

CITATION PRACTICES

Coercion, Deception, Impact Factors, and h-index

Angela Cochran

Associate Publisher, ASCE

@acochran12733

Problematic Citation Behaviors

- Authors gratuitously citing their own work
- Reviewers suggesting their own citations to authors
- Journals suggesting authors cite the journal

Authors Citing Themselves

- Creating an *h*-index factory in one paper
 - A few self citations in the original submission
 - Many more added during rounds of review

estimate the potential evapotranspiration. Although the FAO Penman-Monteith (FPM) has been applied in various regions of the world (Estevez et al. 2009; Valipour 2012a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, I, j, 2014m, n; Valipour et al. 2013a, b, c, 2012a, b, c, d), it needs too many parameters to estimate the potential evapotranspiration. In most regions, weather data is limited, and researchers cannot use the FPM. To this end, experimental methods have been developed for estimation of the potential

increasing precision of radiation-based methods for estimating the potential evapotranspiration after calibration (Abbaspour 1991; Martinez and Thepadia 2010; Thepadia and Martinez 2012; Xu et al. 2013; Valipour 2013a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, 2014a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, I, j, k, l, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w; Zhai et al. 2010).

- Valipour, M. (2012g). "Hydro-module determination for Vanaei village in Eslam Abad Gharb, Iran." *ARPJ J. Agr. Biol. Sci.*, 7(12), 968–976.
- Valipour, M. (2012h). "Number of required observation data for rainfall forecasting according to the climate conditions." *Am. J. Sci. Res.*, 74, 79–86.
- Valipour, M. (2012i). "Scrutiny of pressure loss, friction slope, inflow velocity, velocity head, and Reynolds number in center pivot." *Int. J. Adv. Sci. Tech. Res.*, 2(5), 703–711.
- Valipour, M. (2012j). "Sprinkle and trickle irrigation system design using tapered pipes for pressure loss adjusting." *J. Agr. Sci.*, 4(12), 125–133.
- Valipour, M. (2013a). "Comparison of different drainage systems usable for solution of environmental crises in soil." *Proc., 1st Int. Conf. on Environmental Crises and Its Solutions*, Kish Island, Iran.
- Valipour, M. (2013b). "Estimation of surface water supply index using snow water equivalent." *Adv. Agr. Sci. Eng. Res.*, 3(1), 587–602.
- Valipour, M. (2013c). "Evolution of irrigation-equipped areas as share of cultivated areas." *Irrig. Drain. Sys. Eng.*, 2(1), e114.
- Valipour, M. (2013d). "Increasing irrigation efficiency by management strategies: Cutback and surge irrigation." *ARPJ J. Agr. Biol. Sci.*, 8(1), 35–43.
- Valipour, M. (2013e). "Necessity of irrigated and rainfed agriculture in the world." *Irrig. Drain. Sys. Eng.*, S9, e001.
- Valipour, M. (2013f). "Need to update of irrigation and water resources information according to the progresses of agricultural knowledge." *Agrotechnol.*, S10, e001.
- Valipour, M. (2013g). "Scrutiny of inflow to the drains applicable for improvement of soil environmental conditions." *Proc., 1st Int. Conf. on Environmental Crises and Its Solutions*, Kish Island, Iran.
- Valipour, M. (2013h). "Use of surface water supply index to assessing of water resources management in Colorado and Oregon, US." *Adv. Agr. Sci. Eng. Res.*, 3(2), 631–640.
- Valipour, M. (2014a). "Analysis of potential evapotranspiration using limited weather data." *Appl. Water Sci.*, in press.
- Valipour, M. (2014b). "Application of new mass transfer formulae for computation of evapotranspiration." *J. Appl. Water Eng. Res.*, 2(1), 33–46.
- Valipour, M. (2014c). "Assessment of humidity-based equations to estimate potential evapotranspiration." *Acta Adv. Agr. Sci.*, in press.
- Valipour, M. (2014d). "Drainage, waterlogging, and salinity." *Arch. Agron. Soil Sci.*, 60(12), 1625–1640.
- Valipour, M. (2014e). "Future of agricultural water management in Africa." *Arch. Agron. Soil Sci.*, in press.
- Valipour, M. (2014f). "Future of agricultural water management in Europe based on socioeconomic indices." *Acta Adv. Agr. Sci.*, 2(7), 1–18.
- Valipour, M. (2014g). "Future of agricultural water management in Americas." *J. Agr. Res.*, 52(2), 245–268.
- Valipour, M. (2014h). "Future of the area equipped for irrigation." *Arch. Agron. Soil Sci.*, 60(12), 1641–1660.
- Valipour, M. (2014i). *Handbook of drainage engineering problems*, OMICS Group eBooks, Foster city, CA.
- Valipour, M. (2014j). *Handbook of environmental engineering problems*, OMICS Group eBooks, Foster City, CA.
- Valipour, M. (2014k). *Handbook of hydraulic engineering problems*, OMICS Group eBooks, Foster City, CA.
- Valipour, M. (2014l). *Handbook of hydrologic engineering problems*, OMICS Group eBooks, Foster City, CA.
- Valipour, M. (2014m). *Handbook of irrigation engineering problems*, OMICS Group eBooks, Foster City, CA.
- Valipour, M. (2014n). *Handbook of water engineering problems*, OMICS Group eBooks, Foster City, CA.
- Valipour, M. (2014o). "Importance of solar radiation, temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed for calculation of reference evapotranspiration." *Arch. Agron. Soil Sci.*, 1.
- Valipour, M. (2014p). "Investigation of Valiantzas' evapotranspiration equation in Iran." *Theor. Appl. Climat.*, 10.1007/s00704-014-1240-x.
- Valipour, M. (2014q). "Land use policy and agricultural water management of the previous half of century in Africa." *Appl. Water Sci.*, in press.
- Valipour, M. (2014r). "Prediction of irrigated agriculture in Asia Pacific using FAO indices." *Acta Adv. Agr. Sci.*, 2(9), 40–53.
- Valipour, M. (2014s). "Pressure on renewable water resources by irrigation to 2060." *Acta Adv. Agr. Sci.*, 2(8), 32–42.
- Valipour, M. (2014t). "Runoff long term study using SARIMA and ARIMA models in the United States." *Meteorol. Appl.*, in press.
- Valipour, M. (2014u). "Study of different climatic conditions to assess the role of solar radiation in reference crop evapotranspiration equations." *Arch. Agron. Soil Sci.*, 1.
- Valipour, M. (2014v). "Temperature analysis of reference evapotranspiration models." *Meteorol. Appl.*, in press.
- Valipour, M. (2014w). "Use of average data of 181 synoptic stations for estimation of reference crop evapotranspiration by temperature-based methods." *Water Resour. Manage.*, 28(12), 4237–4255.
- Valipour, M., et al. (2014). "Agricultural water management in the world during past half century." *Arch. Agron. Soil Sci.*, 1.
- Valipour, M., Banihabib, M. E., and Behbahani, S. M. R. (2012a). "Monthly inflow forecasting using autoregressive artificial neural network." *J. Appl. Sci.*, 12(20), 2139–2147.
- Valipour, M., Banihabib, M. E., and Behbahani, S. M. R. (2012b). "Parameters estimate of autoregressive moving average and autoregressive integrated moving average models and compare their ability for inflow forecasting." *J. Math. Stat.*, 8(3), 330–338.
- Valipour, M., Banihabib, M. E., and Behbahani, S. M. R. (2013a). "Comparison of the ARMA, ARIMA, and the autoregressive artificial neural network models in forecasting the monthly inflow of Dez dam reservoir." *J. Hydrol.*, 476, 433–441.
- Valipour, M., and Montazar, A. A. (2012a). "An evaluation of SWDC and WinSRFR models to optimize of infiltration parameters in furrow irrigation." *Am. J. Sci. Res.*, 69, 128–142.
- Valipour, M., and Montazar, A. A. (2012b). "Optimize of all effective infiltration parameters in furrow irrigation using visual basic and genetic algorithm programming." *Aust. J. Basic Appl. Sci.*, 6(6), 132–137.
- Valipour, M., and Montazar, A. A. (2012c). "Sensitive analysis of optimized infiltration parameters in SWDC model." *Adv. Environ. Biol.*, 6(9), 2574–2581.
- Valipour, M., Mousavi, S. M., Valipour, R., and Rezaei, E. (2012c). "Air, water, and soil pollution study in industrial units using environmental flow diagram." *J. Basic Appl. Sci. Res.*, 2(12), 12365–12372.
- Valipour, M., Mousavi, S. M., Valipour, R., and Rezaei, E. (2012d). "SHCP: Soil heat calculator program." *IOSR J. Appl. Phys.*, 2(3), 44–50.
- Valipour, M., Mousavi, S. M., Valipour, R., and Rezaei, E. (2013b). "A new approach for environmental crises and its solutions by computer modeling." *Proc., 1st Int. Conf. on Environmental Crises and Its Solutions*, Kish Island, Iran.
- Valipour, M., Mousavi, S. M., Valipour, R., and Rezaei, E. (2013c). "Deal with environmental challenges in civil and energy engineering projects using a new technology." *J. Civil Environ. Eng.* 3(1), 127.
- Willmott, C. J., and Matsuura, K. (2006). "On the use of dimensioned measures of error to evaluate the performance of spatial interpolators." *Int. J. Geog. Inf. Sci.*, 20(1), 89–102.
- Xu, C. Y., and Chen, D. (2005). "Comparison of seven models for estimation of evapotranspiration and groundwater recharge using lysimeter measurement data in Germany." *Hydrol. Process.*, 19(18), 3717–3734.
- Xu, C. Y., and Singh, V. P. (2000). "Evaluation and generalization of radiation-based methods for calculating evaporation." *Hydrol. Process.*, 14(2), 339–349.
- Xu, C. Y., Singh, V. P., Chen, Y. D., and Chen, D. (2008). "Evaporation and evapotranspiration." *Hydrology and hydraulics*, 1st Ed., V. P. Singh, ed., Water Resources Publications, 229–276.
- Xu, J., Peng, S., Ding, J., Wei, Q., and Yu, Y. (2013). "Evaluation and calibration of simple methods for daily reference evapotranspiration estimation in humid east China." *Arch. Agron. Soil Sci.*, 59(6), 845–858.
- Ye, J., Guo, A., and Sun, G. (2009). "Statistical analysis of reference evapotranspiration on the Tibetan Plateau." *J. Irrig. Drain. Eng.*, 10.1061/(ASCE)0733-9437(2009)135:2(134), 134–140.
- Zhai, L., Feng, Q., Li, Q., and Xu, C. (2010). "Comparison and modification of equations for calculating evapotranspiration (ET) with data from Gansu Province, northwest China." *Irrig. Drain.*, 59(4), 477–490.

Authors Citing Themselves

- Author published a ridiculous # of papers:
 - At least 19 papers in 2012
 - 11 in 2013
 - 25 in 2014
 - MOST of these papers are in predatory journals with some also being book chapters for OMICS.
- All this as a PhD candidate.
- Discovered when he used his high *h*-index (41) to solicit for a job.
- This ASCE paper cited 39 times since Sept 2014.

Authors Citing Themselves

- At least two known cases with ASCE authors of adding citations in review
- Authors know references not reviewed again after first round
- Production has flagged lots of added references when it happens in proofs

Authors Citing Themselves

- Using self-citation to legitimize shoddy work
 - BusinessWeek Article showed that pharma companies put papers that won't pass peer review in predatory journals

Jeffrey Curtis, a physician and professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, worked on a rheumatoid arthritis study with Bristol-Myers that was published in an Omics journal within two weeks of submission. Companies “are often in more of a hurry and are willing to accept lower-tier journals,” Curtis says. “They want a citation. They want someone to be able to reference it and have it be official.”

Authors Citing Themselves

- Self-citation in predatory journals
- Papers gain credibility when cited in our journal
- No way to easily check reference lists against predatory journal list
- Journal titles are deceptive:
 - Irrig. Drain. Eng. Sys. Versus J. Irrig. Drain. Eng.
 - Int. J. Hydrol. Eng. versus J. Hydrol. Eng.

Revolt Over an Editor

Prominent psychologist apologizes and resigns as journal editor over allegations of aggressive self-citation and more.

By [Colleen Flaherty](#) // April 30, 2018

6 COMMENTS 



[Robert Sternberg](#)

Robert Sternberg, professor of human development at Cornell University, resigned last week as editor of *Perspectives on Psychological Science* after colleagues raised concerns about his frequent self-citation in the journal and attitudes toward gender and diversity in general, among other issues.

Sternberg refuted many of the claims against him in a formal response to the Association for Psychological Science, which oversees the journal, and in emails to *Inside Higher Ed*. He also questioned his critics for talking about him online and to the association without first engaging him directly. Yet he repeatedly apologized for what he called certain “lapses in judgment and mistakes.”

Namely, he said via email, “I have sometimes cited myself too much and I was not always as careful as I should have been about ‘recycling’ my own material.”

Reviewers Coercing Citations

- Reviewers expected to review references and note omissions
- Reviewers should NOT provide a list of their papers that are not necessary to the paper

Reviewers Coercing Citations

* In this study, the authors have used optimized values/methods to improve the results. Cite all of the below useful papers on the importance of optimization and optimized values (in other fields) to enhance the literature and to indicate the advantages of your work:

- ➔ Optimization of neural networks for precipitation analysis in a humid region to detect drought and wet year alarms
- ➔ INCREASING IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY BY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES: CUTBACK AND SURGE IRRIGATION
- ➔ Study of different climatic conditions to assess the role of solar radiation in reference crop evapotranspiration equations
- ➔ A New Approach for Environmental Crises and its Solutions by Computer Modeling
- ➔ Evolution of Water Lifting Devices (Pumps) over the Centuries Worldwide
- ➔ Number of Required Observation Data for Rainfall Forecasting According to the Climate Conditions

* Focus on the advantages of the proposed method with respect to the obtained results.

* Explain the variations of the building systems vs. rank order correlation coefficient.

* The Results and Discussion section should be broken to sub-sections for better understanding readers.

* The quality of the language needs to improve by a native English speaker for grammatically style and word use.

- Authors almost always add references suggested by reviewers
 - Probably didn't read the paper
 - Doesn't care that it's not relevant

Impact Factor and Self-citations

- Journals are increasing their Impact Factors by encouraging authors to self-cite.
- Clarivate Analytics censures the worst offenders by suppressing their Impact Factor.
- Clarivate Analytics only does this when the increase in the Impact Factor is significant.
- Journals removed make up less than 0.5% of journals indexed each year.

Three journal cartel

- Three journals, *Cell Transplantation*, *Medical Science Monitor*, and *The Scientific World Journal* worked together to cite each other and increase their Impact Factors.
- All three journals were suppressed because of excessive self-citation.

Editorial Coercion

- *Journal of Biomolecular Structural Dynamics*
- Boosted its impact factor from 1.1 in 2009 to 5.0 in 2010.
- Increase in impact factor was based on two things.
 - After a controversial paper on protein folding, 31 laboratories wrote commentaries on the work.
 - Since 2009, *JBSD* encouraged authors to show how their papers related to papers previously published in the journal, in order to enhance the education of doctoral students who read the journal.

Editorial Coercion

- Clarivate includes a self-citation percentage and an IF without self-cites.
- Some journals provide a list of papers to the author relevant to the topic immediately upon submission.
- Some editors are explicitly telling authors to cite the journal during review.

What Can We Do?

■ Authors Self-citing

- Reviewers should be asked to look for gratuitous self-citations and ask the authors to justify the inclusion of those references in their rebuttals to reviewer comments.
- Subsequent versions of reviewed articles should be evaluated for inappropriate references being added.
- Gratuitously citing your own work in inappropriate contexts should be considered an ethics issue and dealt with as such.
- Papers found post-publication to have inappropriate self citations should be corrected noting that the identified references should not have been included as they are not relevant to the paper.

What Can We Do?

- Citing Predatory Journals
 - References should be scanned for citations to known “predatory” journals. Once identified, an editor or reviewer can make a determination whether it’s appropriate to include.
 - Stop abbreviating journal titles in references.
- Reviewer and Editor Coercion
 - Zero tolerance for journal editors to insist on citations to the journal that are superfluous.
 - Reviewers should not be permitted to provide a laundry list of their own works unless they are absolutely necessary for the paper.

What Can We Do?

- Coalition of Society Publishers
 - Author a White Paper calling attention to dubious activities
 - Call to action to stop gaming the Impact Factor in these ways
 - Discuss advantages commercially published journals have over society journals in citation rates
 - Attempt to level the playing field