

Content coverage guide



Contents

1. Introduction	3
1.1 Scopus — an overview	3
1.2 Content Selection and Advisory Board	5
2. Coverage of sources	6
2.1 Scopus title list	6
2.2 Scopus title evaluation	6
2.3 Global coverage	9
2.4 Subject area coverage	9
2.5 Complete coverage	10
2.6 MEDLINE coverage	10
3. AI functions in Scopus	11
3.1 AI and Scopus: an overview	11
3.2 Acceptable and responsible use of AI	11
4. Coverage of source types	12
4.1 Journals and trade journals	12
4.2 Books and book series	13
4.3 Other sources	14
5. Coverage of metadata	15
5.1 Document types	15
5.2 Article data	18
5.3 Author data	21
5.4 Affiliation data	22
6. Processing of Scopus content	23
7. Conclusion	25

1. Introduction

1.1 Scopus — an overview

Scopus is a source-neutral abstract and citation database curated by independent subject matter experts. It places powerful discovery and analytics tools in the hands of researchers, librarians, institutional research managers and funders.

Scopus, launched in November 2004, is a source-neutral abstract and citation database curated by independent subject matter experts who are recognized leaders in their fields.

Scopus puts powerful discovery and analytics tools in the hands of researchers, librarians, research managers and funders to promote ideas, people and institutions.

Scopus at a glance

Updated March 2026.

31,570 active sources: (see section 2.1)

- **29,905** active journals (including 8,905 Gold Open Access journals)
- **151** trade journals
- **1,514** book series
- **13.2M** conference papers from 171,000 worldwide events
- **3.1M** preprints
- “Articles-in-Press” from **9,100+** journals (see section 6)
- **470K** stand-alone books
- **105M** records

105 million records: (see section 3.1)

- **99+M** records post-1969 with references
- **6.6M** records pre-1970, with the oldest record dating back to 1788

For additional information and updates, please refer to: elsevier.com/products/scopus/content

Over seven thousand publishers are indexed in Scopus

Elsevier 9%	Wolters Kluwer Health 1%	Oxford University Press 1%
Springer Nature 9%	Walter de Gruyter 1%	Cambridge University Press 1%
Taylor & Francis 7%	Emerald 1%	IEEE 1%
Wiley-Blackwell 5%	Brill 1%	Other 60%
SAGE 2%		

Scopus helps address key institutional research challenges and supports a range of institutional stakeholders:

Progress your research

Intuitive, powerful search, based on 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

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 Scopus to meet your most stringent demands and highest-value decisions

Key Challenges

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching next generation researchers • Supporting career growth and development • Helping research thrive • Supporting the scholarly record | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signaling researcher impact • Demonstrating organizational impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand global rankings calculations • Inform national and regional assessments • Glean insights from custom adaptations and analyses • Analyze global and regional research trends • Power repositories and Research Intelligence Management Systems with profile data |
|--|--|--|

Stakeholders

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Librarians • Students • Faculty and researchers • Editors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Librarians • Department heads • Faculty and researchers • Research services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Librarians • Department heads • Faculty and researchers • Research services |
|--|--|--|

1.2 Content Selection and Advisory Board

The Scopus Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB) is an international group of scientists, researchers and librarians who represent the major scientific disciplines. The board members are responsible for reviewing all titles that are suggested to Scopus.

The CSAB is comprised of 17 Subject Chairs, each representing a specific subject field. The board works with the Scopus team to understand how Scopus is used, what content is relevant for users and what enhancements should be made.

The recommendations of the CSAB directly influence the overall direction of Scopus and the prioritization of new content requests to ensure that Scopus content remains international and relevant.

Scopus works with multiple local boards with the goal to further advance the overall standards and quality of journals published in non-English speaking countries. Currently, local boards are in place in China, Thailand, Russia and South Korea.

The CSAB's primary function is to evaluate and determine which peer-reviewed titles are accepted into Scopus, and which titles are excluded. To ensure both the broadest coverage and highest-quality content is included, the CSAB maintains and follows a transparent and robust selection policy. This policy is reviewed on a regular basis (see section 2.2).

The CSAB also serves as Scopus' strategic adviser on long-term content directions by translating the research community's evolving needs into actionable guidance. The CSAB helps Scopus focus on initiatives that improve impact, usability and international relevance. Ultimately, CSAB recommendations shape Scopus' overall direction and prioritization, keeping Scopus aligned with the global research community across disciplines and regions.

See a roster of the CSAB members: elsevier.com/products/scopus/content#2-expert-curation

Purpose and scope

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 sources

2.1 Scopus title list

The Scopus Source list contains 49,382 titles, including 31,570 active titles and 16,790 inactive titles. The Scopus Books title list contains 470,000 books.

Complete lists of titles (for both journals and books) in Scopus are available externally from the Scopus info site: elsevier.com/products/scopus/content#4-titles-on-scopus. The lists are identical to those available on Scopus.com in the Sources section.

The title lists and the Sources section are updated monthly and include only journals, conference proceedings and books with substantial coverage 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 Sources section only as of the next update. To check whether the content of a recently added title is already available on Scopus, users can perform an advanced search on Scopus.com via the search code Source Title (SRCTITLE) and entering the name of the title.

For more information about the Scopus subject areas, see section 2.4.

Which titles are included in the title list and the Sources section?

The Scopus Sources section allows you to browse a list of all journals, book series, trade publications, and conference proceedings available on Scopus. A small number of titles — roughly 201 pre-1996 titles with no parent–child relations — are not displayed in the Title List or the Sources section.

Stand-alone non-serial books, conference proceedings and reports are also not included in the Scopus Sources section. One-off book publications are listed in a separate book title list and Conference Proceedings are listed under a separate tab in the Scopus Excel Source Title List. Download the list from our info site:

elsevier.com/products/scopus/content#4-titles-on-scopus

2.2 Scopus title evaluation

To ensure Scopus remains the most relevant resource for all research in the sciences, technology, medicine, social sciences, and arts and humanities fields, the CSAB continually reviews new titles for inclusion, using transparent selection criteria (see elsevier.com/products/scopus/content/content-policy-and-selection). New title suggestions may come from journal publishers or editors, and can be submitted using the Title Suggestion form on the Scopus info site: suggestor.step.scopus.com/suggestTitle/step1.cfm.

Scopus receives approximately 3,500 serial title suggestions on an annual basis. The number of suggested titles can vary significantly per subject area, ranging from only a few titles (e.g., in chemistry) to several hundred (e.g., in social sciences).

~3,500 title suggestions per year on average

Stage 1: ~51% meet the Scopus minimum criteria

Stage 2: ~857 serial titles meet the full Scopus criteria

Stage 3: ~48% are accepted after the CSAB's review

Criteria for title selection

To be considered for review, journal titles should:

- 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
- Produce content that is relevant for and readable by an international audience (i.e., have English language abstracts and titles)
- Have a publicly available publication ethics and malpractice statement

CSAB members have deep subject matter expertise and are committed to actively seeking out and selecting literature that meets the needs and standards of the research community that they represent.

Journals eligible for review by the CSAB will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Category	Criteria
Journal policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convincing editorial policy• Type of peer-review• Broad geographical distribution of editors• Broad geographical distribution of authors
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citedness of journal articles in Scopus• Editor standing
Publishing regularity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No delays or interruptions in the publication schedule
Online availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full journal content available online• English language journal homepage available• Quality of journal homepage

Scopus title evaluation platform

The Scopus Title Evaluation Platform (STEP) is a web-based editorial system. It streamlines the entire title evaluation process from submission until the final decision, including the feedback to the suggester and publisher/editor of newly suggested titles. STEP offers several benefits, including:

- 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 selected by the Content Selection and Advisory Board added to Scopus?

Once a title is accepted for inclusion in Scopus, Elsevier will contact the publisher to set up the content feed. After the content feed has been established, it will take up to a few weeks before the title will be added to Scopus.

Re-evaluation and ethics

To maintain the quality of our Scopus content, curation of included titles is essential. In addition to passing the rigorous evaluation and selection process before acceptance, journals must also demonstrate the ability to maintain their quality status.

To determine journal quality, Scopus runs an ongoing re-evaluation program. Titles can be flagged for re-evaluation in different ways:

- Concerns about the journal's publication standards.
- The journal shows outlier or unexpected publishing performance

Publication concerns

Concerns about the publication standards of a journal indexed in Scopus can be raised by the research community. These concerns can be at either the publisher or journal level and could include, but are not limited to, issues related to publication ethics and research integrity. If the concerns are found to be valid and legitimate, the CSAB will flag the title for re-evaluation.

Outlier performance

Elsevier data scientists have developed a model to identify outlier or unexpected performance of journals in the Scopus database. The data model detects outlier signals and other anomalies such as unexpected patterns in publication activities, citation graphs, author collaborations or content. It continually improves by incorporating new examples or developing new signals. The model runs regularly to check all Scopus journals, and journals may be flagged for re-evaluation for suspicious performance.

Title re-evaluation process

The CSAB re-evaluates all flagged titles using review criteria identical to the Scopus content selection criteria for newly suggested titles.

The board also informs the publisher and requests relevant information to enrich the online title evaluation form. To ensure that no content from journals under re-evaluation is included in Scopus during this review process, the content flow for these titles will be suspended until the re-evaluation is complete. After concluding the re-evaluation, the CSAB will decide to either continue a journal's coverage or discontinue it. The outcome of the review, including reviewer comments, is then communicated to the publisher.

For journals that are continued, content flow will resume. For journals that are discontinued or put on hold, the content already indexed in Scopus remains as a matter of scientific record and to ensure the stability and consistency of research trend analytics. In exceptional cases of proven and severe unethical publication practice, content already indexed in Scopus may be removed. In case of discontinuation, there will be an embargo period during which the title cannot be suggested again.

Discontinued titles can be found in the [Scopus source title list](#). The file includes the list of discontinued sources and is updated monthly.

For questions, or to raise publication concerns, please email re-evaluation@scopus.com

Journal change policy

To maintain high-quality standards, Scopus ensures that any changes to a source (journal) are carefully monitored and validated. We verify the authenticity of source changes before making any updates. These include, but are not limited to, changes to the title name, ISSN, ownership, or editorial oversight of the journal. Scopus does not guarantee that a journal will remain selected for coverage after the change; this is subject to continued discretionary review by the CSAB. Journals that have undergone significant change will be considered new journals and may be submitted for Scopus review according to the regular title evaluation process.

To come to a decision to accept or reject a title for Scopus, Elsevier follows the independent advice from the CSAB. Elsevier, in consultation with the CSAB, reserves the right to change decisions, adjust the selection criteria, halt, remove or re-evaluate titles that are accepted for Scopus without prior notice.

2.3 Global coverage

Scopus coverage is global by design to best serve researchers' needs and ensure that relevant scientific information is not omitted. Titles from all geographical regions are covered, including non-English titles as long as English abstracts can be provided. Approximately 24% of titles in Scopus are published in languages other than English, adding up to 40 local languages (or published in both English and another language).

Number of active titles indexed by Scopus vs. the nearest competitor based on geographical region

- North America: 6,443 - 27% unique compared to nearest competitor
- Middle East & Africa: 1,172 - 66% unique compared to nearest competitor
- Western Europe (incl. Israel): 15,711 - 32% unique compared to nearest competitor
- Eastern Europe (incl. Russia + CIS): 2,709 - 67% unique compared to nearest competitor
- Central & South America: 1,086 - 64% unique compared to nearest competitor
- Asia Pacific: 3,497 - 61% unique compared to nearest competitor
- Australia & New Zealand: 243 - 49% unique compared to nearest competitor

2.4 Subject area coverage

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 and humanities (A&H).

Titles in Scopus are classified under four broad subject clusters (life sciences, physical sciences, health sciences, and social sciences and humanities), which are further divided into 27 major subject areas and 300+ minor subject areas. Titles may belong to more than one subject area. Download the title list on the Scopus info site:

elsevier.com/products/scopus/content#4-titles-on-scopus.

The table below reflects the number of active titles by subject cluster. Note: A title can fall in more than one subject area.

There are 31,570 titles in Scopus.

- Social sciences: 13,917 (Psychology, Economics, Business, A&H)
- Physical sciences: 10,640 (Chemistry, Physics, Engineering)
- Health sciences: 8,273 (100% MEDLINE, Nursing, Dentistry)
- Life sciences: 5,801 (Neuroscience, Pharmacology, Biology)

Arts and humanities

Scopus has strong arts and humanities coverage, featuring 5,814 titles. Since 2014, more than 470,000 book titles have been added to Scopus with more than 55% of the added book titles representing the arts and humanities and social sciences. When combined with the strength of Scopus in bibliographic search, discoverability and evaluation tools, this expanded coverage allows users to better measure the impact and scholarly achievement of the humanities in a more quantitative way.

Arts and humanities titles are part of the social sciences subject cluster in Scopus. Users can exclude or limit to arts and humanities results from their search results by using the refine results overview.

2.5 Complete coverage

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

Journal coverage starts from the year of selection minus 4. This means that for a title selected in 2026, its coverage would start from the first content published in 2022 going forward and have five years' worth of content. Exceptions are made to journals with previous evaluation history.

2.6 MEDLINE coverage

MEDLINE is a database hosted by third parties via the PubMed platform. PubMed's main component is MEDLINE, but it also contains other data. Scopus has permission to cover ~6,700 out of the total of ~7,000 MEDLINE titles. Scopus also includes 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. Scopus has permission to cover around 60 titles, which MEDLINE supplies directly to Scopus. In Scopus, these titles are referred to as "MEDLINE sourced." The advantages of covering MEDLINE in Scopus is that the MEDLINE records are fully integrated with the Scopus citation network and Scopus Author Profiles.

3. AI functions in Scopus

3.1 AI and Scopus: an overview

The AI capabilities in Scopus combine generative AI with content from the publisher-neutral abstract and citation database Scopus, curated by the CSAB. The AI capabilities in Scopus draw on the following:

- Currently, the tool considers content published since 2003 to provide a 20-year rolling window of recent research. An exception is the Foundational Documents feature, which mines the entire Scopus corpus to identify influential work source types including journals, conferences, books and book series
- Source formats: Content is drawn from journals, conferences, books, and book series from more than 7,000 publishers. Data elements include abstracts, titles, author and indexed keywords, total reference counts and cited-by counts. Full-text articles are not used.
- Document types: Supported documents include articles, conference papers, reviews, book chapters, reports, short surveys, data papers, and occasionally letters, notes and editorials.

Not included are:

- Preprints
- Trade journals
- Retracted items
- Conference reviews
- Errata

3.2 Acceptable and responsible use of AI

We follow a transparent approach aligned with the Elsevier Responsible AI Principles:

1. We can explain how our solution works.
2. We consider the real-world impact of our solution on people.
3. We take action to prevent the creation or reinforcement of unfair bias.
4. We create accountability through human oversight.
5. We respect privacy and champion robust data governance.

The large language model (LLM) used to power AI capabilities within Scopus is hosted in a private environment. There is no data exchange or use of Scopus data to train public generative AI models. Although Scopus with AI capabilities leverages trusted Scopus content and has undergone rigorous engineering and testing, it is not fault tolerant. Generative AI models can sometimes produce misleading or inaccurate results. We recommend exercising expertise and discretion before incorporating outputs generated using AI capabilities within Scopus into official documents such as dissertations or manuscripts. It is essential to understand that these AI capabilities are not designed to offer legal, financial, or medical advice. As new content is continuously added to the Scopus database and the overall system is updated, responses generated using AI capabilities within Scopus may change over time.

Technological and legal developments in generative AI are evolving rapidly. When using AI capabilities within Scopus for research, we strongly encourage following the applicable policies of your institution and the laws and regulations in your region.

4. Coverage of source types

The source types covered in Scopus are either serial publications that have an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) such as journals, book series and some conference series, or non-serial publications that have an ISBN (International Standard Book Number) like one-off book publications or one-off conferences.

To ensure that coverage, discoverability, profiles and impact measurement for research in all subject fields is accounted for, Scopus covers different source types.

4.1 Journals and trade journals

Journals

Journals make up the bulk of the content in Scopus and can have various physical formats (e.g., print, electronic). Titles are selected according to our content coverage policy (for more information see section 2.2). Any peer-reviewed serial publication with an ISSN can be suggested for review and will be covered in Scopus once approved.

Trade journals

Trade journals are serial publications covering, and intended to reach, a specific industry, trade or type of business. These publications are usually magazine-type periodicals with articles on topical subjects, news items and advertisements that appeal to those in the field. Trade journals are seldom refereed and do not always have an editorial board. Abstracts are usually short or nonexistent, and few or no references are given, although usually an ISSN is available. Trade journals are included in Scopus because users and librarians consider selected articles to be scientifically relevant. Only articles or reviews of scientific relevance are included in Scopus. The minimum requirements for trade journal items to be captured are: (1) minimum of one page, (2) minimum of one mentioned author (for more information about the regular document type policy, see section 5.1).

Percentages of Scopus serial publications

- Active journals: 61.6%
- Inactive journals, book series, trade journals: 35.1%
- Active book series: 3.0%
- Active trade journals: 0.3%

The significance of each source type varies per discipline and Scopus takes a highly targeted approach of identifying content types that are significant to each discipline and expanding coverage accordingly. As a result, some content types are more broadly covered in a discipline than others. For example, books are more broadly covered in arts and humanities, and social science and conferences are more broadly covered in computer science.

Conference material

Conference material enters Scopus in three different ways:

- as a special issue of a regular journal,
- as a conference series
- as a one-off conference proceeding.

Proceedings can be published as serial publication with ISSN or non-serial with ISBN 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), although some journals also include proceeding(s) in the title.

Scopus covers proceedings that publish full-text papers, i.e., document-type conference papers (see section 5.1), whereas conferences that publish only abstracts (meeting abstracts) are not considered for coverage.

Over 12% of the Scopus database is comprised of conference papers (over 12.6 million) of which 3.2 million are published in journals, book series and other sources. The remaining 10.4 million are published in conference proceedings.

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). Scopus is continuously expanding coverage of conference material primarily for the subject domains mentioned above.

Scopus covers conference content from over 171,000 conference events, resulting in over 13.2 million conference papers.

Over 12% of the Scopus database is comprised of conference papers (over 12.6 million) of which 3.2 million are published in journals book series and other sources. The remaining 10.4 million are published in conference proceedings.

Serial conference titles that have a registered ISSN can be suggested for Scopus coverage via the regular title evaluation process.

4.2 Books and book series

Books are publications with ISBNs, which can have different physical formats (e.g., print, electronic). A book series is a serial publication that has an overall series title, an ISSN, and in which every volume and/or issue is also a book with an ISBN. Usually, but not always, each book has a book title separate from the series title and a different editor or editors. Book series can also be published irregularly.

Book coverage includes monographs, edited volumes, major reference works and graduate-level textbooks. Over 479,000 book titles have been added to Scopus since 2014 and approximately 55,000 more titles are added annually. Books are indexed on both a book and a chapter level (see section 5.1). This expansion significantly increases the breadth and depth of coverage for book-oriented disciplines in the social sciences and humanities.

Book selection policy is publisher-based, meaning publishers are reviewed based on the relevancy and quality of their complete books portfolio including its imprints, book list and their book series portfolio. The selection and curation process is overseen by the independent CSAB, which reviews all book publishers and their published content according to transparent criteria.

Publishers can suggest books the Scopus Books Suggestion form:

elsevier-forms.formstack.com/forms/publisher_books_suggestions_scopus. Once a publisher is accepted, all submitted books from that publisher deemed in scope are indexed in Scopus. To see a list of the publishers included, please refer to the book title list as well as the book series available in Scopus title list: elsevier.com/products/scopus/content#4-titles-on-scopus.

4.3 Other sources

Secondary documents

In Scopus, approximately 296 million records are non-core, or secondary documents. These are records that have been cited in Scopus core records, but are not themselves indexed in Scopus. The most highly cited of these non-core items are often books and older journal articles.

Preprints

A preprint is a version of a scholarly paper that precedes publication in a peer-reviewed journal and acts as an early indication of research. Preprints are available in Scopus search results and Author Profiles to help users discover a researcher's latest contributions.

Preprints reside on servers, that cover a set of domains and allow for dissemination, laying claim to an idea, and the collection of feedback prior to submission. In some fields, preprints are the main communication vehicle. Preprints differ from Articles-in-Press because they are not peer-reviewed and not accepted for publication in a journal yet.

The preprint servers selected for Scopus are arXiv and ChemRxiv (Physical Sciences); bioRxiv, MedRxiv and eLife (Biomedical Sciences); SSRN (Social Sciences); TechRxiv (Engineering, Computer Science, and related technology); and Research Square (Multidisciplinary). Preprints follow their respective server's curation policies.

Preprints do not affect existing publication and citation metrics in Scopus.

5. Coverage of metadata

5.1 Document types

Scopus coverage focuses on primary document types from serial publications, meaning that the author is identical to the researcher in charge of the presented findings. Scopus does not include secondary document types, in which the author is not identical to the person behind the presented research, such as obituaries and book reviews (see section 4.3).

Scopus currently has over 105+ million core records:

- **99M+** records post-1969 with references
- **6.6M+** records pre-1970, with the oldest records dating back to 1788
- Approximately **3M** new records are added each year (5,500 a day)

Documents going back to 1970 contain references.

Document types covered in Scopus

Document type	Definition
Article	<p>Original research or opinion.</p> <p>Characteristics: Articles in peer-reviewed journals are usually several pages in length, most often subdivided into sections: abstract, introduction, materials and 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 short as one page. Articles in trade journals are typically shorter than in peer-reviewed journals, and may also be as brief as one page.</p>
Article-in-Press (AiP)	<p>Accepted article made available online before official publication (see section 6).</p>
Book	<p>A whole monograph or entire book.</p> <p>Characteristics: For every book with an ISBN, a book document type applies.</p>
Book Chapter	<p>A complete chapter in a book or book series volume where the item is identified as a chapter by a heading or section indicator.</p> <p>Characteristics: For books with individual chapters written by different authors (mostly edited volumes and reference works), each chapter is indexed.</p>
Conference paper	<p>Original article reporting data presented at a conference or symposium.</p> <p>Characteristics: Conference papers are of any length reporting data from a conference, with the exception of conference abstracts. Conference papers may range in length and content from full papers and published conference summaries to short items as short as one page (also see section 4.1).</p>

Data paper	<p>Searchable metadata documents describing an online accessible dataset, or group of datasets.</p> <p>Characteristics: The intent of a data paper is to offer descriptive information on the related dataset(s) focusing on data collection, distinguishing features, access, and potential reuse rather than information on data processing and analysis.</p>
Editorial	<p>Summary of several articles, or a selection of editorial opinions or news.</p> <p>Characteristics: Editorials are typically identified as editorial, introduction, leading article, preface or foreword, and are usually listed at the beginning of the table of contents.</p>
Erratum	<p>Report of an error, correction or retraction of a previously published paper. The erratum notice is linked to the original published paper it concerns and vice versa.</p> <p>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.</p>
Letter	<p>Letter to or correspondence with the editor.</p> <p>Characteristics: Correspondence consists of individual letters or replies. Each individual letter or reply is processed as a single item.</p>
Note	<p>Note, discussion or commentary.</p> <p>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 that follow an article are defined as notes and considered to be items in their own right. Notes also include questions and answers, as well as comments on other (often translated) articles. In trade journals, notes are generally shorter than half a page.</p>
Retracted article	<p>Published articles that the author(s) or publisher has requested to retract. The erratum or retraction notice announcing the retraction is linked to the retracted article.</p> <p>Characteristics: Articles with a published retraction note will be updated to the document type "Retracted." Usually, these articles are indicated with the words "retracted" or "retraction."</p>
Review	<p>Significant review of original research, also including conference papers.</p> <p>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 typical sections of original articles such as materials and methods and results.</p>
Short survey	<p>Short or mini-review of original research.</p> <p>Characteristics: Short surveys are similar to reviews, but usually are shorter (not more than a few pages) and with a less extensive bibliography.</p>

The Scopus editorial team is responsible for the classification of records according to document type.

Examples of document types not covered in Scopus

Document type	Definition
Book reviews	Scopus does not cover book reviews because they do not represent primary literature, and publishers often regard them as full-text. 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, causing confusion to Scopus users. In addition, book reviews are not typically cited in research literature. As an example of this, the average citation per item for the <i>Journal of Academic Librarianship</i> drops by 50% (2.13 to 1.12) when book reviews are included.
Conference meeting abstracts	Scopus does not cover conference meeting abstracts. Meeting abstracts are not a complete and unique record of research and can drive ambiguity or duplication. Furthermore, the scientific content and substance of meeting abstracts is typically written before the actual research is complete, and is generally not peer-reviewed.

5.2 Article data

Abstracts

Over 82.3 million records in Scopus contain an abstract to provide users with as much information as possible about the research presented in the database. The original abstract is available whenever the original published article has an abstract. For older content and certain document types, an abstract is not always available. The availability of abstracts in Scopus helps to ensure that users find all relevant results for their searches across title, abstract and keywords.

Keywords and index terms

Index terms are displayed for 80% of the titles covered in Scopus. These index terms are derived from thesauri that Elsevier owns or licenses and are updated to improve search recall. A team of professional indexers manages the assignment of index terms to records according to the following controlled vocabularies:

- Engineering terms (engineering, technology, physical sciences)
- Emtree medical terms (life sciences, health sciences)
- MeSH (life sciences, health sciences)
- Geoscience/Earth science Subject Index (geoscience, earth science)
- 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, only the index terms that have a direct relation with the topic of the article are displayed and made searchable on Scopus to avoid retrieving irrelevant results.

For Emtree, the index terms with a direct relation are the Major Focus and the mentioned index terms. For MeSH, the index terms with a direct relation are Major Topics and Minor Topics. For the Engineering indexed terms, 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).

No thesauri are available or searchable in Scopus.

The Scopus capturing department assigns Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) numbers as part of the normal Emtree Drugs/Chemicals/Thesaurus indexing. Emtree has ca. 24,222 CAS numbers, which by no means is comparable with Chemical Databases. The CAS assignment process focuses purely on titles that are also covered by Embase. For example, searching for CASREGNUMBER in Scopus will retrieve over 9 million items.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)

Scopus lists the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) relevant to a paper on that paper's Document details page. Clicking on one of the listed SDGs opens a window containing additional information on the goal, with an option to analyze further in SciVal.

The SDG framework, with its 17 interlinked goals, continues to grow in importance globally:

- It is increasingly used to evaluate the contribution of universities to society; in 2019, Times Higher Education launched THE Impact Rankings, a global performance table that assesses universities against the SDGs with the help of this Scopus data set.

- Universities are monitoring and mapping how the work of their researchers contributes to the SDGs.
- Many funders now want evidence that the research they fund is positively impacting society, aligned with the SDGs.

Listing the relevant SDGs on the Document details page makes it easier to understand their relationship to a research publication. The SDG labels can also provide a useful reference when applying for funding, by demonstrating that research is making a difference in a particular area.

SciVal Topics

A SciVal Topic is a collection of documents with a common intellectual interest and can be large or small, new or old, growing or declining in momentum. Over time, new Topics will surface and evolve. With the nature of today's research landscape, many Topics are multidisciplinary and old Topics may become dormant, but they still exist. In addition, researchers themselves are mobile, and work in various research areas and thereby contribute to multiple Topics.

These Topics are powered by SciVal and are displayed directly in Scopus on Document details pages along their prominence percentile score, an indicator that shows the current momentum of a Topic. You can click on the Topic label on Document details pages to explore the Topic or open it in SciVal for further analysis.

SciVal Topics are also available on Scopus Author Profiles. Users can select the Topics tab to view an author's associated topics.

Article metrics

Article metrics allow you to evaluate both citation impact and levels of community engagement.

- **Scopus metrics:** Citation metrics calculated and provided using Scopus data. These include Citation Count, View Count, Field-Weighted Citation Impact, Citation Benchmarking and the Cited by Graph.
- **PlumX Metrics:** As people interact with research they leave online footprints. Plum Analytics gathers these footprints and creates and categorizes metrics on individual pieces of research output (including articles, conference proceedings, book chapters, and more). These metrics are collectively known as PlumX Metrics. By categorizing the metrics into five categories — Usage, Captures, Mentions, Social Media, and Citations — PlumX helps make sense of a large amount of data and enables analysis by comparing compatible metrics.
- **Policy Citations:** With the addition of policy citation data on Scopus, users can see where research has been cited in policy documents to help demonstrate the societal impact of a piece of research output. Overton, currently the only policy data aggregator, provides Elsevier and Scopus with exclusive access to its data via PlumX Metrics. On Scopus, this is available on the Documents details page of an article.

Funding Data

Where applicable, the full text funding acknowledgement sections are included for documents) going back to 2008. This enables the text to be searchable and makes it easier to determine what research is being funded and by whom. Funding information is captured if the funding body is included in the FundRef ontology: crossref.org/fundref/. This includes the following information:

- Funding Sponsor (i.e., the National Science Foundation)
- Funding Acronym (i.e., NSF)
- Funding Number (i.e., INT-9321584)

Through the Advanced search form on Scopus, a funding search can be performed to look for a particular funding field (sponsor, acronym or number) or to search all funding information. The search terms associated with funding information are:

- FUND-ALL searches the funding acknowledgment text in addition to other funding fields
- FUND-SPONSOR searches the sponsor providing the grant or funding for the work
- FUND-ACR searches the acronym for a sponsor
- FUND-NO searches the grant or award number

Open Access

Open Access (OA) is represented at both the document and the journal level in Scopus.

Scopus users can locate OA journals and/or articles by conducting a Document search, Advanced search, or using the Scopus Sources feature. Any search result providing documents or sources that are considered OA indicate they are Open Access below the title.

Open Access for documents

Open Access filters are available in Scopus to provide greater clarity and a breakdown of the type of OA per document.

From the search results page, users can filter by all OA documents or by each of the OA tags: gold, hybrid gold, green and bronze.

From the Scopus Advanced search, the OA filters are found under the Document field code section. The values, in combination with the OA field code, allow users to build queries using the OA filters.

The source of OA documents in Scopus is Unpaywall, a database run by Impactstory (a non-profit organization) which harvests OA content from over 50,000 publishers and repositories.

The following Open Access filters are available for documents in Scopus:

Facets	Information label	Definition
Gold	Gold (Open access-only journal)	Published version with Creative Commons license, available on publisher platform. Documents are in journals which only publish open access.
Hybrid Gold	Gold (hybrid journal)	Published version with Creative Commons license, available on publisher platform. Documents are in journals that provide authors the choice of publishing open access.
Bronze	Other free-to-read at Publisher	Published version of record or manuscript accepted for publication, for which the publisher has chosen to provide temporary or permanent free access. Bronze status is assigned to a document if there is another (publisher-specific) license other than a Creative Commons license, no license at all, or the license is not clear.
Green	Free-to-read at Repository	Published version or manuscript accepted for publication, available at repository. Documents may also be available gold or other free-to-read on the publisher platform.

Open Access for journals

Open Access (OA) journals are indicated as Open Access on any results list where they are available, the Scopus Sources page, or on a Source details page. Open Access journals in Scopus are tagged based on Unpaywall journal-level OA status

For the full OA journal list, users can download the Scopus Title list here:

elsevier.com/products/scopus/content#4-titles-on-scopus which includes a filter on Open Access status.

PubMed ID

The unique identifier for MEDLINE documents, PubMed ID, is searchable via Advanced Search. When available, it appears on the record page, as well as in the export of records.

References

References in Scopus go back to 1970. For documents prior to 1996, the references were added from the archives of 60 major publishers including Springer Nature, Wiley Blackwell, Taylor & Francis, IEEE, American Physical Science, Elsevier and more.

This extensive and historic selection of references allows users to:

1. Measure impact, perform historical citation trend analyses and conduct more accurate evaluations of authors who have published as early as 1970.
2. Obtain more accurate and higher h-index rankings for senior researchers — many of whom subsequently have become key influencers and decision makers — who published most prolifically before the mid-1990s.

5.3 Author data

The Scopus Author Identifier automatically identifies and matches authors with all of their research output. This is particularly relevant for analyzing citation metrics for authors, as well as specific articles by an author. The data can also be used to find authors or reviewers for collaboration or hiring purposes. Scopus contains 23.2+ million author profiles.

The Scopus Author Identifier assigns each author in Scopus a unique number and groups together all the documents written by that author. To determine which author names should be grouped together under a single identifier number, the Scopus Author Identifier uses an algorithm that matches author names based on their affiliation, address, subject area, source title, dates of publication citations and co-authors.

An author can request corrections to their author details directly from their profile page using the Scopus Author Feedback Wizard (AFW). AFW guides the author through the steps of finding the correct profile(s) in Scopus and checking the publications it contains. Authors receive an email notification when their requested changes are visible in Scopus. Profile changes are implemented within five working days.

Awarded Grants Data

An awarded grant is an award, usually financial, given by a funder (typically a company, foundation, or government) to an individual or organization to facilitate a goal or reward performance. These have now been incorporated as a tab on Scopus Author Profiles.

The first phase is a beta release which shows competitive awards from U.S. funding bodies. The Scopus team will continue to gather feedback from users to allow for continual improvement of the feature and the data. The data will continue to expand to include additional regions and funding sources.

Awarded grants are captured from 2010 onward.

Phase 1 awarded grants in Scopus shows the historical funding awards made by more than 70 U.S. funding bodies. Awarded grants appear on author profiles where the researcher is listed as the Principal Investigator or Co-awardee in the Scopus grants database. Because Scopus grants are only linked to author profiles, only funding bodies whose grants are awarded to individuals, rather than institutions, are included.

Awarded grants do not affect existing publication and citation metrics in Scopus.

ORCID integration

ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor Identifier) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to solving the name ambiguity problem in scholarly research by assigning a unique identifier to each author. From their Scopus Author Profile, authors can import their list of publications in Scopus and their Scopus Author Identifier into ORCID. Once an author connects their ORCID record with their Scopus profile, a link to their ORCID record will appear on their profile page. Scopus and ORCID share and sync their data on a monthly basis. Learn more about ORCID at orcid.org

5.4 Affiliation data

Scopus can be searched based on affiliation data (using the 94,800+ affiliation profiles). An organization's Scopus Affiliation details page provides a comprehensive view of its scholarly output, including author and document counts and related visualizations. Users can sort and filter the data in various ways.

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.

Affiliation profiles are built using algorithmic processing and Elsevier's curated database of organizations. The Scopus organization curation team conducts extensive research to model an organization and its relationships. This includes a thorough 3-step process to capture the most accurate representation of an organization as possible.

- **Step 1:** Understand country conventions and research landscape
- **Step 2:** Capture name and address metadata; identify and capture variations in publication mentions
- **Step 3:** Identify and link to related organizations

Users who wish to modify their organization profile can do so by using the Institution Profile Wizard (IPW). Authorized users can access the IPW via the Organization details page.

6. Processing of Scopus content

Obtaining content

Scopus content is obtained from over 7,000 publishers worldwide. Scopus has content delivery agreements in place with each publisher and receives content in both print and electronic formats. Currently, 98% of material is received electronically and/or sourced from the journal websites.

For over 95% of the journals in Scopus, the data from publishers gets delivered via e-Feeds (XML or PDF deliveries) or downloads from journal websites. This ensures the fastest possible processing and indexing. On average, fully indexed article data will appear in Scopus within two to three weeks of appearing on the publisher's website. A diminishing number of publishers still supply their journal issues in paper format. Processing and indexing such data usually takes four to five weeks, depending on distribution and delivery from publishers' warehouses.

Articles-in-Press (AiP)

Articles-in-Press (AiP) are pre-published versions of accepted articles. AiP do contain cited references and are de-duplicated once the final version is published and made available in Scopus. Publishers usually use a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) service to deliver the prepublished version to Scopus once it has appeared on their website. Once received, Scopus usually makes it available online within four 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 over 10,179 journals are provided by the following publishers:

- Bentham Science Publishers
- Brill
- Cambridge University Press
- Elsevier
- Emerald Publishing
- IEEE
- John Wiley & Sons
- KeAi Communications Co.
- Oxford University Press
- SAGE
- Springer Nature
- Taylor & Francis
- Walter de Gruyter
- Wolters Kluwer Health
- World Scientific

Searching for AiP in Scopus

From the search results page, users can use the refine results pane to limit their results to contain only AiPs by selecting the checkbox next to Article-in-Press within the Publication Stage category, then selecting “Limit to.” Selecting “Exclude” will remove AiPs from the search results.

Alternatively, from Advanced search, users can restrict their search to Articles-in-Press by entering the search criteria “AND PUBSTAGE(AIP).” Entering “AND NOT PUBSTAGE(AIP)” allows users to search for published articles only, and not include AiP.

Another database with coverage of AiP is MEDLINE on PubMed. However, this “early view” layer is not part of the MEDLINE feed to third party vendors, so Scopus does not receive AiP from MEDLINE.

7. Conclusion

This guide is designed to provide a complete overview of the content coverage in Scopus and corresponding policies. As Scopus is updated daily, the numbers presented in this guide may differ from current numbers.

To find up-to-date content numbers, please refer to the content page of our info site:

elsevier.com/products/scopus/content#0-content-coverage. The numbers presented on the info site are updated regularly throughout the year.

Scopus

Scopus provides comprehensive, curated and trusted data—giving academic leaders the clarity and confidence to demonstrate impact and act decisively in an increasingly complex research landscape.

For more information about Scopus, visit elsevier.com/products/scopus