



EDİTÖRE MEKTUP/LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Self citation in scientific literature: a reviewer's perspective

Bilimsel literatürde kendine atıf yapma: bir danışmanın perspektifinden

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Cukurova Medical Journal 2016;41(3):609-609.

Dear Editor,

Self citation is a practice where authors cite their own works - account for a significant portion of all citations¹. This may result from the cumulative nature of the individual research, a need of appreciation and in some cases to advertise individual's previous work. Self citation up to a limited percentage, especially when you are in a restricted research field and/or your present work is the continuation of your previous work can be considered as relevant self citation; however on the other hand citing yourself unnecessarily and excessively for vanity, egotism and self advertisement being considered as non relevant self citation. I have been associated with some eminent journals of dental and medical research as a peer reviewer. I have been frequently come across manuscripts with non-relevant citations of specific authors. I would like to say that the authors need to know about potential harmful effects of excessive self citations, which are as follows. A risk of becoming well known for citing your own papers frequently and omitting a relatively more relevant work of other researchers, which is unethical. As the

reference list of papers contains numerous citations of one specific author and lacking relevant papers of other researchers, the author will be easily recognizable even in a double blinded review. More numbers of non relevant self citations also reflects a self centred nature of authors. This practice may earn a bad academic reputation and more likelihood of the rejection of submitted manuscripts. Researchers may increase their total citation rates by means of self citations but it is not possible to attain high citation rates based only on self citation². Self citation is not good and bad by itself but it should be used when it is strictly needed to show the continuation of the previous work with the present one.

REFERENCES

1. James H. Fowler, Dag W.A. Does self-citation pay?. *Scientometrics*. 2007;72:427-37.
2. Costas R., Bordons M, van Leeuwen TN. Self-citations at the meso and individual levels: effects of different calculation methods. *Scientometrics*. 2010;82:517-37.