

# Chapter 1

## General Information of China's STM Journals

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### Abstract

Based on data from 2019 annual statistics, there were a total of 4958 STM journals in China by 2019. The general features of the journals are: (A) Regions ranked top 5 in terms of publication volume publish more than a half of the total journals (53.45%). They are: Beijing (1625 journals, 32.78%), Shanghai (355 journals, 7.16%), Jiangsu (254 journals, 5.12%), Hubei and Sichuan (both 208 journals, 4.20%). (B) In terms of publication cycle, bi-monthly journals (1924 journals, 38.81%) and monthly journals (1840 journals, 37.11%) are the majority, accounting for 3/4 of the total volume. (C) In terms of language, Chinese language journals account for the most part (4429 journals, 89.33%), and the number of English language journals is 359 (7.24% of the total). There are 170 Chinese-English journals (3.43% of the total). (D) In terms of discipline, there are 1556 journals (31.38%) in basic science (S), 2267 journals (45.72%) in technology & science (T), and 1135 journals (22.89%) in medicine, pharmaceuticals and health (M).

The domestic influence of Chinese language STM journals has been increasing. Based on the 2015–2019 data from *China's Academic Journal Impact Factor Annual Report* (statistical years were 2014–2018) published by China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), the average citable documents per journal of Chinese STM journals decreased from 297.54 papers in 2014 to 288.55 papers in 2018. The average total cites per journal increased from 2111.52 in 2014 to 2255.66 in 2018. At the same time, cites to Chinese STM journals by graduate theses decreased. The average impact factor was 0.664, showing an increase of 27.24% from 2014 to 2018, with an annual increase rate of 6.21%.

Chinese STM journals have increasingly received attention from the international academic community. Based on data from CNKI's *China Academic Journal International*

*Citation Annual Report 2019 Edition*, 2913 Chinese STM journals had over 10 cites each by international papers in 2018, with impact factor (without domestic citations) above 0, while this number was 2496 in 2014. The total cites without self-citations to Chinese language STM journals were increasing, with an average increase rate of 13.81% in the 5-year period.

The size of China's English STM journals had a steady increase, from 302 journals in 2017 to 359 journals by the end of 2019. On the aspect of domestic academic influence, the annual total cites per journal and the average impact factor both increased. The cites by doctoral dissertations to English STM journals were showing an overall increase, and its percentage against the total cites was much higher than that of the cites by doctoral dissertation to Chinese language STM journals. The cites to English STM journals by master's theses account for a lower percentage than the cites to Chinese STM journals, which means English STM journals played a very important role in the education of higher tier professional and academic staff. On the aspect of international academic influence, based on CNKI's *China Academic Journal International Citation Annual Report* (statistical years were 2014–2018), the total cites without domestic citations to our English STM journals were increasing, with an average yearly increase rate of 20.66%. The annual citations were increasing too. China's English language STM journals were playing an increasingly important role in the international academic exchange, and have received more attention from the internationally renowned databases. More and more China's English STM journals have been recognized and included in international databases.

## 1.1 Analysis of Current Situation of China's STM Journals

The analysis in this book is based on the data from 2019 annual statistics. The data were sorted using the Chinese Library Classification (CLC) Code of China's publications, with the standardized serial CN number. Information of the newly approved journals by the state, change of journal names during 2017–2019, and the revoked journals during 2016–2020 was taken into account. Comparisons were made with the data in *China's STM Journal Directory* published in the *Blue Book on China's Scientific Journal Development 2017–2019*. The statistical results showed that the total number of China's STM journals was 4958, by the end of 2019.<sup>1</sup>

### *Distribution by Place of Publication*

By the end of 2019, the distribution of the 4958 STM journals in China by place of publication was the following: Beijing as No. 1 (1625 journals, 32.78%), Shanghai (355 journals, 7.16%), Jiangsu (254 journals, 5.12%), Hubei and Sichuan (both with 208 journals, 4.20%). 11 provinces, regions and cities each had 100–200 STM journals. 10 provinces, regions and cities each had 50–100 journals. For the detailed distribution of journal numbers, please refer to table 1.1.

Compared with the data published in the *Blue Book on China's Scientific Journal Development 2017* (referred to as 2017 Data hereafter), the number of journals published in

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<sup>1</sup>The statistics of China's STM journals in this book do not include data on Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.