

Editorial

Comparative Scientometric Assessment of Remote Sensing Journals in 2025 Across Seven Performance Indicators

Prasad S. Thenkabail ^{1,*}  and Dongdong Wang ²

¹ U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Reston, VA 20192, USA

² Institute of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China; wangdd@pku.edu.cn

* Correspondence: pthenkabail@usgs.gov

1. Introduction

The remote sensing publishing ecosystem continues to expand rapidly, with 66 journals indexed in 2025. From this broader landscape, we conducted a focused scientometric evaluation of 28 journals dedicated specifically to remote sensing science (Table 1). Such targeted assessment is essential for understanding journal influence, visibility, and knowledge diffusion within the core discipline [1,2]. This editorial synthesizes seven key performance indicators such as citable items, total citations, Impact Factor (IF), 5-Year IF, Article Influence Score (AIS), Eigenfactor, and Normalized Eigenfactor to provide a comprehensive evaluation of journal standing in 2025. All analyses refer to Table 1, which summarizes the comparative performance of these 28 journals across the seven indicators.



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Table 1. Performance of remote sensing journals during the year 2025.

Impact of Remote Sensing Journals For the Year 2025								
sl no.	Journal Name	Citable Items	2025 Total Citations	2025 IF	5 Year IF	Article Influence Score	Eigenfactor	Normalized Eigenfactor
1	IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine	58	6635	13.7	18.7	5.08	0.0076	1.72
2	ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing	394	37,899	12.9	15	3.50	0.0371	8.40
3	Remote Sensing of Environment	479	106,374	12.3	15.1	3.54	0.0647	14.62
4	Journal of Remote Sensing	61	1898	11	12.2	3.02	0.0028	0.63
5	IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing	2843	135,929	9.4	9.4	1.91	0.1343	30.37
6	International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation	653	29,967	8.2	9.1	1.96	0.0326	7.37
7	Science of Remote Sensing	161	1743	7.1	8.8	2.32	0.0032	0.71
8	ISPRS Open Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing	31	512	7	6.9	1.67	0.0009	0.21
9	GIScience & Remote Sensing	148	5449	6.8	8.2	1.71	0.0060	1.36
10	IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing	1918	41,256	6.3	6.2	1.36	0.0451	10.19
11	International Journal of Digital Earth	367	6640	5.4	5.3	1.10	0.0073	1.65
12	Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation	53	2403	5.2	6.1	1.51	0.0031	0.71
13	Egyptian Journal of Remote Sensing and Space Sciences	55	2991	5.1	4.8	0.75	0.0022	0.49
14	Remote Sensing Applications-Society and Environment	397	7214	4.9	5.2	0.88	0.0074	1.68
15	IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters	940	35,799	4.8	4.8	1.13	0.0402	9.09
16	Remote Sensing Open Access Journal of MDPI	4180	180,705	4.3	5	0.91	0.1811	40.94
17	European Journal of Remote Sensing	66	2190	3.9	3.4	0.66	0.0016	0.36
18	Big Earth Data	69	966	3.6	3.9	0.84	0.0010	0.22
19	Frontiers in Remote Sensing	135	1610	3.5	4.8	1.40	0.0033	0.74
20	Photogrammetric Record	34	839	3.5	3	0.61	0.0005	0.12
21	ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information	513	16,720	3.2	3.5	0.58	0.0140	3.17
22	PFG-Journal of Photogrammetry Remote Sensing and Geoinformation Science	32	768	3.1	3.9	0.73	0.0009	0.20
23	Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing	46	5241	3	2	0.35	0.0007	0.17
24	International Journal of Remote Sensing	386	26,335	2.6	2.8	0.57	0.0086	1.94
25	Journal of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing	262	4073	2.1	2.4	0.38	0.0029	0.66
26	Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing	25	2180	2.1	2.2	0.41	0.0007	0.15

Table 1. Cont.

Impact of Remote Sensing Journals								
For the Year 2025								
sl no.	Journal Name	Citable Items	2025 Total Citations	2025 IF	5 Year IF	Article Influence Score	Eigenfactor	Normalized Eigenfactor
27	Journal of Applied Remote Sensing	169	4275	1.8	1.6	0.28	0.0023	0.51
28	Remote Sensing Letters	128	2538	1.5	1.6	0.34	0.0016	0.36

Note: **Citable items:** All items indexed in the Web of Science as articles and reviews. **2025 Total Citations:** The total number of times that a journal has been cited by all journals included in the database in the JCR year. **2025 IF: Journal Impact Factor:** Number of times all the articles that were published in the last two years (i.e., 2023 and 2024) in a journal were cited this year (i.e., 2025) by any journal in the JCR database divided by the total number of articles published in the last 2 years (2023 and 2024). Citations in 2025 of items published in 2023 and 2024/number of citable items published in 2023 and 2024. **2025 5-Year IF: 5-year Journal Impact Factor:** The average number of times articles published in a journal within the past five years have been cited in a specific JCR year. **Article Influence Score:** Measures the average influence per article of the papers published in the journal over the first five years after publication. **Eigenfactor score:** The Eigenfactor Score calculation is based on the number of times articles from the journal published in the past five years have been cited in the JCR year (2025), but it also considers which journals have contributed these citations so that highly cited journals will influence the network more than lesser cited journals. References from one article in a journal to another article from the same journal are removed, so that *Eigenfactor* Scores are not influenced by journal self-citation. **Normalized Eigenfactor:** The Normalized Eigenfactor Score is the Eigenfactor score normalized, by rescaling the total number of journals in the JCR (2025) each year, so that the average journal has a score of 1. Journals can then be compared and influence measured by their score relative to 1. **Colors:** Colors for each category: **Green #1**, **Purple #2**, **Orange #3**, **Blue #4**, and **Cyan #5**.

2. Citable Items

Citable items reflect a journal's publishing capacity and its role in disseminating scientific knowledge. High publication volume is characteristic of large, open access journals that serve broad research communities [3,4]. According to Table 1, *Remote Sensing* published 4180 citable items, the highest in the category. This far exceeds any other journal, including *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing* (2843 papers), *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing* (1918 papers), *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation* (653 papers) and *Remote Sensing of Environment* (479 papers). High-volume journals often act as central publication hubs, enabling rapid dissemination of methods, applications, and interdisciplinary advances [5].

Low-volume journals such as *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine* (58 items) adopt a selective model, often publishing invited or high-impact content. These journals typically achieve higher citation rates per article, consistent with scientometric patterns observed across disciplines [6,7]. Thus, citable items must be interpreted in context: *Remote Sensing's* leadership in publication volume reflects its broad scope, global reach, and central role in the remote sensing ecosystem.

3. Total Citations

The total citations metric measures cumulative journal influence and knowledge diffusion [8,9]. In Table 1, *Remote Sensing* received 180,705 citations, placing it among the most cited journals in the category. Only *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing* (135,929 citations) and *Remote Sensing of Environment* (106,374 citations) approached similar levels. A high citation volume reflects interdisciplinary reach and the journal's strong presence in environmental science, agriculture, hydrology, climate, and geospatial analytics. Open access (OA) dissemination enhances citation visibility, consistent with global analyses showing higher citation rates for OA articles [10,11].

4. Impact Factor

The Impact Factor (IF) remains a widely used though often debated measure of journal influence [12,13]. According to Table 1, *Remote Sensing* achieved an IF of 4.3. The highest IFs in 2025 were achieved by *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine* (13.7), *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing* (12.9), and *Remote Sensing of Environment* (12.3). These journals publish fewer articles but have exceptionally high citation rates per paper.

5. Five-Year Impact Factor

The 5-Year IF provides a more stable measure of long-term influence [14]. According to Table 1, *Remote Sensing* achieved a 5-Year IF of 5.0, demonstrating sustained relevance across multiple publication cycles. Top performers include *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine* (18.7), *Remote Sensing of Environment* (15.1), and *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing* (15.0). These journals publish foundational work that remains influential over long periods [15,16].

6. Article Influence Score

The Article Influence Score (AIS) measures the average influence of a journal's articles over the first five years after publication [17]. According to Table 1, *Remote Sensing* achieved an AIS of 0.913, placing it in the mid-range of the category. The top AIS performers include *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine* (5.078), *Remote Sensing of Environment* (3.542), and *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing* (3.501). These journals publish theoretical advances, benchmark datasets, and widely adopted methodologies [2,18–23].

7. Eigenfactor

The Eigenfactor Score evaluates a journal's total influence in the scientific citation network [24,25]. According to Table 1, *Remote Sensing* achieved an Eigenfactor of 0.18105, the highest in the entire category. This demonstrates that *Remote Sensing* is the most influential journal in the field in terms of total scientific impact, surpassing *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing* (0.13431) and *Remote Sensing of Environment* (0.06465).

8. Normalized Eigenfactor

The Normalized Eigenfactor rescales the Eigenfactor so that the average journal has a score of 1. According to Table 1, *Remote Sensing* achieved a score of 40.94, which is the highest in the category by a wide margin. This means that the journal is over 40 times more influential than the average journal in the field [24–26].

9. Conclusions: Cross-Journal Performance Summary

The 2025 scientometric landscape reveals a highly stratified but dynamic remote sensing journal ecosystem. Based on Table 1, several patterns emerge:

- A. Journals with leading long-term scientific impact, each with more than 300 citable items and a 5-year Impact Factor of 9 or higher, include *Remote Sensing of Environment* (15.1), *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing* (15.0), *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing* (9.4), and the *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation* (9.1).
- B. Highest Impact Factor: *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine* (13.7);
- C. Highest 5-Year IF: *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine* (18.7);
- D. Highest AIS: *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine* (5.078);
- E. Highest Total Citations: *Remote Sensing* (180,705);
- F. Highest Eigenfactor: *Remote Sensing* (0.18105);
- G. Highest Normalized Eigenfactor: *Remote Sensing* (40.94);
- H. Highest Selectivity: *Journal of Remote Sensing* (61 citable items, IF 11.0). Selectivity refers to journals publishing few citable items, indicating a highly selective acceptance rate.

These results show that no single journal dominates all metrics. Instead, *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine* leads in per-article influence, *Remote Sensing of Environment* leads in long-term scientific impact, *Remote Sensing* leads in total influence, citation volume, and network centrality, *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing* remains high-impact and plays a leading role in remote sensing research, and *Journal of Remote Sensing* shows rapid growth. Within this competitive landscape [27–29], the *Remote Sensing* open access journal published by MDPI maintains a strong performance across all seven indicators (Table 1) despite its large publication volume. These results reflect the journal's global reach, interdisciplinary relevance, and commitment to open access scientific dissemination.

Conflicts of Interest: There are no conflicts of interest. The views and conclusions contained in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the USGS. The USGS makes no warranty, expressed or implied, regarding its accuracy or completeness. Any use of trade, firm, or product names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

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