

The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), initiated at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Cell Biology by a group of editors and publishers of scholarly journals, recognizes the need to improve the ways in which the outputs of scientific research are evaluated.

What does DORA say?

DORA makes one general and 17 specific recommendations.

General recommendation:

Do not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors (JIFs), as surrogate measures of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist's contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions.

For Organizations That Supply Metrics

- Be transparent
- Provide access to data
- Discourage data manipulation
- Provide different metrics for primary literature and reviews

For Publishers

- Cease to promote journals by Impact Factor; provide an array of metrics
- Focus on article-level metrics
- Identify different author contributions
- Open the bibliographic citation data
- Encourage primary literature citations

For Research Institutions

- When hiring and promoting, state that scientific content of a paper, not the JIF of the journal where it was published, is what matters
- Consider value from all outputs and outcomes generated by research

For Funding Agencies

- State that scientific content of a paper, not the JIF of the journal where it was published, is what matters
- Consider value from all outputs and outcomes generated by research

For Researchers

- Focus on content
- Cite primary literature
- Use a range of metrics to show the impact of your work
- Change the culture!

San Francisco

DORA

Declaration on Research Assessment



See the full text of DORA at www.ascb.org/SFdeclaration.html. Sign the Declaration!