



Editorial

Al-Kindy College Medical Journal: An Audit of Publications for One Decade (2015-2024)

Mahmood D. Al-Mendalawi^{1*}, Mohammed Shihab Al-Edanni²

¹ Editorial Board Member, Department of Pediatrics, Al-Kindy College of Medicine, University of Baghdad, Baghdad, Iraq

² Editorial Board Member, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Al-Kindy College of Medicine, University of Baghdad, Baghdad, Iraq

* Corresponding author's email: mdalmendalawi@kmc.uobaghdad.edu.iq

Article history:

Received 1 February 2025

Accepted 1 March 2025

Available online 1 April 2025

<https://doi.org/10.47723/98rzv965>

Keywords: Bibliometric analysis; content; trend of subjects.



This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

The Al-Kindy College Medical Journal (KCMJ) is an Iraqi scholarly journal published by the Al-Kindy College of Medicine, University of Baghdad. It was officially founded in 2004. It is a peer-reviewed journal, published in both online and printed forms. It has a mission to offer a publication platform that mirrors recent knowledge and findings in the field of medicine and medical sciences. It publishes various types of articles, including editorial, review article, research article, brief report, case report, and letter to editor. It accepts articles in the English language. It was biannually published till 2021 when it started to launch three issues per year. The journal is registered with numerous partners, including Iraqi Academic Scientific Journals (IASJ), CrossRef, Google Scholar, Researchgate, Scopus, Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA), Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), and Digital Object Identifier (DOI) System. The journal is archived by Clockss and Repository of the University of Baghdad. All articles published in the journal are freely available for everyone to read and access. Globally, a publication audit is usually exercised as it is regarded as an indispensable tool to evaluate the scientific progress of a particular academic journal in terms of achieving higher quality, attaining wider visibility, attracting more or better researchers/authors, getting recognition, expanding journal's dissemination, increasing the number of subscriptions, and planning for the future development.

Since the official release of the first journal's issue in 2004, no attempt was regrettably made to analyze the publications of the journal. We right now straightforwardly audit transparently the KCMJ publications for one decade (2015-2024) with the main objective of analyzing the journal's performance from various aspects.

During the study period, 421 articles were published. Research articles constituted the majority of published article 350 (83.1%), followed by review article 27 (6.4%), and case report 25 (5.9%). Regrettably, editorial 13 (3.1%), brief report 3 (0.7%), and letter to editor 3 (0.7%) were the least published ones (Figure 1).

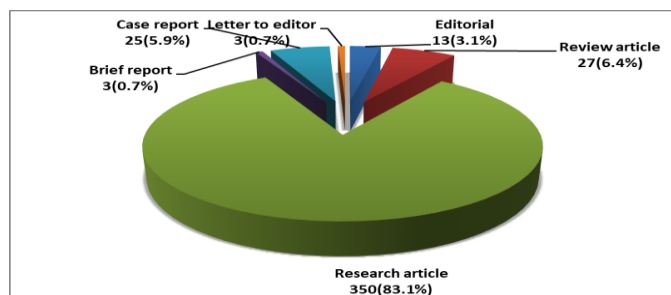


Figure 1: Types of publications in KCMJ between the years 2015 and 2024.

The latter findings are disappointing as respectful scholastic journals must encompass different types of articles. The reason for the reluctance of researchers to publish these types of articles might be attributed to the notion that these sorts of articles are not attractive to the researchers in Iraq since they are not mandatory prerequisites for scientific academic promotion and attaining the degree of consultant in a particular medical field. Moreover, they are wrongly thought to be unlikely to accomplish valuable citations. Indeed, the journal has directed efforts to enhance the publication of the above-mentioned low-ranked type of articles. Interestingly, the journal has got a positive insight into the importance of that issue as a means to fill wider visibility and successfully started to have a noticeable publication diversity from the year 2021 onward (Figure 2). Continuation of that positive trend is solicited in the forthcoming issues of the journal.

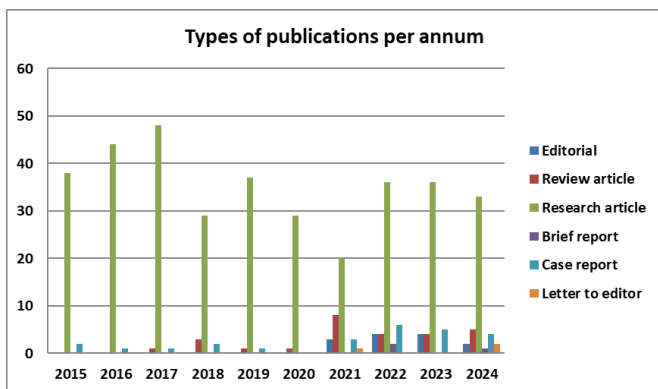


Figure 2: Annual distribution of publications in KCMJ between the years 2015 and 2024 according to the type of publication.

The covered areas in published articles during the review time frame could be categorized under five headings. There were 220(52.2%) articles in clinical sciences, 115 (29.3%) in basic sciences, 48(11.4%) in public health, 4(0.9%) in medical education, and 34(8.1%) miscellaneous topics (Figure 3).

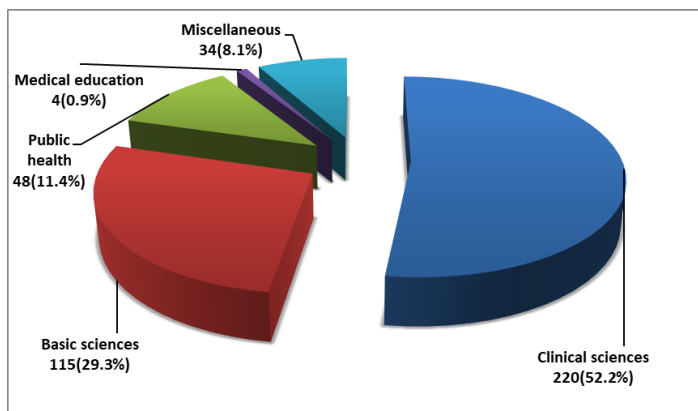


Figure 3: Covered areas in KCMJ between the years 2015 and 2024.

Although the journal's scope is medicine and medical sciences, it increasingly welcomes articles in other medical fields in addition to the clinical and basic sciences. Again, the journal has received a positive insight into the need to widen the scope of publications and hopefully successfully managed to fulfill that objective from the year 2020 onward (Figure 4).

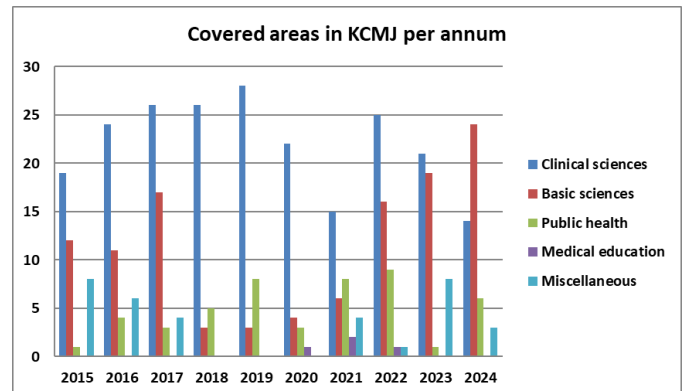


Figure 4: Annual distribution of publications in KCMJ between the years 2015 and 2024 according to the covered areas.

Citation, the process of accurately pointing to other researchers' thoughts/ concepts, is an essential practice in writing scientific papers. It is used to offer credit to own research, support a discussion, acknowledge others' research, tell apart other authors' thoughts/concepts from one's research, and finally guide readers/researchers to sources of information. It is the benchmark indicator for evaluating the quality of scientific papers and journals (1). Of 421 articles published in KCMJ from 2015 through 2024, there were 1124 citations in the journal's account in Google Scholar (2). They were annually distributed as the following: 23 in 2015, 48 in 2016, 40 in 2017, 76 in 2018, 76 in 2019, 88 in 2020, 86 in 2021, 141 in 2022, 238 in 2023, and 278 in 2024 (Figure 5).

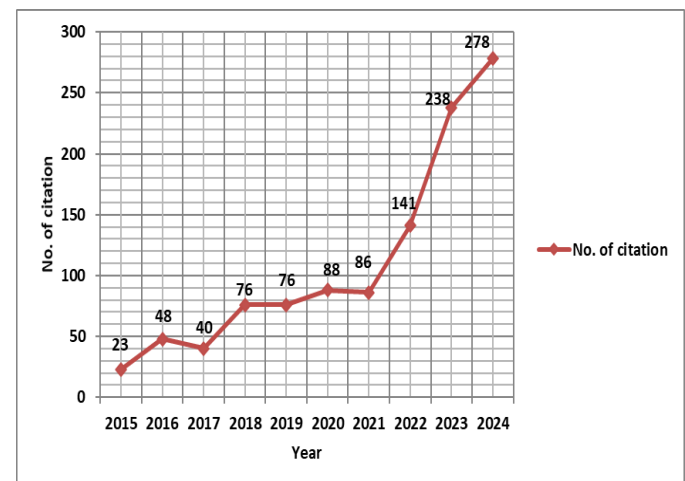


Figure 5: Line graph of KCMJ's articles citations between the years 2015 and 2024.

Interestingly, a spiked linear increase in citations was markedly noticed from the year 2021 onward. The increasing number of

citations in the last three years is promising as it indicates the growing scientific sobriety of the journal and it is trustworthy for both readers and researchers. It also mirrors an increasing interest of researchers in KCMJ's publications and considering them in their published works. With the indexing of KCMJ in Scopus database journals in April 2023 (3), we expect that the journal will be in much more in the focus of readers' and researchers' interest and hence, increasing the input of the manuscripts to the journal could make big progress to the journal's integrity and achieving a valued citescore. Efforts are built to hasten the citation of articles published in the journal by rigorously selecting articles relevant to the community's needs and advanced medical knowledge.

The average number of researchers per article was 3 with a range of 1-7. The majority of the first researchers 330(78.4.6%) were affiliated with academic institutions/hospitals. Iraqi nationals were the researchers in 344(81.7%) articles compared to 77(18.3%) for foreign nationals

Collaborative researchers of Iraqi and foreign nationals were noticed in 9(2.1%) articles. The foreign researchers were distributed over the following countries: Sudan 13(16.9%), USA 8(10.4%), India 8(10.4%), Egypt 6(7.8%), Malaysia 4(5.2%), Pakistan 4(5.2%), Palestine 4(5.2%), Sweden 3(3.9%), UK 2(2.6%), Australia 2(2.6%), Germany 2(2.6%), Poland 2(2.6%), Turkey 2(2.6%), Indonesia 2(2.6%), Romania 2(2.6%), Philippine 2(2.6%), Yemen 2(2.6%), Ireland 1(1.3%), South Korea 1(1.3%), Canada 1(1.3%), China 1(1.3%), Mexico 1(1.3%), United Arab Emirates 1(1.3%), Georgia 1(1.3%), Libya 1(1.3%), and finally Azerbaijan 1(1.3%) (Figure 6). Importantly, foreign researchers were noticed to become increasingly interested in publishing their works in the journal over the years 2021-2024. This is a positive observation which pertains to the increasing global recognition of the journal as well as the worthiness and sharpness of the journal in disseminating advanced medical knowledge. We ask Iraqi researchers to actively cooperate with their foreign counterparts and the journal always welcomes their collaborative work.

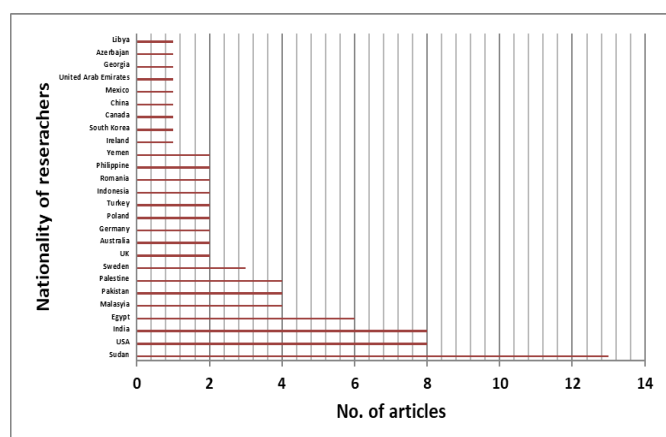


Figure 6: Distribution of the foreign researchers according to their nationality.

Progress trends in the field of medicine and medical sciences could be noticed after all the keywords that appeared in KCMJ were

analyzed. From the keywords installed at the end of the abstract of each article, two points could be declared, namely the journal's areas of specialization and various important sub-specializations in the field of medicine and medical sciences and, the strength/impact of the journal as a medical journal. Of the 421 articles published during the study period, as many as 215 keywords were listed in the abstracts. It is important to take note that knowing how to use Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), a National Library of Medicine (NLM) guided vocabulary for indexing articles could enhance the quality and efficiency of the researcher's literature search (4). Regrettably, a lot of these keywords were not related to the MeSH database. This drawback is expected to affect the citations of KCMJ's published articles when researchers search the literature for a particular topic/subtopic based on the related keywords.

We believe that the KCMJ's editorial board is accountable for taking the following actions to strengthen the journal's impact: the keywords for each article must be thoroughly checked to ensure their accuracy and relevance to the field of medicine and medical sciences based on MeSH database; the journal must establish and evaluate the appropriate scientific language of the submitted articles, either using American or British American English before publication; it is fundamental to set database for local and external reviewers in different disciplines from esteemed academic facilities and distinguished hospitals as this option is anticipated to potentiate rigorous reviewing process and yield impactful and citable articles; there is a need to energize researchers by various means to publish different sorts of articles with a particular emphasis on the brief report and letter to editor to accomplish the goal of the journal's publication diversity on one hand and motivating them to cite the journal's articles as references to accentuate the international recognition of the journal on the other hand; it is critical to encourage innovative thoughts and works among researchers that provide sustainable solutions for various disorders in medicine and basic sciences or open new horizons in medical knowledge; endeavors must be geared to index the journal in other esteemed bibliographic databases such as Wiley, Web of Science, Springer, and PubMed; and finally further research are regularly needed to assess the performance and progress of the KCMJ in high-ranked academic database journals.

In conclusion, despite the presence of numerous shortcomings associated with the march of journal's publications, we believe that these shortcomings are amendable. The journal is promisingly accepted as a platform for scientific research and it is moving on the right track. With the continuing support from the deanship of the Al-Kindy College of Medicine, the transparent work of the journal's editorial board, and invaluable positive input from the researchers, reviewers, and readers, the journal could trustfully sustain its scientific sobriety in the esteemed database journals. There is room for further improving the journal's research output by raising the scholastic journal body, capacity, and standard and setting collaborative international scientific communication.

ORCID

Mahmood Al-Mendalawi [0000-0003-2872-453X](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2872-453X)
 Mohammed Al-Edanni [0000-0003-4750-1788](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4750-1788)

References

- [1] Bahadoran Z, Mirmiran P, Kashfi K, Ghasemi A. The Principles of Biomedical Scientific Writing: Citation. *Int J Endocrinol Metab.* 2020;18(2):e102622. <https://doi.org/10.5812/ijem.102622>.
- [2] Google Scholar. Al-Kindy College Medical Journal. <https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=-YWunFIAAAAJ>.
- [3] Al-Mendalawi MD, Hameed EK, Al-Ameri LT. The indexing of the Al-Kindy College Medical Journal in the Scopus Database Journals: A Fundamental Step toward an International Recognition. *Al-Kindy College Medical Journal.* 2023;19(2):131–132. <https://doi.org/10.47723/kemj.v19i2.1176>.
- [4] Strecker P, Boeker M, Buechner S, Scheible R. Usability Evaluation of a Modern Multilingual MeSH Browser. *Stud Health Technol Inform.* 2022;295:37–40. <https://doi.org/10.3233/SHTI220653>.

To cite this article:

Al-Mendalawi MD, Al-Edanni MS. Al-Kindy College Medical Journal: An Audit of Publications for One Decade (2015-2024). *Al-Kindy Col. Med. J.* 2025;21(1):1-4. <https://doi.org/10.47723/98rzv965>