It is now near Tet Holiday (the Lunar New Year festive season) in Vietnam. I have more time wandering around the Internet. Tet is reminiscent of our childhood times, and I find it fun to look back upon the past.

Today, I found something worth thinking about.

While surfing the net, I stumbled upon a reference to our lab head’s brief research paper (see Figure 1) [1]. That work is now 20 years old [2].

As I am now a 27-year-old Ph.D. candidate and in the final months of finishing my doctoral dissertation, there are many questions about my future, especially the career path and what I might possibly achieve. For that reason, the reference I found has some impact.

Such a reference item tells me that the old work is still useful, and due to that usefulness, it is still alive. I try to imagine whether any of my publications finished in 2022 will still be referenced in 2042(?!). That sort of question is relevant to anybody caring about the impact of research work, especially a person like me who is regarded as early career research (ECR). That is when I’m 47...

A difficult question for me to answer now, but I would hope the answer is yes like anybody else. I guess the outcome will depend on the quality that I seek to achieve due to [3-5].


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**References**


