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Dear Dr. Chris Lortie,

I am submitting the manuscript, “Comparing influence of ecology journals using citation-based indices: making sense of a multitude of metrics” for consideration in the **Future of Publishing** section of *Ideas in* *Ecology and Evolution*. I examine the citation patterns of 110 ecology journals using 11 popular metrics of journal influence including the Journal Impact Factor, Eigenfactor, Article Influence, and h-index. I discuss what can be learned from each metric and how different audiences, including researchers, publishers, and librarians, can use particular methods for specific purposes. This represents a novel contribution to the field of ecology and bibliometrics and I expect this article to be of interest to a broad audience, even beyond ecologists.

The information garnered from this paper contributes to our knowledge of bibliometrics in addition to furthering our understanding of publishing and citation practices in ecology. I found that *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution*, *and Systematics, Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, and *Ecology Letter*s were the most influential journals across the 5 metrics on a per article basis. The ranking of journals shifted considerably when evaluated on total scientific influence or number of highly cited papers rather than influence on a per article basis. The information garnered from this study contributes to existing knowledge of bibliometrics and represents the first comprehensive evaluation of citation patterns in ecology. I believe that *Ideas in Ecology and Evolution* is the most appropriate venue for publication due to the diverse ecology readership and section related specifically to publishing.

This manuscript represents original research performed by the stated author and I agree with the contents of the manuscript. No part of the manuscript has been published elsewhere, nor is it in consideration for publication elsewhere, although I did archive a draft on the PeerJ preprint server: <https://peerj.com/preprints/43/> . All research not carried out by the author is duly cited. I hope that this manuscript is well received and deemed appropriate for *Ideas in Ecology and Evolution*.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Hocking

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