

From Inception to Indexing and Beyond for the International Journal of Care Scholars (IJCS)

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The *International Journal of Care Scholars* (IJCS) was founded in 2018 by the Kulliyah of Nursing, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), with a noble vision: to provide a platform for multidisciplinary dialogue and the dissemination of evidence-based research in nursing and healthcare (1). From its inception, IJCS has aspired to embody the values of holistic care, ethics, and compassion, the values deeply embedded in the practice of nursing and health related sciences.

In its early years, IJCS began as a faculty-based initiative with limited reach but strong determination. Through dedicated editorial efforts and active support from the academic community, the journal has matured into a respected publication. A major milestone was achieved in 2024, when IJCS was officially indexed in the Malaysian Citation Index (MyCite), recognising the journal's consistent publication of high-quality, peer-reviewed research relevant to the Malaysian and regional healthcare landscape (2).

This accomplishment, however, was not without challenges. Similar to numerous academic journals in developing countries, IJCS has encountered constraints related to limited resources, the need for strengthened editorial infrastructure, and persistent challenges in sustaining a consistent flow of original, high-impact manuscript submissions (3). Additionally, the evolving landscape of scholarly publishing, characterised by increasing expectations for open access, transparency in peer review, and global visibility which has required adaptive strategies and sustained institutional support.

Among the emerging challenges is the rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in

both healthcare and academic publishing. While AI tools offer benefits in improving diagnostic accuracy, streamlining literature reviews, and even assisting in manuscript drafting, the AI also raise critical concerns about academic integrity, authorship ethics, and data privacy (4, 5). IJCS acknowledges the dual-edged nature of AI and is committed to developing clear editorial policies that balance innovation with integrity, ensuring the journal remains a credible voice in care scholarship, either nursing or health related sciences (6).

Looking ahead, IJCS is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of nursing and health related scholars, researchers, and educators. The journal hopes to provide a supportive platform for not only early-career researchers, but also anyone with similar notion to share their findings, engage in interdisciplinary dialogue, and contribute to global health conversations (7). This inclusive approach aims not only to strengthen the quality and diversity of submissions but also to cultivate a dynamic academic community grounded in knowledge, compassion, and ethical practice.

As IJCS charts its path toward broader indexation, the focus will remain on enhancing citation quality, increasing international authorship, and improving editorial transparency (8). Current initiatives include expanding the journal's scope, fostering global collaborations, and elevating its academic profile through strategic dissemination and digital engagement.

In conclusion, the journey of IJCS from its humble beginnings to becoming a MyCite-indexed journal is a testament to perseverance, academic integrity, and vision. As the journal strives toward higher indexing,

IJCS does so with renewed commitment to advancing global health discourse, uphold ethical standards, and shape the future of nursing and care scholarship in an era of rapid transformation. This aspiration reflects a genuine hope, not only to the academic community but also for the betterment of global health.

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