced notable fluctuations during the study period, peaking at second place in 2020, indicative of enhanced research quality and scientific impact. These fluctuations, from rank 23 in 2016 to rank 32 in 2024, spotlight the challenges in maintaining quality amid rising regional competition and underscore the need for sustainable strategies to enhance performance and scientific competitiveness.

- The number of publishing institutions and scientific journals in Algeria has dramatically increased, from 23 publishers and 46 journals in 2016 to 89 publishers and 447 journals by 2024. This growth is primarily driven by universities and educational institutions, highlighting their crucial role in amplifying scientific production.

- Universities and educational institutions are primary catalysts for the burgeoning scientific activity in Algeria, evidenced by the significant rise in indexed research activities. From 2016 to 2024, the number of institutions listed in Arcif escalated from 20 to 71, while their journals surged from 39

to 419. Meanwhile, contributions from research centres, professional associations, commercial publishers, and governmental bodies remained minimal, suggesting potential areas for growth to further bolster scientific research and its dissemination.

- Many Algerian universities demonstrate a robust commitment to the scientific journals they publish. The University of El-Oued stands out with 28 scientific journals, all indexed in Arcif, followed by Ziane Achour University of Djelfa with 20 journals, Mohamed Boudiaf University of M'Sila with 19 journals, and Abdelhamid Ibn Badis University of Mostaganem with 18 journals. Other universities and publishing entities contribute between 16 to one journal.

9. Recommendations:

The study proposed the following recommendations:

- Strengthen the standing of Algerian journals by ensuring sustainable institutional support including allocating sufficient budgets to maintain their continuity and incorporate them into national scientific research strategies. The ASJP platform should be emphasized as a pivotal tool for enhancing the visibility of Algerian journals, alongside encouraging active contributions from research centres and professional associations.

- Provide specialized training programmes for journal managers to ensure continued progress. These programmes should be supplemented with both material and moral incentives to boost performance. Additionally, fostering regional and international partnerships with renowned academic institutions and drawing lessons from the successful practices of countries such as Egypt and the UAE can help elevate the quality and reach of Algerian journals.

- Expand participation in the Arab impact factor to address the challenges faced by Arab scientific journals in accessing global databases. This would strengthen their academic presence and amplify their influence at the regional level.

- Conduct regular performance assessments of Algerian journals within Arcif and recognize institutions that achieve high rankings. This will

promote positive competition among institutions. Moreover, supporting the publication of research in Arabic and advocating for its international dissemination will enhance the visibility and impact of Algerian research in both regional and global academic contexts.

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