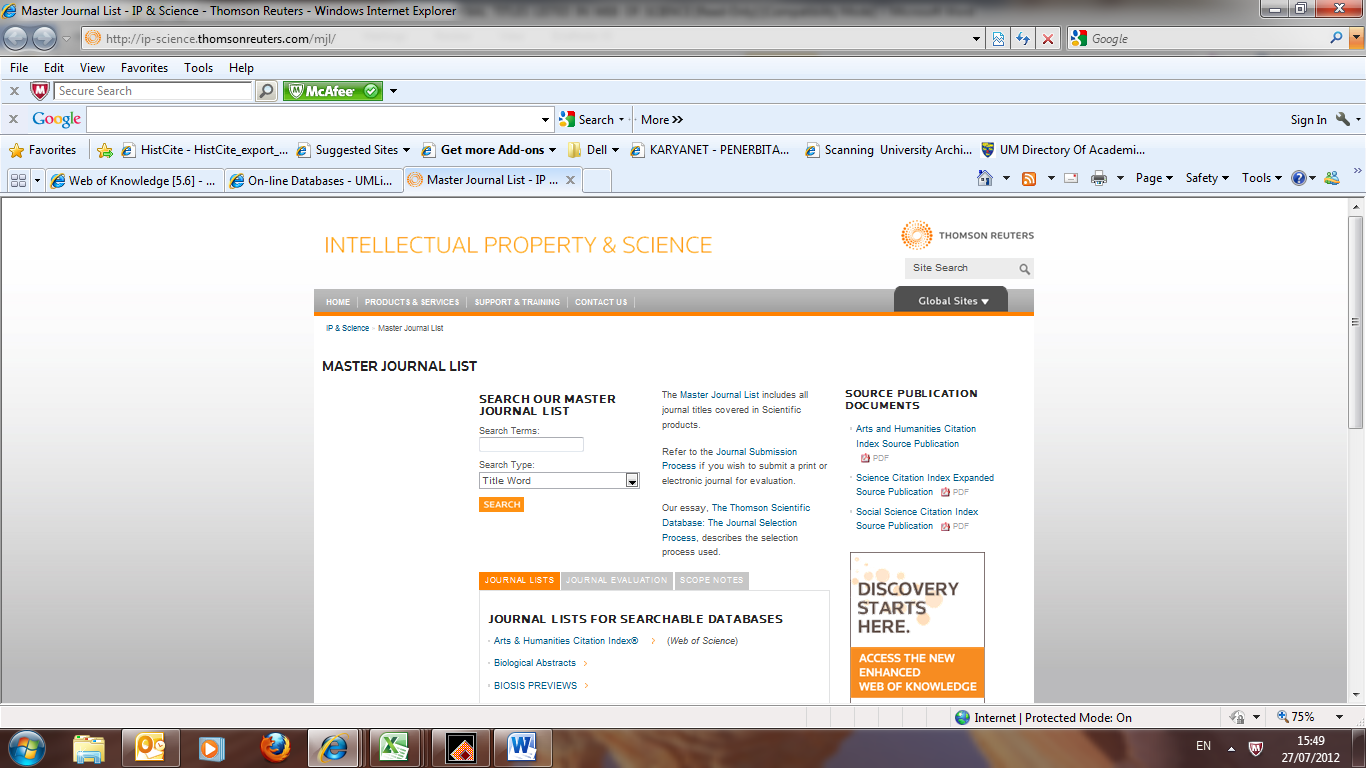
**VERIFY THE STATUS OF JOURNALS IN ISI WEB OF SCIENCE**

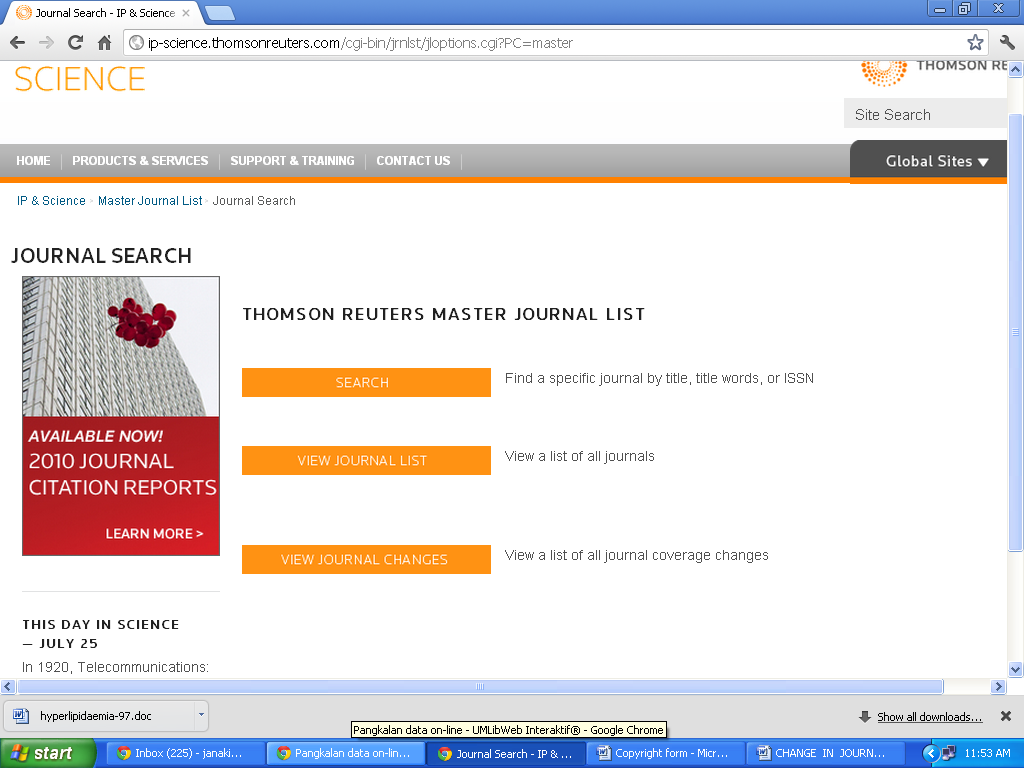
Researchers and academics have to be alert to changes in the journal listings in Web of Science. These changes can have an effect on the status of journals indexed and subsequently, implications on research output. Generally, changes in the listing of journals in Web of Science can occur for 3 reasons:

1. Newly added title
2. Title change
3. Dropped

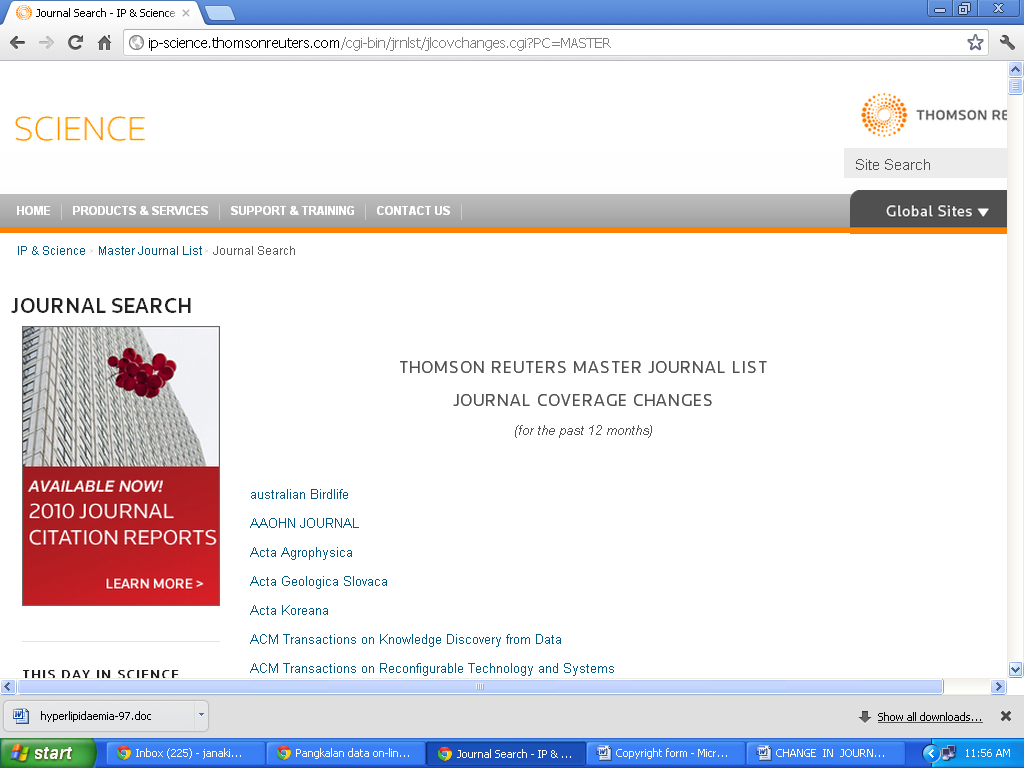
These changes can be traced from the Master Journal List at: <http://ip-science.thomsonreuters.com/mjl/>



CLICK ON **MASTER JOURNAL LIST**



CHOOSE **VIEW JOURNAL CHANGES**



**SHOWS JOURNAL COVERAGE CHANGES FOR THE PAST 12 MONTHS**

**Examples Of Journal Changes [26th July 2012]**

* **Aesthetic Surgery Journal**   
  **Newly Added**
* **Advanced Science Letters**  
  **Dropped**
* **Annals Of Tropical Medicine And Parasitology**  
  **Changed to Pathogens and Global Health**

**Pathogens And Global Health**  
**Changed from Annals Of Tropical Medicine And Parasitology**

**Pathogens And Global Health**  
**Newly Added**

Thomson Reuters updates information on journal changes weekly. The University of Malaya’s policy is to refer to these journal changes as and when needed. The implication is that if the researcher had earlier submitted and got approval for a publication in a journal which is now dropped, then that publication in that particular journal will not be considered. Hence, it is highly imperative that researchers and academics keep track of the changes of their favorite journal titles on a regular basis.

**WHY DO JOURNALS GET DROPPED?**

There can be reasons for journals to be dropped from Web of Science Master Journal Listing. Thomson Reuters also have their own ‘enunciated’ criteria for adding and dropping journal titles. Thomson says about 20-30 current journals are added and dropped every month (FAQ Web of Science).

Unethical practices discovered, can be one of the reasons for journals to be dropped. Journal self-citation can also eventually result in it being dropped. Scams involving authors who fake identities of reviewers when submitting papers can also be a reason. In a virtual environment such as open access journals, bogus authors, editors and reviewers are not impossible. In fact, the entire journal publication can have a fake duplication, such as in the case of ‘Archives Des Sciences’. The genuine publisher of that journal has to publicly proclaim theirs is genuine.

The Ministry of Higher Education in Malaysia (MOHE) is continuously monitoring the situation to keep track of any abuse in quality publications. Year 2010 closed off with an announcement from MOHE, that journals published by ‘***Academic Journals’***, ‘***European Journal Publishing*** (Euro Journal)’, ‘***CG Publishing*** (Common Ground Publishing)’ and **‘African WorldPress’**, are not recognized any more. Journal titles by these publishers as of June 2012 are as follows

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ACADEMIC JOURNALS** | **EUROPEAN JOURNAL PUBLISHING** | **CG PUBLISHING** |
| African Journal of Agricultural Research | European Journal of Economics, Finance and Administrative Sciences | International Journal of Environment, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability |
| African Journal of Biotechnology | European Journal of Scientific Research | International Journal of Interdisciplinary |
| African Journal of Business Management | European Journal of Social Sciences | International Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Change Management |
| African Journal of Microbiology | International Research Journal of Finance and Economics | International Journal of Learning |
| African Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology |  | International Journal of the Humanities |
| African Journal of Plant Research |  |  |
| International Journal of the Physical Sciences |  |  |
| Journal of Medicinal Plant Research |  |  |
| Scientific Research and Essays |  |  |

**Table 1: Publishers and their titles not recognized by Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia as of June 2012**

**JOURNAL LISTINGS IN JOURNAL CITATION REPORTS (JCR) *VS***

**MASTER JOURNAL LIST**

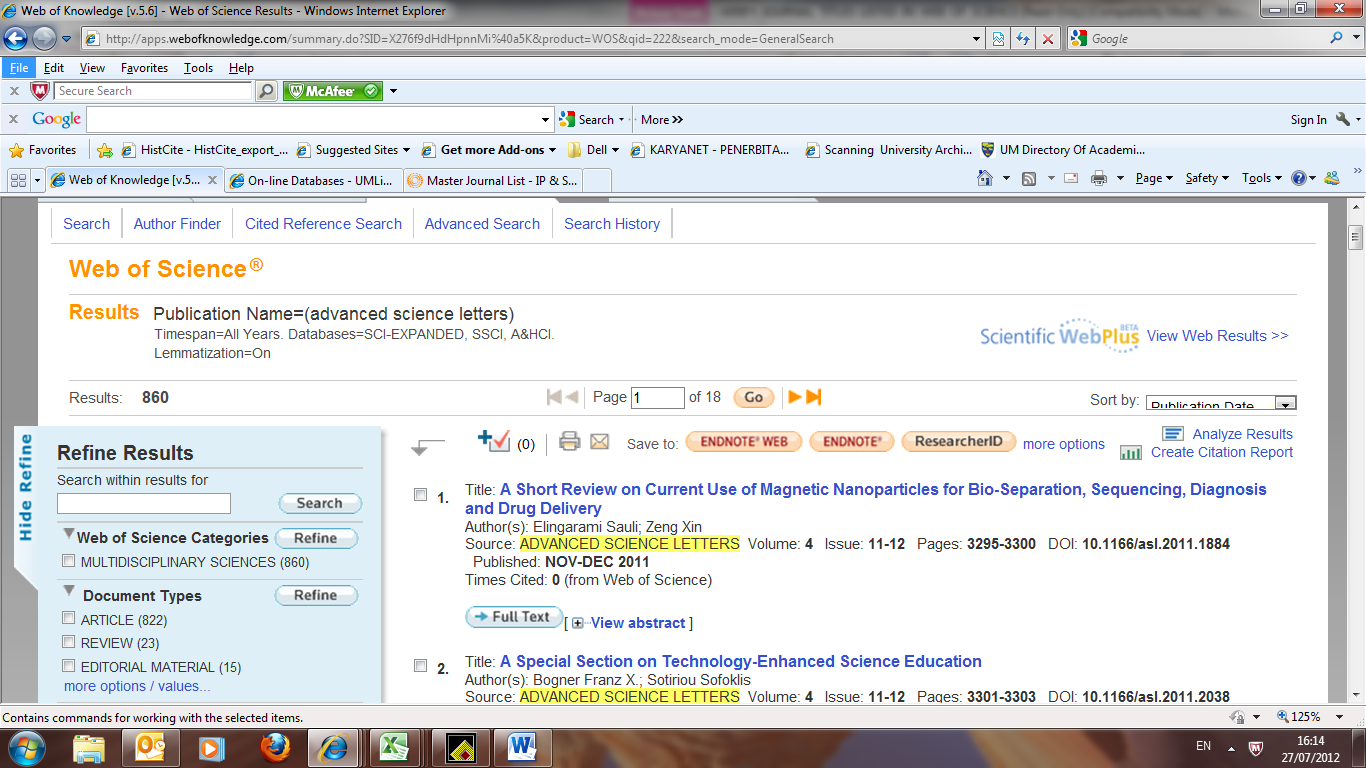
It must be admitted that most of us refer to Journal Citation Reports (JCR) to verify the impact factor and tier of a particular journal title. JCR only displays titles one year back onwards. This is because the calculation for the impact factor of any journal is based on the total number of articles and citations for 2 complete years. Therefore JCR 2011 (updates in September 2012) shows status of journal titles for years 2009 and 2010.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **JCR** | **MASTER JOURNAL LIST** |
| Most often, only journals with an ‘impact factor’ value is listed in JCR | All journals indexed by ISI Web of Science is listed |
| Latest release is in June and final updates are in September every year | Real time |
| Titles do not include journal titles for current year. For example, JCR 2010 will display titles indexed until 2010, JCR 2011 will display titles indexed until 2011. | Real time |

**JOURNAL LISTINGS IN ISI WEB OF SCIENCE *VS***

**MASTER JOURNAL LIST**

Almost all of us refer to Web of Science database to check if an article has been indexed. It must be remembered that even if a title has been dropped from the Master Journal list, it will continue to be displayed in Web of Science. For example, on 26th July 2012, the Master Journal list reveal that the journal “Advanced Science Letters’ has been dropped from the list. However, searching Web of Science on the same day will retrieve articles from that journal.



The reason for this is simple. Web of Science will keep the articles until 2011 because it was dropped from the list only in year 2012.

It must be reiterated that researchers and academics know the basic difference between Master Journal List, Journal Citation Report and Web of Science database. Master Journal List has the complete list of titles (real time). JCR lists titles which have impact factor. Web of Science database displays articles from journals indexed. Articles from journals dropped or have title changes will continue to be displayed until the year it is dropped/change title.

Janaki Sinnasamy

University of Malaya Library