CHIMIA **2002**, *56*, No. 1/2

Chimia 56 (2002) 6–7
© Schweizerische Chemische Gesellschaft
ISSN 0009–4293

CHIMIA in Comparison – An Update

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Abstract: The impact of CHIMIA is compared to corresponding journals.

Keywords: CHIMIA · Citation index · Impact factor · Journal ranking

In 1999, we made a detailed study of the citation statistics for CHIMIA and corresponding journals published by other chemical societies [1]. To update the most pertinent aspects of this comparison, we recently looked again at the 'classical' impact factor for CHIMIA and some other journals published by the *Institute for Scientific Information* (ISI) in the *Journal Citation Reports* database [2]. This **impact factor** is based on the number of citations in a certain year to articles published in the preceding two years [3]:

'impact factor' = number of citations in year **n** to articles from the journal published in years **n-1** and **n-2**/number of articles published by the journal in years **n-1** and **n-2**

This impact factor puts journals such as CHIMIA that get a significant number of citations beyond the two-year period covered by this factor at some disadvantage relative to journals getting most of their citations for more recent publications: CHIMIA has a 'cited half life' [4] of 7.5 years for 2000 (obviously due to the many review-type articles in CHIMIA), compared to only 4.2 for *Chemistry in Britain*, and 4.5 years for *Chemical & Engineering News* (no cited half life was given for *Nachrichten aus Chemie Technik Laboratorium* in 2000). Despite this 'disadvantage', CHIMIA is well positioned among journals with a similar mission (Fig. 1).

The 'roller coaster behavior' of the data for *Chemistry in Britain* in Fig. 1 raises another cautionary note about the validity of such 'factors'; this general problem was already mentioned in our first study [1] and in many other publications discussing citation and impact data.

CHIMIA is not only doing well with regard to relative criteria like the impact factor, we also found a positive trend both for the absolute number of citations from CHIMIA in the *Science Citation Index Expanded* [5] (Fig. 2) as well as for the number of articles from CHIMIA abstracted in *Chemical Abstracts* [6] (Fig. 3).

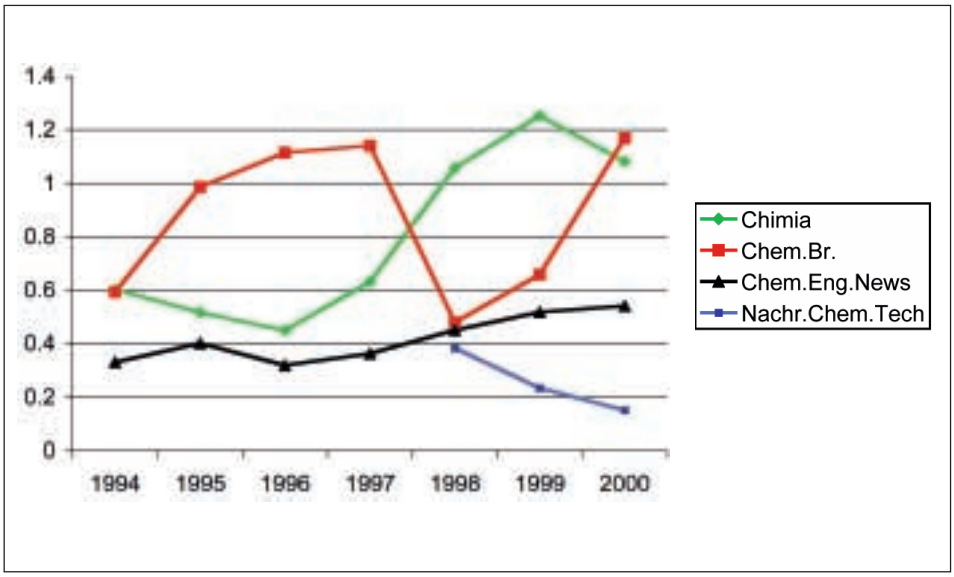

Fig. 1. Journal Impact Factors (ISI Journal Citation Reports)

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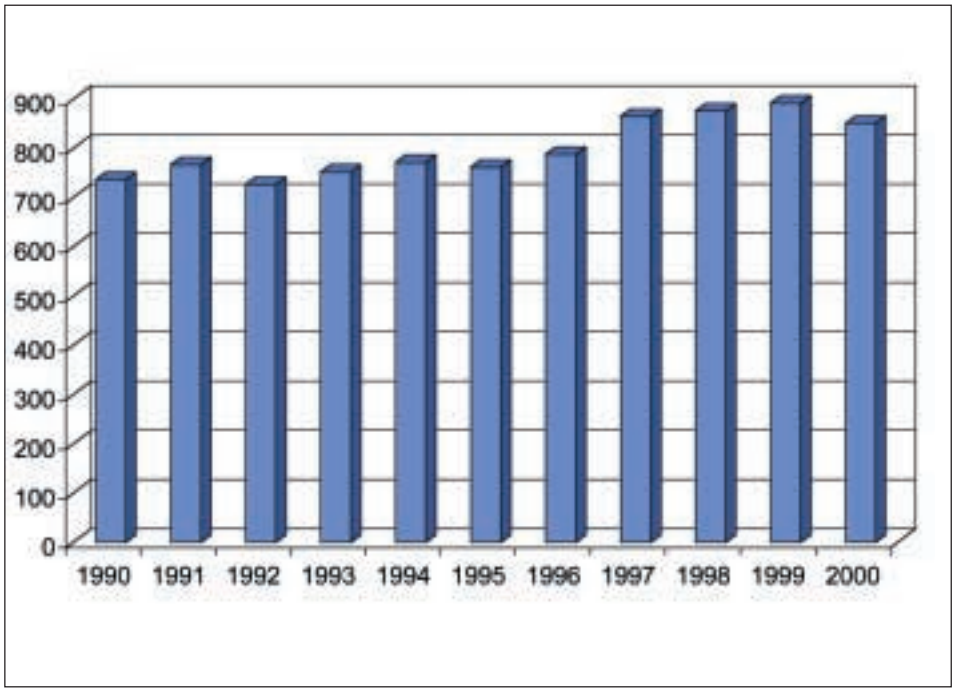

Fig. 2. CHIMIA: Citations in Science Citation Index

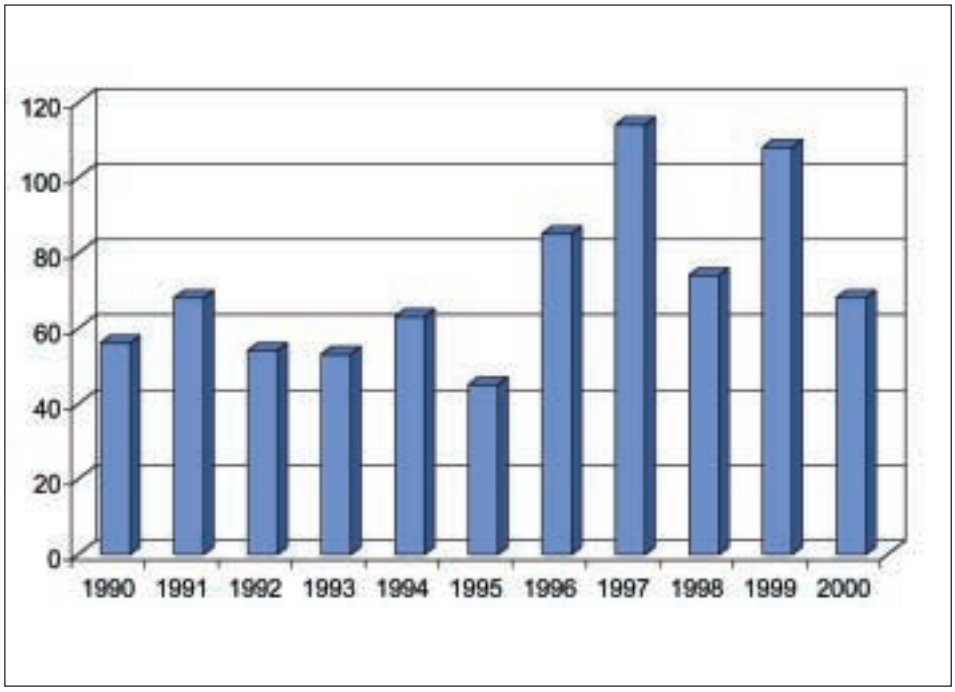

Fig. 3. CHIMIA: References in Chemical Abstracts

Necessary caution about impact factors and statistical information from databases notwithstanding, we do consider these results a tribute to our authors as well as an encouragement to the *Editorial Board* and the *Advisory Board* of CHIMIA to continue their work, and a satisfaction for our Society as publisher of CHIMIA.

Received: January 8, 2002

[1] E. Zass, *Chimia* **1999**, *53*, 253.
[2] *http://www.isinet.com/isi/products/citation/jcr/index.html*
[3] *http://www.isinet.com/isi/search/glossary/index.html#I*
[4] Defined by ISI as 'number of years, going back from the current year, that account for 50% of the total citations received by the cited journal in the current year', *cf. http://www.isinet.com/isi/search/glossary/index.html#C*
[5] Database SCISEARCH at STN International, *cf. http://www.stn-international.de/stndatabases/databases/scisearc.html*
[6] Database CA at STN International, *cf. http://www.stn-international.de/stndatabases/databases/ca.html*