

Appendix C. Sample Literature Review (Written by Students)

As a result of abundance number of researchers, nowadays authors try to stand out through citing themselves in writing. They believe that more using of self-citations causes more other people to cite your name. There are several studies that show percentages of self-citations. According to Snyder and Bonzi (1989), patterns of self-citation in six disciplines were examined. 9% of all citations were self-citations: 15% in the physical sciences, 6% in the social sciences, and 3% in the humanities. In addition, Falagas and Kavvadia (2006) found that clinical science has more self-citations with 17%. Also, Fowler and Aksnes (2007) presented a macro study of more than a half million citations to articles by Norwegian scientists in the 1981-2000 period was undertaken. The average citation rate was 11%, although there were wide individual variations.

Despite the high percentage of self-citation in different fields, we can find individual variations in each field. Phelan (1999) wrote a study of the citing practices of 56 highly cited authors in the field of Education. Only 2 of the 56 did not cite themselves over a 12-year period. At the other extreme, 154 out of 280 citations (55%) received by one author were the outcome of self-citations. Also, Fowler and Aksnes (2007) showed that there were wide individual variations in the number of self-citations.

There are many reasons behind using self-citation by authors. Self-citers are motivated in three different ways: a natural result of cumulative nature of an individual's research, a need of personal gratification and its value as rhetorical device to increase an author's visibility and reputation (Hyland, 2003). Furthermore, White (2001) stated that the most citer motivation is to project one's own writing by linking earlier work to later work. In this sense, a certain amount of self-citation is both natural and inevitable. According to Bonzi and Snyder (1991), self-citation in the natural science showed that there are only a few differences in motivation between citing oneself and citing others.

Going from self-citation's motivation to the effects of those self-citations, Fowler and Aksnes (2007) mentioned that the more authors cite themselves the more likely they are to be cited by others. On the other hand, after study of 400 economics articles, Medoff (2006) showed that an author's self-citation didn't have statistically significant effects on that article's total number of citations. This study agrees with Bonzi and Snyder (1991) one way or another. Ultimately, Fowler and Aksnes (2007) noted that there are currently no penalties for frequent of self-citing. These results question the use of citations to evaluate performance. Clearly notable was the uncertainty about the effect of the number of citing on success evaluation of an article. This research will explore the real impotent evaluation criteria.