Content Coverage Guide

SciVerse

Scopus

Scopus
Open to accelerate science

Complete external version

Version History

Version	Date	Name
V12	May 2012	Wim Meester Frank Seipp
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Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Scopus – an overview

Scopus, launched in November 2004, is the largest abstract and citation database containing both peer-reviewed research literature and quality web sources. With nearly 20,500 titles from more than 5,000 international publishers, Scopus offers researchers a quick, easy and comprehensive resource to support their research needs in the scientific, technical, medical and social sciences fields and, more recently, also in the arts and humanities.

Scopus at a glance, updated November 2012

20,500 active titles (see section 4.1):

- 19,400 peer-reviewed journals (including 1,900 Open Access journals).
- 400 trade publications.
- 360 book series.
- 5.3 million conference papers from proceedings and journals.
- "Articles-in-Press" from over 3,850 journals (see section 7).

49 million records (see section 3.1):

- 28 million records with references back to 1996 (of which 78% include references).
- 21 million records pre-1996 which go back as far as 1823.

Patents and Web pages

- 376 million scientific indexed web pages (see section 2.3).
- 24.8 million patent records from five patent offices (see section 2.3).

Scopus Content Growth

Legend:
- Total number of pre-1996 items
- Total number of post-1995 items
- Total
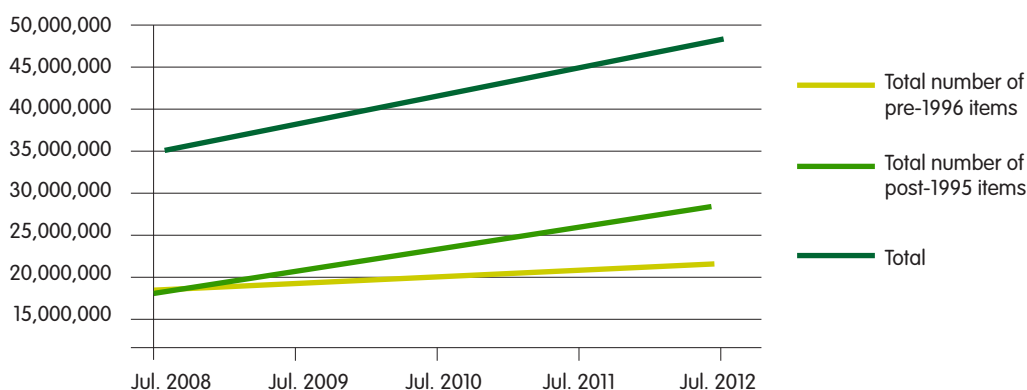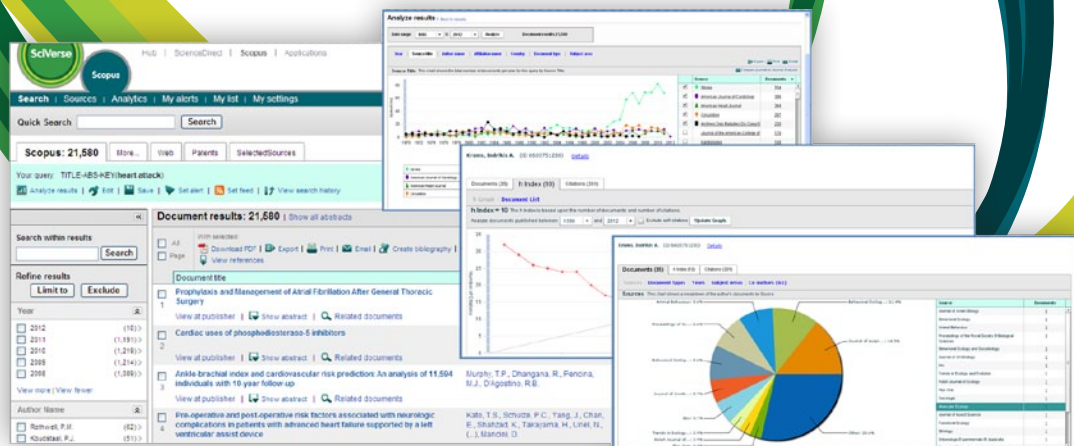
Features and functionality designed to support and improve researchers' workflow, including:

- A simple and intuitive interface.
- Refine Results extends the intuitive user centered design with simple include and exclude selection
- Analyze Results with one button click connection to visualizing your search metrics
- Linking to full-text articles and other library resources.
- Author Identifier to automatically match an author's published research including the *h*-index.
- Citation Tracker to simply find, check and track citations in real-time.
- Affiliation Identifier to automatically identify and match an organization with all its research output.
- Journal Analyzer provides a quick insight into journal performance.
- Alerts, RSS and HTML feeds to stay up-to-date.
- Document Download Manager to easily download and organize multiple full-text articles simultaneously.
- Interoperability with ScienceDirect, Hub, Reaxys, and Engineering Village.
- Data export via bibiliographic managers such as RefWorks, EndNote and BibTeX.

1.2 Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB)

With a view to maintaining an open and transparent content coverage policy, the Scopus Content Selection Advisory Board (CSAB) was established in 2005. The board consists of scientists and subject librarians from all scientific disciplines and geographical areas. To see a list of CSAB members: www.info.sciverse.com/scopus/csab.

The board's primary function is to support Scopus management in prioritizing content additions, setting strategy and evaluating functionality.

With regard to *content,* the CSAB:

- Sets the Scopus Title Coverage Policy which is used to evaluate requests for new title additions to Scopus. This policy is reviewed on a regular basis. More information about this policy is available in section 4.2.
- Approves and prioritizes requests for non-journal content and/or non-STM content.
- Sets priorities for content backfill activities.
- Supports Subject Chairs (see section 4.2) with the evaluation of newly suggested titles.

With regard to *strategy,* the CSAB:

- Recommends long-term courses of action to keep Scopus focused on real needs within the research community.
- Keeps the Scopus team abreast of trends and developments in the research community, such as new standards, protocols or software with which to integrate.

With regard to *functionality,* the CSAB:

- Prioritizes new development requests.
- Recommends enhancements to the interface or navigation.

1.3 Purpose and scope of this Content Coverage Guide (CCG)

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.

2. Coverage of Source Types

2.1 Serial Source Types

Scopus only indexes serial publications (journals, trade journals, book series and conference materials) that have ISSN (International Standard Serial Numbers) assigned to them. The only exception concerns conference papers, which can be captured via different routes than by being published in a serial publication with an ISSN (see below section "Conference Material").

1% 1% 1%

36%

60%

■ Book Series
■ Conference Proceedings
■ Trade Journal
■ Journal Active
■ Journal Inactive
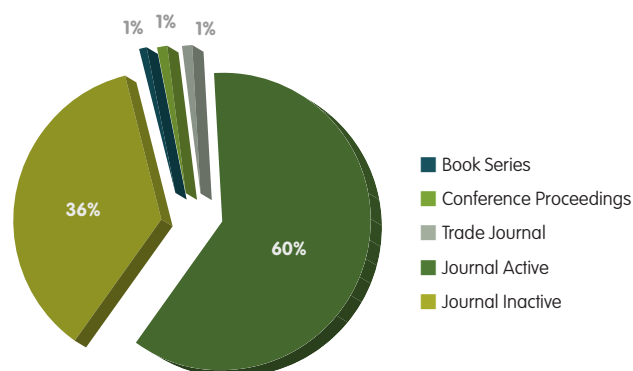
Journals

- Journals constitute the bulk of the content in Scopus and are selected according to our content coverage policy (for more information see section 4.2.1). Any serial publication with an ISSN, with the exception of trade journals, book series, certain proceedings, newsletters, secondary sources or patent publications. Usually a scholarly / academic serial publication in any field. A journal can have various physical formats (e.g. print, electronic).

Trade journals

- A serial publication covering and intended to reach a specific industry, trade or type of business. Usually a glossy magazine type of periodical with articles on topical subjects, many news items and advertisements that will appeal to those in the field. Trade journals are seldom refereed and do not always have an editorial board. Abstracts are usually short or non-existent, 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. A special document type policy for trade journals was introduced in 2008 which ensures that only articles or reviews of scientific relevance are included in Scopus. The minimum requirements for items in trade journals to be captured are: (1) minimum of 1 page, (2) minimum of one mentioned author. (For more information about the regular document type policy see section 3.1)

Book series

- A serial publication with a series title, an ISSN, and for which every volume and/or issue in the series is also a book and has an ISBN.

- Usually, but not always, each book has a book title separate from the series title and (a) different editor(s). Each book is most often a monographic publication. The series is usually published irregularly.

There are a total of 830 thousand book records originating from the covered book series in Scopus. Besides book series, beginning 2013, Scopus book coverage will be expanded to include monographs, edited volumes, major reference works and graduate level textbooks. This increased breadth and depth of coverage aimed at meeting the needs of book-oriented disciplines in the social sciences and humanities.

Conference material

Conference material enters Scopus in two different ways: as special issues of regular journals; or in the form of dedicated conference proceedings.

Proceedings can be published as a serial or non-serial, 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)' (or their synonyms in other languages like 'Tagungsberichte' etc.), although some journals also have titles with the word 'proceedings'.

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

Over 10% of the Scopus database is comprised of conference papers (5.3 million) of which 1.6 million are published in journals, book series and other sources. The remaining 3.7 million are published in conference proceedings. It is not possible to know the number of actual meetings covered in Scopus, only the number of conference papers.

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.

The figures in the right-hand column of the table below (Conf. Papers) highlight the significance of conference papers for some disciplines like computing and information sciences (62.3%) and engineering (45.1%). This analysis serves to underpin Scopus' highly targeted approach to conference coverage.

DEST Publication Categories

Field	Books	Chapters	Articles	Conference Papers
Chemical Sciences	0.2	2.1	95.7	1.9
Biological Sciences	0.3	6.3	90.7	2.7
Medical & Health Sciences	0.3	6.3	90.5	2.9
Physical Sciences	0.1	2.65	90.0	7.3
Mathematical Sciences	0.7	4.3	83.8	11.2
Earth Sciences	0.9	7.7	82.2	9.2
Agriculture, Vet, Environ	0.4	5.9	79.0	14.7
Psychology	1.5	17.4	76.2	4.9
Law	4.1	22.1	71.9	1.69
Philosophy	6	23.8	64.8	5.4
Economics	2.9	24.5	64.5	8
Human Society	3.5	27.8	63	5.6
Journalism, Library	3.4	15.2	57.2	24.2
Education	2.5	19.3	54.5	23.6
The Arts	4.4	20.8	54.5	20.3
Management	1.3	11.7	52.9	34
Engineering	0.4	2.5	52	45.1
Language	6.5	34	51.8	7.6
History	11.6	34	50.6	3.8
Politics and Policy	5.8	37.3	46.1	10.8
Architecture	3	17.8	35.6	43.6
Computing, Information Sci	0.4	4.6	32.8	62.3

Australian research output by field and publication category (Australian National University, Linda Butler, 2007)

Intricacies of capturing conference papers

Due to the nature of conference papers and the different means by which they can be published, it is difficult to ensure that all relevant conference material has been included in Scopus. Several factors account for this:

- Whereas a journal is a "continuous institution" for publishing selected content in a defined area of science on a regular basis; conference material is related primarily to a particular one-off event.

- Where the event is re-occurring, e.g. the "Annual Meeting of the Society XYZ", the content is often published in single volumes that do not have an ISSN or a stable name from year to year, i.e. volumes may be published annually with different titles ("11th Annual Meeting…", "12th Annual Meeting…" etc.) and without an ISSN it is impossible to identify the content of these source titles as belonging to one serial publication.

- The content from important meetings is often published as a special volume of a regular journal. For example, "Society XYZ" hosts their annual meeting and they include the papers which were presented at the conference as part of their society journal which might then be published with a commercial publisher, e.g. Elsevier.

- Finally, there are many singular meetings that Scopus covers as part of our agreement with 70 major societies in engineering and computer science, but since they are not "serial content" they do not show up in our title list, even though they belong to the conference coverage category.

- It is important to realize that the Scopus title list, which lists only serial publications, does not really reflect the richness of conference coverage in Scopus.

List of "Further Conference Proceedings"

In the Scopus title list (see section 4.1) there are 17 thousand conferences listed in the "Conf. Proceedings post 1995" and "Conf. Proceedings past 1996" tabs. These are conference proceedings from which the meeting name was captured as part of the record data but are not published as part of a serial publication with ISSN.

Conference content where even the name of the meeting is not captured will still be included in Scopus but will not appear in either the regular title list or the list of "further conference proceedings". It is for this reason that we choose to communicate the number of "conference papers" included in Scopus (which is not limited to either list) in order to provide a more accurate reflection of the richness of conference material available in Scopus.

Meeting abstracts not covered in Scopus

Confusion around the conference coverage in databases can arise from not making a distinction between the document types "conference papers" and "meeting abstracts". Whereas "conference papers" contain the final full-text version of a research paper (i.e. comparable to journal articles), "meeting abstracts" are short summaries of an ongoing research project, as it is often required to be submitted prior to the meeting. Often "meeting abstracts" are published in advance of a conference, while "conference papers" are made available after the conference as part of a proceedings volume.

Scopus endeavors to only cover primary research literature (see section 3.1) and therefore "meeting abstracts" are not indexed in Scopus for three reasons:

1. Submission is due months before a conference and often before the actual research is finished. Once the research is published in a peer-reviewed journal, the relevant information and results are contained within the full-text article and not the abstract.

2. In some fields, the same abstract is submitted to several conferences which could lead to duplicates of the same abstract within an A&I database.

3. Researchers would usually not include meeting abstracts in their publication list and these would have to then be manually removed from their list of publications in Scopus.

How to find conference papers in Scopus:

1. Go to Advanced Search and type in DOCTYPE(CP) where CP stands for conference paper.
2. To see whether the conference paper was originally published in a journal, book series or as part of a conference proceeding, you can add the "source type" category to your refined results overview and view a breakdown of your results.

2.2 Non-serial sources

A non-serial source is a publication with an ISBN unless it is a report, part of a book series, proceeding (non-serial), or patent. Usually it is a monograph or composed work. A book can have different physical formats (e.g. print, electronic).

Although there are many challenges, including citation counts, Scopus will be significantly expanding its books content beginning 2013. Primarily emphasizing the social sciences and the humanities this expansion of books will increase the breadth of coverage within Scopus.

2.3 Other sources

Secondary documents

There are 90 million non-core records in Scopus which are cited by Scopus core records, but not indexed in Scopus. The most highly cited items in this category are often books and older journal articles. Elsevier's scientific web search engine, Scirus, is fully integrated with Scopus and all 376 million web results provided via Scirus are de-duplicated. While fully integrated, the content available to search at www.scirus.com is different than the content provided via the customized feed for Scopus.

Web link

In Scopus, Hub searches for relevant search results on the web, excluding journal content which is already covered by Scopus. Examples of web sources which are searched via Hub include: author homepages, university sites and resources such as the pre-print servers (e.g. CogPrints, ArXiv.org).

Web results are available via both the "Web" or "Selected Sources" results links.
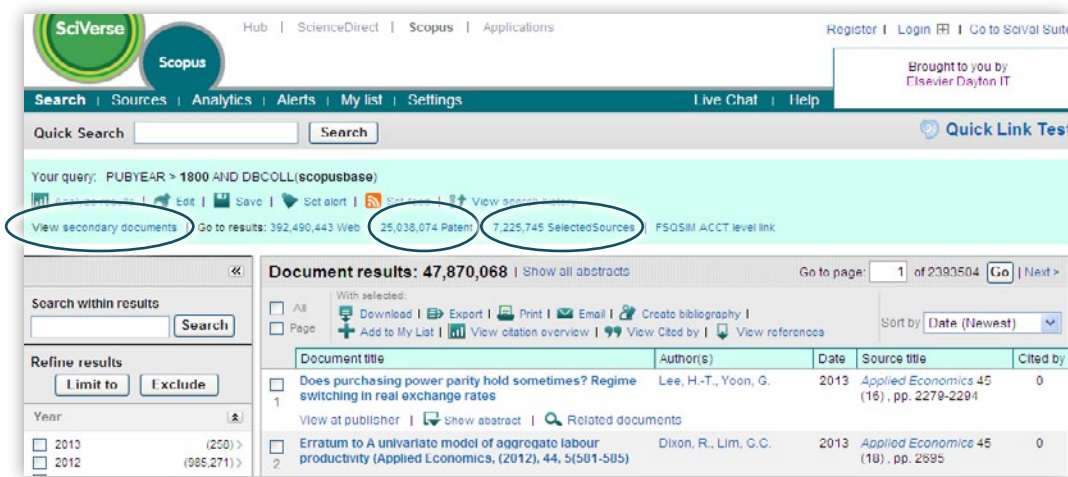
Patents link

Patent results are provided via Hub. There are 24.8 million patent records available in Scopus via a link to Hub, derived from five patent offices:

1. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
2. European Patent Office
3. US Patent Office
4. Japanese Patent Office
5. UK Intellectual Property Office

Secondary documents link

Selected Sources is a fully customizable feature that enables users to search within selected repositories or subject specific digital archives within the Scopus interface, as decided by the customer. Customers may choose from a list of institutional resources and special subject collections indexed by Hub. These are then made individually searchable and results are presented via a separate tab.

Librarians can also request that their own institute's repository and digital archive be indexed and made searchable through the Scopus interface. This feature enhances traditional literature searching by providing easy access to non-published intellectual output such as theses, lecture notes, presentations, manuscripts and pre-press papers. Additionally, it provides exposure to the research carried out at institutes that offer their repositories online and it bridges the gap between traditional and new search environments.

Hub indexes both the metadata and full text of the documents in the repositories which maximizes disclosure of the documents in a way that search technologies which are not designed for scientific documentation simply cannot do. An overview of all selected sources indexed by Hub is available on the Selected Sources list.

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 with the person behind the presented research, e.g. obituaries and book reviews (see section 2.2).

Scopus currently has 49 million core records:

- 28 million records back to 1996
  (of which 78% include references).
- 21 million records pre-1996 which go back as far as 1823
  (abstracts included where available, but no references).
- Approximately 2 million new records are added each year
  (5,500/day).

Total number of pre-1996 items

Total number of post-1995 items
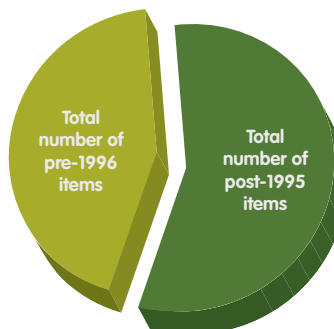
A complete list of document types included in Scopus is presented below. The Scopus editorial team is responsible for the classification of records. This document type policy is not valid for trade journals(see section 2.1).

Document type covered in Scopus

Document type	Definition
Article	Original research or opinion, also includes conference papers.
	Characteristics: in peer-reviewed journals, articles 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 little as one page in length. Articles in trade journals are typically shorter than in peer-reviewed journals, and may also be as short as one page in length.
Article-in-Press	Accepted article is made available online before official publication (see section 7).
Conference paper	Original article reporting data presented at a conference or symposium.
	Characteristics: Conference papers are items of any length reporting data from a conference, with the exception of Conference abstracts. Conference papers may therefore range in length and content from full papers to published conference summaries and short items as little as one page in length. Also see section 2.1
Editorial	Item summarizing several articles or providing editorial opinions or news.
	Characteristics: Editorial items are typically identified as editorial, introduction, leading article, preface or foreword, and are usually listed at the beginning of the table of contents.
Erratum	Item reporting an error, correction or retraction of a previously published paper.
	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.
Letter	Letter to or correspondence with the editor.
	Characteristics: Letter items 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 which follow an article are defined as notes and considered to be items in their own right. Notes also include questions & answers, and comments on other (often translated) articles. In trade journals, notes are generally shorter than half a page in length.
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 characteristic sections of original articles, i.e. materials & methods and results.
Short survey	Short or mini-review of original research.
	Characteristics: Short surveys are similar to reviews but typically are shorter (not more than a few pages) and with a less extensive bibliography.

Document types not covered in Scopus

Document type	Reason
Book reviews	The Scopus policy to not include books extends to book reviews because they do not represent primary literature and are often regarded as full-text by the publishers in whose journals they appear. 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 and may cause further confusion amongst users. Finally, book reviews are hardly cited in research literature: for example, the average citation per item of "Journal of Academic Librarianship" drops by 50% (2.13 to 1.12) if book reviews are included.
Conference meeting abstracts	See section 2.1

3.2 Abstracts

In order to provide users with as much information as possible about the research presented in Scopus, 33 million records in Scopus contain an abstract. Where available from the publisher, some records go back as far as 1823. The increased availability of abstracts in Scopus helps to ensure that users find all relevant results for their search, across title, abstract and keywords.

3.3 Keywords and index terms

Scopus manually adds index terms for 80% of the titles included in Scopus. These index terms are derived from thesauri that Elsevier owns or licenses and are added in order to improve search recall. A team of professional indexers assigns index terms to records according to the following controlled vocabularies:

- Ei thesaurus (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 the retrieval of irrelevant results.

For Emtree, the index terms with a direct relation are the 'Major Focus' and the mentioned index terms; for MeSH, the "Major Topics" and "Minor Topics" index terms. For the Ei thesaurus, 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). For the same reason, for example, Ei "treatment" terms are not included in Scopus.

CAS numbers are assigned by the Scopus capturing department as part of the normal Emtree Drugs/Chemicals/Thesaurus indexing. Emtree has ca. 35,000 CAS numbers. So by no means is this comparable with Chemical Databases. CAS assignment process is purely focussing on titles that are also covered by Embase.

For example, searching for CASREGNUMBER(1*) in Scopus will retrieve 7 million items.

3.4 Cited references

Cited references in Scopus go back to 1996. There has been much debate about whether references back to 1996 are sufficient or whether Scopus should invest additional resources in order to go back even further. Based on market research and the advice of our CSAB, it has been decided that including citations back to 1996 is sufficient for most use cases and Scopus should instead focus on strengthening its coverage of more recent content rather than investing in older content.

3.5 Affiliation data

It is possible to search Scopus based on affiliation data. The Scopus Affiliation Identifier automatically identifies and matches an organization with all of its research output. 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.

A once time consuming task that may have taken days to complete can now be done in a matter of minutes using a combination of sophisticated algorithms and a comprehensive knowledge base to disambiguate name variants and automatically identify and match most relevant records.

Author profiles

Authors want to be able to find all of their articles within a database. In most cases, Scopus is able to capture all articles belonging to a particular author within one author profile (where those articles fall in line with the years of coverage and titles included in Scopus). Scopus is able to offer the articles likely written by the author within one most relevant profile.

A key factor in Scopus' ability to match author names to a certain degree of accuracy is due to the fact that in the Scopus data author names are always matched with their affiliations.

In some cases, Scopus is unable to match documents to an author profile with certainty due to incomplete or incorrect data, as supplied by the publisher. With cases such as these, Scopus will err on the side of caution and not match the documents which may result in two or more profiles for the same author.

A Scopus user (usually the author of the article(s) in question or someone working on their behalf) can alert Scopus (via a feedback button on the author search page) to unassigned documents or author profiles which should be merged. A dedicated team verifies the author's claim in order to assure the highest level of accuracy and integrity and uses a number of sources for this purpose, including:

- Scopus records
- ScienceDirect and other publisher websites
- University websites or author homepages

The time required to correct and merge author profiles is dependent on the nature and complexity of the claim and the supporting evidence that is available. As such, there is no standard time frame in which corrections are made but the author is always alerted once the changes appear in Scopus.

3.6 Other metadata

Pubmed ID

The unique identifier for Medline documents, PubMed ID, is searchable via Advanced Search and, when available, appears on the record page (Abstracts & References page) as well as in the export of records.

Grant number

In the future, grant numbers will be available on the relevant record page for all content going forward.

4. Coverage of sources (since 1996)

4.1 Scopus title list

The Scopus title list contains 32,000 titles in total—including 20,500 active titles and 11,500 inactive titles (mostly predecessors of the active titles).

A complete list of titles in Scopus is available externally on the info site: www.info.sciverse .com/documents/files/scopus-training/resourcelibrary/xls/title_list.xls.

It is identical to the list available on Scopus.com in the section "Sources".

The title list and the sources section are updated 2-3 times per year and include only journals, for which substantial coverage exists 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 source section only as of the next update after the first content appears on

Scopus.com. Whether the content of recently added journals is already available on Scopus, can best be checked via an advanced search on Scopus.com: srctitle("Journal Title").

For more information about the Scopus subject areas see section 6.

Scopus Content Nov. 2012
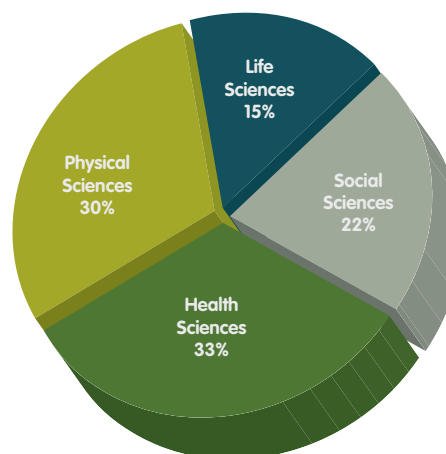
Percentage of titles by subject area (as of Nov. 2012). Titles may be attributed to more than one subject category.

Which titles are included in the title list and source browse?

Neither the title list nor the titles included in the source browse on Scopus accurately reflect all the content in Scopus. In fact, the Scopus database contains records of 38,000 unique titles which are all available via the Scopus basic search functionality. There are 8,000 titles, however, which are not included in either the title list or the source browse because these titles are:

1. Stand-alone books and reports (i.e. books and reports that are not part of a Book Series).

2. Pre-1996 discontinued (i.e. non-active) titles. Pre-1996 titles having child-parent relationships, however, are included (independent of the number of articles).

3. Post-1995 titles with less than 25 articles unless these appear to be newly started publications from the previous year and the current year. Post-1995 titles having child-parent relationships, however, are always included (independent of the number of articles).

Title counts

The latest figures for Scopus content are available on the Info Site: www.info.sciverse.com/scopus/scopus-in-detail/facts/
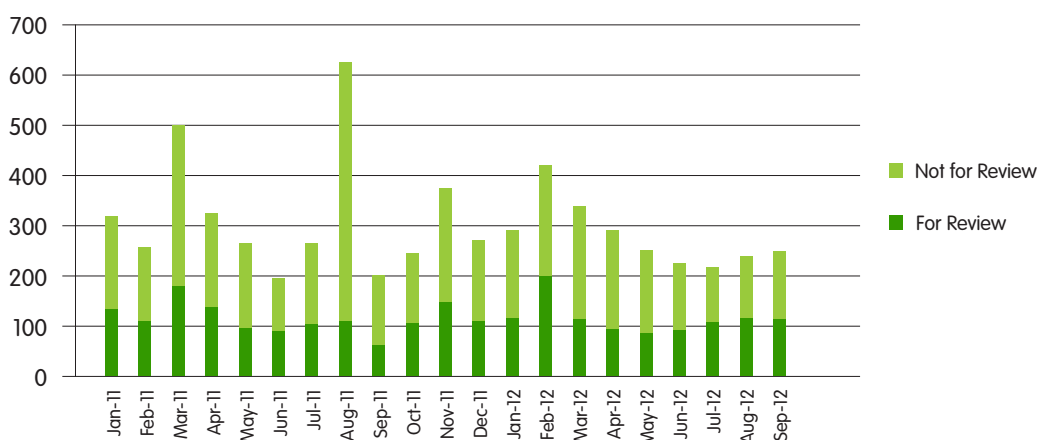
4.2 Scopus title evaluation

It is estimated that there are 200,000 scientific serial publications in existence worldwide. In order to ensure that Scopus remains the most relevant resource for all research in the sciences, technology, medicine, social sciences, and arts and humanities, new titles are continually being reviewed for inclusion. New title suggestions may come from researchers, librarians, publishers and members of the CSAB and can be submitted using the web form on the Scopus Info Site: http://suggestor.step.scopus.com/suggestTitle.cfm.

An article "Combining peer review and metrics to assess journals for inclusion in Scopus" which explains the title evaluation process can also be found here: http://dx.doi.org/10.1087/20100411

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).

Number of titles suggested for Scopus coverage per month

Number of titles reviewed for Scopus coverage and acceptance rate of reviewed titles per month
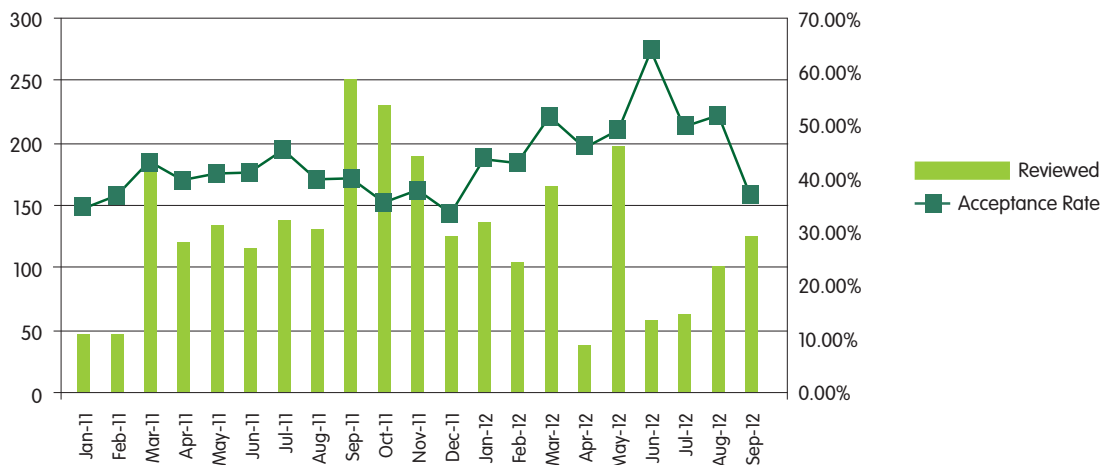
Criteria for title selection

The Scopus Title Evaluation Platform (STEP) (see below) enables the Scopus team to evaluate and add new titles on a continuous basis and to establish reliable turn-around.

Subject experts review titles using both quantitative and qualitative measures and the selection is partly based on sample documents from the title. The criteria that will be used in the review process are grouped in five main categories: Journal policy, Content, Citedness, Regularity and Online availability.

Category	Criteria
Journal Policy	Convincing editorial policy
	Diversity in geographical distribution of editors
	Diversity in geographical distribution of authors
	Type of peer-review
	Cited references in Roman script
	English language abstracts
Content	Academic contribution to the field
	Clarity of abstracts
	Conformity with the journal's stated aims and scope
	Readability of articles
Journal Standing	Citedness of journal articles in Scopus
	Editor standing
Regularity	No delay in the publication schedule
Online availability	Online content available
	English language journal home page available
	Quality of journal home page

Subject Chairs (SC)

The CSAB comprises 14 Subject Chairs who are senior researchers, experienced in editorial roles and are responsible for reviewing all the titles within a specific subject area. The Subject Chairs have the clear ownership per title in the respective area, and are ultimately responsible for the final vote as to whether a new journal title is included in Scopus. Subject Chairs can choose to:

- Either reject/accept the submitted title based on his/her own judgment according to the Content Coverage Policy (see section 4.2); or
- Involve additional reviewers, who have the respective subject expertise and/or the language skills required to read and evaluate journals publishing in other languages than English.

Scopus Title Evaluation Platform (STEP)

The Scopus Title Evaluation Platform (STEP) was introduced in 2008, and 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:

- 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 added to Scopus?

Once a title is accepted for inclusion in Scopus, the Elsevier Bibliographic Databases Operations department will contact the publisher in order to set up a subscription. After a subscription has been setup it will take up to a few weeks before the title will be added to Scopus.

4.3 Coverage across world's regions

In order to best serve the needs of researchers and to ensure that relevant scientific information is not omitted from the database, Scopus coverage is global by design. 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 21% of titles in Scopus are published in languages other than English (or published in both English and another language). In addition, more than half of Scopus content originates from outside North America representing various countries Europe, Latin America and the Asia Pacific region.

For a breakdown of titles per country, determined by the location of the publisher, it is possible to sort the list of titles by country and then search for a specific country:
www.info.sciverse.com/documents/files/scopus-training/resourcelibrary/xls/title_list.xls

The full list of publishers is available at:
www.info.sciverse.com/documents/files/scopus-training/resourcelibrary/xls/Publisherlist.xls

Number of titles in Scopus (active) vs. Web of Science (shared titles with Scopus) by geographical region (May 2012)
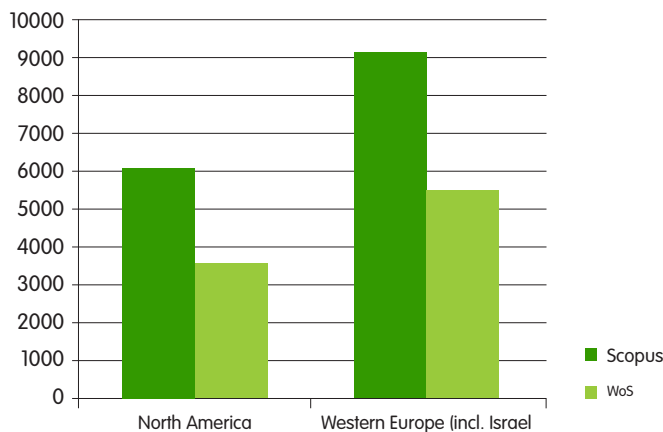

> "We selected Scopus for its breadth of coverage including journal titles from over 100 nations as well as its advanced features."
>
> —Mr. Hiroyuki Tomizawa
> Principal Administrator, Economic Analysis and Statistics Division, Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

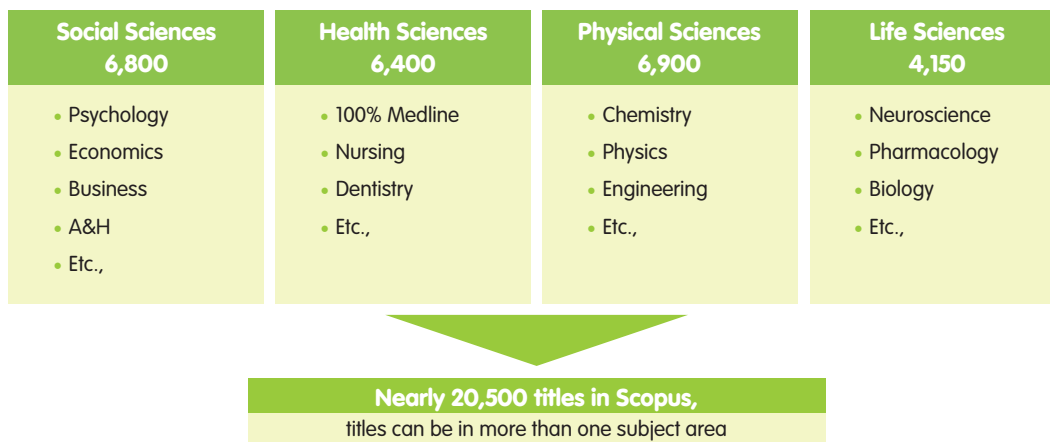## Number of titles in Scopus (active) vs. Web of Science (shared titles with Scopus) for "Rest of Region" geographical region (May 2012)

Number of journal titles by broad subject area. Note: Journal titles may belong to more than one subject area.
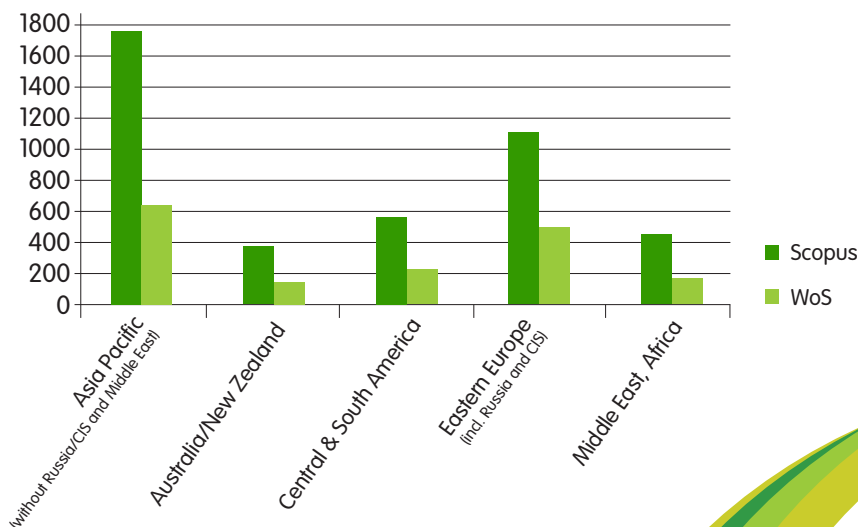
4.4 Broadest coverage across subject areas

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 (SSH). For more information see section 6.

Social Sciences 6,800	Health Sciences 6,400	Physical Sciences 6,900	Life Sciences 4,150
• Psychology • Economics • Business • A&H • Etc.,	• 100% Medline • Nursing • Dentistry • Etc.,	• Chemistry • Physics • Engineering • Etc.,	• Neuroscience • Pharmacology • Biology • Etc.,

Nearly 20,500 titles in Scopus,
titles can be in more than one subject area

Percentage of journals in Scopus based on subject field (Nov 2012).

Arts & Humanities

In June 2009 Scopus officially launched the Arts & Humanities (A&H) on Scopus. 1,450 journals in core A&H areas were added bringing the total number of A&H titles in Scopus to almost 2,750 (representing 15% of the entire title list). A further expansion was completed in 2012 which brought the A&H related title list to 4,000, making the Scopus date base more valuable across the liberal arts studies.

The majority of A&H titles (80%) go back to 2002 while 15% of titles go back as far as 1996 and 5% of titles do not have any back coverage. There are plans to extend the coverage of additional journals back to 1996.

At the moment, A&H titles are part of the subject cluster "social sciences" in Scopus. For more information about subject areas in Scopus see section 6.

In the meantime, users can exclude or limit to A&H results from their search results by using the refine results overview.

Please refer to the info site for more details about A&H coverage, including a list of titles: www.info.sciverse.com/scopus/scopus-in-detail/arts-humanities.

> "The addition of the Arts and Humanities content was a central reason why we decided to purchase Scopus. It is absolutely crucial to our university that the arts and humanities are covered in Scopus."
>
> —Librarian, Duquesne University

4.5 Completeness of coverage

Scopus was launched in late November 2004. At that time, Scopus contained 14,200 journals.

There have been approximately 6,000 new titles added to Scopus since 2004. As per industry standards, Scopus does not backfill content for newly added journals but rather begins coverage with the most recent journal issue in the year that it is accepted for inclusion in Scopus. However, if backfile content for newly added journals is provided, Scopus may decide to cover the backfiles as well. For more information about backfile coverage see section 5.2.

Records pre- and post-1996

Scopus is 99% complete for titles originally included in Scopus back to 1996 (see section 4.5).

- All records in Scopus published since 1996 contain cited references.
- 70% of all the articles in Scopus have an abstract (going back as far as 1823).
- 82% of all records after 1996 have abstracts.

In response to market research and interviews with customers, Scopus has added backfiles (pre-1996) for journals from a variety of publishers back to volume 1, issue 1 where available (see above section).

4.6 Coverage of Medline

Medline is a database that can be hosted (for free) by third parties, such as Ovid, Web of Knowledge, Embase. com or Scopus. PubMed is the free platform on which Medline is hosted. PubMed's main component is Medline but it also contains other data. Scopus covers all 5,000 Medline titles from 1966 and, as of 2010, will also include 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. For the remaining journals (approximately 700) Medline supplies Scopus directly and these titles are referred to as "Medline-sourced" in Scopus (previously "Medline-unique"). The advantages of covering Medline in Scopus is that the Medline records are fully integrated with the Scopus citation network and Scopus author profiles.

4.7 Competitive landscape

A library's decision to purchase a database is based on many criteria. While content coverage is certainly important, it is not necessarily the most important criterion to consider. Databases with the same content coverage may yield different results based on searching techniques employed, the way the content has been indexed, the way records are linked within the database and the use of thesauri and controlled vocabulary. Perhaps most important is how "findable" the content is.

In order to assist librarians in their purchase decision, Scopus maintains an up-to-date title list on the Scopus Info Site which is updated quarterly (see section 4.1). The title list can be used to compare and assess a database's relevance for a particular library's unique set of users.

5. Coverage pre-1996

How Scopus content was created

At launch, Scopus incorporated the content from major databases as a starting point for its own coverage. Throughout the years Scopus content has grown substantially.

Archive project

In order to increase value and customer satisfaction, Scopus now contains the complete archives of the below major publishers: the archives of Sage, BMJ Group and Informa Health Care will be added in 2012/2013. Please note that for the pre-1996 content only abstracts have been included as part of the archive project and not cited references. Based on input from the CSAB and results from market research, abstracts have been prioritized over references due to the high cost associated with adding backfiles and the increased usefulness of abstracts over references going back in time, especially with regard to the half-life of cited references (see section 3.4).

Publisher	Start year	Number of records	Number of journals
Elsevier	1823	4,000,000	1530
Royal Society of Chemistry	1841	200,000	41
Springer	1869	1,750,000	800
Institute of Physics	1874	125,000	59
American Chemical Society	1879	500,000	39
AAAS "Science"	1880	150,000	1
American Physical Society	1893	200,000	9
American Institute of Physics	1939	250,000	8
Nature Publishing Group "Nature"	1950	120,000	1
Journal of the Physical Society of Japan	1946	25,000	1
Oxford University Press	1849	800,000	200
Brill	1883	25,000	25
American Archivist	1938	1,500	1

6. Journal classification

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.

7. Processing of Scopus content

Obtaining content

Scopus content is obtained from over 5,000 publishers worldwide. Scopus has content delivery agreements in place with each publisher and receives content in both print and electronic formats. Currently, 85% of material is received electronically and/or sourced from the journal websites.

Articles-in-Press (AiP)

"Articles-in-Press" (AiP) are pre-published versions of accepted articles. AiP do not contain cited references and are de-duplicated once the final version is published and made available in Scopus. Publishers usually FTP the pre-published version to Scopus once it has appeared on their website. Once received, Scopus usually makes it available online within 4 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 nearly 3,750 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

Alerts can be set up in order to receive notification once an AiP is published as an article. Two alerts are needed:

1. DOCTYPE(AR) [article]
2. DOCTYPE(IP) [in press]

In order to search for published articles only (and not include AiP), the user must add the following criterion to their advanced search: AND NOT DOCTYPE(IP).

Another database with coverage of AiP is Medline on Pubmed. However, this "early view" layer is not part of the Medline feed to 3rd party vendors, so Scopus does not receive AiP from Medline. For more information about Medline coverage see section 4.6.

Asia and Australia
Tel: +65 6349 0222
Fax: +65 6733 1050
Email: sginfo@elsevier.com

Europe, Middle East and Africa
Tel: +31 20 485 3767
Fax: +31 20 485 3739
Email: nlinfo@elsevier.com

Japan
Tel: +81 3 5561 5034
Fax: +81 3 5561 5047
Email: jpinfo@elsevier.com

Korea
Tel: +82 2 6714 3000
Fax: +82 2 732 8689
Email: krinfo@elsevier.com

North, Central America and Canada
Tel: +1 888 615 4500
Fax: +1 212 462 1974
Email: usinfo@elsevier.com

South America
Tel: +55 21 3970 9300
Fax: +55 21 2507 1991
Email: brinfo@elsevier.com

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