How to add local journals to international databases

Presented by:
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What does inclusion in an international database like Scopus mean for a journal?

A journal that is suggested to Scopus and gets accepted for inclusion by the CSAB Subject Chairs and indexed into its database will get:

- international visibility
- increased citations for individual researchers as well as the journal
- increases the opportunity for collaboration with other researchers from around the world

The journal will also be contributing to the wider scholarly community in the specialist subject field.
Agenda

1) Quick overview: Scopus & CSAB

2) Scopus Journal selection criteria

3) Scopus as an editor workflow tool
1) Quick Overview:
- Scopus & CSAB
Scopus® - the World’s largest Abstract & Citation Database

**JOURNALS**
- **22,025** peer-reviewed journals
- **359** trade journals
  - Full metadata, abstracts and cited references (references for post-1995 only)
  - >2,800 fully Open Access titles
  - Articles in Press for >5,100 Titles
  - Going back to 1823
  - Funding data from acknowledgements

**CONFERENCES**
- **82K** events
- **6.8M** records (12%)
  - Conf. expansion (2005 – 2013):
    - **1,017** conferences
    - **6,022** conf. events
    - **410K** conf. papers
    - **5M** citations
  - Mainly Engineering and Physical Sciences

**BOOKS**
- **512** book series
  - **28K** Volumes
  - **1.0M** items
- **86,969** books
  - **709K** items
  - Books expansion:
    - **120K** books by 2015
    - Focus on Social Sciences and A&H

**PATENTS**
- **24M** patents from 5 major patent offices:
  - UK
  - US
  - Japan
  - Europe
  - World

**Physical Sciences**
- **7,456**

**Health Sciences**
- **6,834**

**Social Sciences**
- **8,042**

**Life Sciences**
- **4,509**

**57 M** records from **22,025** active serial titles and **86,969** books

21.4 pre 1996 records
35.8M post 1995 records
Scopus article growth over years

Source: Scopus data March 2015
Ratio of journals per Publisher in Scopus

- **10%** ELSEVIER
- **8%** Springer
- **5%** WILEY-BLACKWELL
- **5%** Taylor & Francis
- **2%** SAGE
- **1%** Wolters Kluwer Health
- **1%** IEEE
- **1%** OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
- **1%** I N D E R S C I E N C E P U B L I S H E R S
- **1%** BENTHAM SCIENCE
- **1%** CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
- **1%** Emerald
- **1%** Hindawi
- **1%** Macmillan

Other 60%

Source: Scopus title list (May 2014)
Scopus is the Gold standard: more than 150 leading research organizations rely on Scopus data

Rankings:
Broad coverage with high standards

- 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

Focus on quality through content selection by the independent CSAB, because:

- Provide accurate and relevant search results for users
- No dilution of search results by irrelevant or low quality content
- Support that Scopus is recognized as authoritative
- Support confidence that Scopus “reflects the truth”
Scopus is…

• The **largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature**, featuring smart tools to track, analyze and visualize research.

• The **most comprehensive overview of the world's research output** in the fields of science, technology, medicine, social sciences and Arts & Humanities.

• A tool that is **easy to use and fast to learn**.

• Is rapidly growing in popularity. Since its creation in 2004, more than 2,300 institutes have subscribed, including **88% of the top 25 academic research** institutions and leading corporate R&D centers.
  - 67% of the League of European Universities use Scopus
  - 50% of Ivy League

• Is evolving to interoperate with more world-class tools in citation management, reference management – and collaboration
2) Scopus Journal Selection Criteria
How does Scopus choose serial content?

**Stage 1:**
All titles should meet **all** minimum criteria in order to be considered for Scopus review:

- **Peer-review**
- **English abstracts**
- **Regular publication**
- **Roman script references**
- **Pub. ethics statement**

**Stage 2:**
Eligible titles are reviewed by the Content Selection & Advisory Board according to a combination of 14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal Policy</th>
<th>Quality of Content</th>
<th>Journal Standing</th>
<th>Regularity</th>
<th>Online Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Convincing editorial concept/policy</td>
<td>• Academic contribution to the field</td>
<td>• Citedness of journal articles in Scopus</td>
<td>• No delay in publication schedule</td>
<td>• Content available online</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Type of peer-review</td>
<td>• Clarity of abstracts</td>
<td>• Editor standing</td>
<td></td>
<td>• English-language journal home page</td>
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<td>• Diversity geographic distribution of editors</td>
<td>• Quality and conformity with stated aims &amp; scope</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Quality of home page</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Diversity geographic distribution of authors</td>
<td>• Readability of articles</td>
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</table>

Info: [http://www.elsevier.com/online-tools/scopus/content-overview](http://www.elsevier.com/online-tools/scopus/content-overview)
Questions: [titlesuggestion@scopus.com](mailto:titlesuggestion@scopus.com)
Stage 1: Minimum Criteria to Qualify for Submission

• 2 years minimum
• Peer-reviewed content
• Published on a regular basis (have a ISSN number registered with the International ISSN Centre)
• Relevant and readable for an international audience (for example have references in Roman script and English language abstracts and titles)
• Publication ethics and publication malpractice statement
Stage 2: Key Areas of Evaluation

- Journal Policy
- Quality of Content
- Journal Standing
- Regularity
- Online Availability
Journal Policy

• Aims and scope
• Convincing and relevant to Scopus users?
• Specific or too broad
• Is it clear why an author might want to publish in this journal?
• Example of poor journal policy: publishing all areas of science; Journal of Scientific Information
• Type of peer review
• Diversity in geographical distribution of editors
• Diversity in geographical distribution of authors
What Constitutes “Adequate” Peer Review?

- Single blind peer review
- Double blind peer review
- Open peer review
What is Questionable Peer Review?

- Single review by main editor
- Very fast reviews: 2 weeks or less, guaranteed
- New journal with rapidly increasing volume
- Case of author who served as his own referee
Judging Geographical Diversity

• Editors and Editorial Board: single institution, multiple institutions within one country, regional diversity, global diversity

• Authors: single institution, multiple institutions within one country, regional diversity, global diversity

• Which is best? – depends on the aims and scope and the subject area

• Journal claims to be international; board and authors are regional
Quality of Content

• Academic contribution to the field
• Clarity of abstracts
• Quality of and conformity with stated aims
• Readability of articles
• Check hypotheses and conclusions
• iThenticate - plagiarism check
• Frequent problems: vague, descriptive reports; not adding to extant literature; small sample sizes; not in line with the journal’s aims and scope; poor figures and graphs
Judging Academic Contribution to the Field

- Good science and scholarship?
- Unique contribution to the existing literature?
- Merely a publication outlet for one faculty?
- Publishing all or most submissions? Acceptance rate?
Figures, Graphs and Grammar

Poor figures, graphs and grammar are strong indicators of low standards for scholarship, peer review and editorial practice.
Judging Clarity of Abstracts

• Extremely important for literature searches in Scopus or any database

• Content: Is it a useful and comprehensive summary

• Language: Is the English language understandable and correct (grammar, spelling, etc.)

• Abstracts extremely important for non-English language journals
Journal Standing

• Citedness of journal: percentage of articles cited, number of times individual articles are cited, how recent are the citations

• Editor standing: widely published, widely cited, recognized in their field
Regularity

- How many issues per year
- How many articles per issue
- How many issues delayed
- A journal publishing 2 issues a year with only 6 articles in each issue (5 year publication history; is it viable?; will it last?)
Online Availability

• Usually checked first
• Check content available online
• How many issues per year; articles per issue
• English-language homepage option available?
• Quality of homepage; ease of use, how comprehensive
Final Decision

• Accept or Reject
• Specific reasons given
• Email letter to publisher and editor with specific reasons why publication was accepted or rejected
• If rejected, specific recommendations on how to improve (IMPORTANT) – more similar to a “Revise and Resubmit” than a final “Rejection”
• Reapply in 1, 1.5, 2, 3 or 5 years
Elsevier Research Intelligence

(III) Scopus as an Editor Workflow tool
Scopus is designed to accelerate the literature research process

1) What’s the best journal for my research?

2) What related interdisciplinary, global research is being produced?

3) Who is citing my work? Where is my work being cited?

4) What’s the trend - is this a growing or declining field?

5) Who else is working on this in my country or elsewhere in the world?

Liao, D.Z.
Affiliation: Nankai University

647 documents

512 book series

24,169 journals

5,000 publishers

Global coverage

All disciplines

69% agree that Scopus saves them time in the research process
Mendeley and Production & Hosting program
A user-friendly way to manage references and connect!

Content and workflow tools that improve the efficiency and outcomes for researchers

- **Reference manager** allowing you to manage, read, share, annotate and cite your research papers
- **Academic collaboration network** with more than 4 Million users to connect like-minded researchers & discover research trends and statistics
- **Vibrant social networking environment** with a rich crowdsourced database

Visit the Elsevier booth to find out more
Production & Hosting Program

Elsevier’s global program to empower 3rd party journals

Case Study: Brazilian Journal of Infectious Diseases

Since joining Elsevier’s Partnership Publishing program in 2010, the journal now

- Published authors from 42 countries from 2013-2015
- Tripled the number of submissions in the period 2011-2015
- Grown the number of article downloads from ScienceDirect by 850 times and increased total article citations by 12% from 2011-2014

Visit the Elsevier booth to find out more
FAQ


Thank you