What are eLocators?

eLocators are unique identifiers for an article that serve the same function page numbers have traditionally served in the print world. The eLocator will become the primary means of citation, just as page numbers have been in the past – a readable and meaningful citation reference.

Every article will now have a unique identifier (eLocator) instead of a page number. The eLocator appears as the last identifier (e2819) in a citation, replacing the page number. For example:

How do I cite an article with an eLocators?

When citing an article, authors insert an eLocator in place of a page number. See example below in AMA style:


Will this mean anything for citation counts and Impact Factors?

Indexing services (such as the National Library of Medicine’s MEDLINE/PubMed) will include articles when they are published online, as they do currently. The citation format will be year; volume: eLocator — for example, Int J Numer Meth Biomed Engng 2016;32:e2819. This will be the definitive form of the citation. This is what will appear in Clarivate Analytics (formerly Thomson Reuters, formerly ISI) and other all other major bibliographical abstracting and indexing (A&I) services.

Wiley already uses eLocators for several journals, and proactively notifies all relevant A&I services when a journal transitions to using eLocators. All major A&I services already index journals using eLocators, so the new citation format should not have an effect on citation counts or Impact Factor calculations.