

From Content Evaluation to Al Innovations: Advancing Academic Research Quality

從內容評估到人工智慧創新: 提升學術研究品質

15 November 2023



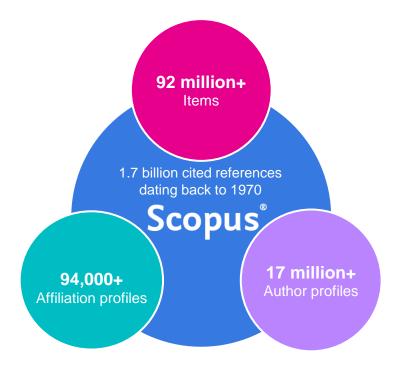


Scopus Content Evaluations

Tracy Chen, Lead Product Manager Content and Policy Research Data Platform

Scopus uniquely combines curated content with enriched, linked data





Quickly find relevant and trusted research, identify experts, and access reliable data, metrics and analytical tools to support confident decisions around research strategy

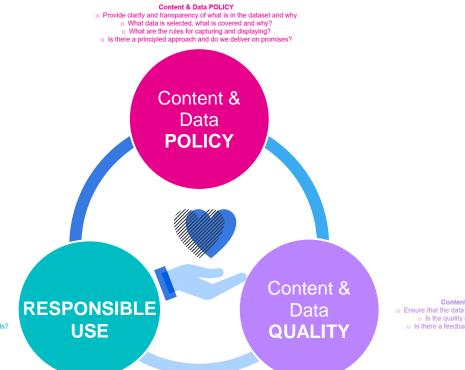
Help the world of research make high value decisions with confidence





Ingredients of trust





RESPONSIBLE USE

Is the dataset fit for the purpose?
 Are different channels in sync and provenance transparent?
 Adhering to FAIR principles and data privacy and integrity standards?

Content & Data QUALITY • Ensure that the data and linking of the data is accurate • Is the quality sufficient for the use case? • Is there a feedback mechanism for corrections?

Content & Data POLICY

Provide clarity and transparency of what is in the dataset and why
 What data is selected, what is covered and why?
 What are the rules for capturing and displaying?
 Is there a principled approach and do we deliver on promises?

Content & Data QUALITY

Ensure that the data and linking of the data is accurate
 Is the quality sufficient for the use case?
 Is there a feedback mechanism for corrections?

RESPONSIBLE USE

 $\circ~$ Is the dataset fit for the purpose?

• Are different channels in sync and provenance transparent?

Adhering to FAIR principles and data privacy and integrity standards?



Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB)

Scopus is vetted by independent experts

- Independent board of subject experts from all over the world
- Comprised of 17 Subject Chairs
- Chosen for their expertise in specific subject areas; most have (journal) Editor experience.
- Rigorous and transparent quality and ethics selection criteria used to evaluate potential titles
- Regularly revaluates Scopus content and discontinues titles no longer meeting the guidelines



Scopus and CSAB mandate and authority



Scopus is committed to creating a representative, curated dataset of scholarly content:

- Overall journal selection based on journal-level data and performance
- Monitoring and deselection of journals that are predatory or below standards

Scopus cannot interfere with editorial autonomy of journals:

- Editorial decisions on quality of individual articles and conferences
- · (Scientific) content of the articles and abstracts included in the database
- Plagiarism and other publication malpractice of individual articles
- · Authorship of the paper



<u>All</u> titles should meet <u>all</u> minimum criteria to be considered for Scopus review:



Eligible titles are reviewed by the CSAB according to a combination of 14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria:

| Journal policy | Quality of content | Journal standing | Regular publication | Online availability |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Convincing editorial concept/policy Type of peer-review Diversity geographic distribution of editors Diversity geographic distribution of authors | Academic contribution to the field Clarity of abstracts Quality and conformity with stated aims & scope Readability of articles | Citedness of journal articles in Scopus Editor standing | • No delay in publication schedule | Content available online English-language journal home page Quality of home page |

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

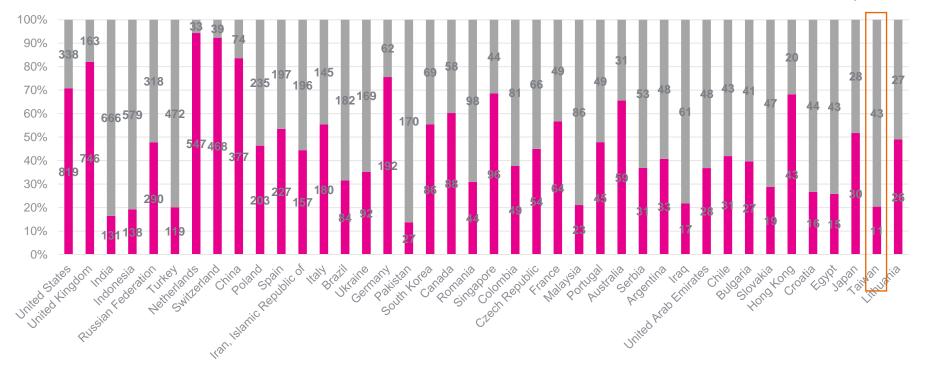
Less than 50% of reviewed titles are also accepted for Scopus



Accepted

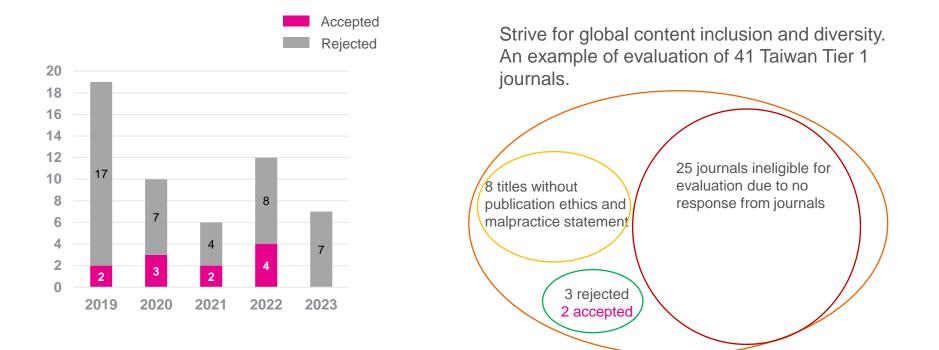
Rejected

Title review results from top 40 countries/regions with most titles reviewed (2019 – Oct 2023) In total, **12,076** titles were reviewed by the CSAB of which **6,174** (51%) accepted.



Title review results for Taiwan (2019 – Oct 2023)





It does not stop once titles are selected for Scopus coverage



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.

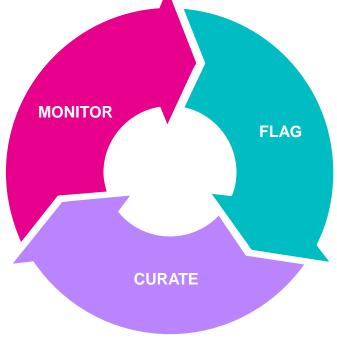
When making decisions about research, it is essential that these decisions are based on data that you can trust. Predatory journals cannot be trusted and need to be excluded.

Because predatory publishing is not binary and subject to personal interpretation, independent review of individual journals by experts is essential.

Content curation and re-evaluation in Scopus

MONITOR:

- Titles are monitored for outlier behaviour (e.g., using data science)
- Concerns from the community about titles are received
- Validation if there is evidence for research integrity violations



FLAG:

- Titles are flagged for re-evaluation by CSAB
- Coverage of titles flagged for reevaluation is put on-hold

CURATE:

- CSAB reviews and decides to continue or discontinue
- For discontinued journals coverage will be stopped
- Content already indexed remains



Content curation results (2016 - 2023 YTD)



Monitoring methods:

- Publication concerns: **544** of which **70%** discontinued
- Under performance: **304** of which **48%** discontinued
- Outlier performance: **165** of which **58%** discontinued
- Continuous curation: 113 of which 21% discontinued

Overall catch-rate:

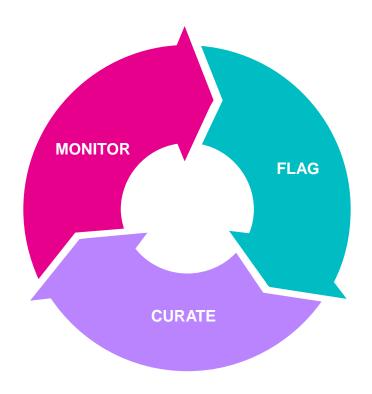
• 58% discontinued. Total of 798 discontinued titles

This year results:

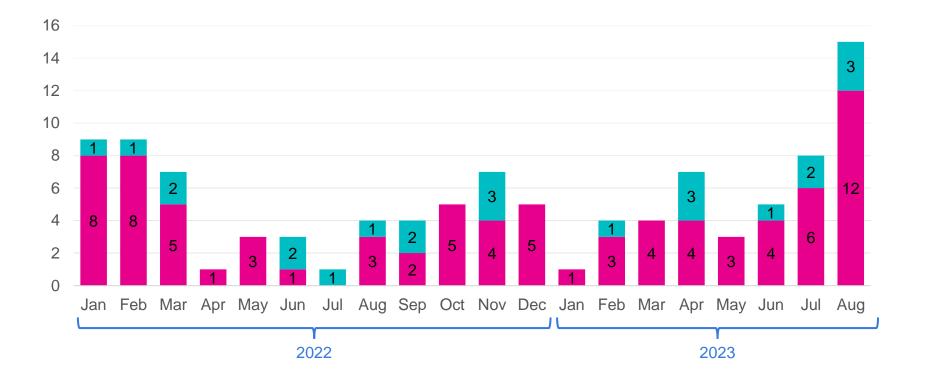
• 40 out of 55 (77%) discontinued (Jan – Sep)

Other research integrity issues:

- For hijacked journals, when relevant fake website links and content is removed
- Where possible, legal action against paper mills is taken



Total of **105** titles re-evaluated of which **82** (**78%**) discontinued Reasons for flagging: Concerns (**65/83** disc.); Radar (**14/18** disc.); Continuous curation (**3/4** disc.)



Title re-evaluation results in 2022 and 2023 Aug







Research integrity is the responsibility of the entire research community

Where can I find the discontinued titles?



There are multiple places where you can verify if a journal has been discontinued for Scopus coverage: the Scopus source title list and on Scopus.com self.

The source list can be accessed via the Scopus pages on Elsevier.com or the freely available Sources tab on Scopus.com

Discontinued sources list is updated monthly and contains information on the last content indexed. Any content that is published later or became available for indexing after that will not be included in Scopus.

Source tab on Scopus.com is updated twice per year. The source details page contains a tag if the title is discontinued. The 'Scopus content coverage' tab gives a <u>current</u> count of items indexed for that title per year.

Titles on Scopus

Content types included on Scopus are either serial publications that have an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) such as journals, book series and conference series, or non-serial publications that have an ISBN (International Standard Book Number) such as monographs or one-off conferences. To check if a title is on Scopus, visit the freely available Source Title page > , or consult the title lists below.



https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/how-scopus-works/content



https://www.scopus.com/sources



https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/01234567

Common red flags to recognize possible predatory journals



| False or misleading information | Fake impact factors, incorrect addresses, misrepresentations of the editorial board, false claims of indexing or membership of associations and misleading claims about the peer review |
|---|---|
| Deviation from best practices | Deviation from common editorial and publication standards and an unprofessional-looking web page — with spelling or grammar mistakes or irrelevant text. |
| Lack of transparency | Little or no information about how editorial decisions are made, and how peer review is organized; absent contact information; no details about article processing charges (fees); editors and members of their editorial boards are often unverifiable. |
| Aggressive, indiscriminate solicitation | Aggressive solicitation such as repeated e-mails, excessively flattering in tone (a clear warning sign is that the invitee's expertise is outside the journal's scope). |
| Topic and authorship drifts | Published articles are not in-line with the journal's aim and scope. The subject of the articles is too broad or does not fit the topic of the journal. The main authorship is not from the community the journal intents to serve. |

Journal hijacks or clones



Genuine journals that cease publication, are taken over or otherwise are below the radar are potential targets for hijacks. These are clones of the original journal but are using a different URL and are managed by an unrelated party.

Signals to recognize journal hijacks include:

- A similar looking URL with different extension (.com in place of .org)
- Prominent advertising of inclusion in national safe lists
- Screenshots that aim to convince that the journal is indexed
- Fake claims of journal metrics
- Use of generic email addresses to communicate with authors (e.g. gmail)
- Advertisement of fast review and publication times
- 'Catch-all' subject coverage, not in-line with the original scope
- Different location and language than original journal

is a Double Blind Reviewed

Peer Reviewed monthly journal, accepts intensive and exclusive research

Example of a hijacked journal website

In Scopus always the authentic journal that was originally selected is covered. Content from hijacked versions will be removed. Sometimes the Source Homepage links to a hijacked URL, that does not mean the hijacked title is covered.



Response Time : with in 24 hours

Fast Publication Process

Recap



- Scopus Vision: Help the world of research make high value decisions with confidence
- Scopus content is vetted by independent subject experts based on consistent and transparent criteria
- Research integrity is the responsibility of the entire research community





