

The Importance of Including the Latest References in Your Research Papers

IMA NIRWANA S¹, SRIJIT D²

¹Department of Pharmacology, ²Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre, Jalan Yaacob Latif, Bandar Tun Razak, 56000 Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Choosing appropriate references in manuscripts play an important role in conveying the facts related to any research. It should be borne in mind that that it is important for any reader to identify and find the relevant references in a manuscript. The references should be adequate, accurate and consistent (Masic 2013).

Authors surf the literature and choose the references pertinent to any topic. Often, important references are missed out. We as editors and reviewers have noticed a common mistake committed by the authors, i.e. exclusion of references related to research work which have been published during the last 2-3 years. Latest references missing from the text means that no research work has been done on that particular topic in recent years.

Often, the authors are careless in committing such errors of not selecting latest references, while at times they deliberately do so. It may be possible that the research work was completed a couple of years

ago and the thesis was written for a postgraduate requirement earlier. Later on, the write-up was not done and published. When the author finally decided to send it for publication, the references were not updated. It should not be forgotten that a reviewer may look at the latest references especially if an article is concerned with the latest treatment or investigation which is important for clinical diagnosis and treatment. Some of the methods described in the manuscript may have become obsolete. Many manuscripts were rejected because of the fact that it has too many old references and not many of the latest references.

A few authors are diligent enough to incorporate even early online published articles which appear with digital object identifier (DOI) without the proper page numbers. This implies that the author has kept abreast with the latest research.

It is strongly advised that authors incorporate the latest references in their manuscripts and criticize it accordingly based on their results.

Address for correspondence and reprint requests: Srijit Das. Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre, Jalan Yaacob Latif, Bandar Tun Razak, 56000 Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Tel: +603 91458638 E-mail: srijit@ukm.edu.my

Healthy discussion with the latest facts will surely help in the propagation of science.

REFERENCES

Masic, I. 2013. The importance of proper citation of references in biomedical articles. *Acta Inform Med* 21(3): 148-55.