



# Journal Indexing in Scopus

## Workshop

Int. Diamond OA Conference, Virtual, 15 April 2021

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# Part 1: Power of Scopus, Requirements and Content Selection

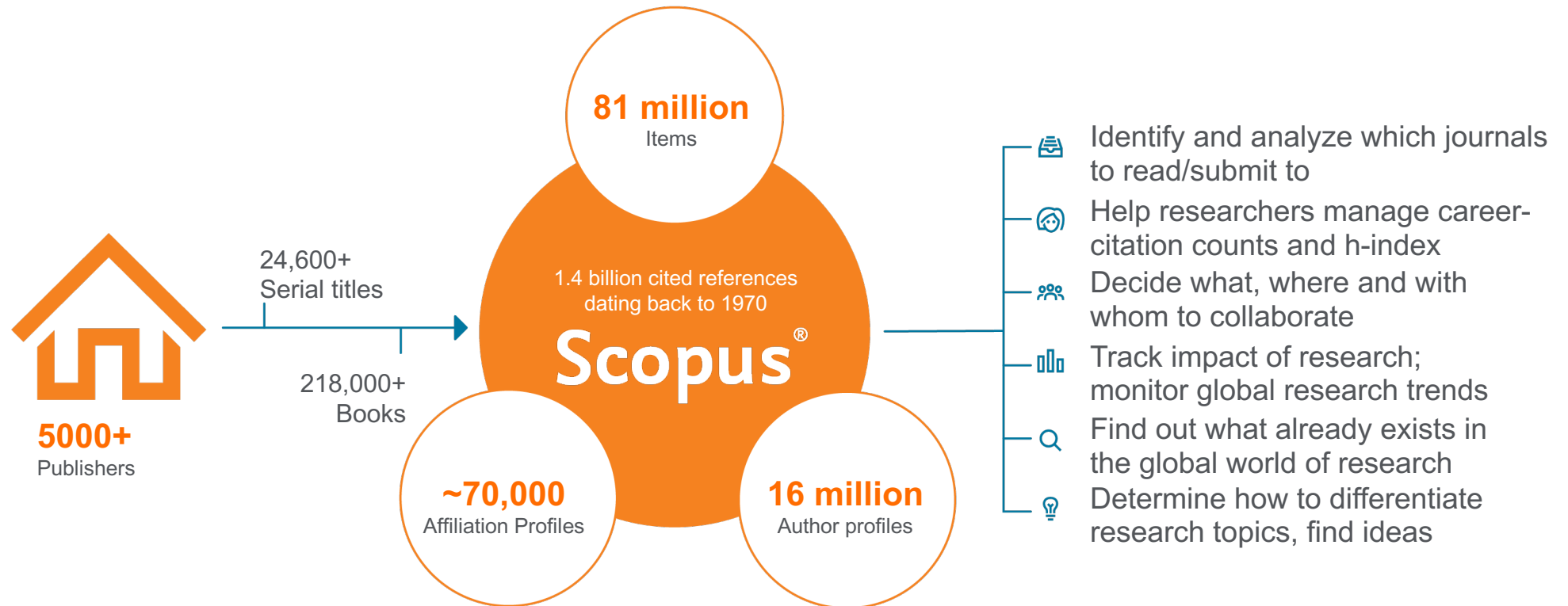
Part 2: Predatory Publishing and Scopus Content Curation

Part 3: Different Journal Impact Measures and Benefits after Scopus Indexing



"Help the world of research make high value decisions with confidence"

Scopus is a source-neutral abstract and citation database, curated by independent subject matter experts.  
and features smart tools that allow you to track, analyze and visualize scholarly research.



Scopus delivers a comprehensive view on the world of research.  
No packages, no add-ons. One all-inclusive subscription.



# Global Representation means global discovery

## *Across all subjects and content types*

**Scopus includes content from more than 5,000 publishers and 105 different countries**

- 40 different languages covered
- Updated daily
- Multiple regional content types covered (journals, conferences, books, book series)

Number of active Journals by subject area	Journals	Conferences	Books
Physical Sciences 8,439	24,610+ Active Peer-reviewed journals	101K Conference events	59.7K individual book series volumes
Health Sciences 7,129	292 Trade journals	10.16M Conference papers	1.95M Items
Social Sciences 10,464	6,324 Active Gold Open Access journals	Mainly Engineering and Computer Sciences	233.8K Stand-alone books
Life Sciences 4,890	>8,500 Journals with Articles in Press		Mainly Social Sci. and Arts & Humanities
	Full metadata, abstracts. Articles with cited references back to 1970. Records back to 1788.		



Detailed content coverage guide at

[https://www.elsevier.com/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/69451/Scopus\\_ContentCoverage\\_Guide\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.elsevier.com/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/69451/Scopus_ContentCoverage_Guide_WEB.pdf)

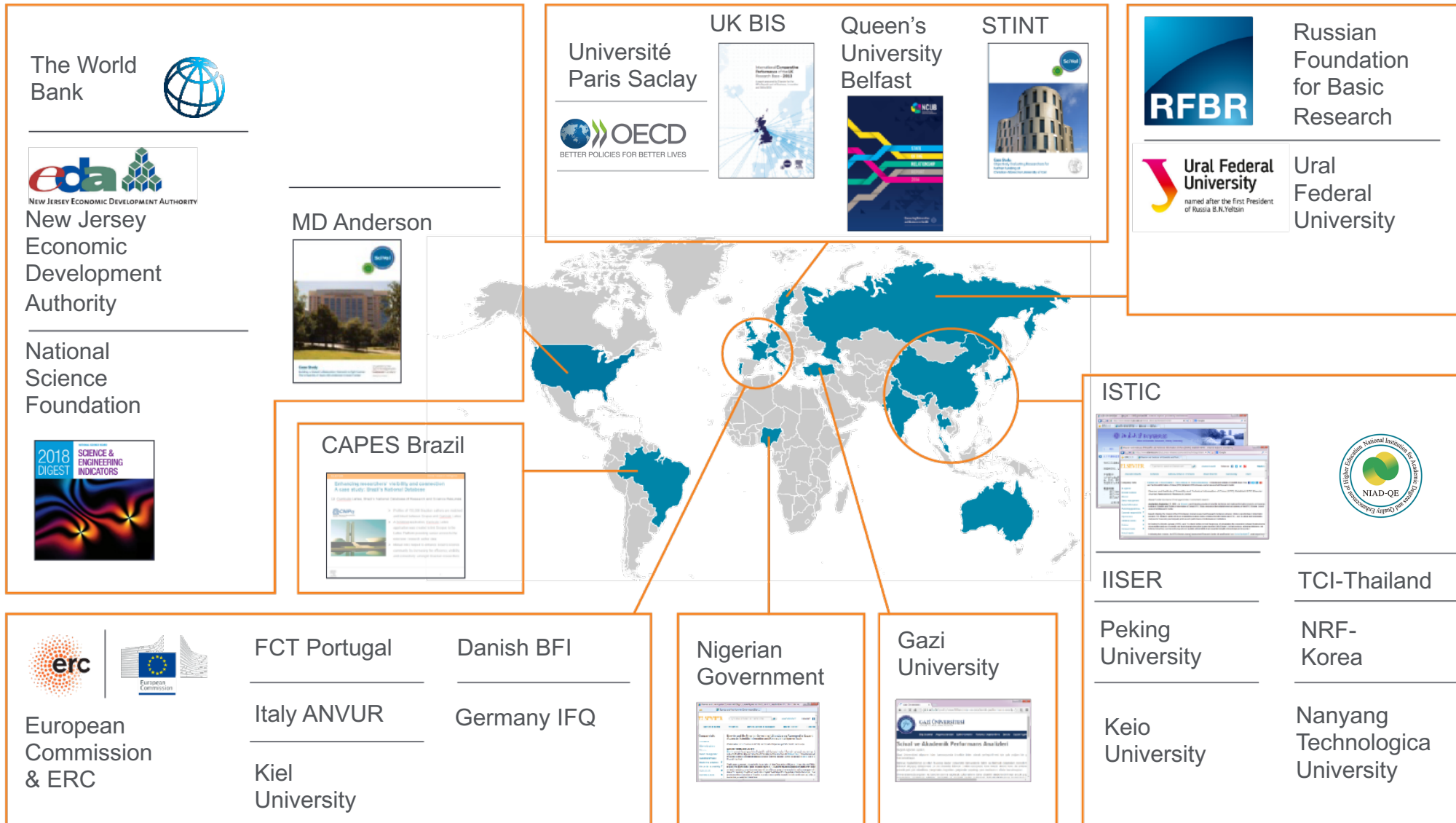
# Global Representation means global discovery

*Across all subjects and content types*



# Scopus is the Gold Standard:

*Evaluation, ranking, reporting, landscape analysis and other strategic efforts*



Rankings organizations





# **Requirements and Content selection:** How serial titles are selected for indexing





# Coverage of high-quality journals through selection by the independent Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB)



**The CSAB is an independent board of subject experts from all over the world**

- Titles are selected by the independent [Content Selection & Advisory Board \(CSAB\)](#)
- The CSAB is chosen for their expertise in specific subject areas; many have (journal) Editor experience

# Transparent Scopus selection criteria for serial content

All titles should meet all minimum criteria in order to be considered for Scopus review:

Peer-review

English abstracts

Regular publication

Roman script  
references

Publication ethics  
statement

- 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, meaning: have references in Roman script and have English language abstracts and titles
- **Have a publicly available publication ethics and publication malpractice statement**
- Has a minimum 2-year publication history



As a primary publisher and information aggregator, Elsevier understands the needs of Authors, Editors and Publishers and provides resources to support the community. Available resources to help journals with successful title review process:

<https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content/content-policy-and-selection>

[titlesuggestion@scopus.com](mailto:titlesuggestion@scopus.com)

# Publication ethics and publication malpractice statement

WEBSITE	NAME OF JOURNAL	PEER REVIEW PROCESS	OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT
			
ALLEGATIONS OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT	PUBLICATION ETHICS	PUBLISHING SCHEDULE	ACCESS
			

# Publication ethics and publication malpractice statement (Cont.)





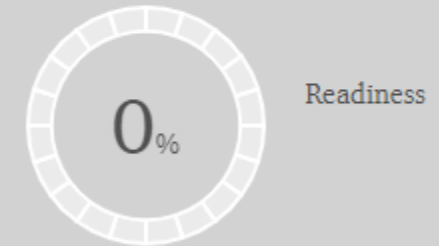
# Journal Pre-evaluation Tool



Scopus



## Pre-evaluation of Scopus submission



Thank you for your interest in being indexed in Scopus, the largest abstract and citation database. In order to receive a free pre-evaluation report on your journal, please, complete the form and answer the questions below. Please note that journal pre-evaluation is a preliminary check for technical and administrative criteria in order to boost the chances of the journal to be included in Scopus, and also to avoid a

<https://www.readyforscopus.com/>



# Transparent Scopus selection criteria for serial content

Eligible titles are reviewed by the Content Selection & Advisory Board according to a combination of **14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria**

Journal Policy	Quality of Content	Journal Standing	Regularity	Online Availability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Convincing editorial concept/policy</li><li>• Type of peer-review</li><li>• Diversity geographic distribution of editors</li><li>• Diversity geographic distribution of authors</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Academic contribution to the field</li><li>• Clarity of abstracts</li><li>• Quality and conformity with stated aims &amp; scope</li><li>• Readability of articles</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Citedness of journal articles in Scopus</li><li>• Editor standing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No delay in publication schedule</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Content available online</li><li>• English-language journal home page</li><li>• Quality of home page</li></ul>

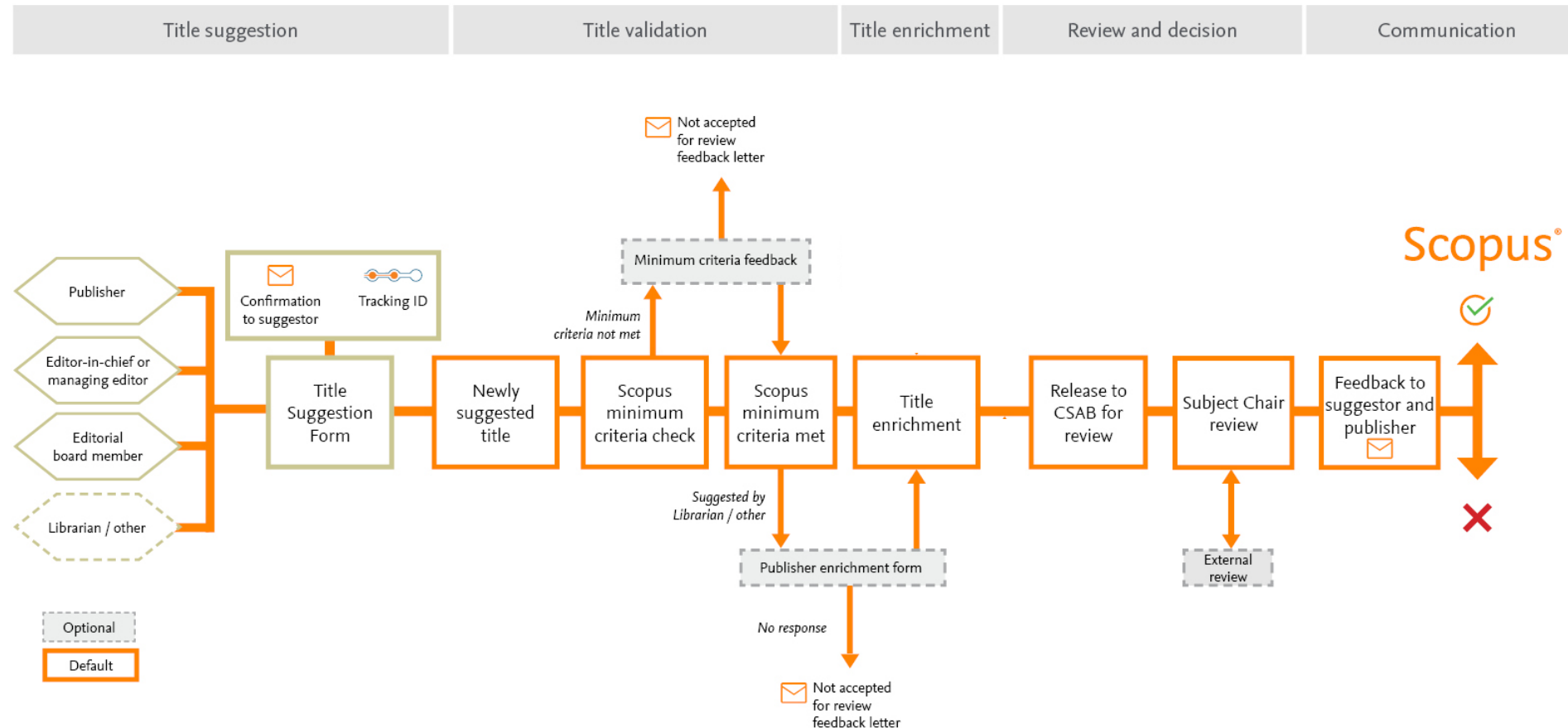


As a primary publisher and information aggregator, Elsevier understands the needs of Authors, Editors and Publishers and provides resources to support the community. Available resources to help journals with successful title review process:

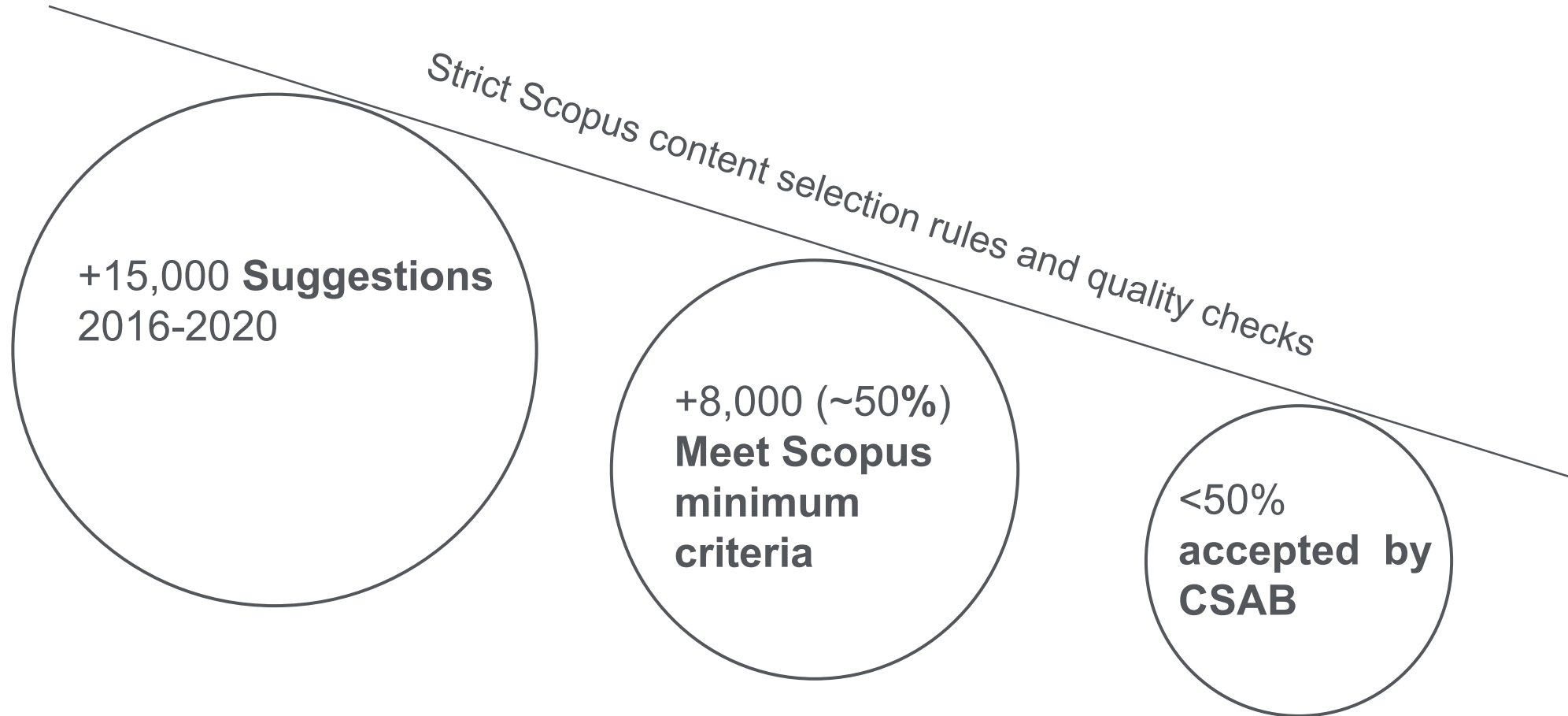
<https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content/content-policy-and-selection>

[titlesuggestion@scopus.com](mailto:titlesuggestion@scopus.com)

# Continuous, online title review process for selecting new journals for Scopus coverage

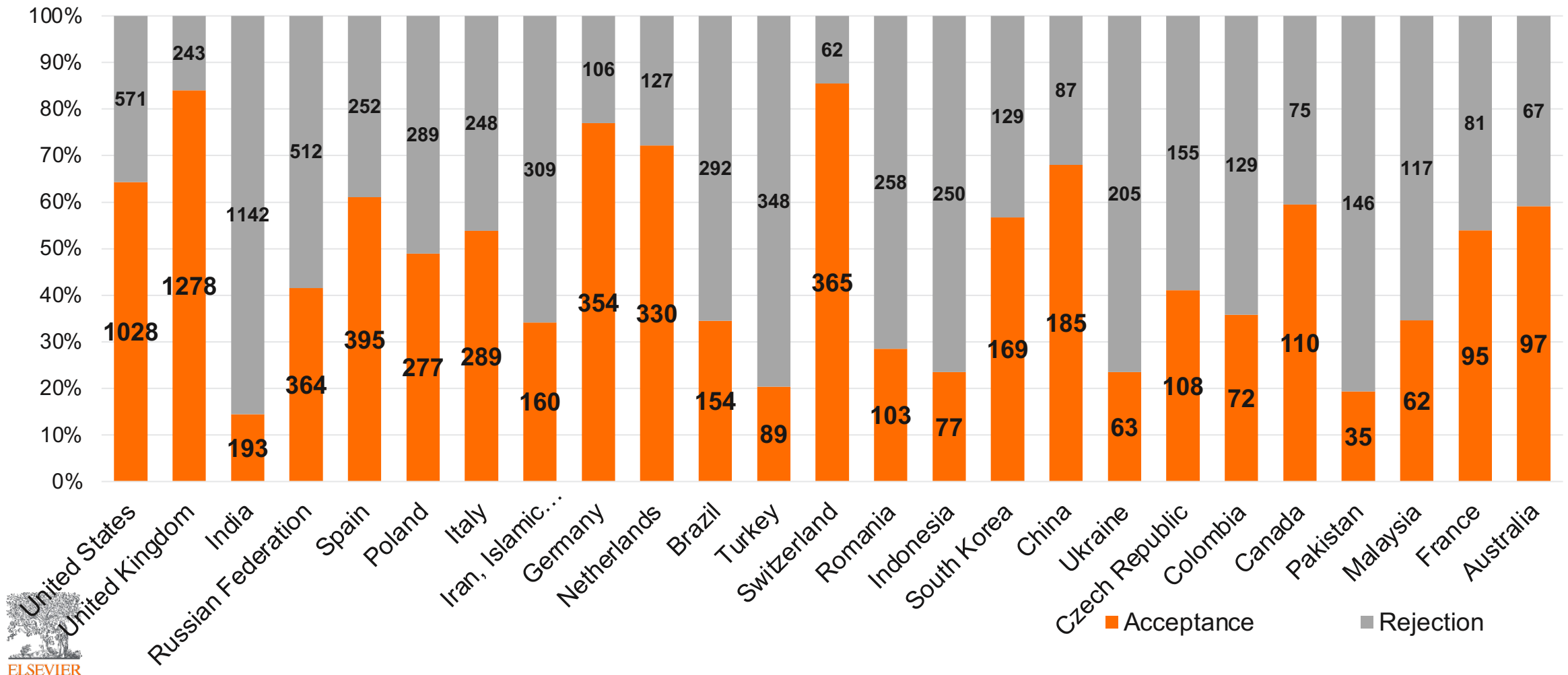


# Less than 25% are selected for Scopus coverage



# Title review results from top 25 countries with most titles reviewed

In total 15,472 titles reviewed (2011 –2020) of which 7,683 (49.7%) accepted



# How to prepare for title evaluation?

- Scopus Content Page

<https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/how-scopus-works/content/content-policy-and-selection>

- Check minimum selection criteria and update your journal website where necessary
- Review the selection criteria
  - Use <https://www.readyforscopus.com/>
  - Read the board's statement: [A General Introduction to Scopus and the Work of the Content Selection & Advisory Board](#)
  - Learn more about FAQs for the [Role of an Editor](#)
  - Read the FAQs for the [Content selection process](#)
- Then use the [Scopus Title Suggestion Form](#)



Part 1: Power of Scopus, Requirements  
and Content Selection

**Part 2: Predatory Publishing and  
Scopus Content Curation**

Part 3: Different Journal Impact  
Measures and Benefits after Scopus  
Indexing



# Low quality or predatory publishing & Scopus

**Poor quality journals** have lower than average performance but could still be relevant to cover in Scopus, e.g.:

- Niche journals - research published in these journals could still be of high quality and these journals do not necessarily need to be removed from Scopus.

**Predatory journals** are a threat to science and should be avoided to be covered in Scopus.

- Usually, journals that are included in Scopus benefit from wider global visibility and resulting increase of impact and quality. However, sometimes this does not happen, and the journal may become predatory.
- When making decisions about research, it is essential that these decisions are based on data that you can trust. Therefore, predatory journals are a threat to the integrity of Scopus and science in general.
- Because predatory publishing is ill-defined and subject to personal interpretation, independent review of individual journals by academic subject experts in each field is essential.



# What Scopus does to address the issue

- **Scopus, together with the CSAB**, take its responsibility of curating content on an **on-going** basis and continue to develop new approaches as a defence against low quality and predatory journals.
- Determining and validating concerns is time-consuming and additional information or evidence that shows the questionable integrity and quality of potential predatory journals is needed for validation. Specific concerns and evidence is also needed if the journal is flagged for re-evaluation for the **CSAB** to look at for them to take a well-funded decision.
- We have been addressing the issue **for some years** now and have developed a process of continuous monitoring in combination with re-evaluation by the independent CSAB.
- The decision to potentially **exclude** a journal from Scopus should not be taken **lightly** and is **complex**, given the ongoing risk of **discontinuing legitimate sources**. We need to be absolutely sure if we determine a title predatory and 'probably' is not good enough.
- Specific **evidence** of publication malpractice is needed to speed up the process and have the CSAB assess actual misconduct.

# How to identify potential poor quality or predatory journals

All +25k journals in Scopus are monitored, titles can be flagged for in-depth reevaluation in different ways:

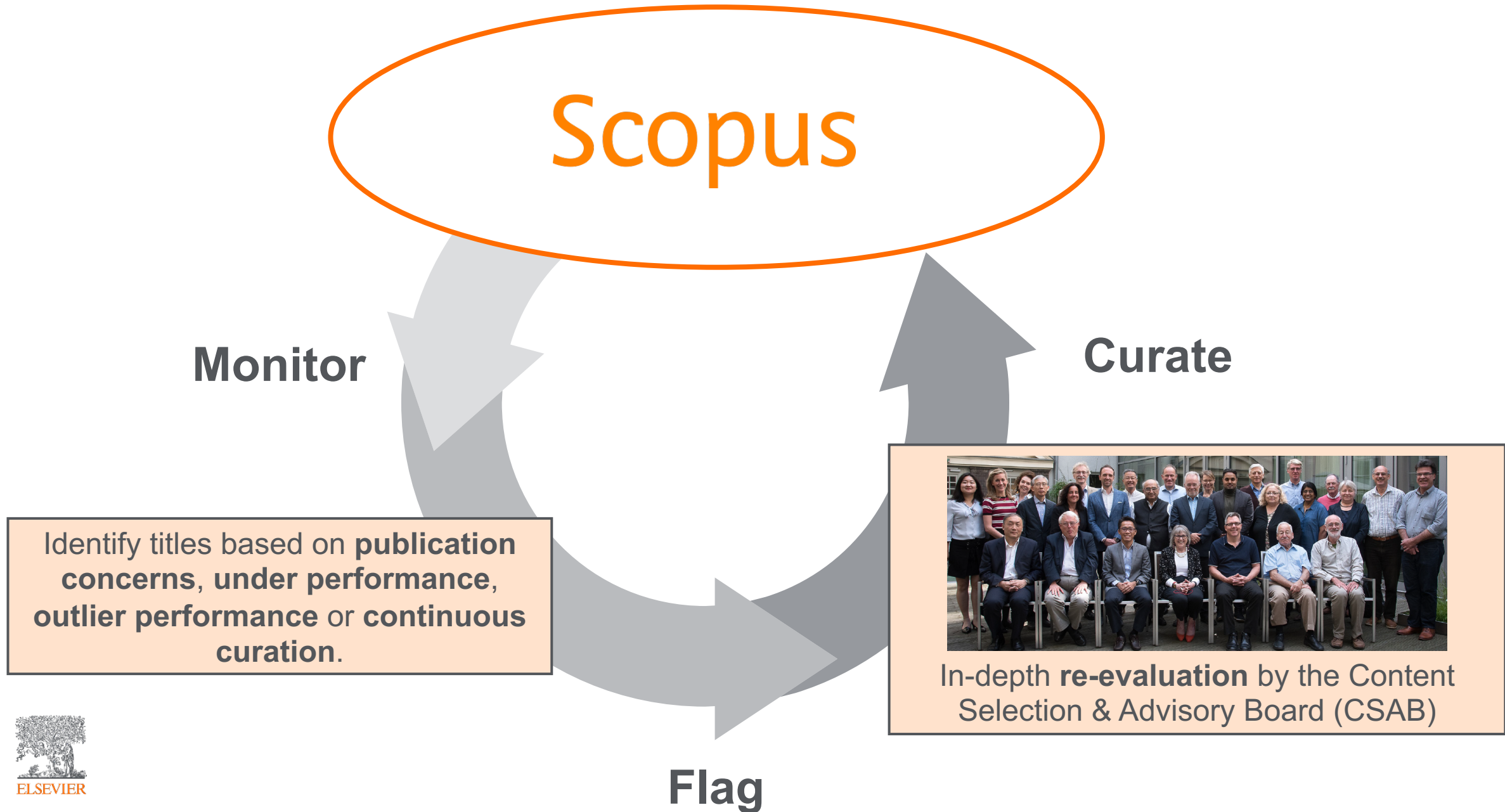
Based on our own observation or direct feedback from users and stakeholder's **publication concerns** about the publishing standards or publication ethics of the journal or publisher are investigated. If the concerns are warranted, these journals are flagged for reevaluation (continuous process).

Metrics and benchmarks for publication output, citation impact, self-citations and usage of documents on Scopus.com, are used to identify journals that are **underperforming** compared to peer journals in their field. These underperforming journals are flagged for reevaluation (once per year).

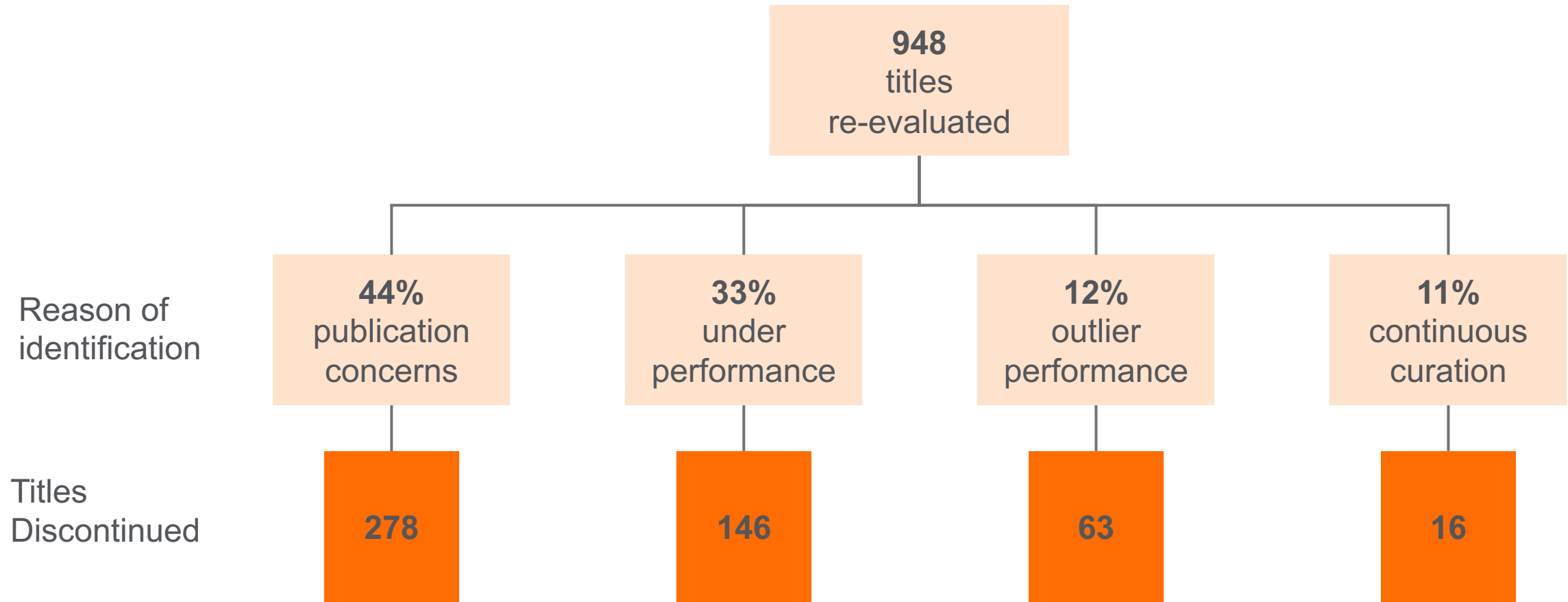
A machine learning tool analyzes the performance of journals according to aspects like output growth, changes in author affiliation, citation behavior, etc. to track **outlier performance** (=‘RADAR’) Journals that show outlier performance are flagged for reevaluation (increased to every 3 months by end 2020).

During their review, the CSAB can indicate whether any accepted title should be evaluated again in the future. This data is collected and further analyzed to ensure **continuous curation**. The most relevant titles are flagged for reevaluation (pilot in 2020).

# The Scopus Content Curation process



# Discontinued titles broken down by reason of identification (2016-2020)



**503 titles discontinued since 2016**

# What happens with journals for which the decision is made to discontinue?

- The publisher is informed of the decision by the Scopus team.
- No new content is added to Scopus.
- Content already indexed remains as a matter of scientific record and to ensure stability and consistency of research trend analytics.
- In exceptional cases of proven severe unethical publication practice, content already indexed in Scopus may be removed.

An overview of all discontinued journals, including the last content indexed in Scopus, is available in the **Scopus Title list** on <https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/how-scopus-works/content>

Download the Source title list  (XLSX, 15.2 MB)

Download the Book title list  (XLSX, 16.4 MB)

For more details on Scopus content curation and re-evaluation, see:

Position statement by Scopus and the CSAB on the importance of high quality content

Source: <https://www.elsevier.com/research-intelligence/resource-library/scopus-high-quality-content>

Home > Research Intelligence > Resource library > Scopus: High quality ...

### The importance of high-quality content: curation and reevaluation in Scopus

Download a comprehensive look into the importance of using trusted information. This article explores how the Scopus curation and re-evaluation processes help exclude poor-quality and predatory publications from Scopus.


The article also includes links to several resources, including Scopus title selection criteria and the discontinued sources list.


Highlights:

- Poor quality vs predatory journals
- Red flags re journal quality
- Response to community concerns
- Scopus Content Selection & Advisory Board

Written by:

- Karen Holland, CSAB Chair—Nursing; Health Professions
- Prof. Peter Brimblecombe, CSAB Chair—Environmental Science
- Dr. Wim Meester, Director of Product Management, Scopus Content
- Susanne Steiginga, Senior Product Manager, Scopus Content



[Download now](#) 

Subjects, Products & Services: Scopus

Publication date: Jun 2019

Webinar by Scopus and the CSAB on the importance of high quality content

Source: <https://blog.scopus.com/webinars>

## Scopus Curation and Re-evaluation = High-Quality Content




Scopus Curation and Re-evaluation = High-Quality Content

**Presenters:**

<b>Prof. Peter Brimblecombe</b> City University of Hong Kong CSAB Subject Chair, Environmental Sciences	<b>Dr. Wim Meester</b> Director of Product Management, Scopus
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11 September 2019



Wim Meester, Director of Product Management, Scopus Content; Peter Brimblecombe, CSAB Chair—Environmental Science

**Sep 11 2019** | 56 mins

[Play](#)

Join our webinar on Wednesday 11th September at 3pm CET , to learn how rigorous indexing processes enable you to access the high-quality content you need in Scopus. With its independent expert title selection, re-evaluation, and publication discontinuation practices, Scopus has created a state-of-the-art defense against predatory... **more**



Part 1: Power of Scopus, Requirements  
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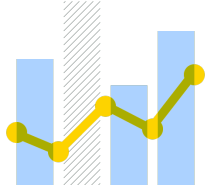
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# Journal metrics in Scopus



**CiteScore™ metrics** are the new standard that help to measure journal citation impact.

- Comprehensive, clear, current and free metrics for helping to analyze where research outputs are published.
- Calculated using data from Scopus, CiteScore metrics help validate citations received by journals and proceedings, and empower users with information to make well-informed decisions regarding where to publish.

## **SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)**

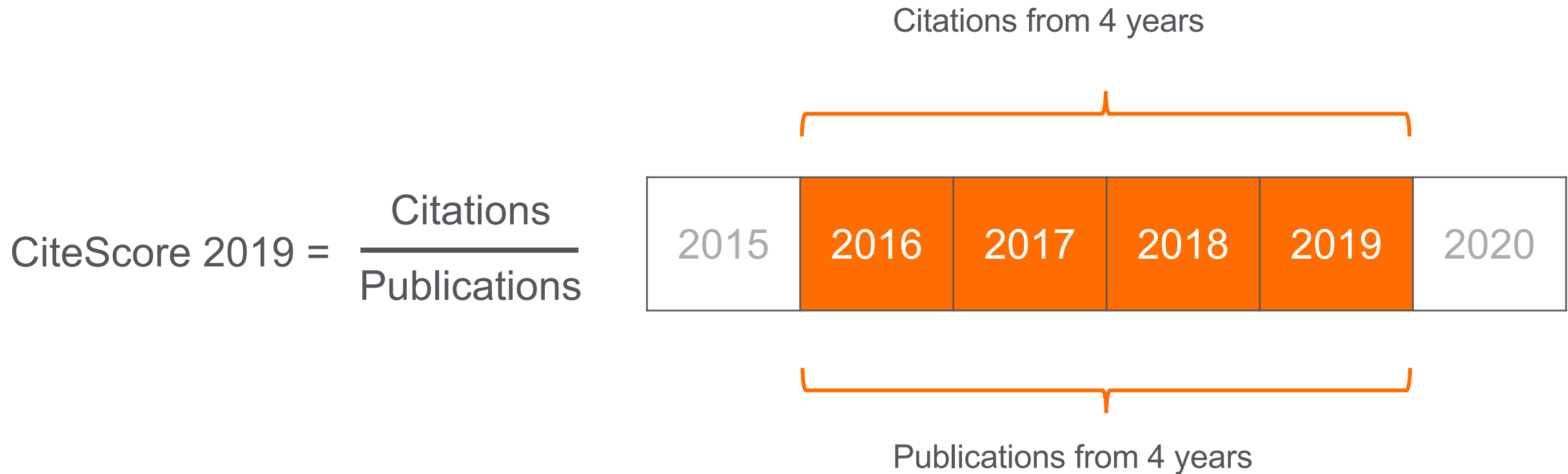
- Developed by **SCImago, Spain**.
- **A prestige metric** that can be applied to journals, book series and conference proceedings.
- With SJR, the subject field, quality and reputation of the journal have a direct effect on the value of a citation.

## **Source-Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP)**

- Developed by **CWTS, University of Leiden Netherlands**.
- Measures contextual citation impact by **weighting citations based on the total number of citations in a subject field**.
- The impact of a single citation is given higher value in subject areas where citations are less likely, and vice versa.



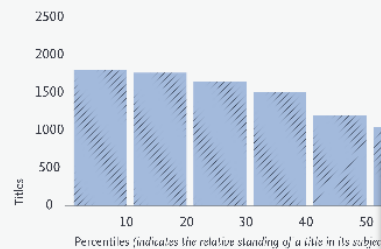
# Enhanced CiteScore methodology



Numerator = Citations in 2016-19 to peer-reviewed publications in the source published in 2016-19  
Denominator = peer-reviewed publications in the source published in 2016-19

# CiteScore provides greater clarity, currency & comprehensiveness

+13,000 titles with  
CiteScore 2019 and no Journal Impact Factor



**330+**  
of these titles are  
very highly ranked  
in their subject areas

Top 10%

## Top newcomers

Newly added  
Scopus titles  
that are in the  
99th percentile

Title	Subject Area	CiteScore 2019
NursingPlus Open	• General Nursing	28.3
Nature Electronics	• Instrumentation	16.4
Big data and society	• Communication	10.2

27 titles  
with 100%  
cited documents



CiteScore 2019 is the first annual CiteScore metric  
for these titles and they are already in the top 1% for  
their subject areas.

2,432 top 10% titles



## Highest metric scores

Highest citation count

$$\frac{596,638 \text{ citations (CiteScore 2019)}}{82,387 \text{ documents (CiteScore 2019)}} = 7.2$$

93rd percentile



CiteScore  
435.4  
99th percentile

Highest CiteScore,  
SNIP & SJR

113.744  
SNIP

88.192  
SJR



25,300+ active titles  
and growing

**9,823**  
titles

CiteScore increased  
or stayed the same  
from 2018-2019

**444**  
titles

CiteScore more  
than doubled  
between 2018-2019



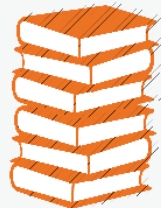
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330 disciplines

Linguistics and Language  
Computer Science Applications  
Geography, Planning and Development  
Sociology and Political Science  
Electrical and Electronic Engineering  
Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics  
Literature and Literary Theory  
Mechanical Engineering  
Economics and Econometrics  
Computer Science Applications  
Cultural Studies  
Education

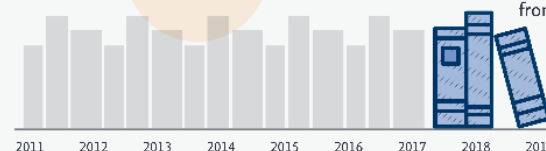
Largest  
Subject Area  
1,259  
titles

History

9 years of metrics

32 open access  
titles ranked #1 in  
their subject area

**#1**



Top movers

**1,528** titles

increased their  
CiteScore Percentile  
by **50%** or more  
from 2018-2019



330 disciplines

Linguistics and Language  
Computer Science Applications  
Geography, Planning and Development  
Sociology and Political Science  
Electrical and Electronic Engineering  
Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics  
Literature and Literary Theory  
Mechanical Engineering  
Economics and Econometrics  
Computer Science Applications  
Cultural Studies  
Education

Largest  
Subject Area  
1,259  
titles

History

# CiteScore is a family of related metrics

## Source details

**Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences**  
Formerly known as: *Specialist*  
*Open Access* ⓘ  
Scopus coverage years: from 2000 to Present  
Publisher: Professional Medical Publications  
ISSN: 1682-024X E-ISSN: 1681-715X  
Subject area: Medicine: General Medicine

[View all documents >](#) [Set document alert](#) [Save to source list](#) [Entitled Full Text \(將在新視窗打開\)](#) [Copac](#) [EZB Ektr.](#)  
[Zeitschriften bib](#) [More >](#)

**CiteScore 2019** ⓘ  
**1.4**

**SJR 2019** ⓘ  
**0.327**

**SNIP 2019** ⓘ  
**0.665**

**CiteScore** **CiteScore rank & trend** **Scopus content coverage**

**CiteScore 2019** ▼

**1.4** =  $\frac{1,601 \text{ Citations 2016 - 2019}}{1,183 \text{ Documents 2016 - 2019}}$   
Calculated on 06 May, 2020

**CiteScoreTracker 2020** ⓘ

**1.4** =  $\frac{1,709 \text{ Citations to date}}{1,252 \text{ Documents to date}}$   
Last updated on 10 January, 2021 • Updated monthly

**CiteScore rank 2019** ⓘ

Category	Rank	Percentile
Medicine		
General Medicine	#170/529	67th

[View CiteScore methodology >](#) [CiteScore FAQ >](#) [Add CiteScore to your site &](#)

# Two golden rules to use metrics responsibly

When used correctly, research metrics together with qualitative input give a balanced, multi-dimensional view for decision-making

Always use both qualitative and quantitative input into your decisions

Always use more than one research metric as the quantitative input

## In Summary:

- **Scopus' mission:** “Help the world of research make high value decisions with confidence“
- **Scopus is the Gold Standard** for Evaluation, Ranking, reporting, landscape analysis and other strategic efforts
- **Strict requirements and highly selective:** English abstracts, peer-review, Registered ISSN, Roman references and a valid Online Publication ethics and Malpractice Statement are required. Less than 25% of all serials submitted are accepted for Scopus indexing.

## In Summary:

- **Scopus' Content Curation** program: defense mechanism against low performing and predatory journals
  
- **Benefits of being indexed:**
  - Increase the visibility of your publication(s)
  - Give you access to a global audience of researchers and experts for peer review programs
  - Track the performance of your publication(s)
  - Monitor competitive publications

[titlesuggestion@scopus.com](mailto:titlesuggestion@scopus.com)

**Thank you!**

**Scopus content info site:** <https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/how-scopus-works/content>

**Scopus blog:** <http://blog.scopus.com>

**Webinar series:** <http://blog.scopus.com/webinars>

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/scopus](http://www.twitter.com/scopus)

