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High Citation of Iranian Co-authored Articles in Comparison With Single Authored Articles: Does It Link With Diachronous Self-citation?

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The aim of this research is to investigate the effect of co-authorship and self-citation on the citation rates of Iranian indexed articles in WoS. Iranian indexed articles in WoS in 2007 which have been received at least one citation, constitute our research society. The numbers of these articles in time of research (October & November 2010) were 7355, which 390 of them, using stratified sampling, was selected as sample. Research results showed that co-authored articles have received more citations than single-authored ones and this difference is statistically significant. On the other hand, self-citation exclusion has significantly reduced the citation rates of both co-authored and single-authored articles. After self-citation exclusion, existing difference between citation rates of co-authored and single-authored articles missed its significance. So, it can be concluded that self-citation exclusion leads to reduction of citation rates of Iranian indexed articles in WoS, but this exclusion affects co-authored articles citation rates more than single-authored ones. In other words, high citation of Iranian co-authored articles in comparison with single-authored articles has been affected mainly by self-citation, not by foreign citation.