



Challenges Asian journals face in Scopus application and suggestions for journal development

July 2022
Tracy Chen
Senior Product Manager, Scopus



Shared history, bright future

It's been an honor to partner with the research community for 140 years. As the world of research evolves at an accelerated pace, we would like to continue to support you in addressing your research challenges and achieving your research goals.



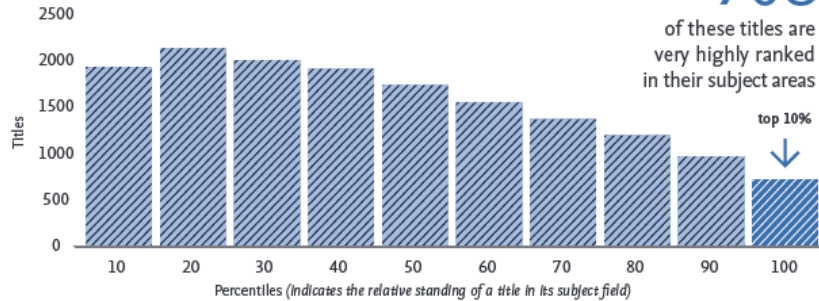
Agenda



- Power of Scopus and trusted content
- Challenges Asian journals face in Scopus application
- Suggestions for journal development

CiteScore 2021 Highlights

15,300+ titles with CiteScore 2021 and no Journal Impact Factor 2020



5,300+ titles in 49 non-English languages

20% of sources with a CiteScore 2021 publish in full text language different than English or a combination of languages including English – all titles have English abstracts:



$$\text{CiteScore 2021} = \frac{\text{Citations}}{\text{Publications}}$$



Numerator = Citations in 2018-21 to peer-reviewed publications in the source published in 2018-21

Denominator = peer-reviewed publications in the source published in 2018-21

Peer-reviewed publications: articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters, and data papers

CiteScore Strength



Comprehensive

Available for all serial titles in Scopus, not just journals

More than **27,000** titles are included, **15,000** more than those receive a Journal Impact Factor

Clear

Transparent, simple and easy to understand

Complete transparency of the underlying data

Anyone can validate

Current

CiteScore Tracker **Monthly updates**

New titles in Scopus typically receive CiteScore metrics the year after they are included in Scopus

Free to use!

CiteScore 2021 – Asia Journals

- 2575 journals (out of 27,050 global journals) are with CiteScore 2021;
- 581 journals (22.6%) are with Impact Factor 2020;
- China (Mainland) having most journals: 670 based on publisher's location registry, over 1000 journals including co-published journals.

Protein and Cell
 Open Access ⓘ
 Scopus coverage years: from 2010 to Present
 Publisher: Higher Education Press
 ISSN: 1674-800X E-ISSN: 1674-8018
 Subject area: [Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics: Drug Discovery](#) [Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology: Biotechnology](#)
[Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology: Biochemistry](#) [Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology: Cell Biology](#)
 Source type: Journal

[View all documents >](#) [Set document alert](#) [Save to source list](#) [Entitled Full Text](#) [COPAC](#) [EZB Ekr. Zeitschriften bib](#) [More >](#)

CiteScore 2021
19.4

SJR 2021
2.636

SNIP 2021
2.023

CiteScore CiteScore rank & trend Scopus content coverage

CiteScore 2021 $19.4 = \frac{4,295 \text{ Citations 2018 - 2021}}{221 \text{ Documents 2018 - 2021}}$
 Calculated on 05 May, 2022

CiteScoreTracker 2022 $13.3 = \frac{2,312 \text{ Citations to date}}{174 \text{ Documents to date}}$
 Last updated on 06 June, 2022

CiteScore rank 2021 ⓘ

Category	Rank	Percentile
Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics	#4/154	97th
Drug Discovery		

Highest CiteScore Journal:
Protein and Cell
 CiteScore 2021: **19.4**

Nano Research
 Scopus coverage years: from 2009 to Present
 Publisher: Tsinghua University Press
 ISSN: 1998-0124 E-ISSN: 1998-0000
 Subject area: [Physics and Astronomy: Condensed Matter Physics](#) [Engineering: Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)
[Physics and Astronomy: Atomic and Molecular Physics, and Optics](#) [Materials Science: General Materials Science](#)
 Source type: Journal

[View all documents >](#) [Set document alert](#) [Save to source list](#) [Entitled Full Text](#) [COPAC](#) [EZB Ekr. Zeitschriften bib](#) [More >](#)

CiteScore 2021
15.2

SJR 2021
2.264

SNIP 2021
1.309

CiteScore CiteScore rank & trend Scopus content coverage

CiteScore 2021 $15.2 = \frac{27,639 \text{ Citations 2018 - 2021}}{1,815 \text{ Documents 2018 - 2021}}$
 Calculated on 05 May, 2022

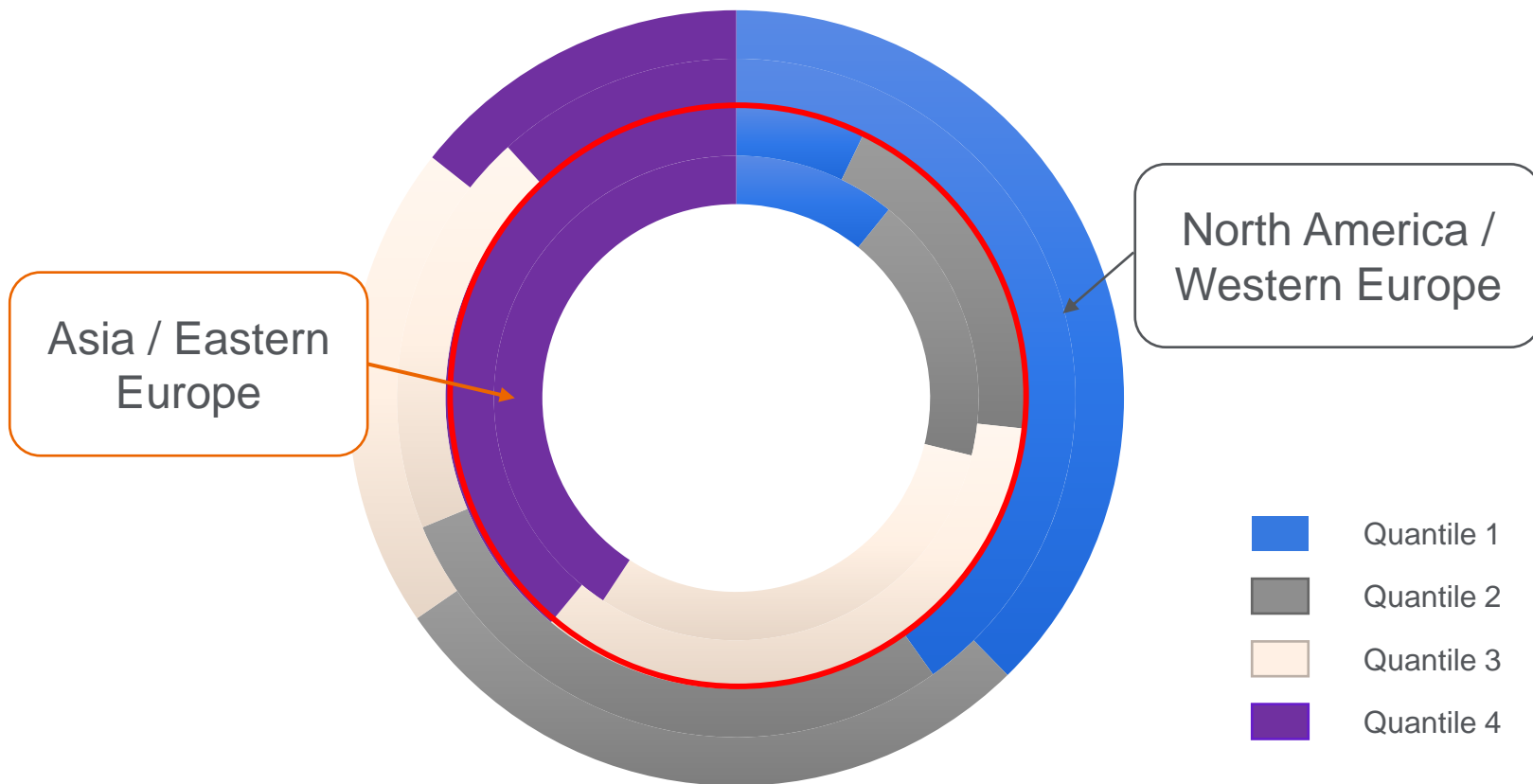
CiteScoreTracker 2022 $11.4 = \frac{20,763 \text{ Citations to date}}{1,815 \text{ Documents to date}}$
 Last updated on 06 June, 2022

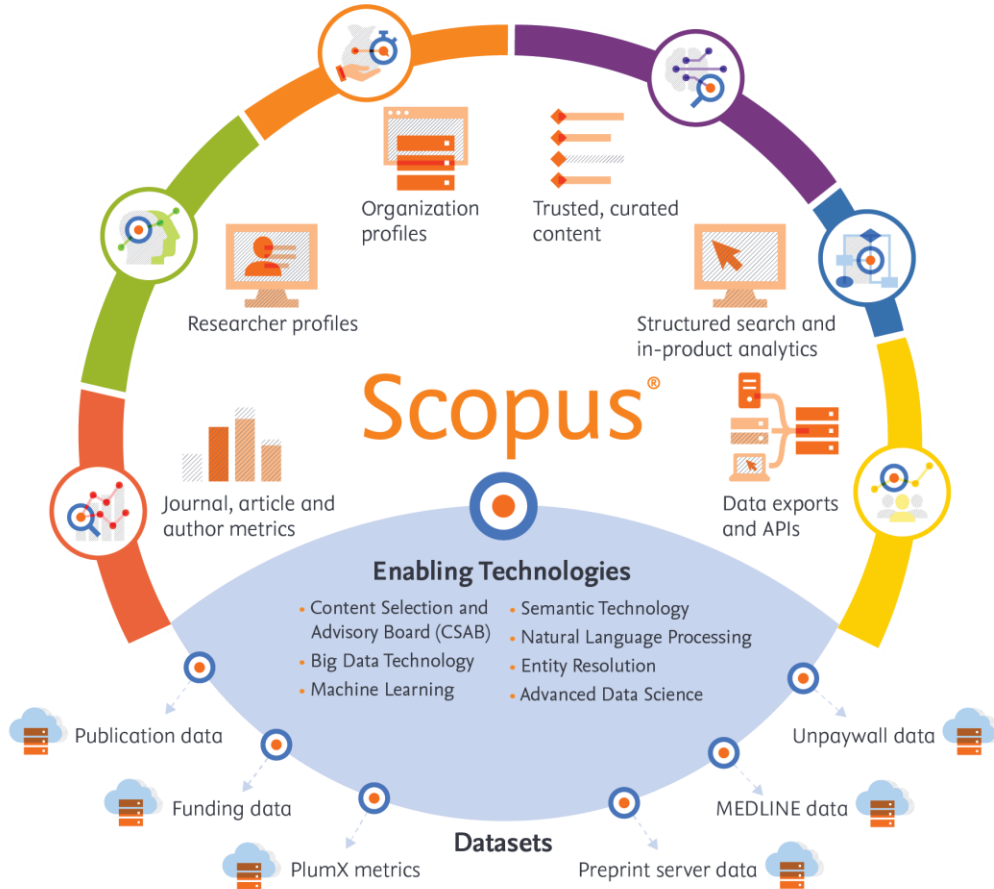
CiteScore rank 2021 ⓘ

Category	Rank	Percentile
Physics and Astronomy		
Condensed Matter Physics	#15/415	96th
Engineering		
Electrical and Electronic	#27/708	96th

Highest Citation Journal:
Nano Research
 Citations in CiteScore 2021:
27,639

Quantile Distributions of Journals in CiteScore 2021





Powerful search, profiles, metrics, APIs and structured data to help you **progress, evaluate and reflect** your institution's research activity

Featuring

- 86M+ items
- 94K+ organization profiles
- 17M+ researcher profiles
- 3.5M+ awards and 450+ funders

From

- 27.1K serials, 140K conferences, 253K books, 5,408 active Gold OA journals, from 7K+ publishers in 105 countries
- 18.40M OA documents
- 1.10M preprints
- "Articles in Press" from >8,740 titles

Daily updates

- ~11K articles indexed per day indexed

Progress your research

Intuitive, powerful search, with trusted and comprehensive content

Insights to help you progress your research with confidence

Evaluate your research

Powerful linked data, disambiguated, connected to key research entities

Insights for comprehensive evaluations you can trust

Reflect your research

The most accurate reflections of your research entities, structured in linked, flexible data

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



Gain 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



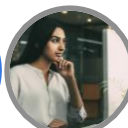
Librarians



Heads of department



Faculty & researchers



Research Services



Librarians



Heads of department



Faculty & researchers



Research Services

Vetted by independent experts

Scopus Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB)

- Independent board of subject experts from all over the world
- Comprised of 17 Subject Chairs
- Chosen for their expertise in specific subject areas; many have (journal) Editor experience.

Selection and reevaluation process

- Rigorous and transparent quality and ethics selection criteria used to evaluate potential titles
- Regularly reevaluates Scopus content and discontinues titles no longer meeting the guidelines, e.g. **745** titles removed between 2016–2022.



Stage 1

~3500

title suggestions per year on average



Stage 2

39%

meet the Scopus minimum criteria



Stage 3

46%

are accepted after the CSAB's review



~1200

Serial titles meet the full Scopus criteria

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

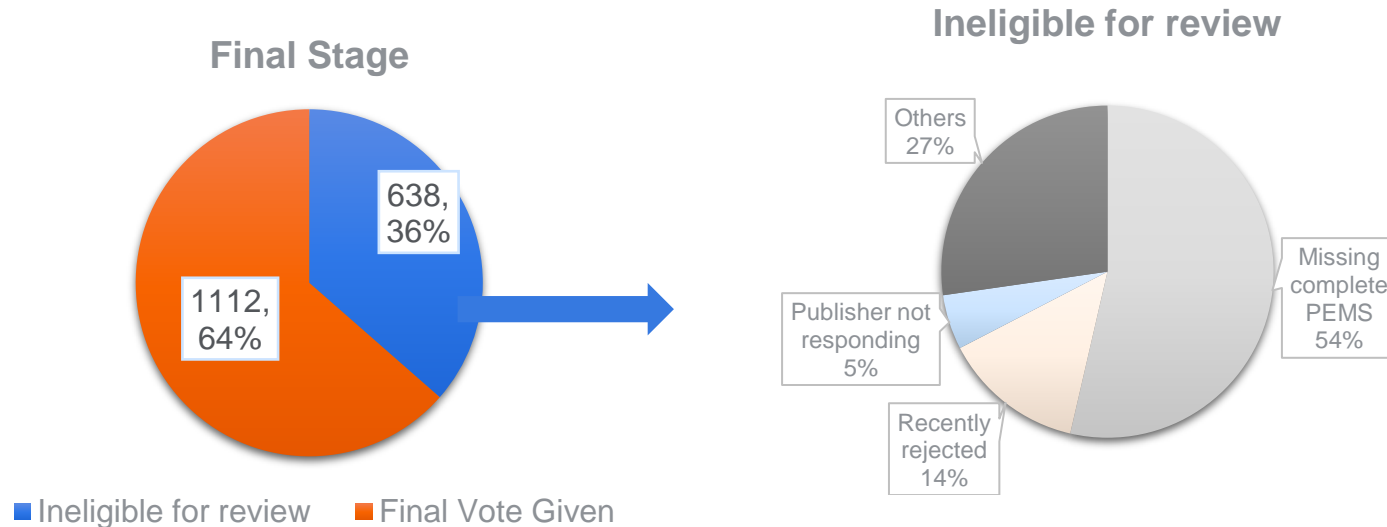
Publication ethics
statement

- 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

Titles not meeting minimum criteria

During 2021-2022May,

- ❖ 1750 titles from Asia were in final stage of title evaluations;
- ❖ 638 titles (36%) were ineligible for review;
- ❖ 342 titles (54%) were ineligible due to missing complete Publishing Ethics and Malpractice Statement.



Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing

1. Website accessible
2. Journal name and ISSN
3. Peer review process
4. Ownership and management
5. Governing body
6. Editorial team/contact
7. Copyright and licensing
8. Author fees - clarity
9. Process for handling misconduct
10. Publication Ethics statement
11. Publishing schedule
12. Access
13. Archiving
14. Revenue sources
15. Advertising
16. Direct marketing

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

- Convincing editorial concept/policy
- Type of peer-review
- Diversity geographic distribution of editors
- Diversity geographic distribution of authors

Quality of Content

- Academic contribution to the field
- Clarity of abstracts
- Quality and conformity with stated aims & scope
- Readability of articles

Journal Standing

- Citedness of journal articles in Scopus
- Editor standing

Regularity

- No delay in publication schedule

Online Availability

- Content available online
- English-language journal home page
- Quality of home page

Rejection reasons

Category	Titles rejected	Criteria
Journal Policy	86%	Convincing editorial policy Type of peer review Diversity in geographical distribution of editors Diversity in geographical distribution of authors
Content	33%	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	84%	Citedness of journal articles in Scopus Editor standing
Publishing Regularity	2%	No delays or interruptions in the publication schedule
Online Availability	19%	Full journal content available online English language journal home page available Quality of journal home page

Statistics based on 43 Rejected titles (2021) from China & South Korea

Rejection letter example 1



Journal A

Subjects: Agricultural & Biological Sciences; medicine; Biochemistry; Genetics & Molecular Biology; Psychology

Evaluation results: Reject

Embargo Period: 2 years

(Partial) Message to Publisher:

The journal was evaluated in 2018. Unfortunately, there remain outstanding issues that need to be addressed before the journal can be indexed.

1. Articles published in the journal **remain poorly cited**
2. **It remains unclear if the journal considers itself an international or a regional journal**.the origin of the authors should become more international and not be limited to South Korea. However, it should be made clear that it is not a requirement for a journal to be an international journal before it can be indexed in Scopus.
3. There remain **major concerns with the review process**. The external peer review process, i.e., date of submission to the date of receiving the revised manuscript, can be completed in 2 weeks or less. For example,
4. Information on the **academic standing of the Editor-in-Chief (EiC) is not provided**, only of the Associate Editors. Without this information of the EiC, the evaluation process cannot be completed. It is of relevance that EiCs of a scientific journal, and who have an academic/research position, show a solid academic standing in their discipline as reflected by their overall publication/citation record.

Rejection letter example 2



Journal B

Subjects: Pharmacology, Toxicology & Pharmaceutics

Evaluation results: Reject
Embargo Period: 6 months

(Partial) Message to Publisher:

The 'Chinese Journal of XXX' appears to be a strong journal in the field. The journal was launched in 1985... It is associated with the Chinese Society for XX, which is a major strength. However, the citation record for articles published in the journal is very modest. Since 1996 there have been only 20 articles that have been cited five or more times by articles in Scopus-indexed journals.

While the journal states that it uses a single-blind review system, there is no evidence of peer review.

The home page is in Chinese, but there is an English version. Unfortunately, with one exception, all of the links lead to pages in Chinese, so that retrieving additional information for non-Chinese speakers is very difficult.

The editorial board is entirely in Chinese, so it is difficult to evaluate the board members' academic standing.

Rejection letter example 3



Journal C

Subjects: Energy Engineering and Power Technology, Building and Construction

Evaluation results: Reject

Embargo Period: 1 year

(Partial) Message to Publisher:

The journal publishes some very good articles of high academic quality that are definitely of interest to an international scientific and technical audience. However, the journal shows an uneven scholarly quality in the articles, and publishes some weaker and less substantial articles. As well, the language and grammar in some of the abstracts and articles are poor. These aspects indicate that peer review and editorial management need to be strengthened and that weaker articles need to be improved or rejected.

Challenges an Editor faces



Editors

- **Benchmark, assess and reflect journal performance** across an array of journal-level metrics
- **Identify and target reviewers and editorial board members**
- **Source ideas for high impact topics**

“For me, the primary differences are **how quickly new information appears in the database (Scopus is updated daily) and how easy the interface is to use. Scopus has the advantage in both**, and both matter for how I use it.”

—Dr. William Neilson, prev. Editor-in-Chief,
Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization
and Economic Inquiry.

CiteScore and journal benchmarking

Source details

Feedback > Compare sources >

The Lancet

Scopus coverage years: from 1823 to Present

Publisher: Elsevier

ISSN: 0140-6736 E-ISSN: 1474-547X

Subject area: Medicine: General Medicine

Source type: Journal

[View all documents >](#)
[Set document alert](#)
[Save to source list](#)
[Entitled Full Text](#)
[COPAC](#)
[EZB Ektr. Zeitschriften bib](#)
[More >](#)

CiteScore 2021
115.3

SJR 2021
15.652

SNIP 2021
33.801

CiteScore CiteScore rank & trend Scopus content coverage

Improved CiteScore methodology

CiteScore 2021 counts the citations received in 2018-2021 to articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters and data papers published in 2018-2021, and divides this by the number of publications published in 2018-2021. [Learn more >](#)

CiteScore 2021

$$115.3 = \frac{198,711 \text{ Citations 2018 - 2021}}{1,723 \text{ Documents 2018 - 2021}}$$

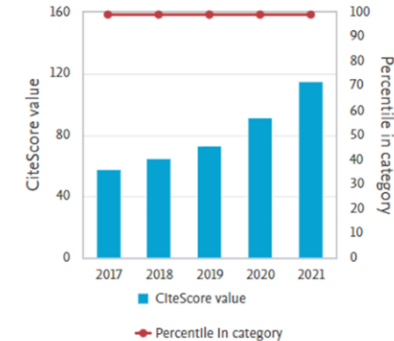
CiteScoreTracker 2022

$$113.7 = \frac{172,486 \text{ Citations to date}}{1,517 \text{ Documents to date}}$$

CiteScore rank 2021

Category	Rank	Percentile
Medicine		
General Medicine	#1/826	99th

CiteScore trend



High Impact Researchers

This author profile is generated by Scopus [Learn more](#)

List, Benjamin

[Max Planck Institute for Coal Research, Muelheim an der Ruhr, Germany](#) [Show all author Info](#)

[7007013643](#) [Connect to ORCID](#)

[Edit profile](#) [Set alert](#) [Save to list](#) [Potential author matches](#) [Export to SciVal](#)

Metrics overview

265
Documents by author

33803
Citations by 15868 documents

88
h-index: [View h-graph](#)

Document & citation trends



[Analyze author output](#) [Citation overview](#)

Most contributed Topics 2016–2020

Chiral; Indole Derivative; Phosphoric Acids
[21 documents](#)

Organocatalysts; Squaramide; Michael Addition
[2 documents](#)

Aldehyde; Cyanohydrin; Baliospermum Montanum
[2 documents](#)

[View all Topics](#)

265 Documents Cited by 15868 Documents [4 Preprints](#) 261 Co-Authors 27 Topics 0 Awarded Grants Beta



New In Scopus: Preprints

We have added preprints to author profiles to help you discover the latest contributions of a researcher. Preprints are non-peer reviewed publications and are directly derived from arXiv, bioRxiv, ChemRxiv, medRxiv and SSRN servers and follow their respective curation policies. Preprints do not affect existing publication and citation metrics in Scopus.

Scopus covers preprints from 2017 onwards. [Learn more](#)

[Export all](#)

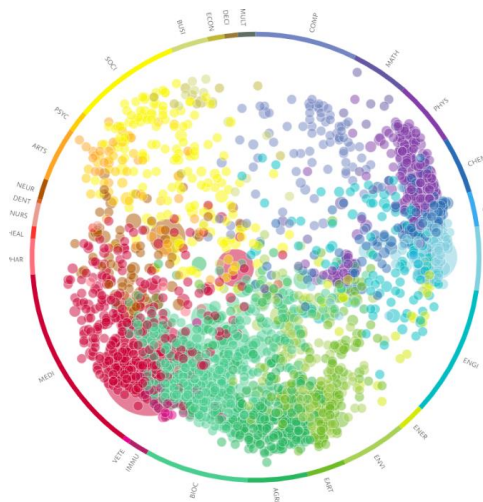
Sort by [Date \(newest\)](#)

Preprint • [Open access](#)
Direct and Catalytic C-Glycosylation of Arenes: Expedient Synthesis of the Remdesivir Nucleoside

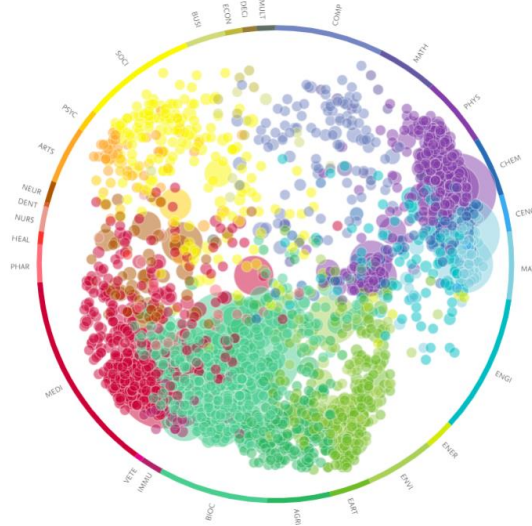
Obradors, C., Mitschke, B., Aukland, M.H., ...Schwengers, S.A., List, B.

2021, Repository: [ChemRxiv](#)

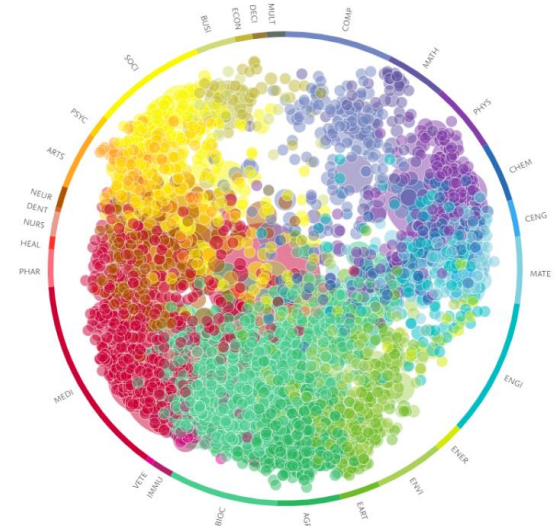
Hot topics? Data-driven decision



Science
2,693 Topics

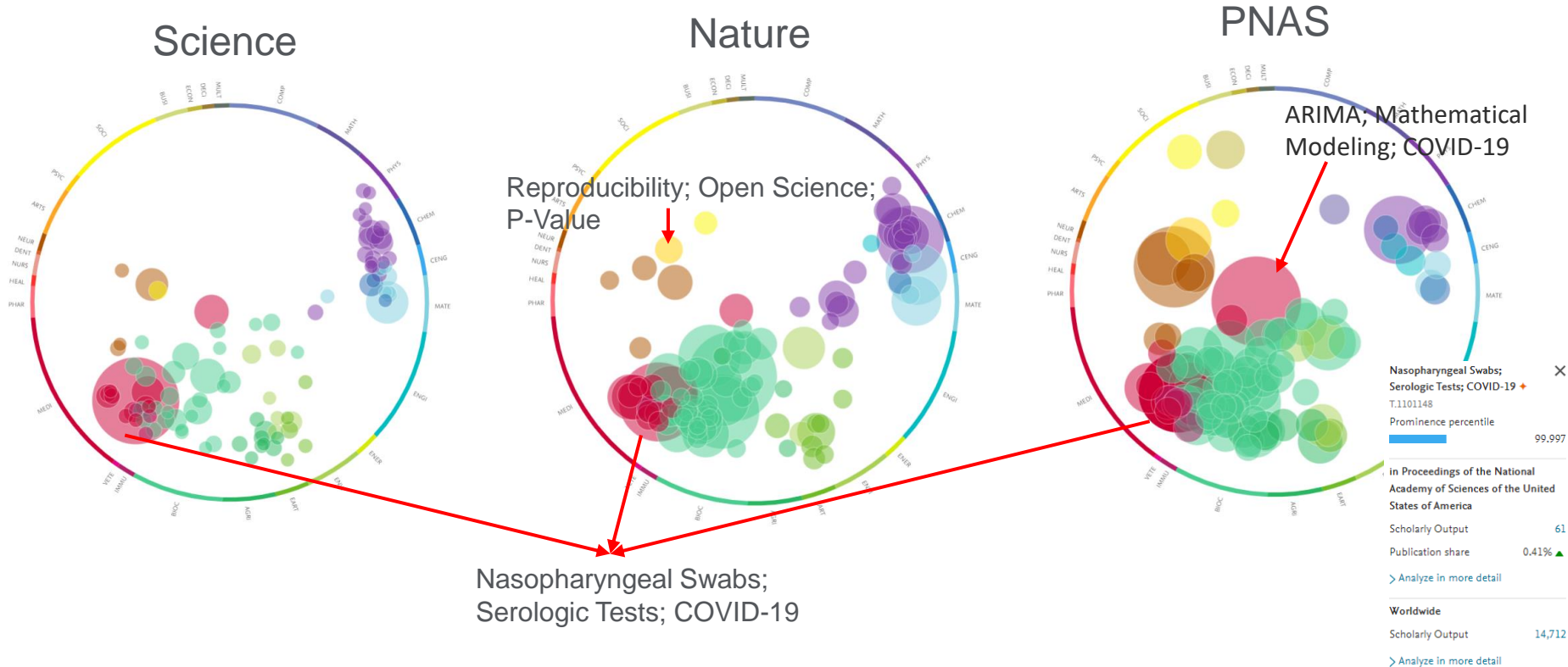


Nature
2,587 Topics



PNAS
5,435 Topics

Hot topics? Data-driven decision



Data source: Scopus&Scival, Topic of Prominence, Top 100 ToP, 2018-2021 Publication output

More methods to improve journal impact?

- Brand & Reputation
- Portfolio development
- International platform and search engine optimization
- Social platform
- Mainstream indexing and aggregating database
- International journal society
- More...



How Scopus help journal increase international impact?



International Journal requires

- Editorial policy from international perspective
- Transparency and best publishing practice
- Capture research frontiers
- International experts joining editorial boards
- Array of metrics for journal assessment

Scopus support

- Transparent journal selection criteria
- Trusted global research information
- Track research frontiers
- Emerging topics and topic of prominence
- Accurate and up-to-date global researcher profiles
- Open and transparent journal metrics



ELSEVIER

Thank you!

Tr.chen@elsevier.com

titlesuggestion@scopus.com

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

