ELSEVIER

Elsevier Research Intelligence

Introduction to Scopus

June 2025

Alison Ferrett, Customer Success Manager

Alison Ferrett

- Customer Success Manager
- A.ferrett@elsevier.com
- +44 7824 350707

Scopus can help researchers

Find out what already exists in the global world of research output

Get topic specific funding insights: Target funding agencies

Decide what, where and with whom to partner or collaborate with

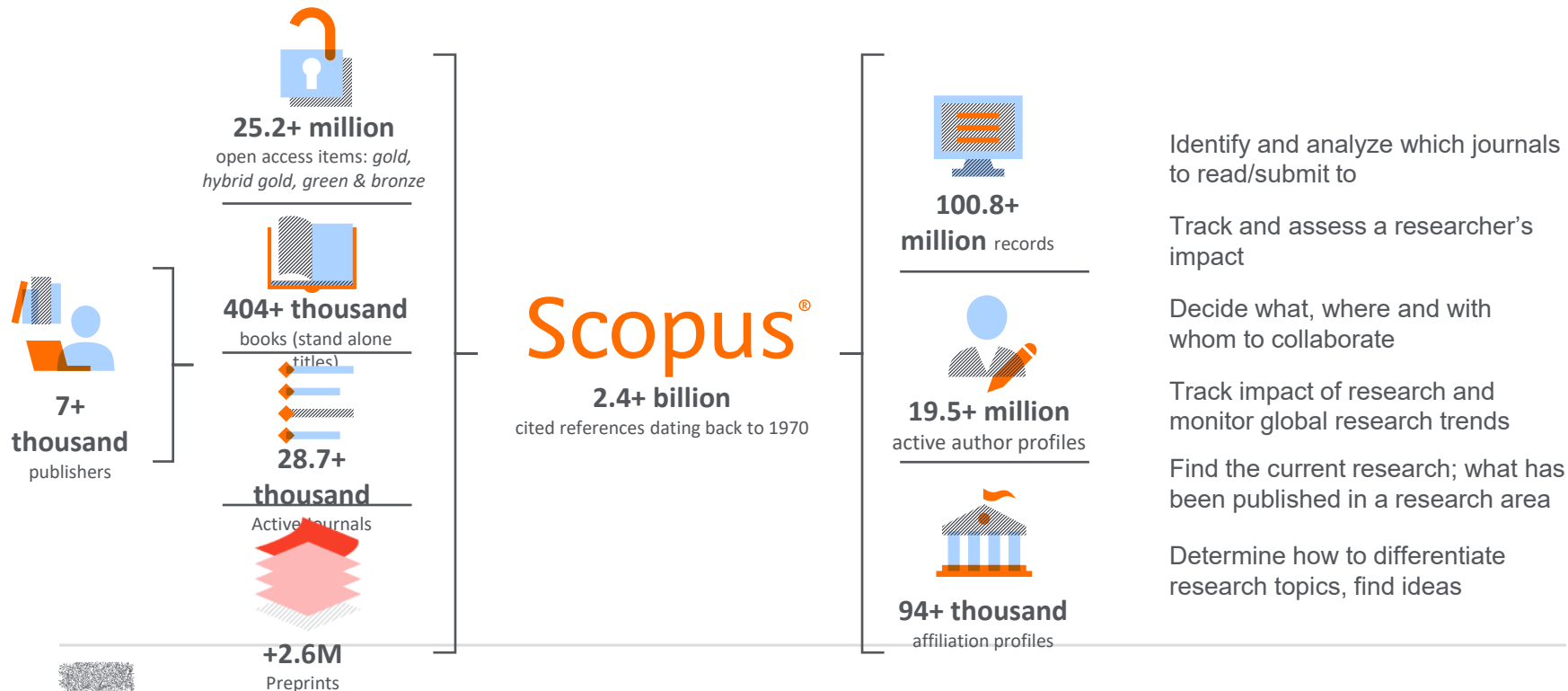Track impact of research; monitor global research trends

Help researchers track their research performance through citation counts and the *h*-index

Identify and analyze which journals to read or where to submit an article

Curated, enriched and connected data that surfaces signals about research that are intuitive to access and understand

7+ thousand publishers

25.2+ million open access items: *gold, hybrid gold, green & bronze*

404+ thousand books (stand alone titles)

28.7+ thousand Active Journals

+2.6M Preprints

Scopus®

2.4+ billion cited references dating back to 1970

100.8+ million records

19.5+ million active author profiles

94+ thousand affiliation profiles

Identify and analyze which journals to read/submit to

Track and assess a researcher's impact

Decide what, where and with whom to collaborate

Track impact of research and monitor global research trends

Find the current research; what has been published in a research area

Determine how to differentiate research topics, find ideas

ELSEVIER

Scopus Coverage Summary (March 2025)

Global representation means global discovery across all subjects and content types

100.8M records from **28.7K** active journals, **167K** conferences and **404K** books (stand alone titles)

from more than **7,000+** publishers in **105** countries

- Updated daily—approximately **13,000** articles per day indexed
- **25.2M** open access documents (Gold, Hybrid Gold, Bronze & Green)
- **2.6M** preprints from multiple preprint servers
- **8,188** active Open Access journals

Number of journals by subject area**

Physical sciences **15,744**	**Journals**	**Conferences**	**Books**	**Preprints**

Number of journals by subject area**

Physical sciences
15,744

Health sciences
15,525

Social sciences
16,279

Life sciences
8,414

Journals

28,791** active peer-reviewed journals

167 trade journals

8,188 OA Journals (DOAJ/ROAD)

24.1M fully-indexed funding acknowledgements

- Full metadata, abstracts and cited references (refs post-1970 only)
- Citations back to 1970

Conferences

167K conference events

12.91M conference papers

Mainly Engineering and Computer Sciences

Books

404K stand-alone books

3.61M total book items

Focus on Social Sciences and A&H

Preprints

2.6M preprints

7 preprint servers:

- arXiv
- ChemRxiv
- bioRxiv
- medRxiv
- SSRN
- TechRxiv
- Research Square

*Journals may be classified in multiple subject areas: this count includes current actively indexed titles only
**Total number of Scopus journals in database including inactive titles is 45,495

Numbers shown are rounded and current as March 2025. Scopus is updated daily

Scopus Interface

Research Metrics

Journal – Author - Article

*"Not everything that counts, can be counted,
AND
Not everything that can be counted, counts"*

# « Abuse » « misuse » and « Responsible Use » of metrics

"If your IF is above 10, then you enter here. If it's lower, well... "

"The source of much anxiety about Journal Impact Factors comes from their misuse in evaluating individuals, e.g. during the Habilitation process. In many countries in Europe, I have found that in order to shortcut the work of looking up actual (real) citation counts for investigators the journal impact factor is used as a surrogate to estimate the count. I have always warned against this use. There is wide variation from article to article within a single journal as has been widely documented by Per O. Seglen of Norway and others."

E. Garfield, 1998, Letters to the Editor, The Impact Factor and Using It Correctly
http://garfield.library.upenn.edu/papers/derunfallchirurg_v101
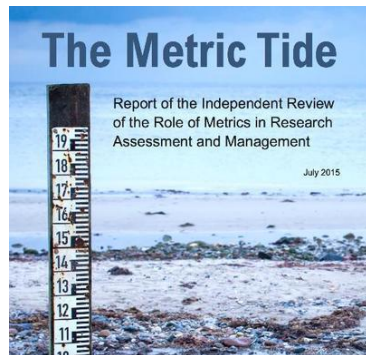
Journal Metrics: Impact Factor

- Impact Factor (IF): average number of times articles from a journal published in the past two years/or 5 years have been cited in the current year

Impact Factor of a

Journal in 2022

$=$

$$\text{Impact Factor of a Journal in 2022} = \frac{\text{All citations in 2022 to articles published in 2020 and 2021}}{\text{All articles published in 2020 and 2021}}$$

Further normalized

1. **All Journals DO NOT have Impact Factor including some very good upcoming journals.**
2. **Impact factor is sometimes biased towards fast moving subjects and is strongly driven by number of citations. Eg. Medicine subject area receives higher citations, so many journals have higher impact factor.. whereas Mathematics subject area has lower citations, so lower number of journal with high impact factor.**

Alternate Metrics: CiteScore- 3 C's and Free

CiteScore is based on the principles of 3 C's and the fact that it is freely available, empowering users to make well-informed decisions regarding portfolio management and where to publish.

Citescore

$$\frac{\text{citations to documents published in 4-year period}}{\text{\# of documents in same 4-year period}}$$

This comprehensive, current and open metric for journal citation impact is available in a free layer of Scopus.com. It includes a yearly release and monthly CiteScore Tracker updates.

CiteScore calculations include citations from articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters and data papers. See www.scopus.com/sources

Comprehensive

Based on Scopus, the world's broadest abstract and citation database

CiteScore metrics are available for **all serial titles, not just journals**

CiteScore metrics could be **calculated for portfolios**

Clear

CiteScore metrics are **transparent** and **easy to calculate for yourself**

The **underlying database is available** for you to interrogate

Current

CiteScore Tracker is **updated monthly**

New titles will have CiteScore metrics the year after they are published

15,700+ titles
have CiteScore 2022, yet no Journal Impact Factor 2021

720
are in the top 10%

top 10%

Percentile (indicates the relative standing of a title in its subject area)
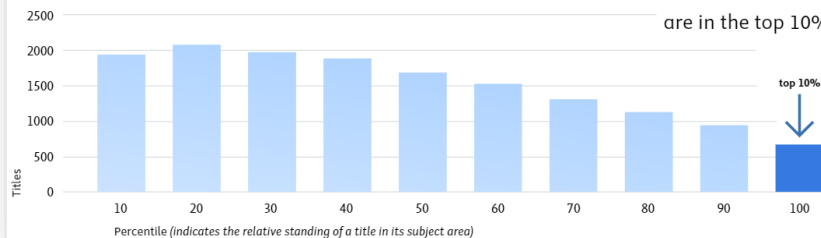
Alternate metrics- SNIP & SJR

Source-Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP)

- Developed by CWTS, University of Leiden Netherlands.

- Measures contextual citation impact by **weighting citations based on the total number of citations in a subject field**.

- The impact of a single citation is given higher value in subject areas where citations are less likely, and vice versa.

SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)

- Developed by SCImago, Spain.

- **SCImago measures the scientific influence of scholarly journals. A prestige metric** that can be applied to journals, book series and conference proceedings.

- **It takes into account: both the number of citations received by a journal and the importance/prestige of where the journal citations come from.** With SJR, the subject field, quality and reputation of the journal have a direct effect on the value of a citation.

Source Normalized Impact Per Paper (SNIP)

journal's citation count per paper
_____
citation potential in its subject field

The impact of a single citation will have a higher value in subject areas where citations are less likely, and vice versa. Stability intervals indicate the reliability of the score. Smaller journals tend to have wider stability intervals than larger journals.

Calculated by CWTS (www.journalindicators.com) based on Scopus data.

SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)

average # of weighted citations received in a year
_____
# of documents published in previous 3 years

Citations are weighted—worth more or less—depending on the source they come from. The subject field, quality and reputation of the journal have a direct effect on the value of a citation. Can be applied to journals, book series and conference proceedings.

Calculated by SCImago Lab (www.scimagojr.com) based on Scopus data.

Two Golden Rules for using research metrics-
to give a balanced, multi-dimensional view

Always use both qualitative and quantitative input into your decisions

This is about benefitting from the strengths of both approaches, not about replacing one with the other

Combining both approaches will get you closer to the whole story

Valuable intelligence is available from the points where these approaches differ in their message

Always use more than one research metric as the quantitative input

A research metric's strengths can complement the weaknesses of others

There are many different ways of being excellent

Using multiple metrics drives desirable changes in behaviour

H-index and Importance of ORCID

- ✓ Open Researcher and Contributor ID
- ✓ Nonproprietary alphanumeric code
- ✓ Uniquely identifies scientific and academic authors /contributors.
- ✓ Integrated with Scopus
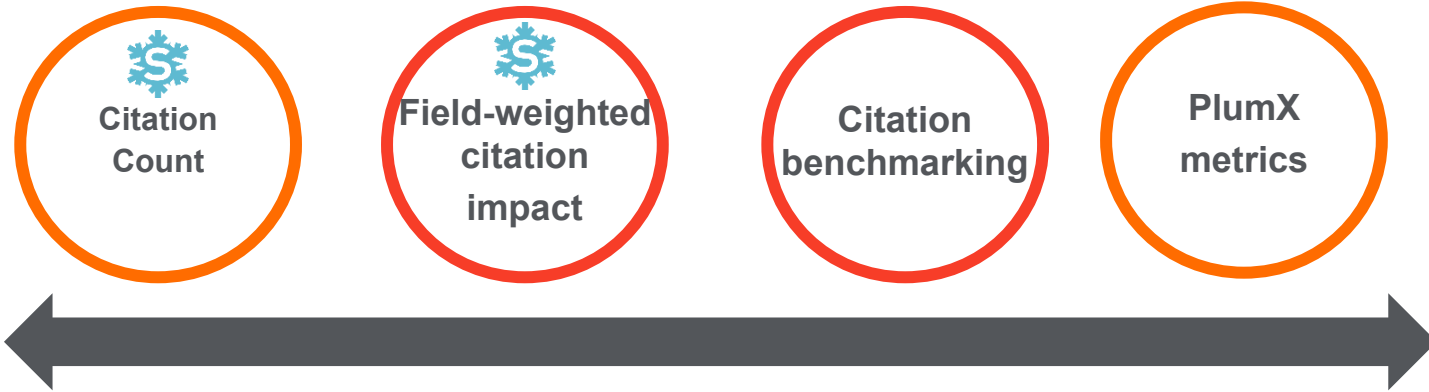
This author profile is generated by Scopus. Learn more

Ellis, Andrew D.

ⓘ Aston University, Birmingham, United Kingdom   ⓢ 7201547136 ⓘ   ⓘⅅ https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0417-0547

Read More here: https://support.orcid.org/hc/en-us/articles/360006973653-Add-works-by-direct-import-from-other-systems

Article-Level Metrics

| Citation Count | Field-weighted citation impact | Citation benchmarking | PlumX metrics |

*metrics that takes into account field variation publication and citations

PlumX Metrics provide insights into the ways people interact with individual pieces of research output (articles,conference proceedings, book chapters, and many more) in the online environment. Collectively known as PlumX Metrics, these metrics are divided into five categories- Usage, Captures, Mentions, Social Media, and Citations- to help make sense of the huge number of metrics available and to enable analysis through comparing 'like with like.

ELSEVIER

Article-level metrics: Compare Like with Like

- ❑ **The Field-Weighted Citation Impact**
- ❑ (FWCI) score comes from the Scopus database and shows how the article's citation count compares to similar articles in the same field and timeframe.

- ❑ A score of 1.00 means the article is cited as it would be expected, greater than 1.00 the article is doing better than expected, and less than 1.00 the article is underperforming.

- ❑ Eg. FWCI of 6 indicates that the article received almost 6 times the number of citations as compared to the average article in this field received.

PlumX Metrics are comprehensive, item-level metrics that provide insights into the ways people interact with individual pieces of research output

PlumX in Scopus:

USAGE
(clicks, views, downloads, library holdings, video plays)

CAPTURES
(bookmarks, favorites, reference manager saves)

MENTIONS
(blog posts, news mentions, comments, reviews, Wikipedia mentions)

SOCIAL MEDIA
(tweets, likes, shares)

CITATIONS
(citation indexes, patent citations, clinical citations, policy citations)

©PLUMX

Usage
Clicks: 814
Abstract Views: 960
HTML Views: 192
Link-outs: 131

Captures
Exports-Saves: 72
Readers: 86

Mentions
Blog Mentions: 3
Comments: 8
Links: 1

Social Media
Shares: 23
Likes: 12
+1s: 9
Score: 4
Tweets: 114

Citations
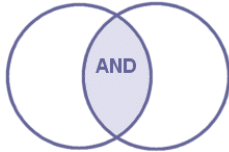Clinical Citations: 4
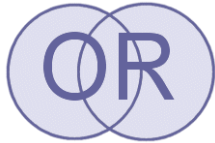Citations: 298

see details

Search Smarter

Scopus search tips

Booleans*: And / Or / And Not

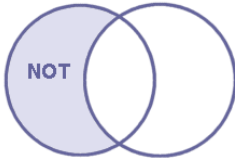connect your search words together to either narrow or broaden your set of results.

example: cloning AND humans
narrow your results, tell the database that **ALL** search terms must be present in the resulting records

example: cloning OR reproduction
broaden your results, telling the database that **ANY** of your search terms can be present in the resulting records

example: cloning AND NOT sheep
exclude words from your search
narrow your search, telling the database to ignore concepts that may be implied by your search terms

Loose phrases vs. separate words

If you do not specify anything between two words, Scopus **automatically joins them with AND**, so the words in the phrase may not be searched together.

Loose phrases vs. separate words

Use of double quotation

"heart attack"

where heart and attack are adjacent to each other.

42,468 document results

TITLE-ABS-KEY (heart AND attack)

✎ Edit   💾 Save   🔔 Set alert

9,915 document results

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("heart attack")

✎ Edit   💾 Save   🔔 Set alert

Note: The document results for this search are for 21st April 2023, these numbers will change/increase with time.

Exact phrase search

Exact phrase: {heart attack}

will find only an **exact match** for a word, phrase or character (including stop words)

7,769 document results

TITLE-ABS-KEY ({heart attack})

✏ Edit   💾 Save   🔔 Set alert

Wildcards: ? and *

In any word or "loose phrase" you can use wildcards to help when you're unsure of spelling, or when a word has multiple spelling variations, or if you're looking for chemicals.

? represents any single character
Example: Nure?berg

3,120 document results

TITLE-ABS-KEY (nure?berg)

✎ Edit   💾 Save   🔔 Set alert

* represents any **number of characters**, even zero

Example: comput*
returns computer, computers, computerize and computerization

8,419,034 document results

TITLE-ABS-KEY (comput*)

✎ Edit   💾 Save   🔔 Set alert

Note: The document results for this search are for 21st April 2023, these numbers will change/increase with time.

Know what Scopus search does automatically

(apart from being case-insensitive)

Accented characters: work with or without the accent included
Example Dvořák and dvorak both return the same results

Lemmatization: means that singular and plural forms, and well as adjectives, will be found if you type any of the variants.
Examples: attack and attacks; wide and wider

Equivalents: will find the equivalent terms/symbols
Example: behaviour and behavior

Let's go for a quick demonstration of some interesting features on Scopus

Important Scopus resources to stay up to date:

Scopus newsletter: [Subscribe](#)

Scopus info site: https://www.elsevier.com/scopus/

Scopus blog: http://blog.scopus.com

Twitter: www.twitter.com/scopus

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/c/ScopusDotCom

Resources for Scopus AI: https://elsevier-sfm.highspot.com/search?q=scopus+ai

Thank you