

Editors' Joint Policy Statement Regarding "Coercive Citations"

Journal of Finance
Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis
Journal of Financial Economics
Review of Asset Pricing Studies
Review of Corporate Finance Studies
Review of Financial Studies

A recent article published in the journal *Science*¹ presents evidence that some editors across different business disciplines have engaged in coercive practices with regard to citations. The authors define coercive citations as requests that give no indication the manuscript is lacking in attribution but instead simply guide authors to add citations to the editor's journal. They suggest that such practices are motivated by intent to increase measured journal impact factors.

The editors of JF, JFQA, JFE, RAPS, RCFS, and RFS hereby affirm that it has been, and will continue to be, our policy to avoid coercive citation practices. While we retain professional discretion to suggest that authors cite particular papers, we will do so only when scientifically appropriate, and without regard to the journal where the cited paper is published.

¹ Allen W. Wilhite and Eric A. Fong, "Coercive Citation in Academic Publishing," *Science*, Vol. 335, February 3, 2012, pages 542-543. [doi:10.1126/science.1212540](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1212540)