



Impact factor

The impact factor of a scientific journal is a measure of its influence in its field. It is the number of citations of papers published in the past two years divided by the total number of papers published in that time. Because professors are evaluated partly on the impact factor of the journals in which they publish, some may consider it when they decide where to submit their manuscripts. Ultimately the impact factor matters to the rest of us because it may affect the number of manuscripts from which we can select the best for publication.

Over the past year and a half, *PCI Journal* staff and some of our authors have been discussing how to increase our impact factor. Some possibilities we quickly dismissed as game playing, such as listing our abstracts separately in the same issue as an excuse for citing the papers they pertain to or pushing authors to cite *PCI Journal* papers in preference to other references. One, though, that clearly benefits everyone is to reduce the age of manuscripts at the time of publication. When I started at *PCI Journal* in January 2011, some manuscripts from as far back as 2008 still had not completed peer review. *PCI Journal* staff and numerous volunteer reviewers worked hard for months to remove the backlog, accepting or rejecting manuscripts, even persuading the authors of a few problematic manuscripts to withdraw them. Manuscripts submitted today usually take two to four months to be reviewed; in general, those accepted are scheduled for publication no more than 18 months after submission and sometimes less than 12 months. We hope fresher content will make *PCI Journal* more useful to the reader while also raising the impact factor.

Please send
correspondence to journal@pci.org or Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, c/o *PCI Journal*, 200 West Adams Street, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60606.



Rachel J. Detwiler, PhD, PE

Having most or all of the technical content of each issue relate to its theme is another way we hope to increase the impact factor as well as the value to the reader. In this issue all of the peer-reviewed papers pertain to the theme, bridges. Our cover story describes a collaboration among the University of Washington, Berger/ABAM Engineers, Concrete Technology Corp., and the Washington State Department of Transportation to develop and implement accelerated bridge construction in seismic zones. The project team reports on the development and implementation of a bridge bent system suitable for that application. We have a feature article on the design and construction of a bridge for high-speed rail in Italy. We have a paper on bridge decks. We have a paper on the rollover stability of bridge girders with flexible bearings. We also have two design-related papers, one on the implications of increased live loads on the design of bridge girders and the other on the LRFD methods for calculating loss of prestress.

This year we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of manuscripts submitted for publication in *PCI Journal*. In the first half of 2012 we received more manuscripts than in all of 2011, not including manuscripts rejected by PCI staff without peer review. Due to budget limitations, the number of manuscripts we can publish each year remains the same. We have refined our review process and are being more selective about which manuscripts we accept. Higher-quality content may or may not affect the impact factor, but it will benefit the reader. ▮