Southern Finance Association

SFA and JFR Endorsement of Statement on Coercive Citations

Over the past few years, we have witnessed a troubling development at academic finance journals. Increasingly, editors at some journals require submitting authors, as a condition for acceptance or review, to add additional citations to articles that were published in past issues of their journals.

This practice is known as "coercive citation." When applied in a systematic fashion, coercive citation renders journal quality rankings meaningless, as it artificially inflates the impact factors of journals using this practice. Perhaps more important, coercive citation exploits assistant professors who have little choice but to cave-in to the pressure and add often irrelevant citations to their papers.

The editors of the *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Review of Financial Studies*, *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, *Review of Asset Pricing Studies* and *Review of Corporate Finance Studies* have issued a joint statement condemning the practice of coercive citation. To read that statement, go to http://www.jfqa.org/EditorsJointPolicy.html.

The Board of Directors of the Southern Finance Association and the editors of the Journal of Financial Research fully endorse the joint statement of the editors of the JF, JFE, RFS, JFQA, RAPS and RCFS on coercive citation.

From the webpage link above, you can access the results of a recent survey on coercive citation practices (Whilhite and Fong, *Science*, 2012), including a separate supporting file that contains twelve tables that display the quantitative findings of the study.

On behalf of the officers and directors of the SFA and the editors of the JFR,

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