

Content Coverage Guide

SciVerse Scopus
Open to accelerate science

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1. Introduction

1.1 SciVerse Scopus – an overview

Scopus*, launched in November 2004, is the largest abstract and citation database containing both peer-reviewed research literature and quality web sources. With over 18,000 titles from more than 5,000 international publishers, SciVerse Scopus offers researchers a quick, easy and comprehensive resource to support their research needs in the scientific, technical, medical and social sciences fields and, more recently, also in the arts and humanities.

SciVerse Scopus at a glance July 2010:

- 18,000 titles ([see section 4.1](#)) :
 - 17,00 peer-reviewed journals (including 1,200 Open Access journals).
 - 600 trade publications.
 - 350 book series.
 - 3.7 million conference papers from proceedings and journals.
- 42.5 million records ([see section 3.1](#)):
 - 22 million records with references back to 1996 (of which 78% include references).
 - 20.5 million records pre-1996 which go back as far as 1823.
- 359 million scientific web pages indexed via Scirus ([see section 2.3](#)).
- 24 million patent records from five patent offices ([see section 2.3](#)).
- “Articles-in-Press” from over 3,500 journals ([see section 7](#)).
- Features and functionality designed to support and improve researchers' workflow, including:
 - A simple and intuitive interface.
 - Linking to full-text articles and other library resources.
 - Author Identifier to automatically match an author's published research including the h-index.
 - Citation Tracker to simply find, check and track citations in real-time.
 - Affiliation Identifier to automatically identify and match an organization with all its research output.
 - Journal Analyzer provides a quick insight into journal performance.
 - Alerts, RSS and HTML feeds to stay up-to-date.
 - Document Download Manager to easily download and organize multiple full-text articles simultaneously.
 - Interoperability with SciVerse ScienceDirect, Reaxis and ProQuest's CSA Illumina.
 - Data export via bibliographic managers such as RefWorks, EndNote and BibTeX.

1.2 Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB)

With a view to maintaining an open and transparent content coverage policy, the Scopus* Content Selection Advisory Board (CSAB) was established in 2005. The board consists of scientists and subject librarians from all scientific disciplines and geographical areas. To see a list of CSAB members:

<http://www.info.sciverse.com/community/csab>

*Now known as SciVerse Scopus

The board's primary function is to support SciVerse Scopus management in prioritizing content additions, setting strategy and evaluating functionality.

- With regard to **content**, the CSAB:
 - Sets the SciVerse Scopus Title Coverage Policy which is used to evaluate requests for new title additions to SciVerse Scopus. This policy is reviewed on a regular basis. More information about this policy is available in section 4.2.
 - Approves and prioritizes requests for non-journal content and/or non-STM content.
 - Sets priorities for content backfill activities.
 - Supports Subject Chairs ([see section 4.2](#)) with the evaluation of newly suggested titles.
- With regard to **strategy**, the CSAB:
 - Recommends long-term courses of action to keep SciVerse Scopus focused on real needs within the research community.
 - Keeps the SciVerse Scopus team abreast of trends and developments in the research community, such as new standards, protocols or software with which to integrate.
- With regard to **functionality**, the CSAB:
 - Prioritizes new development requests.
 - Recommends enhancements to the interface or navigation.

1.3 Purpose and scope of this Content Coverage Guide (CCG)

This document is designed to provide readers with a complete overview of all aspects of content coverage in SciVerse Scopus. Non-content aspects of SciVerse Scopus (e.g. interface, search and other functionality) are not included within the scope of this document.

2. Coverage of Source Types

2.1 Serial Source Types

SciVerse Scopus only indexes serial publications (journals, trade journals, book series and conference materials) that have ISSN (International Standard Serial Numbers) assigned to them. The only exception concerns conference papers, which can be captured via different routes than by being published in a serial publication with an ISSN (see below section "Conference Material").

Journals

Journals constitute the bulk of the content in SciVerse Scopus and are selected according to our content coverage policy (for more information ([see section 4.2.1](#))).

- Any serial publication with an ISSN, with the exception of trade journals, book series, certain proceedings, newsletters, secondary sources or patent publications.
- Usually a scholarly / academic serial publication in any field. A journal can have various physical formats (e.g. print, electronic).

Trade journals

- A serial publication covering and intended to reach a specific industry, trade or type of business.
- Usually a glossy magazine type of periodical with articles on topical subjects, many news items and advertisements that will appeal to those in the field. Trade journals are seldom refereed and do not always have an editorial board. Abstracts are usually short or non-existent, and few or no references are given. Usually an ISSN is available.

Trade journals are included in SciVerse Scopus because users and librarians consider selected articles to be scientifically relevant. A special document type policy for trade journals was introduced in 2008 which ensures that only articles or reviews of scientific relevance are included in SciVerse Scopus. The minimum requirements for items in trade journals to be captured are: (1) minimum of 1 page, (2) minimum of one mentioned author. (For more information about the regular document type policy [\(see section 3.1\)](#))

Book series

- A serial publication with a series title, an ISSN, and for which every volume and/or issue in the series is also a book and has an ISBN.
- Usually, but not always, each book has a book title separate from the series title and (a) different editor(s). Each book is most often a monographic publication. The series is usually published irregularly.

The book series in SciVerse Scopus include SciVerse ScienceDirect Handbooks whose records are visible as articles or reviews. [See an example of a SciVerse ScienceDirect Handbook result in SciVerse Scopus.](#)

Conference material

Conference material enters SciVerse Scopus in two different ways: as special issues of regular journals; or in the form of dedicated conference proceedings.

Proceedings can be published as a serial or non-serial, 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)’ (or their synonyms in other languages like ‘Tagungsberichte’ etc.), although some journals also have titles with the word ‘proceedings’.

SciVerse Scopus covers conferences that publish full-text papers, e.g. document type “conference papers” ([see section 3.1](#)), whereas conferences that publish only abstracts (“meeting abstracts”) are not considered for coverage.

Nearly 10% of the SciVerse Scopus database is comprised of conference papers (3.7 million) of which 1 million are published in journals and the remaining 2.6 million in conference proceedings. It is not possible to know the number of actual meetings covered in SciVerse Scopus, only the number of conference papers.

Conference coverage in SciVerse 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.

The figures in the right-hand column of the table below (Conf. Papers) highlight the significance of conference papers for some disciplines like computing and information sciences (62.3%) and engineering (45.1%). This analysis serves to underpin SciVerse Scopus’ highly targeted approach to conference coverage.

Field	DEST Publication Categories			
	Books	Book Chapters	Journal Articles	Conf. Papers
Chemical Sciences	0.2	2.1	95.7	1.9
Biological Sciences	0.3	6.3	90.7	2.7
Medical & Health Sciences	0.3	6.3	90.5	2.9
Physical Sciences	0.1	2.65	90.0	7.3
Mathematical Sciences	0.7	4.3	83.8	11.2
Earth Sciences	0.9	7.7	82.2	9.2
Agriculture, Vet, Environ	0.4	5.9	79.0	14.7
Psychology	1.5	17.4	76.2	4.9
Law	4.1	22.1	71.9	1.69
Philosophy	6.0	23.8	64.8	5.4
Economics	2.9	24.5	64.5	8.0
Human Society	3.5	27.8	63.0	5.6
Journalism, Library	3.4	15.2	57.2	24.2
Education	2.5	19.3	54.5	23.6
The Arts	4.4	20.8	54.5	20.3
Management	1.3	11.7	52.9	34.0
Engineering	0.4	2.5	52.0	45.1
Language	6.5	34.0	51.8	7.6
History	11.6	34.0	50.6	3.8
Politics and Policy	5.8	37.3	46.1	10.8
Architecture	3.0	17.8	35.6	43.6
Computing, Information Sci	0.4	4.6	32.8	62.3

Australian research output by field and publication category (Australian National University, Linda Butler, 2007)

Intricacies of capturing conference papers

Due to the nature of conference papers and the different means by which they can be published, it is difficult to ensure that all relevant conference material has been included in SciVerse Scopus. Several factors account for this:

- Whereas a journal is a “continuous institution” for publishing selected content in a defined area of science on a regular basis; conference material is related primarily to a particular one-off event.
- Where the event is re-occurring, e.g. the “Annual Meeting of the Society XYZ”, the content is often published in single volumes that do not have an ISSN or a stable name from year to year, i.e. volumes may be published annually with different titles (“11th Annual Meeting...”, “12th Annual Meeting...” etc.) and without an ISSN it is impossible to identify the content of these source titles as belonging to one serial publication.
- The content from important meetings is often published as a special volume of a regular journal. For example, “Society XYZ” hosts their annual meeting and they include the papers which were presented at the conference as part of their society journal which might then be published with a commercial publisher, e.g. Elsevier.
- Finally, there are many singular meetings that SciVerse Scopus covers as part of our agreement with 70 major societies in engineering and computer science, but since they are not “serial content” they do not show up in our title list, even though they belong to the conference coverage category.
- It is important to realize that the SciVerse Scopus title list, which lists only serial publications, does not really reflect the richness of conference coverage in SciVerse Scopus.

List of “Further Conference Proceedings”

In the SciVerse Scopus title list ([see section 4.1](#)) there is a tab called “Further Conference Proceedings” that includes over 6,000 Conference Proceedings, whose meeting name was captured as part of the record data but are not included in the regular title list because they do not have ISSNs.

Conference content where even the name of the meeting is not captured will still be included in SciVerse Scopus but will not appear in either the regular title list or the list of “further conference proceedings”. It is for this reason that we choose to communicate the number of “conference papers” included in SciVerse Scopus (which is not limited to either list) in order to provide a more accurate reflection of the richness of conference material available in SciVerse Scopus.

Meeting abstracts not covered in SciVerse Scopus

Confusion around the conference coverage in databases can arise from not making a distinction between the document types “conference papers” and “meeting abstracts”. Whereas “conference papers” contain the final full-text version of a research paper (i.e. comparable to journal articles), “meeting abstracts” are short summaries of an ongoing research project, as it is often required to be submitted prior to the meeting. Often “meeting abstracts” are published in advance of a conference, while “conference papers” are made available after the conference as part of a proceedings volume.

SciVerse Scopus endeavors to only cover primary research literature ([see section 3.1](#)) and therefore “meeting abstracts” are not indexed in SciVerse Scopus for three reasons:

- (1) Submission is due months before a conference and often before the actual research is finished. Once the research is published in a peer-reviewed journal, the relevant information and results are contained within the full-text article and not the abstract.
- (2) In some fields, the same abstract is submitted to several conferences which could lead to duplicates of the same abstract within an A&I database.
- (3) Researchers would usually not include meeting abstracts in their publication list and these would have to then be manually removed from their list of publications in SciVerse Scopus.

How to find conference papers in SciVerse Scopus:

1. Go to Advanced Search and type in DOCTYPE(CP) where CP stands for conference paper.
2. To see whether the conference paper was originally published in a journal, book series or as part of a conference proceeding, you can add the “source type” category to your refined results overview and view a breakdown of your results.

2.2 Non-serial sources

A non-serial source is a publication with an ISBN unless it is a report, part of a book series, proceeding (non-serial), or patent.

Usually it is a monograph or composed work. A book can have different physical formats (e.g. print, electronic).

There are hundreds of thousands of scientific books that have been published (both in print and out of print) but these come with many challenges when attempting to include them in an A&I database such as SciVerse Scopus. Currently it is SciVerse Scopus’ policy not to include books.

Two main challenges around books are:

1. Selection of books:

- In subject areas where books matter most (social sciences and humanities), books are published in many local languages and an English version is not always available.
- Different subject matters are more regional/local than others (e.g. social sciences). According to industry estimates there are over 100,000 academic books published per annum. Whereas for chemistry it may be sufficient to cover all chemistry books published by Wiley, ACS and Elsevier; for social sciences and the humanities it is often necessary to seek out a variety of publishers for individual subject areas and across countries/languages to offer the same quality of coverage and this can prove to be a lengthy, costly and inconclusive endeavour.

2. Reference matching:

- Cited references are difficult to match with books. Whereas journal literature is usually cited in a standardized way, the citations to book content may follow any number of styles. In some cases only the editor is named, or only the author; in other cases a particular volume is cited vs. the entire book or a particular edition etc. Given these challenges, SciVerse Scopus is unable to match citations with enough accuracy to satisfy authors and researchers who are increasingly using SciVerse Scopus not only for literature research but also for performance evaluation purposes (e.g. grant applications, tenure/promotion decisions etc.).

2.3 Other sources



More tab

There are 58 million non-core records in SciVerse Scopus which are cited by SciVerse Scopus core records, but not indexed in SciVerse Scopus. The most highly cited items in this category are often books and older journal articles.

Web tab

Elsevier's scientific web search engine, Scirus, is fully integrated with SciVerse Scopus and all 359 million web results provided via Scirus are de-duplicated. While fully integrated, the content available to search at www.scirus.com is different than the content provided via the customized feed for SciVerse Scopus.

In SciVerse Scopus, Scirus searches for relevant search results on the web, excluding journal content which is already covered by SciVerse Scopus. Examples of web sources which are searched via Scirus include: author homepages, university sites and resources such as the pre-print servers (e.g. CogPrints, ArXiv.org).

Web results are available via both the "Web" or "Selected Sources" results tabs.

Patents tab

Patent results are provided via Scirus. There are 24 million patent records in SciVerse Scopus, derived from five patent offices:

1. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
2. European Patent Office
3. US Patent Office
4. Japanese Patent Office
5. UK Intellectual Property Office

Selected Sources tab

Selected Sources is a fully customizable feature that enables users to search within selected repositories or subject specific digital archives within the SciVerse Scopus interface, as decided by the customer. Customers may choose from a list of institutional resources and special subject collections indexed by Scirus. These are then made individually searchable and results are presented via a separate tab.

Scirus indexes both the metadata and full text of the documents in the repositories which maximizes disclosure of the documents in a way that search technologies which are not designed for scientific documentation simply cannot do. An overview of all selected sources indexed by Scirus is available on the Selected Sources list.

3. Coverage of metadata

3.1 Document types

SciVerse Scopus coverage focuses on primary document types from serial publications. "Primary" means that the author is identical to the researcher in charge of the presented findings. SciVerse Scopus does not include secondary document types, where the author is not identical with the person behind the presented research, e.g. obituaries and book reviews ([see section 2.2](#)).

SciVerse Scopus currently has 42.5 million core records:

- 22 million records back to 1996 (of which 78% include references).
- 20.5 million records pre-1996 which go back as far as 1823 (abstracts included where available, but no references).

Approximately 2 million new records are added each year (5,500/day).

A complete list of document types included in SciVerse Scopus is presented below. The SciVerse Scopus editorial team is responsible for the classification of records. This document type policy is not valid for trade journals ([see section 2.1](#)).

Document type covered

in SciVerse Scopus

Definition

Article	<p>Original research or opinion, also includes conference papers.</p> <p>Characteristics: in peer-reviewed journals, articles are usually several pages in length, most often subdivided into sections: abstract, introduction, materials & 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 little as one page in length. Articles in trade journals are typically shorter than in peer-reviewed journals, and may also be as short as one page in length.</p>
Article-in-Press	<p>Accepted article is made available online before official publication (see section 7).</p>
Conference paper	<p>Original article reporting data presented at a conference or symposium.</p> <p>Characteristics: Conference papers are items of any length reporting data from a conference, with the exception of conference abstracts. Conference papers may therefore range in length and content from full papers to published conference summaries and short items as little as one page in length. Also see section 2.1.</p>
Editorial	<p>Item summarizing several articles or providing editorial opinions or news.</p> <p>Characteristics: Editorial items 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>Item reporting an error, correction or retraction of a previously published paper.</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: Letter items are 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 which follow an article are defined as notes and considered to be items in their own right. Notes also include questions & answers, and comments on other (often translated) articles. In trade journals, notes are generally shorter than half a page in length.</p>
Review	<p>Significant review of original research, also includes 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 characteristic sections of original articles, i.e. materials & methods and results.</p>
Short survey	<p>Short or mini-review of original research.</p> <p>Characteristics: Short surveys are similar to reviews but typically are shorter (not more than a few pages) and with a less extensive bibliography.</p>

Document types not covered

in SciVerse Scopus Reason

Book reviews	The SciVerse Scopus policy to not include books extends to book reviews because they do not represent primary literature and are often regarded as full-text by the publishers in whose journals they appear. As a full-text article, SciVerse Scopus would only be able to display the title of the book review which is often identical to the actual book and may cause further confusion amongst users. Finally, book reviews are hardly cited in research literature: for example, the average citation per item of “Journal of Academic Librarianship” drops by 50% (2.13 to 1.12) if book reviews are included.
Conference meeting abstracts	See section 2.1

3.2 Abstracts

In order to provide users with as much information as possible about the research presented in SciVerse Scopus, 30 million records in SciVerse Scopus contain an abstract. Where available from the publisher, some records go back as far as 1850. The increased availability of abstracts in SciVerse Scopus helps to ensure that users find all relevant results for their search, across title, abstract and keywords.

3.3 Keywords and index terms

SciVerse Scopus manually adds index terms for 80% of the titles included in SciVerse Scopus. These index terms are derived from thesauri that Elsevier owns or licenses and are added in order to improve search recall. A team of professional indexers assigns index terms to records according to the following controlled vocabularies:

- Ei thesaurus (engineering, technology, physical sciences).
- Emtree medical terms (life sciences & health sciences).
- MeSH (life sciences & health sciences).
- Geobase Subject Index (geology, geography, earth and environmental sciences).
- 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 SciVerse Scopus can add to records. However, in the case of Emtree and MeSH terms (both terms are added to records where available), only the index terms that have a direct relation with the topic of the article are displayed and made searchable on SciVerse Scopus in order to avoid the retrieval of irrelevant results.

For Emtree, the index terms with a direct relation are the ‘Major Focus’ and the mentioned index terms; for MeSH, the “Major Topics” and “Minor Topic” index terms. For the Ei thesaurus, the controlled terms, uncontrolled terms and main headings are displayed and searchable in SciVerse 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 SciVerse Scopus). For the same reason, for example, Ei “treatment” terms are not included in SciVerse Scopus.

CAS numbers are assigned by the SciVerse Scopus capturing department as part of the normal Emtree Drugs/Chemicals/Thesaurus indexing. Emtree has ca. 35,000 CAS numbers. So by no means is this comparable with Chemical Databases. CAS assignment process is purely focussing on titles that are also covered by Embase.

For example, searching for CASREGNUMBER(1*) in SciVerse Scopus will retrieve 6.3 million items.

3.4 Cited references

Cited references in SciVerse Scopus go back to 1996. Based on market research and the advice of our CSAB, it has been decided that including citations back to 1996 is sufficient for most use cases and SciVerse Scopus should instead focus on strengthening its coverage of more recent content rather than investing in older content.

3.5 Affiliation data

It is possible to search SciVerse Scopus based on affiliation data. The SciVerse Scopus Affiliation Identifier automatically identifies and matches an organization with all of its research output. 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.

A once time consuming task that may have taken days to complete can now be done in a matter of minutes using a combination of sophisticated algorithms and a comprehensive knowledge base to disambiguate name variants and automatically identify and match most relevant records.

Author Profiles

Authors want to be able to find all of their articles within a database. In most cases, SciVerse Scopus is able to capture all articles belonging to a particular author within one author profile (where those articles fall in line with the years of coverage and titles included in SciVerse Scopus). SciVerse Scopus is able to offer the articles likely written by the author within one most relevant profile.

A key factor in SciVerse Scopus' ability to match author names to a certain degree of accuracy is due to the fact that in the SciVerse Scopus data author names are always matched with their affiliations.

In some cases, SciVerse Scopus is unable to match documents to an author profile with certainty due to incomplete or incorrect data, as supplied by the publisher. With cases such as these, SciVerse Scopus will err on the side of caution and not match the documents which may result in two or more profiles for the same author.

A SciVerse Scopus user (usually the author of the article(s) in question or someone working on their behalf) can alert SciVerse Scopus (via a feedback button on the author search page) to unassigned documents or author profiles which should be merged. A dedicated team verifies the author's claim in order to assure the highest level of accuracy and integrity and uses a number of sources for this purpose, including:

- SciVerse Scopus records
- SciVerse ScienceDirect and other publisher websites
- University websites or author homepages

The time required to correct and merge author profiles is dependent on the nature and complexity of the claim and the supporting evidence that is available. As such, there is no standard time frame in which corrections are made but the author is always alerted once the changes appear in SciVerse Scopus.

3.6 Other metadata

Pubmed ID

The unique identifier for Medline documents, PubMed ID, is searchable via Advanced Search and, when available, appears on the record page (Abstracts & References page) as well as in the export of records.

Grant number

In the future, grant numbers will be available on the relevant record page for all content going forward.

4. Coverage of sources (since 1996)

4.1 SciVerse Scopus title list

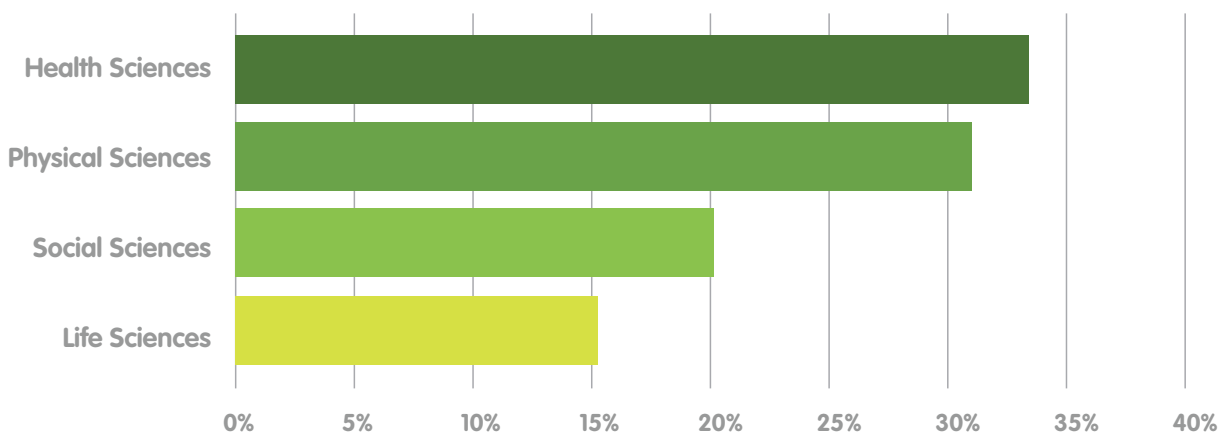
The SciVerse Scopus title list contains 28,700 titles in total – including 18,000 active titles and 10,000 inactive titles (mostly predecessors of the active titles).

A complete list of titles in SciVerse Scopus is available externally on the info site:

http://www.info.sciverse.com/documents/files/scopus-training/resourcelibrary/xls/title_list.xls.

It is identical to the list available on Scopus.com in the section “Sources”.

The title list and the sources section are updated 2-3 times per year and include only journals, for which substantial coverage exists on Scopus.com at the time of the update. Titles that are newly added to SciVerse Scopus will be visible in the title list and the source section only as of the next update after the first content appears on Scopus.com. Whether the content of recently added journals is already available on Scopus, can best be checked via an advanced search on Scopus.com: srctitle(JOURNAL NAME).



For more information about the SciVerse Scopus subject areas [see section 6](#).

Percentage of titles by subject area (as of July 2010). The total percentages add up to over 100% because titles may be attributed to more than one subject category.

Which titles are included in the title list and source browse?

Neither the title list nor the titles included in the source browse on SciVerse Scopus accurately reflect all the content in SciVerse Scopus. In fact, the SciVerse Scopus database contains records of 37,000 unique titles which are all available via the SciVerse Scopus basic search functionality. There are 8,000 titles, however, which are not included in either the title list or the source browse because these titles are:

- (1) Stand-alone books and reports (i.e. books and reports that are not part of a Book Series).
- (2) Pre-1996 discontinued (i.e. non-active) titles. Pre-1996 titles having child-parent relationships, however, are included (independent of the number of articles).
- (3) Post-1995 titles with less than 25 articles unless these appear to be newly started publications from the previous year and the current year. Post-1995 titles having child-parent relationships, however, are always included (independent of the number of articles).

Title counts

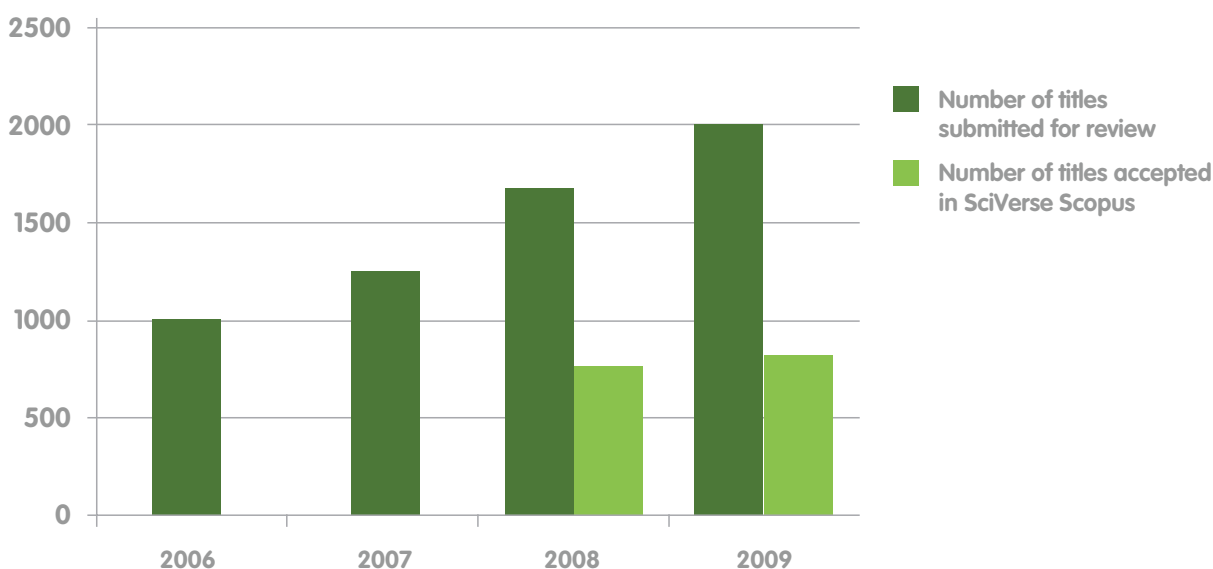
The latest figures for SciVerse Scopus content are available on the Info Site:

<http://www.info.sciverse.com/scopus/scopus-in-detail/facts/>

4.2 SciVerse Scopus title evaluation

It is estimated that there are 200,000 scientific serial publications in existence worldwide. In order to ensure that SciVerse Scopus remains the most relevant resource for all research in the sciences, technology, medicine, social sciences, and arts and humanities, new titles are continually being reviewed for inclusion. New title suggestions may come from researchers, librarians, publishers and members of the CSAB and can be submitted using the web form on the SciVerse Scopus Info Site: <http://suggestor.step.scopus.com/suggestTitle.cfm>

An article “Combining peer review and metrics to assess journals for inclusion in SciVerse Scopus” which explains the title evaluation process can also be found here: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1087/20100411>



The number of suggested titles can vary significantly per subject area from only a few titles (e.g. in chemistry) to several hundred (e.g. in social sciences).

Number of titles submitted for review per year and, where available, number of titles accepted for inclusion in SciVerse Scopus.

Criteria for title selection

The SciVerse Scopus Title Evaluation Platform (STEP) (see section 4.2) enables the SciVerse Scopus team to evaluate and add new titles on a continuous basis and to establish reliable turn-around.

With a view to streamline the process and making it more transparent, new criteria for evaluating titles were introduced in October 2009.

Reviewers use a robust and transparent scoring system to help them evaluate each title, based on five main categories and 16 criteria categories (incorporating and expanding on the previously used criteria). See below the criteria and their application to two fictitious journals.

Category	Criteria	Journal A	Journal B
Journal Policy	Convincing editorial concept/policy	Very convincing	Not very convincing
	Diversity in geogr. distribution of editors	International edit. board (Europe only)	All editors from one faculty
	Diversity in geogr. distribution of authors	International authors (>1 continent)	All authors from one country
	All cited references in Roman alphabet?	Yes	Most in Roman, but some in non-Roman
	English-language abstracts available	Yes, all in English	Yes, all in English
	Level of peer-review	Single-blind peer-review	Main editor peer-review
Score (maximum = 35%)		30.9%	14.4%
Content	Academic contribution to field	Good	Poor
	Clarity of abstracts	Excellent	Good
	Conformity with the journal's stated aims	Good	Fair
	Readability of articles	Excellent	Fair
Score (maximum = 20%)		17.5%	10.0%
Citedness	Citedness of journal articles in SciVerse Scopus	Well cited	Poorly cited
	Citedness of editors in SciVerse Scopus	Fairly cited	Not cited
Score (maximum = 25%)		15.6%	3.1%
Regularity	No delay in publication schedule	Publishing on time	Publishing within 1 issue delay
Score (maximum = 10%)		10.0%	6.7%
Online availability	Content available online?	Yes	Yes
	English-language homepage available	Entirely in English	Entirely in English
	Quality of homepage	Good	Excellent
Score (maximum = 10%)		8.8%	10.0%
Total score (maximum = 100%)		82.8% (= 8.3 points out of 10)	44.2% (= 4.4 points out of 10)

Two benefits of this approach include:

1. All aspects of a journal are considered by the reviewer.
2. A reviewers' input is weighted in more evenly across the board.

Subject Chairs (SC)

An important change which will be introduced in 2010 concerns the role of subject chairs in the review of new titles.

Subject Chairs – who are senior researchers, experienced in editorial roles and members of the CSAB – are responsible for reviewing all the titles within a specific subject area.

The Subject Chairs have the clear ownership per title in the respective area, and are ultimately responsible for the final vote as to whether a new journal title is included in SciVerse Scopus. Subject Chairs can choose to:

- Either reject/accept the submitted title based on his/her own judgement according to the Content Coverage Policy ([see section 4.2](#)); or
- Involve additional reviewers, who have the respective subject expertise and/or the language skills required to read and evaluate journals publishing in other languages than English.

SciVerse Scopus Title Evaluation Platform (STEP)

The SciVerse Scopus Title Evaluation Platform (STEP) was introduced in 2008, and is a web-based editorial system, streamlining the entire title-evaluation process from submission until the final decision, including the feedback to the suggestor and publisher/editor of newly suggested titles. STEP offers several benefits:

- 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 added to SciVerse Scopus?

Once a title is accepted for inclusion in SciVerse Scopus, the Elsevier Bibliographic Databases Operations department will contact the publisher in order to set up a subscription. After a subscription has been setup it will take up to a few weeks before the title will be added to SciVerse Scopus.

4.3 Coverage across world's regions

In order to best serve the needs of researchers and to ensure that relevant scientific information is not omitted from the database, SciVerse Scopus coverage is global by design.

Titles from all geographical regions are covered, including non-English titles as long as English abstracts can be provided with the articles. In fact, approximately 21% of titles in SciVerse Scopus are published in languages other than English (or published in both English and another language). In addition, more than half of SciVerse Scopus content originates from outside North America representing various countries Europe, Latin America and the Asia Pacific region.

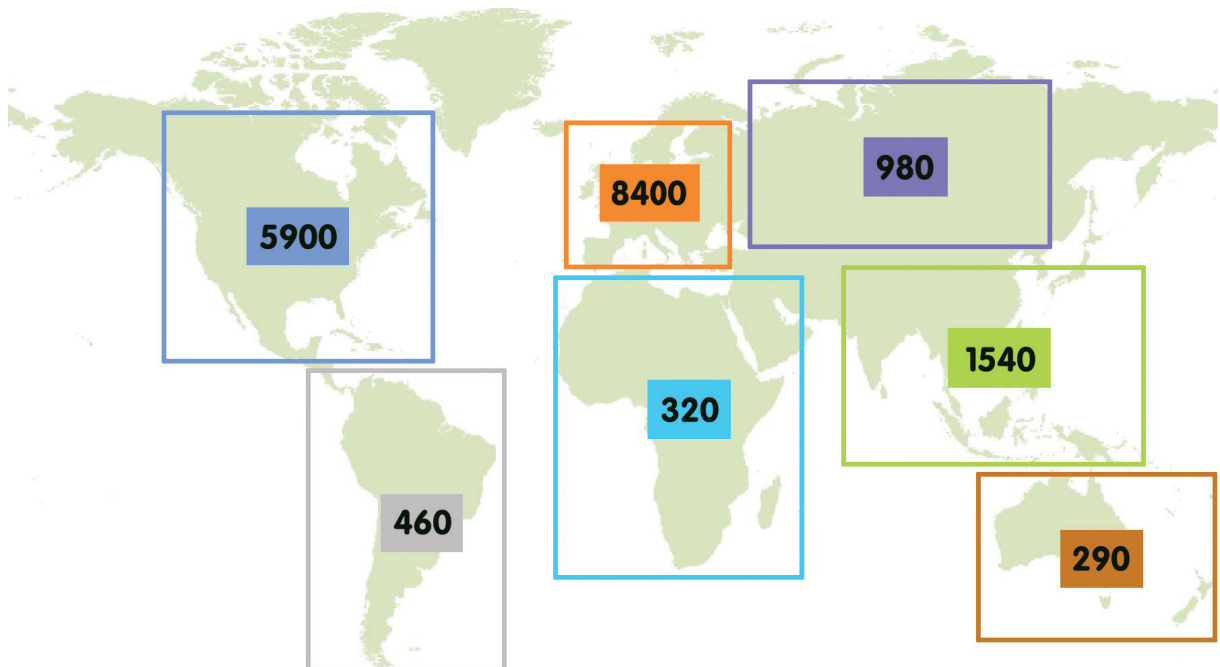
“We selected Scopus* for its breadth of coverage including journal titles from over 100 nations as well as its advanced features.”

Mr. Hiroyuki Tomizawa, Principal Administrator, Economic Analysis and Statistics Division, Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

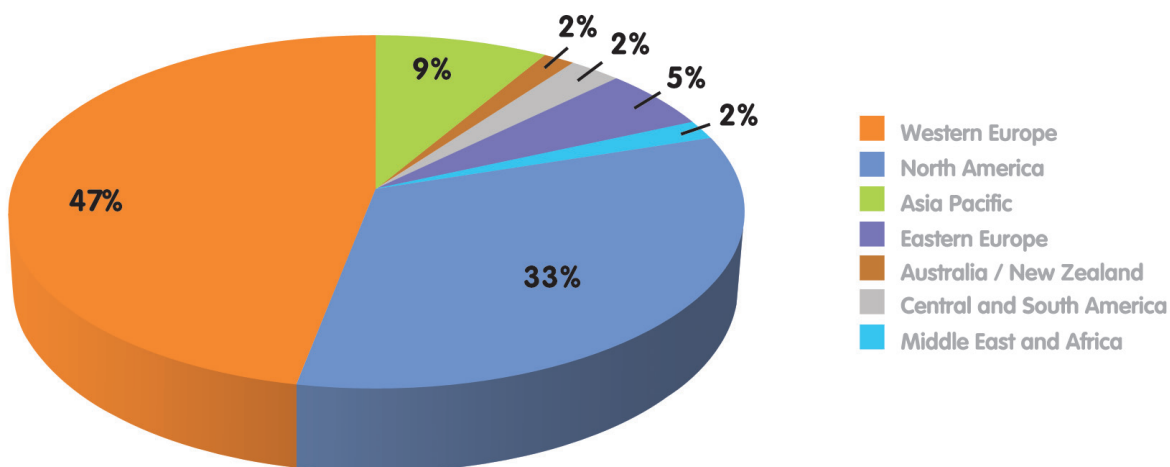
*Now known as SciVerse Scopus

- For a breakdown of titles per country, determined by the location of the publisher, it is possible to sort the list of titles by country and then search for a specific country:
http://www.info.sciverse.com/documents/files/scopus-training/resourcelibrary/xls/title_list.xls
- The full list of publishers is available at:
<http://www.info.sciverse.com/documents/files/scopus-training/resourcelibrary/xls/Publisherlist.xls>

As of August 2009, SciVerse Scopus contains 134 titles of CAIRN, a French language full text platform titles going back to 2003 or earlier.

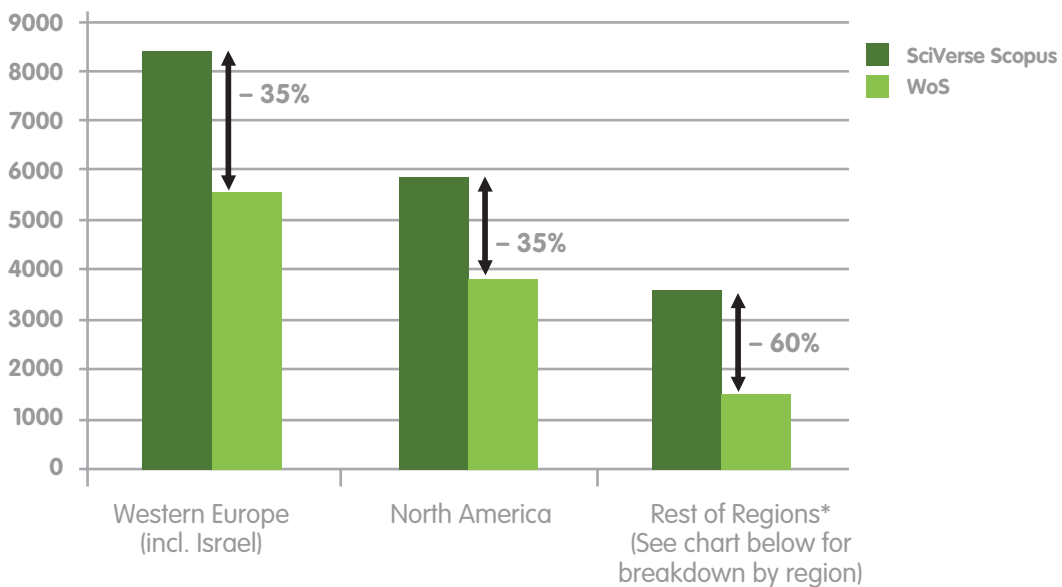


Number of SciVerse Scopus titles by geographical region (July 2010).



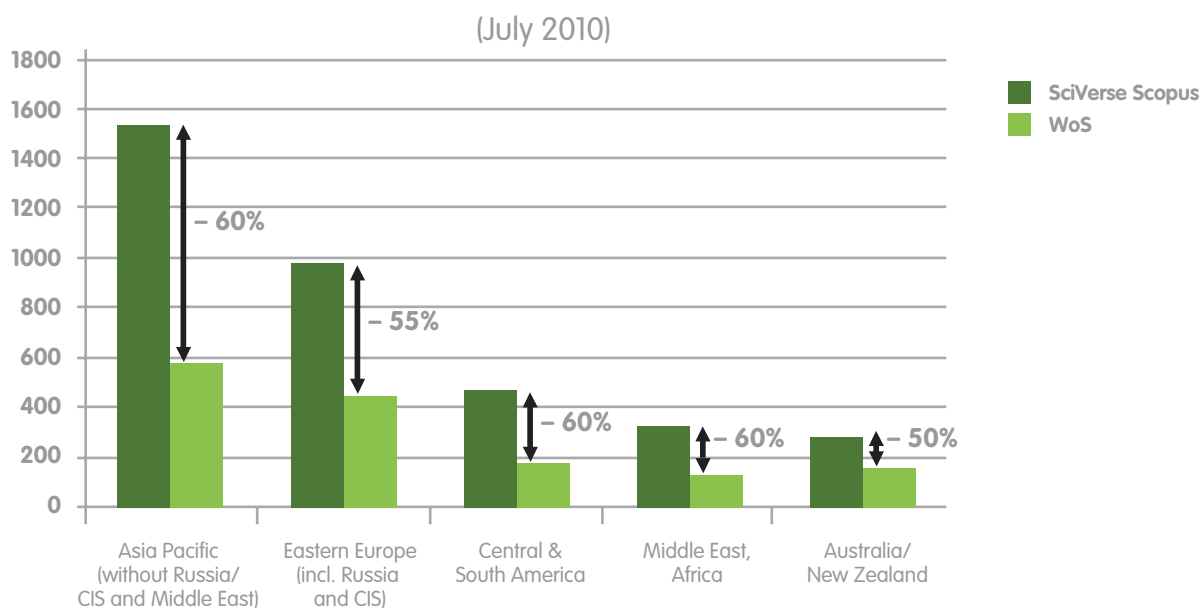
Percentage of journals in SciVerse Scopus based on geographical regions (July 2010).

Number of titles in SciVerse Scopus (active) vs. Web of Science (shared titles with SciVerse Scopus) by geographical region (July 2010)



Number of titles in SciVerse Scopus (active) vs. Web of Science (shared titles with SciVerse Scopus) by geographical region (July 2010).

Number of titles in SciVerse Scopus (active) vs. Web of Science (shared titles with SciVerse Scopus) for “Rest of Region” geographical region



Number of titles in SciVerse Scopus (active) vs. Web of Science (shared titles with SciVerse Scopus) for “Other” geographical region (July 2010).

4.4 Broadest coverage across subject areas

SciVerse 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 & humanities (SSH). For more information [see section 6](#).

Social Sciences 6,250	Health Sciences 5,950	Physical Sciences 5,300	Life Sciences 3,700
Psychology Economics Business A&H etc	(100% Medline) Nursing Dentistry etc	Chemistry Physics Engineering etc	Neuroscience Pharmacology Biology etc

Number of journal titles by broad subject area.

Note: Journal titles may belong to more than one subject area.

4.5 Completeness of coverage

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

There have been approximately 6,000 new titles added to SciVerse Scopus since 2004. As per industry standards, SciVerse Scopus does not backfill content for newly added journals but rather begins coverage with the most recent journal issue in the year that it is accepted for inclusion in SciVerse Scopus. However, if backfile content for newly added journals is provided, SciVerse Scopus may decide to cover the backfiles as well. For more information about backfile coverage [see section 5.2](#).

Records pre- and post-1996

SciVerse Scopus is 99% complete for titles originally included in SciVerse Scopus back to 1996 ([see section 4.5](#)).

- All records in SciVerse Scopus published since 1996 contain cited references.
- 70% of all the articles in SciVerse Scopus have an abstract (going back as far as 1823).
- 82% of all records after 1996 have abstracts.

In response to market research and interviews with customers, SciVerse Scopus has added backfiles (pre-1996) for journals from a variety of publishers back to volume 1, issue 1 where available (see above section).

*Now known as SciVerse Scopus

4.6 Coverage of Medline

Medline is a database that can be hosted (for free) by third parties, such as Ovid, Web of Knowledge, Embase.com or SciVerse Scopus. [PubMed](#) is the free platform on which Medline is hosted. PubMed's main component is Medline but it also contains other data.

SciVerse Scopus covers all 5,000 Medline titles from 1966 and, as of 2010, will also include OLDMEDLINE content published between 1949 and 1965. For the majority of Medline titles (4,150+ titles), SciVerse Scopus has agreements with the publishers directly and receives the content from them. For the remaining journals (+/- 950) Medline supplies SciVerse Scopus directly and these titles are referred to as "Medline-sourced" in SciVerse Scopus (previously "Medline-unique").

The advantages of covering Medline in SciVerse Scopus is that the Medline records are fully integrated with the SciVerse Scopus citation network and SciVerse Scopus author profiles.

4.7 Coverage of selected CSA databases

SciVerse Scopus and ProQuest have established a reciprocal searching and linking partnership which allows for selected content in the arts & humanities and the social sciences to be searched both on SciVerse Scopus and CSA Illumina. Available for entitled customers only, this partnership covers 2,400 integrated arts & humanities and social sciences journals, including citations, of which about 1460 titles are active journals.

The number of integrated titles decreases when a new title, classified in A&H and social sciences, is added to SciVerse Scopus and also CSA-sourced. The SciVerse Scopus title will then take precedence. Currently, 62% of CSA titles are included in SciVerse Scopus.

CSA Illumina databases integrated in SciVerse Scopus	Start year	Number of records*
Sociological Abstracts	1952	700,000
World Wide Political Science Abstracts	1975	480,000
Sociological Services Abstracts	1979	115,000
ARTbibliographies Modern	1974	340,000
Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts	1973	375,000
BHI: British Humanities Index	1962	750,000
DAAI: Design and Applied Art Index	1973	175,000
Total number of records*		2,935,000

4.8 Competitive landscape

A library's decision to purchase a database is based on many criteria. While content coverage is certainly important, it is not necessarily the most important criterion to consider. Databases with the same content coverage may yield different results based on searching techniques employed, the way the content has been indexed, the way records are linked within the database and the use of thesauri and controlled vocabulary. Perhaps most important is how "findable" the content is.

In order to assist librarians in their purchase decision, SciVerse Scopus maintains an up-to-date title list on the SciVerse Scopus Info Site which is updated quarterly ([see section 4.1](#)). The title list can be used to compare and assess a databases's relevance for a particular library's unique set of users.

CSA Illumina databases integrated in SciVerse Scopus.

Note: *May include duplicates.

5. Coverage pre-1996

Archive project

In order to increase value and customer satisfaction, SciVerse Scopus now contains the complete archives of the following major publishers:

Publisher	Start year	Number of records	Number of journals
Elsevier	1823	4,000,000	1530
Royal Society of Chemistry	1841	200,000	41
Springer	1869	1,750,000	800
Institute of Physics	1874	125,000	59
American Chemical Society	1879	500,000	39
AAAS "Science"	1880	150,000	1
American Physical Society	1893	200,000	9
American Institute of Physics	1939	250,000	8
Nature Publishing Group "Nature"	1950	120,000	1
Journal of the Physical Society of Japan	1946	25,000	1

The archives of Oxford University Press (800,000 records from 200 journals) will be added in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Please note that for the pre-1996 content only abstracts have been included as part of the archive project and not cited references. Based on input from the CSAB and results from market research, abstracts have been prioritized over references due to the high cost associated with adding backfiles and the increased usefulness of abstracts over references going back in time, especially with regard to the half-life of cited references ([see section 3.4](#)).

6. Journal classification

Titles in SciVerse Scopus are classified under four broad subject clusters (life sciences, physical sciences, health sciences and social sciences & humanities) which are further divided into 27 major subject areas and 300+ minor subject areas. Titles may belong to more than one subject area.

Click this link to view a list of the current classification scheme.

[ASJC code list 2004.xls](#)

7. Processing of SciVerse Scopus content

Obtaining content

SciVerse Scopus content is obtained from over 5,000 publishers worldwide. SciVerse Scopus has content delivery agreements in place with each publisher and receives content in both print and electronic formats. Currently, 80% of material is received electronically and/or sourced from the journal websites.

Articles-in-Press (AiP)

“Articles-in-Press” (AiP) are pre-published versions of accepted articles and have been available on SciVerse Scopus since November 2007. AiP do not contain cited references and are de-duplicated once the final version is published and made available in SciVerse Scopus. Publishers usually FTP the pre-published version to SciVerse Scopus once it has appeared on their website. Once received, SciVerse Scopus usually makes it available online within 4 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 nearly 3,500 journals are provided by the following publishers:

- Cambridge University Press
- Elsevier
- Springer
- Karger Medical and Scientific Publishers
- Nature Publishing Group (NPG)
- The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- BioMed Central (BMC)
- Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins (LWW)

For the following publishers AiP will also become available in September 2010:

- Thieme
- American Association for the Advancement of Science “Science”
- BMJ Publishing Group
- World Scientific

Alerts can be set up in order to receive notification once an AiP is published as an article. Two alerts are needed:

1. DOCTYPE(AR) [article]
2. DOCTYPE(IP) [in press]

In order to search for published articles only (and not include AiP), the user must add the following criterion to their advanced search: AND NOT DOCTYPE(IP).

Another database with coverage of AiP is Medline on Pubmed. However, this “early view” layer is not part of the Medline feed to 3rd party vendors, so SciVerse Scopus does not receive AiP from Medline. For more information about Medline coverage [see section 4.6.](#)

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