Scopus®

Your brilliance, connected

Content Coverage Guide

Research Intelligence

ELSEVIER

Scopus is a source-neutral abstract and citation database curated by independent subject matter experts. It places powerful discovery and analytics tools in the hands of researchers, librarians, institutional research managers and funders.

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Scopus — an overview

Scopus, launched in November 2004, is a source-neutral abstract and citation database curated by independent subject matter experts who are recognized leaders in their fields.

Scopus puts powerful discovery and analytics tools in the hands of researchers, librarians, research managers and funders to promote ideas, people and institutions.

Publishers indexed in Scopus

- ● Elsevier **9%**
- ● Springer Nature **9%**
- ● Taylor & Francis **7%**
- ● Wiley-Blackwell **5%**
- ● SAGE **2%**
- ● Wolters Kluwer Health **1%**
- ● Walter de Gruyter **1%**
- ● Emerald **1%**
- ● Brill **1%**
- ● Oxford University Press **1%**
- ● Cambridge University Press **1%**
- ● IEEE **1%**
- ● Other **60%**
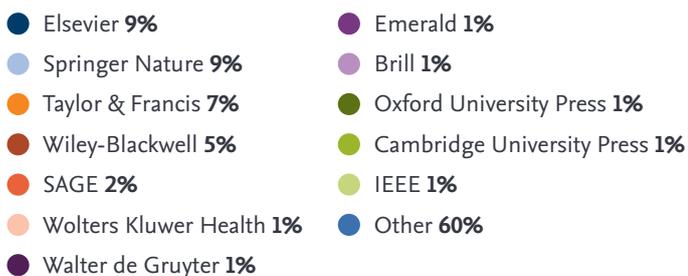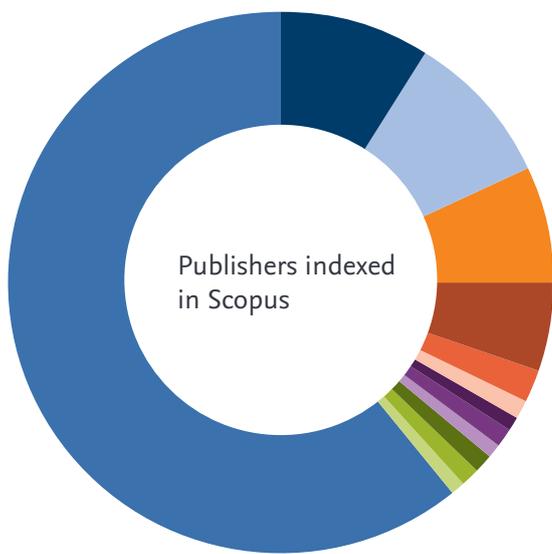
Scopus at a glance
Updated March 2023.

27,950 active titles: (see section 4.1)

- 26,591 active peer-reviewed journals (including 6,128 Gold Open Access journals)
- 192 trade journals
- 1,167 book series
- 11.7+ million conference papers from 148,500+ worldwide events
- "Articles-in-Press" from 9,100+ journals (see section 5)

292,000+ stand-alone books

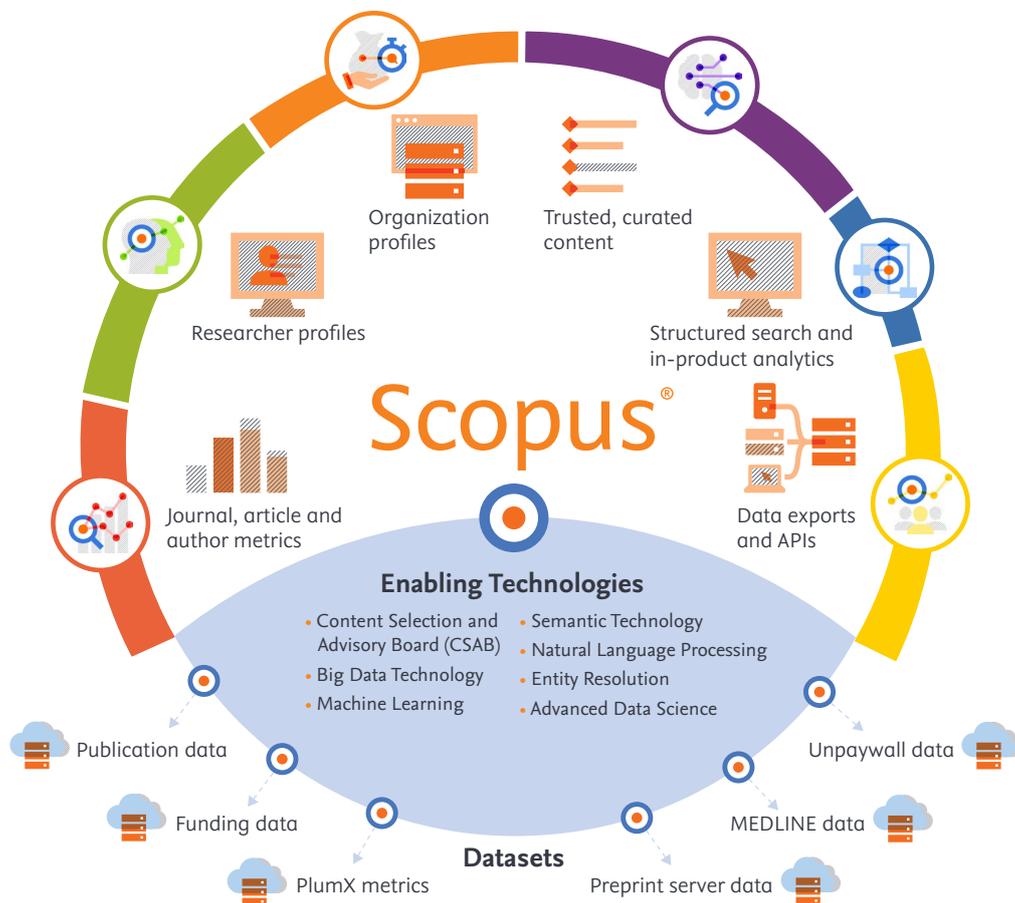**90.6+ million records: (see section 3.1)**

- 84+ million records post-1969 with references
- 6.5+ million records pre-1970, with the oldest record dating back to 1788

49.2+ million patent records from five patent offices: (see section 2.3)

For additional information and updates, please refer to: elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content and follow the Scopus blog: http://blog.scopus.com/.

Scopus®

Enabling Technologies

- Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB)
- Big Data Technology
- Machine Learning
- Semantic Technology
- Natural Language Processing
- Entity Resolution
- Advanced Data Science

Organization profiles

Trusted, curated content

Researcher profiles

Structured search and in-product analytics

Journal, article and author metrics

Data exports and APIs

Datasets

Publication data

Funding data

PlumX metrics

Preprint server data

MEDLINE data

Unpaywall data

Scopus helps address key institutional research challenges and supports a range of institutional stakeholders:

	Progress your research	Evaluate your research	Reflect your research
	Intuitive, powerful search, trusted content and comprehensive content	Powerful linked data, disambiguated, connected to key research entities	The most accurate reflections of your research entities, structured in linked, flexible data
	Insights to help you progress your research with confidence	**Insights for comprehensive evaluations you can trust**	**Built to scale, integrate and hone to meet your most stringent demands and highest value decisions**
Key Challenges	• Teaching next generation researchers • Supporting career growth & development • Helping research thrive • Supporting the scholarly record	• Signaling researcher impact • Signaling organizational impact	• Inform global rankings calculations • Inform national and regional assessments • Glean insights from custom adaptations and analyses • Inform analyses of global and regional research trends • Power repositories and RIMS with profile data
Stakeholders	• Librarians • Students • Faculty & researchers • Editors	• Librarians • Heads of department • Faculty & researchers • Research services	• Librarians • Heads of department • Faculty & researchers • Research services

1.2 Content Selection & Advisory Board

The Scopus Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB) is an international group of scientists, researchers and librarians who represent the major scientific disciplines. Year round, the board members are responsible for reviewing all titles that are suggested to Scopus.

The CSAB is comprised of 17 Subject Chairs, each representing a specific subject field. The board works with the Scopus team to understand how Scopus is used, what content is relevant for users and what enhancements should be made.

The recommendations of the CSAB directly influence the overall direction of Scopus and the prioritization of new content requests to ensure that Scopus content stays international and relevant.

Scopus works with multiple local boards with the goal to further advance the overall standards and quality of journals published in non-English speaking countries. Currently, local boards are in place in China, Thailand, Russia and South Korea.

The CSAB's primary function is to evaluate and determine which peer-reviewed titles are accepted into Scopus, and which titles are excluded. To ensure both the broadest coverage and highest quality content is included, the CSAB maintains and follows a transparent and robust selection policy. This policy is reviewed on a regular basis (see section 4.2).

The CSAB is integral in determining content strategy by:

- Recommending long-term content approaches to ensure that Scopus remains focused on the research community's information needs.
- Keeping the Scopus team abreast of trends and developments in the research community, such as new standards, protocols or software with which to integrate.
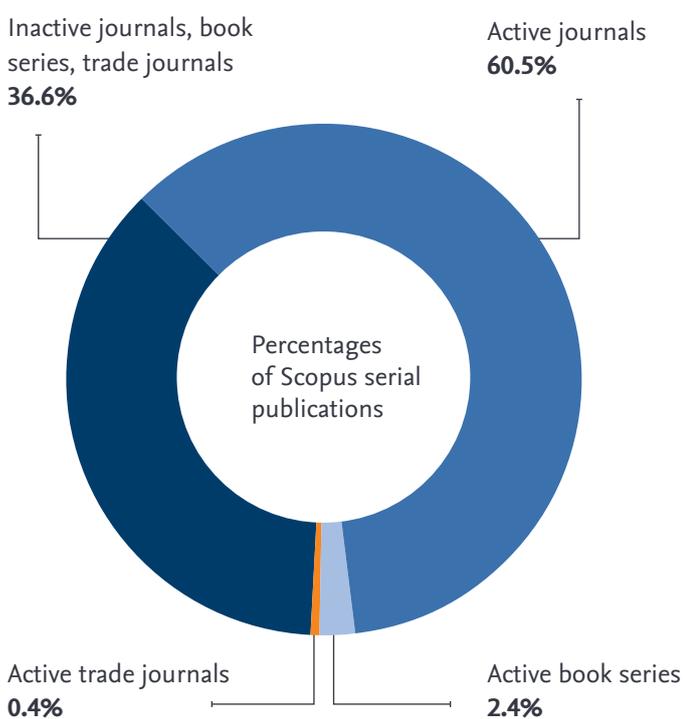
1.3 Purpose and scope

This document is designed to provide readers with a complete overview of all aspects of content coverage in Scopus.

Non-content aspects of Scopus (e.g., interface, search and other functionality) are not included within the scope of this document.

See a roster of the CSAB members:
elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content/scopus-content-selection-and-advisory-board.

2. Coverage of source types

The source types covered in Scopus are either serial publications that have an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) such as journals, book series and some conference series, or non-serial publications that have an ISBN (International Standard Book Number) like one-off book publications or one-off conferences. To ensure that coverage, discoverability, profiles and impact measurement for research in all subject fields is accounted for, Scopus covers different source types.

2.1 Serial source types

Scopus indexes serial publications (journals, trade journals, book series and conference series) that have been assigned an ISSN. In addition, Scopus indexes one-off conferences and one-off books which enter Scopus through different methods than serial publications with ISSNs.

Journals

Journals make up the bulk of the content in Scopus and can have various physical formats (e.g., print, electronic). Titles are selected according to our content coverage policy (for more information see section 4.2). Any peer-reviewed serial publication with an ISSN can be suggested for review and will be covered in Scopus once approved. Exceptions include but are not limited to one-off proceedings, newsletters, secondary sources or patent publications.

Inactive journals, book series, trade journals
36.6%

Active journals
60.5%

Percentages of Scopus serial publications

Active trade journals
0.4%

Active book series
2.4%

Conference series are not displayed in this graph

The significance of each source type varies per discipline and Scopus takes a highly targeted approach of identifying content types that are significant to each discipline and expanding coverage accordingly. As a result, some content types are more broadly covered in a discipline than others. For example, books are more broadly covered in arts & humanities and social science and conferences are more broadly covered in computer science.

Trade journals

Trade journals are serial publications covering, and intended to reach, a specific industry, trade or type of business. These publications are usually magazine-type periodicals with articles on topical subjects, news items and advertisements that appeal to those in the field. Trade journals are seldom refereed and do not always have an editorial board. Abstracts are usually short or nonexistent, and few or no references are given. Usually an ISSN is available. Trade journals are included in Scopus because users and librarians consider selected articles to be scientifically relevant. Only articles or reviews of scientific relevance are included in Scopus. The minimum requirements for trade journal items to be captured are: (1) minimum of one page, (2) minimum of one mentioned author (for more information about the regular document type policy, see section 3.1).

Book series

A book series is a serial publication that has an overall series title, an ISSN, and in which every volume and/or issue is also a book with an ISBN. Usually, but not always, each book has a book title separate from the series title and a different editor or editors. Typically, each book is a monographic publication. Book series are usually published irregularly.

Conference material

Conference material enters Scopus in three different ways: (1) as a special issue of a regular journal, (2) as a conference series, (3) as a one-off conference proceeding.

Proceedings can be published as serial publication with ISSN or non-serial with ISBN and may contain either the full articles of the papers presented or only the abstracts. The source title usually includes words like proceeding(s), meeting(s), conference(s), symposium/symposia, seminar(s) or workshop(s), although some journals also include proceeding(s) in the title.

Scopus covers proceedings that publish full-text papers, i.e., document type conference papers (see section 3.1), whereas conferences that publish only abstracts (meeting abstracts) are not considered for coverage.

Over 12% of the Scopus database is comprised of conference papers (over 11.7 million) of which 2.9+ million are published in journals, book series and other sources. The remaining 8.8+ million are published in conference proceedings.

Conference coverage in Scopus is focused primarily on those subject areas where conference papers represent a substantial portion of published research, e.g., engineering, computer science and some areas of physics. Scopus is continuously expanding coverage of conference material primarily for the subject domains mentioned above published by major engineering and computer sciences publishers and societies.

Scopus covers conference content from over 148 thousand conference events, resulting in over 11.7 million conference papers.

> Over 12% of the Scopus database is comprised of conference papers (over 11.7 million) of which 2.9+ million are published in journals, book series and other sources. The remaining 8.8+ million are published in conference proceedings.

Serial conference titles that have a registered ISSN can be suggested for Scopus coverage via the regular title evaluation process.

2.2 One-off books

A non-serial book is a publication with an ISBN, which can have different physical formats (e.g., print, electronic) and is usually a monograph or composed work.

Along with book series, book coverage also includes monographs, edited volumes, major reference works and graduate level textbooks. Over 292,000 book titles have been added to Scopus and approximately 20,000 more titles are added annually.

This expansion significantly increases the breadth and depth of coverage for book-oriented disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. Books are indexed on both a book and a chapter level. Book selection policy is publisher-based, meaning publishers are reviewed based on the relevancy and quality of their complete books list.

Books can be suggested through the Scopus Books Suggestion form: elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/forms/publisher-books-suggestion. Once a publisher is accepted, all books from that publisher deemed in scope are indexed in Scopus. To see a list of the publishers included, please refer to the book title list: elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content.

2.3 Other sources

Secondary documents

In Scopus, approximately 227 million records are non-core, or secondary documents. These are records that have been cited in Scopus core records, but are not themselves indexed in Scopus. The most highly cited of these non-core items are often books and older journal articles.

Patents

There are over 49.2 million patent records derived from five patent offices available in Scopus:

1. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
2. European Patent Office (EPO)
3. US Patent Office (USPTO)
4. Japanese Patent Office (JPO)
5. UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO.GOV.UK)

3. Coverage of metadata

3.1 Document types

Scopus coverage focuses on primary document types from serial publications. Primary means that the author is identical to the researcher in charge of the presented findings. Scopus does not include secondary document types, where the author is not identical to the person behind the presented research, such as obituaries and book reviews (see section 2.3).

Documents going back to 1970 contain references. For documents prior to 1996 the references were added from the archives of 60 major publishers. These major publishers include: Springer Nature, Wiley Blackwell, Taylor & Francis, IEEE, American Physical Science, Elsevier and more.

Scopus currently has over 90.6 million core records:

- 84+ million records post-1969
- 6.5+ million records pre-1970, with the oldest records dating back to 1788
- Approximately 3 million new records are added each year (5,500/day)

Document types covered in Scopus

Document type	Definition
Article	Original research or opinion. **Characteristics:** Articles in peer-reviewed journals are usually several pages in length, most often subdivided into sections: abstract, introduction, materials & methods, results, conclusions, discussion and references. However, case reports, technical and research notes and short communications are also considered to be articles and may be as short as one page in length. Articles in trade journals are typically shorter than in peer-reviewed journals, and may also be as brief as one page in length.
Article-in-Press (AiP)	Accepted article made available online before official publication (see section 5).
Book	A whole monograph or entire book. **Characteristics:** Book type is assigned to the whole. Additionally, for books with individual chapters, each chapter, along with a general item summarizing the book, is also indexed with the source type Book.
Chapter	A book chapter. **Characteristics:** A complete chapter in a book or book series volume where the item is identified as a chapter by a heading or section indicator.
Conference paper	Original article reporting data presented at a conference or symposium. **Characteristics:** Conference papers are of any length reporting data from a conference, with the exception of conference abstracts. Conference papers may range in length and content from full papers and published conference summaries to short items as short as one page in length (also see section 2.1).
Data paper	Searchable metadata documents describing an online accessible dataset, or group of datasets. **Characteristics:** The intent of a data paper is to offer descriptive information on the related dataset(s) focusing on data collection, distinguishing features, access, and potential reuse rather than information on data processing and analysis.
Editorial	Summary of several articles, or provides editorial opinions or news. **Characteristics:** Editorials are typically identified as editorial, introduction, leading article, preface or foreword, and are usually listed at the beginning of the table of contents.
Erratum	Report of an error, correction or retraction of a previously published paper. The erratum notice is linked to the original published paper this concerns and vice versa. **Characteristics:** Errata are short items citing errors in, corrections to, or retractions of a previously published article in the same journal to which a citation is provided.

Document type	Definition
Letter	Letter to or correspondence with the editor.
	Characteristics: Letters are individual letters or replies. Each individual letter or reply is processed as a single item.
Note	Note, discussion or commentary.
	Characteristics: Notes are short items that are not readily suited to other item types. They may or may not share characteristics of other item types, such as author, affiliation and references. Discussions and commentaries that follow an article are defined as notes and considered to be items in their own right. Notes also include questions and answers, as well as comments on other (often translated) articles. In trade journals, notes are generally shorter than half a page in length.
Retracted article	Published articles that the author(s) or publisher has requested to retract. The erratum or retraction notice announcing the retraction is linked to the retracted article.
	Characteristics: Articles with a published retraction note will be updated to the document type "Retracted." Usually, these articles are indicated with the words "retracted" or "retraction".
Review	Significant review of original research, also includes conference papers.
	Characteristics: Reviews typically have an extensive bibliography. Educational items that review specific issues within the literature are also considered to be reviews. As non-original articles, reviews lack the most typical sections of original articles such as materials & methods and results.
Short survey	Short or mini-review of original research.
	Characteristics: Short surveys are similar to reviews, but usually are shorter (not more than a few pages) and with a less extensive bibliography.

The Scopus editorial team is responsible for the document type classification of records.

Examples of document types not covered in Scopus

Document type	Definition
Book reviews	Scopus does not cover book reviews. The reason for this is that they do not represent primary literature, and the publishers in whose journals they appear often regard them as full-text. As a full-text article, Scopus would only be able to display the title of the book review, which is often identical to the actual book, causing confusion to Scopus users. Lastly, book reviews are not often cited in research literature. As an example of this, the average citation per item for the "Journal of Academic Librarianship" drops by 50% (2.13 to 1.12) when book reviews are included.
Conference meeting abstracts	Scopus does not cover conference meeting abstracts. Meeting abstracts are not a complete and unique record of research and can drive ambiguity or duplication. Furthermore, the scientific content and substance of meeting abstracts is generally not peer-reviewed and is limited as they are typically written before the actual research is complete.

3.2 Article data

Abstracts

Over 68.7 million records in Scopus contain an abstract in order to provide users with as much information as possible about the research presented in the database. The original abstract is available where the original published article has an abstract. Specifically for older content and certain document types there is not always an abstract available in the original document. The availability of abstracts in Scopus helps to ensure that users find all relevant results for their search across title, abstract and keywords.

Keywords and index terms

Index terms are displayed for 80% of the titles covered in Scopus. These index terms are derived from thesauri that Elsevier owns or licenses and are added to improve search recall. A team of professional indexers manages the assignment of index terms to records according to the following controlled vocabularies:

- Engineering terms (engineering, technology, physical sciences)

- Emtree medical terms (life sciences, health sciences)

- MeSH (life sciences, health sciences)

- GEOBASE Subject Index (geology, geography, earth and environmental sciences)

- FLX terms, WTA terms (fluid sciences, textile sciences)

- Regional Index (geology, geography, earth and environmental sciences)

- Species Index (biology, life sciences)

There is no limit to the number of index terms that Scopus can add to records. However, in the case of Emtree and MeSH terms (both terms are added to records where available), only the index terms that have a direct relation with the topic of the article are displayed and made searchable on Scopus in order to avoid retrieving irrelevant results.

For Emtree, the index terms with a direct relation are the Major Focus and the mentioned index terms. For MeSH, the index terms with a direct relation are Major Topics and Minor Topics. For the Engineering indexed terms, the controlled terms, uncontrolled terms and main headings are displayed and searchable in Scopus. All index terms are displayed for the other subject indices.

For example, adverse drug reaction terms are only relevant when users are searching for articles in the context of adverse drug reactions, a feature which is only possible with the support of a thesaurus (not available in Scopus).

No thesauri are available or searchable in Scopus.

The Scopus capturing department assigns Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) numbers as part of the normal Emtree Drugs/Chemicals/Thesaurus indexing. Emtree has ca. 24,222 CAS numbers, which by no means is comparable with Chemical Databases. CAS assignment process is purely focusing on titles that are also covered by Embase. For example, searching for CASREGNUMBER(1*) in Scopus will retrieve over 9 million items.

United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)

Scopus lists the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) relevant to a paper on that paper's Document details page. Clicking on one of the listed SDGs opens a window containing additional information on the goal, with an option to analyze further in SciVal.

The SDG framework, with its 17 interlinked goals, continues to grow in importance globally:

- It is increasingly used to evaluate the contribution of universities to society; in 2019, Times Higher Education launched the THE Impact Rankings, a global performance table that assesses universities against the SDGs with the help of this Scopus data set.

- Universities are monitoring and mapping how the work of their researchers contributes to the SDGs.

- Many funders now want evidence that the research they fund is positively impacting society, and is aligned with the SDGs.

Listing the relevant SDGs on the Document details page makes it easier to understand their relationship to a research publication. The SDG labels can also provide a useful reference when applying for funding, by demonstrating that research is making a difference in a particular area.

This also contributes another dimension to an array of metrics and indicators that one can use to understand research impact.

SciVal Topics

A SciVal Topic is a collection of documents with a common intellectual interest and can be large or small, new or old, growing or declining in momentum. Over time, new Topics will surface, and as Topics are dynamic, they will evolve. As with the nature of today's research landscape many Topics are multidisciplinary and old Topics may be dormant, but they still exist. In addition, researchers themselves are mobile, and work in various research areas and thereby contribute to multiple Topics.

These Topics are powered by SciVal and are displayed directly in Scopus on Document details pages along their prominence percentile score, an indicator that shows the current momentum of a Topic. You can click on the Topic label on Document details pages to explore the Topic or open it in SciVal for further analysis.

SciVal Topics are also available on Scopus Author Profiles. Users can select the 'Topics' tab to view an author's associated topics.

Article metrics

Article metrics allow you to evaluate both citation impact and levels of community engagement around an article.

- **Scopus metrics:** Citation metrics calculated and provided using Scopus data. These include Citation Count, View Count, Field-Weighted Citation Impact, Citation Benchmarking and the Cited by Graph.

- **PlumX Metrics:** As people interact with research they leave online footprints. Plum Analytics gathers these footprints and creates and categorizes metrics on individual pieces of research output (articles, conference proceedings, book chapters, and more). These metrics are collectively known as PlumX Metrics.

  By categorizing the metrics into five categories — Usage, Captures, Mentions, Social Media, and Citations — PlumX helps make sense of a large amount of metrics data and enables analysis by comparing metrics that are compatible.

- **Policy Citations:** With the addition of policy citation data on Scopus, users can see where research has been cited in policy documents to help demonstrate the societal impact of a piece of research output. Overton, currently the only policy data aggregator, provides Elsevier and Scopus with exclusive access to their data via PlumX Metrics. On Scopus, this is available on the Documents details page of an article.

Funding Data

The full text funding acknowledgement sections are included for documents (where applicable) going back to 2008. This enables the text to be searchable and makes it easier to find out what research is being funded and by whom. Funding information is captured if the funding body is included in the FundRef ontology: crossref.org/fundref/. This includes the following information:

- Funding Sponsor (i.e., the National Science Foundation)
- Funding Acronym (i.e., NSF)
- Funding Number (i.e., INT-9321584)

Through the Advanced search form on Scopus, a funding search can be performed to look for a particular funding field (sponsor, acronym or number) or to search all funding information. The search terms associated with funding information are:

- FUND-ALL searches the funding acknowledgment text in addition to other funding fields
- FUND-SPONSOR searches the sponsor providing the grant or funding for the work
- FUND-ACR searches the acronym for a sponsor
- FUND-NO searches the grant or award number

Open Access

Open Access (OA) is represented at both the document and the journal level in Scopus.

Scopus users can locate OA journals and/or articles by conducting a Document search, Advanced search, or using the Scopus Sources feature. Any search result providing documents or sources that are considered OA, indicate they are Open Access below the title.

Open Access for documents

Open Access filters are available in Scopus to provide greater clarity and a breakdown of the type of OA per document.

From the search results page, users can filter by all OA documents or by each of the OA tags: gold, hybrid gold, green and bronze.

From the Scopus Advanced search, the OA filters are found under the Document field code section. The values, in combination with the OA field code, allow users to build queries using the OA filters.

The source of OA documents in Scopus is Unpaywall, a database run by Impactstory (a non-profit organization) which harvests OA content from over 50,000 publishers and repositories.

The following Open Access filters are available for documents in Scopus:

Facets	Information label	Definition
Gold	Gold (Open access-only journal)	Published version with Creative Commons license, available on publisher platform. Documents are in journals which only publish open access.
Hybrid Gold	Gold (hybrid journal)	Published version with Creative Commons license, available on publisher platform. Documents are in journals which provide authors the choice of publishing open access.
Bronze	Other free-to-read at Publisher	Published version of record or manuscript accepted for publication, for which the publisher has chosen to provide temporary or permanent free access. Bronze status is assigned to a document if there is another (publisher-specific) license other than a Creative Commons license, no license at all, or the license is not clear.
Green	Free-to-read at Repository	Published version or manuscript accepted for publication, available at repository. Documents may also be available gold or other free-to-read on the publisher platform.

Open Access for journals

Open Access journals are indicated in orange text as Open Access on any results list where they are available, the Scopus Sources page, or on a Source details page.

For the full OA journal list, users can download the Scopus Title list here: elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content, which includes a filter on Open Access status.

In Scopus, journals are registered as being OA only if they are registered as Gold OA or Subsidized OA at one or both of the following:

- Directory of Open Access Journals: doaj.org
- Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources: road.issn.org

> Open Access (OA) is represented at both the document and the journal level in Scopus.
>
> Scopus users can locate OA journals and/or articles by conducting a Document search, Advanced search, or using the Scopus Sources feature.

PubMed ID

The unique identifier for MEDLINE documents, PubMed ID, is searchable via Advanced Search. When available, it appears on the record page, as well as in the export of records.

References

References in Scopus go back to 1970. For documents prior to 1996 the references were added from the archives of 60 major publishers. These major publishers include: Springer Nature, Wiley Blackwell, Taylor & Francis, IEEE, American Physical Science, Elsevier and more.

By having the references available back to 1970:

1. Users have the ability to measure impact, perform historical citation trend analyses and conduct more accurate evaluations of authors who have published as early as 1970.

2. More accurate and higher h-index rankings are available for those senior researchers — many of whom who subsequently have become key influencers and decision makers — who published most prolifically before the mid-1990S.

3.3 Author data

It is possible to search Scopus based on author data. The Scopus Author Identifier automatically identifies and matches an author with all his/her research output. This tool is particularly relevant for analyzing citation metrics for authors, as well as specific articles by an author. The data can also be used to find authors or reviewers to collaborate with or for hiring purposes. There are 17.6 million author profiles in Scopus.

The Scopus Author Identifier assigns each author in Scopus a unique number and groups together all the documents written by that author. To determine which author names should be grouped together under a single identifier number, the Scopus Author Identifier uses an algorithm that matches author names based on their affiliation, address, subject area, source title, dates of publication citations and co-authors.

An author can request corrections to their author details directly from their profile page using the Scopus Author Feedback Wizard (AFW). AFW guides the author through the steps of finding the correct profile(s) in Scopus and checking the publications it contains. Authors receive an email notification when their requested changes are visible in Scopus. Profile changes are implemented within five working days.

Preprints

A preprint is a version of a scholarly paper that precedes publication in a peer-reviewed journal and act as an early indication of research. Preprints are available in Scopus Author Profiles to help users discover the latest contributions of a researcher.

Preprints reside on preprint servers, which cover a set of domains and allow for dissemination, laying claim to an idea, and help collect feedback prior to submission. In some fields, preprints are the main communication vehicle. Preprints differ from Articles-in-Press in that preprints are not peer-reviewed and not accepted for publication in a journal yet.

The preprint servers selected for Scopus are arXiv and ChemRxiv (Physical Sciences); bioRxiv and MedRxiv (Biomedical Sciences); SSRN (Social Sciences); TechRxiv (Engineering, Computer Science, and related technology); and Research Square (Multidisciplinary). Preprints follow their respective server's curation policies.

Preprints do not affect existing publication and citation metrics in Scopus.

Awarded Grants Data

Awarded grants have been incorporated as a tab on Scopus Author Profiles.

The first phase is a beta release which shows competitive awards from U.S. funding bodies. The Scopus team will continue to gather feedback from users to allow for continual improvement of the feature and of the data. The data will continue to expand to include additional regions and funding sources.

Awarded grants are captured from 2010 onward.

An awarded grant is an award, usually financial, given by a funder (typically a company, foundation, or government) to an individual or organization to facilitate a goal or reward performance.

Phase 1 awarded grants in Scopus shows the historical funding awards made by >70 U.S. funding bodies. Awarded grants appear on author profiles where the researcher is listed as the Principal Investigator or Co-awardee on awarded grant records in the Scopus grants database. Since in Scopus grants are only linked to author profiles, only funding bodies whose grants are awarded to individuals, rather than institutions, will be included.

Awarded grants do not affect existing publication and citation metrics in Scopus.

ORCID integration

ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor Identifier) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to solving the name ambiguity problem in scholarly research by assigning a unique identifier to each author. From their Scopus Author Profile, authors can import their list of publications in Scopus and their Scopus Author Identifier into ORCID. Once an author connects their ORCID record with their Scopus profile, a link to their ORCID record will appear on their profile page. Scopus and ORCID share and sync their data on a monthly basis. Learn more about ORCID at orcid.org.

3.4 Affiliation data

It is possible to search Scopus based on affiliation data (using the 94,800+ affiliation profiles). An organization's Scopus Affiliation details page gives a comprehensive view of that organization's scholarly output, including author and document counts and related visualizations. Users can sort and filter the data in various ways.

This tool is particularly relevant for deans, faculty heads and librarians in the academic market; researchers, project leaders and those involved in competitive intelligence in the corporate market; and funding bodies in the government market.

Affiliation profiles are built using algorithmic processing and Elsevier's curated database of organizations. The Scopus organization curation team conducts extensive research to model an organization and its relationships. This includes a thorough 3–step process to capture the most accurate representation of an organization as possible.

- **Step 1:** Understand country conventions and research landscape
- **Step 2:** Capture name and address metadata; Identify and capture variations in mentions in publications
- **Step 3:** Identify and link to related organizations

Users who wish to modify their organization profile can do so by using the Institution Profile Wizard (IPW). Authorized users can access the IPW via the Organization details page.

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4. Coverage of sources

4.1 Scopus title list

The Scopus Journals title list contains ~43,400 titles in total, including ~27,950 active titles and ~15,450 inactive titles (mostly predecessors of the active titles). The Scopus Books title list contains 292,000+ books.

Complete lists of titles (for both journals and books) in Scopus are available externally from the Scopus info site at: elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content.

The lists are identical to the list available on Scopus.com in the Sources section.

The title lists and the Sources section are updated 2-3 times per year and include only journals and books with substantial coverage on Scopus.com at the time of the update. Titles that are newly added to Scopus will be visible in the title list and the Sources section only as of the next update after the first content appears on Scopus. To check whether the content of a recently added title is already available on Scopus, perform an advanced search on Scopus.com using the search code Source Title (SRCTITLE) and entering the name of the title.

For more information about the Scopus subject areas, see section 4.4.

Which titles are included in the title list and the Sources section?

Neither the title list nor the titles included in the Sources section on Scopus accurately reflect all the content in Scopus. In fact, the Scopus database contains records of ~52,400 unique titles, which are all available via the Scopus basic search functionality. There are 9,000 titles, however, which are not included in either the title list or the Sources section because these titles are:
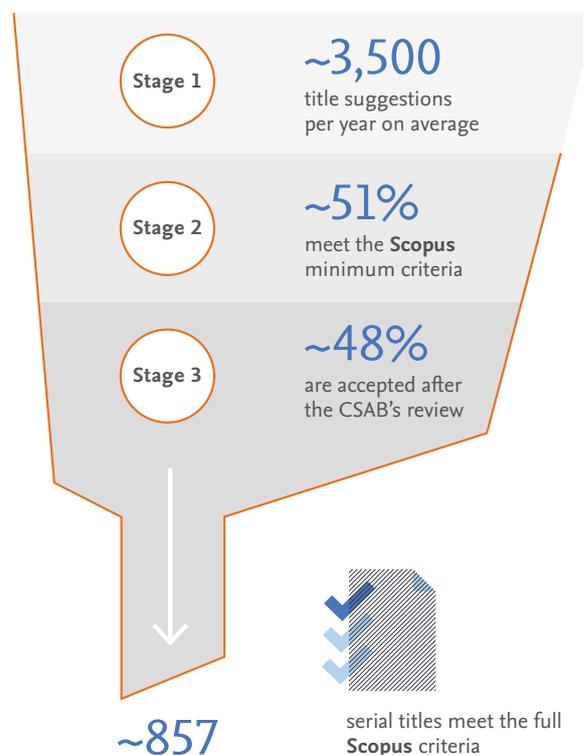
- Pre-1996 discontinued (i.e., non-active) titles.
- Post-1995 titles with a very small incomplete number of articles, scattered among several years. Post-1995 titles having child-parent relationships, however, are always included (independent of the number of articles). There is no limit as to the number of articles present in Scopus for an accepted journal for that journal to receive a Source Details Page.

Stand-alone non-serial books, conference proceedings and reports are also not included in the Scopus Sources section. One-off book publications are listed in a separate book title list and Conference Proceedings are listed under a separate tab in the Scopus Excel Source Title List. Download the list from our info site: elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content.

4.2 Scopus title evaluation

In order to ensure that Scopus remains the most relevant resource for all research in the sciences, technology, medicine, social sciences and arts & humanities fields, the CSAB continually reviews new titles for inclusion, using transparent selection criteria (see elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content/content-policy-and-selection). New title suggestions may come from librarians, publishers and journal editors, and can be submitted using the Title Suggestion form on the Scopus info site: suggestor.step.scopus.com/suggestTitle/step1.cfm.

Scopus receives approximately 3,500 serial title suggestions on an annual basis. The number of suggested titles can vary significantly per subject area from only a few titles (e.g., in chemistry) to several hundred (e.g., in social sciences).

Stage 1 — ~3,500 title suggestions per year on average

Stage 2 — ~51% meet the **Scopus** minimum criteria

Stage 3 — ~48% are accepted after the CSAB's review

~857 — serial titles meet the full **Scopus** criteria

Criteria for title selection

To be considered for review, all journal titles should meet all these minimum criteria:

- Consist of peer-reviewed content and have a publicly available description of the peer review process
- Be published on a regular basis and have an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) as registered with the ISSN International Centre
- Have content that is relevant for and readable by an international audience, i.e., have English language abstracts and titles
- Have a publicly available publication ethics and publication malpractice statement

CSAB members have deep subject matter expertise and are committed to actively seeking out and selecting literature that meets the needs and standards of the research community that they represent. More information can be found on the Scopus info site: elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content/content-policy-and-selection.

Journals eligible for review by the CSAB will be evaluated on the following criteria in five categories:

Category	Criteria
Journal policy	- Convincing editorial policy - Type of peer-review - Diversity in geographical distribution of editors - Diversity in geographical distribution of authors
Content	- Academic contribution to the field - Clarity of abstracts - Quality of and conformity to the stated aims and scope of the journal - Readability of articles
Journal standing	- Citedness of journal articles in Scopus - Editor standing
Publishing regularity	- No delays or interruptions in the regularity publication schedule
Online availability	- Full journal content available online - English language journal homepage available - Quality of journal homepage

Content Selection & Advisory Board Subject Chairs

The Scopus Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB) is an international group of scientists, researchers and librarians who represent the major scientific disciplines. Year round, the board members are responsible for reviewing all titles that are suggested to Scopus.

The CSAB is comprised of 17 Subject Chairs, each representing a specific subject field. The Board works with the Scopus team to understand how Scopus is used, what content is relevant for users and what enhancements should be made.

The recommendations of the CSAB directly influence the overall direction of Scopus and the prioritization of new content requests to ensure that Scopus content stays international and relevant.

Scopus works with multiple local boards with the goal to further advance the overall standards and quality of journals published in non-English speaking countries. Currently, local boards are in place in China, Thailand, Russia and South Korea.

Scopus title evaluation platform

The Scopus Title Evaluation Platform (STEP) is a web-based editorial system, streamlining the entire title evaluation process from submission until the final decision, including the feedback to the suggestor and publisher/editor of newly suggested titles. STEP offers several benefits, including:

- Those suggesting new titles receive feedback on why their title was accepted or rejected via a consistent process of communication
- Shorter decision-making cycle

When are new titles selected by the Content Selection & Advisory Board added to Scopus?

Once a title is accepted for inclusion in Scopus, Elsevier will contact the publisher to set up the content feed. After the content feed has been set up, it will take up to a few weeks before the title will be added to Scopus.

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Re-evaluation and ethics

Content quality is paramount for Scopus. In addition to journals undergoing a rigorous evaluation and selection processes prior to acceptance into Scopus, they must also demonstrate the ability to maintain their quality status year over year.

To determine journal quality, Scopus runs the ongoing re-evaluation program, which identifies outlier and underperforming journals in four different ways:

1. The journal is **underperforming** as it does not meet any of the three metrics and benchmarks for journals in the same subject area.

2. **Concerns about the publication standards** of the journal or publisher have been raised by formal complaints.

3. The journal shows **outlier behavior** based on its publishing performance in Scopus.

4. **Continuous curation** based on CSAB feedback.

Metrics and benchmarks

Metric	Benchmark and explanation
Self-citation rate	The journal has a substantially higher self-citation rate, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.
Total citation rate	The journal received a substantially lower number of citations, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.
CiteScore	The journal has a substantially lower CiteScore, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.

If a journal does not meet all of the three benchmarks for two consecutive years, it will be flagged for re-evaluation by the independent CSAB.

Publication concerns

A journal can also be flagged for re-evaluation based on publication concerns at either the publisher or journal level. Concerns for such journals are identified by Scopus or flagged to Scopus by the research community. If the concern is legitimate, the title will be added to the re-evaluation program and re-evaluated by the CSAB in the year of identification of the publication concern.

Radar

In 2017 the Radar tool was launched, which is a data analytics algorithm created by Elsevier Data Scientists to identify outlier journal behavior in the Scopus database. Outlier journal examples include rapid and unexplainable changes to number of articles published or unexplainable changes in geographical diversity of authors or affiliations. Other features that the algorithm considers are self-citation rate and publication concerns, amongst others. The tool improves continuously by incorporating new examples or rules. It runs quarterly checking the all Scopus journals for outlier behavior.

Continuous curation

Since the establishment of the CSAB in 2010, Scopus has continuously collected review data as part of the content curation process. For example, the CSAB can indicate whether any accepted title should be evaluated again in the future. This is an ongoing process and ensures continuous curation of Scopus content.
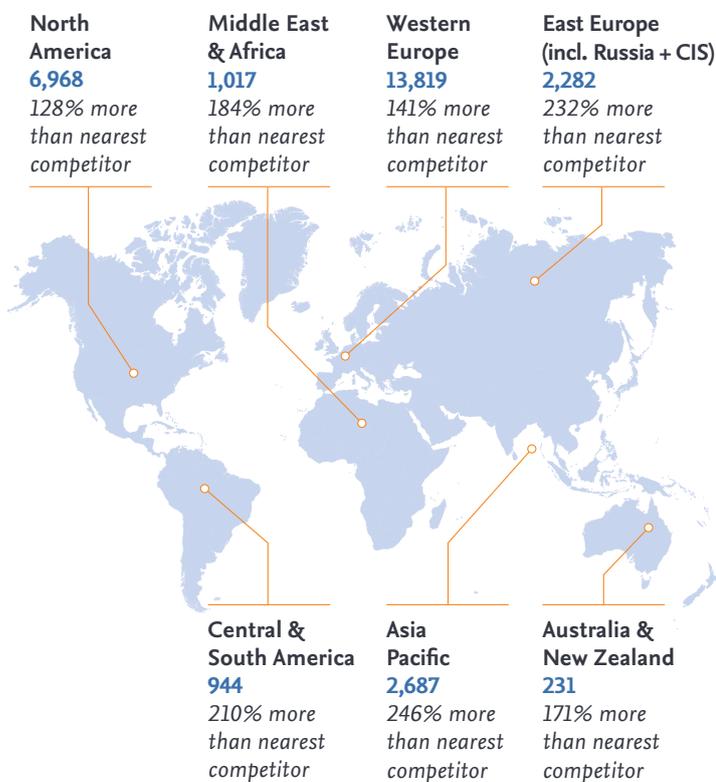
All titles identified for underperformance, publication standard concerns, outlier behavior, or during continuous content curation will be re-evaluated by the CSAB. The review criteria for re-evaluation are identical to the Scopus content selection criteria used for newly suggested titles. Upon completion of the re-evaluation process, the CSAB will decide to either continue a journal's coverage or to discontinue the forward flow of the journal's coverage in Scopus (content covered in Scopus prior to the re-evaluation completion will remain in Scopus). Discontinued titles will only be considered for evaluation again 5 years after the discontinuation decision was made.

Titles discontinued from Scopus via the re-evaluation process can be identified via the discontinued sources list, which you can download from elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/how-scopus-works/content/content-policy-and-selection

4.3 Global coverage

Scopus coverage is global by design to best serve researchers' needs and ensure that relevant scientific information is not omitted from the database. Titles from all geographical regions are covered, including non-English titles as long as English abstracts can be provided with the articles. In fact, approximately 20% of titles in Scopus are published in languages other than English, adding up to 40 local languages (or published in both English and another language).

Number of active titles indexed by Scopus vs. the nearest competitor based on geographical region

North America
6,968
128% more than nearest competitor

Middle East & Africa
1,017
184% more than nearest competitor

Western Europe
13,819
141% more than nearest competitor

East Europe (incl. Russia + CIS)
2,282
232% more than nearest competitor

Central & South America
944
210% more than nearest competitor

Asia Pacific
2,687
246% more than nearest competitor

Australia & New Zealand
231
171% more than nearest competitor

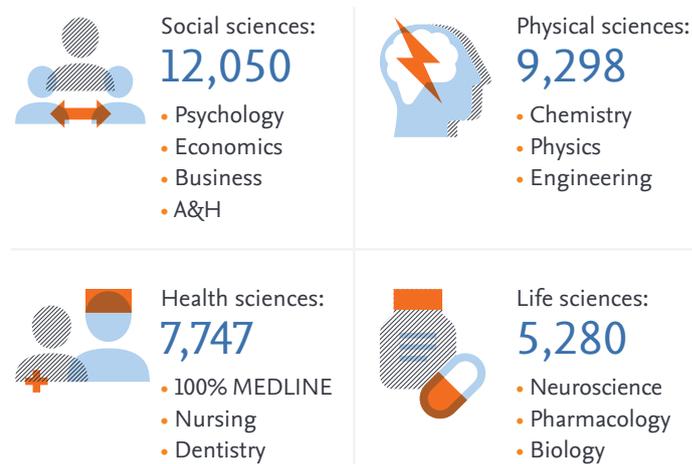## 4.4 Subject area coverage

Scopus offers the broadest, most integrated coverage of peer-reviewed literature and quality web sources across the sciences, technology, medicine (STM), as well as social sciences and arts & humanities (A&H).

Titles in Scopus are classified under four broad subject clusters (life sciences, physical sciences, health sciences and social sciences & humanities), which are further divided into 27 major subject areas and 300+ minor subject areas. Titles may belong to more than one subject area. Download the title list on the Scopus info site: elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content.

The table below reflects the number of active titles by subject cluster. *Note: A title can fall in more than one subject area.*

There are 27,950 titles in Scopus.

Social sciences:
12,050
- Psychology
- Economics
- Business
- A&H

Physical sciences:
9,298
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Engineering

Health sciences:
7,747
- 100% MEDLINE
- Nursing
- Dentistry

Life sciences:
5,280
- Neuroscience
- Pharmacology
- Biology

Arts & humanities

Scopus has strong arts & humanities coverage with 4,950 titles. Since 2014, more than 292,000 book titles have been added to Scopus. As more than 55% of the added book titles represent the arts & humanities and social sciences, this significantly expands the coverage for these areas. When combined with the strength of Scopus in bibliographic search, discoverability and evaluation tools, expanded coverage allows users to better measure the impact and scholarly achievement of the humanities in a more quantitative way.

Arts & humanities titles are part of the social sciences subject cluster in Scopus. Users can exclude or limit to arts & humanities results from their search results by using the refine results overview.

4.5 Complete coverage

Scopus was launched in late November 2004. At that time, Scopus contained 14,200 journals. There have been approximately 13,750 new titles added to Scopus since 2004. Starting in 2023, journal start coverage year will be from the year of selection minus 4. This means that for a title selected in 2023, its coverage would start from the first content published in 2019 going forward and have five years' worth of content. Exceptions are made to journals having previous evaluation history.

Upon the launch of Scopus, the decision was made to add cited references going back to 1996. In 2014, Scopus announced the launch of the Cited Reference Expansion project to include cited references in its database going back to 1970. Documents going back to 1970 contain cited references, when provided by the publisher.

4.6 MEDLINE coverage

MEDLINE is a database that can be hosted via the PubMed platform by third parties. PubMed's main component is MEDLINE, but it also contains other data. Scopus has permission to cover ~6,700 out of the total of ~7,000 MEDLINE titles. Scopus also includes OLDMEDLINE content published between 1949 and 1965. For the majority of MEDLINE titles, Scopus has agreements with the publishers directly and receives the content from them. There are around 125 titles for which Scopus has permission to cover and that MEDLINE supplies directly to Scopus. In Scopus, these titles are referred to as "MEDLINE sourced." The advantages of covering MEDLINE in Scopus is that the MEDLINE records are fully integrated with the Scopus citation network and Scopus Author Profiles.

5. Processing of Scopus content

Obtaining content

Scopus content is obtained from over 7,000 publishers worldwide. Scopus has content delivery agreements in place with each publisher and receives content in both print and electronic formats. Currently, 95% of material is received electronically and/or sourced from the journal websites.

For over 95% of the journals in Scopus, the data from publishers gets delivered via e-Feeds (XML or PDF deliveries) or downloads from journal websites. This ensures the fastest possible processing and indexing. On average, fully-indexed article data will appear in Scopus within two to three weeks of publication on the publisher's website. A diminishing number of publishers still supply their journal issues in paper format. Processing and indexing of such data usually takes four to five weeks, depending on distribution and delivery from publishers' warehouses.

Articles-in-Press (AiP)

"Articles-in-Press" (AiP) are pre-published versions of accepted articles. AiP do contain cited references and are de-duplicated once the final version is published and made available in Scopus. Publishers usually use a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) service to deliver the prepublished version to Scopus once it has appeared on their website. Once received, Scopus usually makes it available online within four days. The average time it takes before an AiP becomes a published article in a specific issue, however, can vary from weeks to months depending on how often the journal is published (e.g., bi-weekly vs. quarterly).

AiP for over 9,100 journals are provided by the following publishers:

- Cambridge University Press
- Elsevier
- Springer
- Karger Medical and Scientific Publishers
- Nature Publishing Group (NPG)
- The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- BioMed Central (BMC)
- Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins (LWW)
- Thieme
- American Association for the Advancement of Science (Science)
- BMJ Publishing Group
- World Scientific
- Wiley Blackwell
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- Taylor & Francis
- Primary Care Respiratory Society UK (PCRJ)

From the search results page, users can use the refine results pane to limit their results to contain only AiPs by selecting the checkbox next to 'Article in Press' within the Publication Stage category, then selecting 'Limit to'. Selecting 'Exclude' will remove AiPs from the search results.

Alternatively, from Advanced search, users can restrict their search to articles in press by entering the search criteria then 'AND PUBSTAGE(AIP). Entering 'AND NOT PUBSTAGE(AIP)' allows users to search for published articles only, and not include AiP.

Another database with coverage of AiP is MEDLINE on PubMed. However, this "early view" layer is not part of the MEDLINE feed to third party vendors, so Scopus does not receive AiP from MEDLINE. For more information about MEDLINE coverage, see section 4.6.

Conclusion

This guide is designed to provide a complete overview of the content coverage in Scopus and corresponding policies. As Scopus is updated daily, the numbers presented in this guide may differ from current numbers.

To find up-to-date content numbers, please refer to the content page of our info site: elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content. The numbers presented on the info site are updated regularly throughout the year.

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