Content Coverage

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1.0 Introduction - Document Objective

Scopus offers the broadest available coverage of scientific, technical, medical and social science literature.

What does this mean exactly?

This document is designed to answer this question be providing detailed information about Scopus content and clarify points on content completeness, policy and processes.

Most notably, this document contains:

- A detailed description of the current content coverage within Scopus
- An outline of the Scopus content selection policy, evaluation process, and the role of the external Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB)

If this document does not answer a specific content-related question, contact the Scopus team via content@scopus.com.

Non-content-related information about Scopus and its user-designed functionality can be found on the Scopus Info Site at www.info.scopus.com.

This document includes input by CSAB members and has been reviewed by the CSAB.

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2.0 What is in Scopus?

2.1 Coverage

2.1.1 Overview

Scopus offers the broadest available coverage of scientific, technical, medical and social science literature. The most important facts are listed below:

- Over 15,000 titles from more than 4,000 international publishers, including coverage of:
  - 500 Open Access journals
  - 700 Conference Proceedings
  - 600 Trade Publications
  - 125 Book Series

  (For an overview see www.info.scopus.com/docs/title_list.xls.)
- 28 million records back to 1966
- 245 million references, added to records from 1996 onwards
- More than 60% of titles are from countries other than the U.S.
- 250 million quality web pages, including 13 million patents indexed by Scirus, which are available via the Web and Patent tab on the Scopus search results page.
- 3,400 Life Sciences titles
- 2,850 Social Sciences titles
- 5,500 Physical Sciences titles
- 5,300 Health Sciences titles, including 100% coverage of Medline titles

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2.1.2 Document Type Policy

Scopus selects document types from journals and other sources that contain research material. Document types that do not contain this material are not included, such as obituaries and book reviews.

Below is a complete list of document types included in Scopus.

Document Type	Definition
Article	original research or opinion, also includes conference papers
Review	significant review of original research, also includes conference papers
Conference Review	additional item summarizing all papers from a conference
Letter	letter to or correspondence with the editor
Editorial	item summarizing several articles or providing editorial opinions or news
Note	note, discussion or commentary
Short Survey	short or mini-review of original research
Business Article & Press Release	item describing news with business content, also includes press releases
Erratum	item reporting an error, correction or retraction of a previously published paper

The classification of records is done by the Scopus editorial team.

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2.1.3 Cover-to-Cover Policy

Scopus covers journals cover-to-cover from 1996 onwards, meaning that all records in a journal that comply with the document type policy are included in the database. Exceptions include Medline unique journals*, which fall outside Scopus' control, and Trade Publications, where not all articles are relevant to Scopus users.

* Scopus and Medline content overlaps by 80%. The remaining 20% is from Medline only.

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2.1.4 Depth of Content

Currently, Scopus covers 28 million records from 15,000 titles, the majority of which are complete (cover-to-cover) from 1996, including references.

Prior to 1996, content depth and completeness is determined by the Elsevier and external subject specific data inputted into Scopus for particular subject areas.

For example, Medline started in 1966. As Medline is included in Scopus, the result is that Life and Health Sciences has records dating back to 1966.

Below is a summary of how far back content coverage goes for specific subject areas:

- Life & Health Sciences — back to 1966
- Engineering (including some Chemistry, Physics & Mathematics) — back to 1970
- Environmental Sciences — back to 1980
- Biological & Agricultural Sciences — back to 1994
- Social Sciences — back to 1996
- Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics — back to 1996

See section *4.2.1 Completeness* for information on Scopus plans to expand this content prior to 1996.

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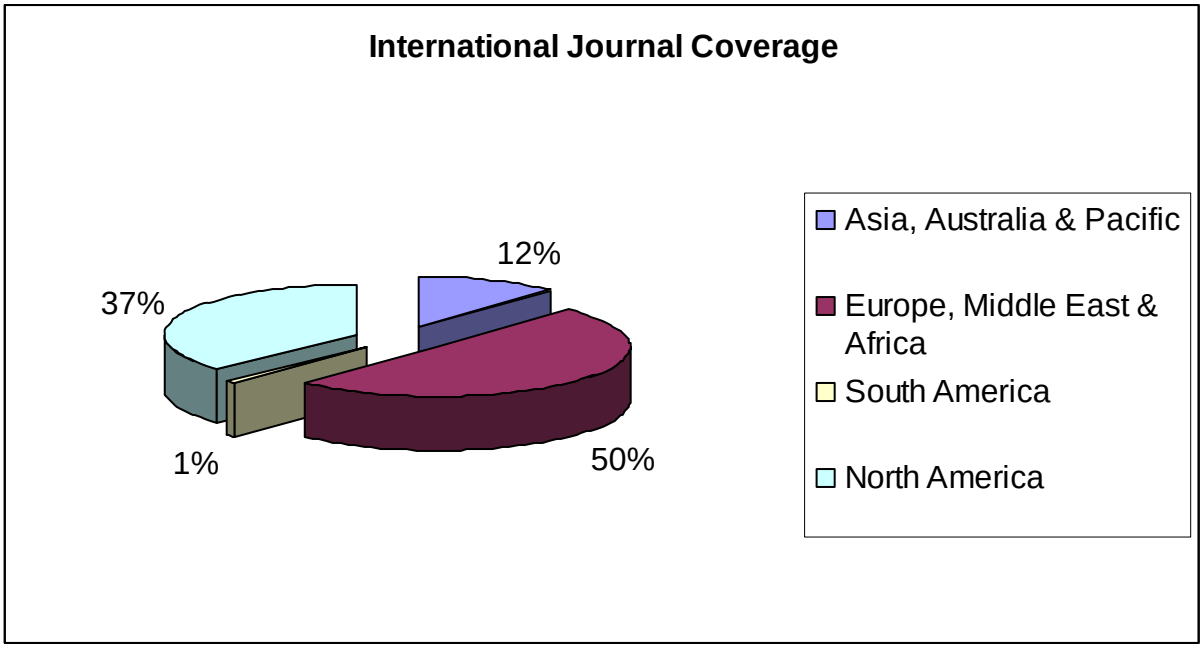
2.1.5 International Focus

Scopus has a very broad global coverage and actively seeks to cover content from publishers in a wide range of countries, to ensure a comprehensive geographical spread.

For a breakdown of titles per country, determined by the location of the publisher, the titles list on the Scopus Info Site (www.info.scopus.com/docs/title_list.xls) can be sorted by the country field and then a search run to find a specific country.

The number of titles per region is detailed in the chart below.

The full list of publishers is available at www.info.scopus.com/docs/publisher_list.xls.



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2.1.6 Scopus Subject Classifications

The classification scheme contains 27 subject areas, reflecting the broad subject coverage in Scopus.

The subject areas are:

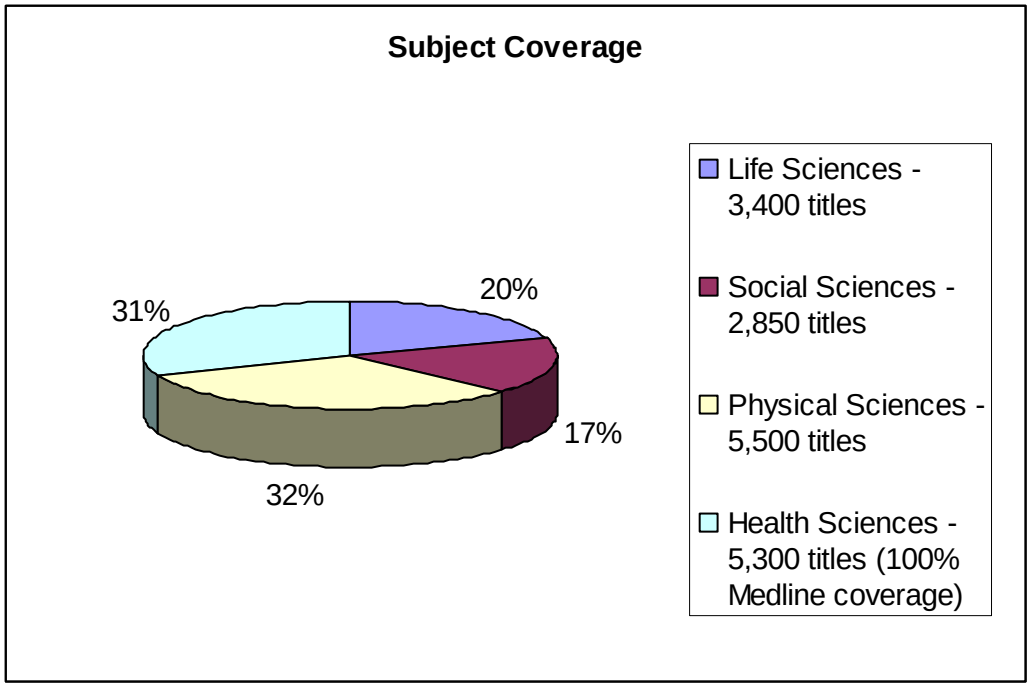
Agricultural and Biological Sciences
Arts and Humanities
Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology
Business, Management and Accounting
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Computer Science
Decision Sciences
Dentistry
Earth and Planetary Science
Economics, Econometrics and Finance
Energy
Engineering
Environmental Science
Health Professions
Immunology and Microbiology
Materials Science
Mathematics
Medicine
Multidisciplinary*
Neuroscience
Nursing
Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics
Physics and Astronomy
Psychology
Social Sciences
Veterinary

*Journals publishing in a wide range of subject areas, such as *Nature* and *Science*.

An internal editorial team assigns classification codes to all journals that are loaded into Scopus.

Records in Scopus inherit the classification codes from the journals in which they appeared.

These subjects are grouped into four categories on the source info page. The distribution of journals per category is shown in the graph below.



See section *5.0 Appendix 1* for a list of the subjects under each of the four categories.

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2.1.7 Indexing on Scopus

Scopus manually adds index terms for 80% of the titles included in Scopus. These index terms are derived from thesauri that Elsevier owns or licenses and are added in order to improve recall from a search.

A team of professional indexers assigns index terms to records according to the following controlled vocabularies:

- Geobase Subject Index (geology, geography, earth and environmental science)
- EMTREE (life sciences & health science)
- MeSH (life sciences & health science)
- FLX terms, WTA terms (fluid sciences & textile sciences)
- Regional Index (geology, geography, earth and environmental science)
- Species Index (biology, life sciences)
- EI thesaurus (engineering, technology, physical 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 (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 Scopus.

For EMTREE, these are the 'Major Focus' index terms, for MeSH the 'Major Topics' index terms. The reason that these terms are only selected for EMTREE and MesH is that users would otherwise retrieve irrelevant results.

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, which is not available on Scopus.

An example of how this is applied is available in section *6.0 Appendix 2*.

For the same reason, only the controlled terms, uncontrolled terms and main headings for the EI thesaurus are displayed and made searchable in Scopus, for example 'treatment' terms are not included.

For all other subject indices, all index terms are displayed.

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2.1.8 Author Affiliation Information

Scopus enables users to search based on author affiliation information.

Many records in Scopus have the author affiliation information available for all their authors; however, there are also records in which only the correspondence address is used as the affiliation information. For documents where the correspondence address is not marked as such, the affiliation information of the first author is presumed to be the correspondence address.

Below is a summary of the years that have complete affiliation information or only the correspondence address/first author affiliation information:

Years	Complete Author Affiliation Information and Correspondence Address	Correspondence Address/First Author Affiliation Information Only
Prior to 1996		☑
1996 to 2001	☑ (80% of records)	
2001 to April 2003		☑
April 2003 to present	☑	

Scopus is preparing plans to fill gaps in affiliation information to ensure complete capturing of author affiliation information from 1996 to present.

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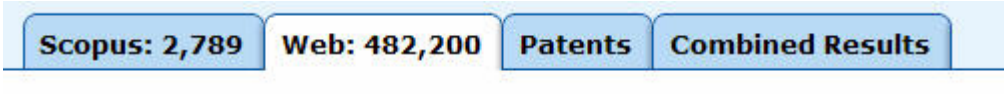
2.1.9 Web Coverage

Scopus is unique in that it not only indexes published research articles but is integrated with Scirus.com, the Web search engine for Science, so that a single search on Scopus can draw results that are relevant regardless of the source.

Web sources are available via the web tab on the Scopus search results page.



Scirus returns results from the whole Web, including access-controlled sites that other search engines do not index. Scirus currently covers over 250 million science-related Web pages, including:

83 million .edu sites
25 million .org sites
10 million .ac.uk sites
22 million .com sites
6.5 million .gov sites
Over 68 million other relevant science, technology and medicine (STM) and University sites from around the world

In addition to Web pages, Scirus indexes the following special sources including institutional repositories through its Repository Search Program. This involves trusted sources identified by in-house editors who evaluate these repositories for inclusion in the program. Including highly prestigious sources, the following list details the repositories indexed:

- 6,000 documents via CalTech
- 4,400 documents via T-space of the University of Toronto
- 54,000 course ware from MIT OpenCourseWare
- 237,000 full-text theses and dissertations via NDLTD
- 363,500 e-prints on ArXiv.org
- 2,600 e-prints through Cogprints
- 12,000 NASA technical reports
- 180,000 documents via RePEc
- 11,000 documents via DiVa
- 2,200 documents via HongKong University of Science and Technology
- 5,200 Organic e-prints
- Over 600 documents via PsyDok of Saarland University

Scirus indexes both metadata and full text of the documents in the repositories – thereby maximizing disclosure of the documents in a way that search technologies not designed for scientific documentation cannot do.

Results are integrated in Scopus through the Web results tab. Results lists make clear that they are sourced from the Web. Scirus also clearly distinguishes the individual repositories as the source by clear branding below the result.

Functionality of Scirus within Scopus:

- Searching repository content
- Linking to full text
- Exporting
- Cross search – ability to integrate web results set with Scopus results with web results tagged
- "View on Web" links - Scopus links out from article references to the cited document on the Web, if that document is recognized grey literature, for example dissertations, or has more than ten references from records in Scopus. There are currently about 280 thousand "View on Web" links in Scopus. This ensures integration with the core Scopus content in a way that users find the most useful – as it allows them to see the context of the cited document as it relates to the citing article.

Note: Scopus does not yet have the ´Cited By´ counts for Web material, nor does Scopus include Web documents as referencing sources in the Scopus reference counts.

For more information about Web coverage please visit www.scirus.com/aboutus/.

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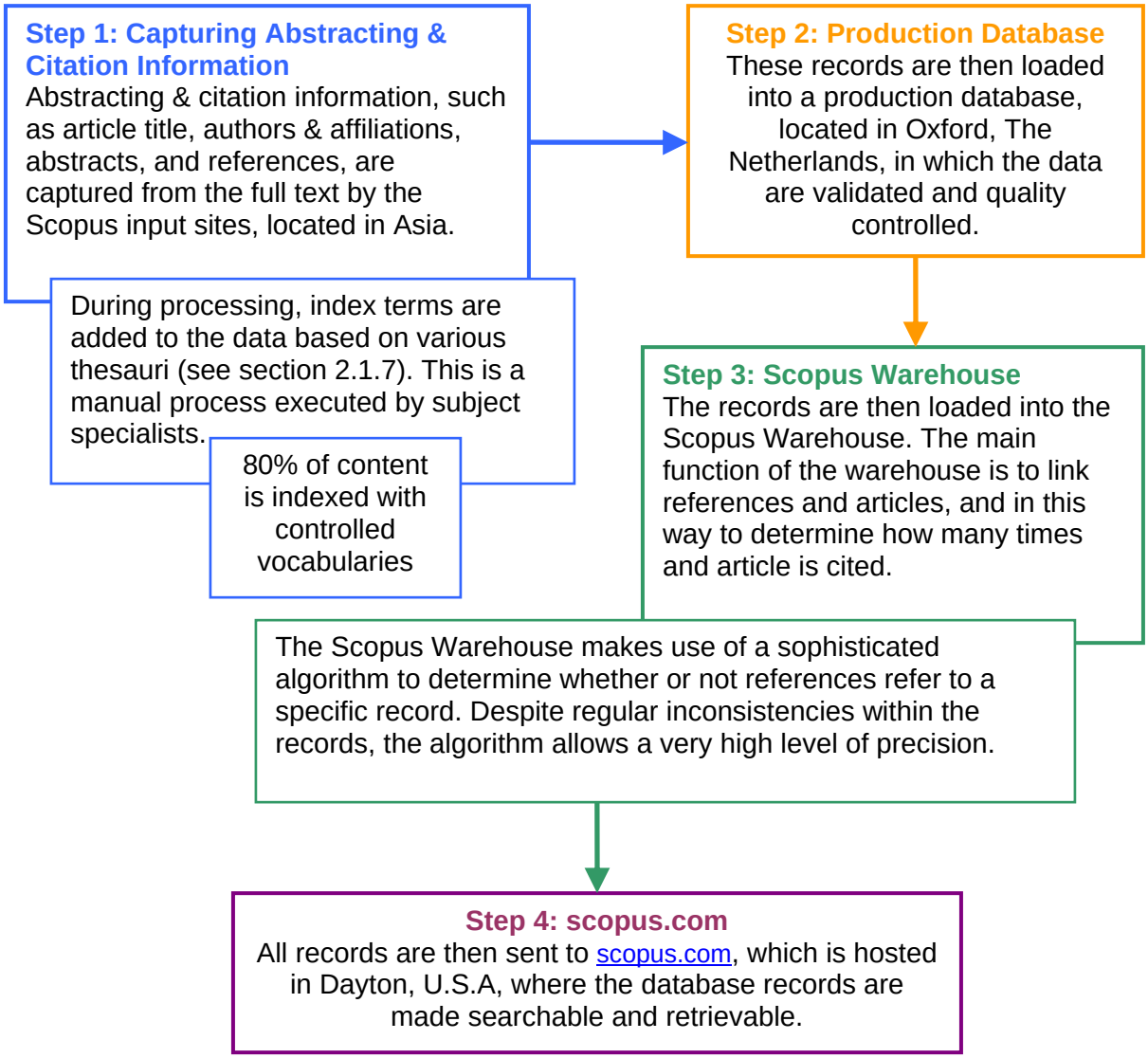
2.2 Content Processing

Scopus content is obtained from over 4,000 publishers worldwide, with whom Scopus has content delivery agreements, and is received in both print and electronic formats. Currently, 50% of material is received electronically.

Processing content in Scopus involves four main steps that add quality and context to records. The process is outlined below:



Processing content is Scopus takes approximately two weeks. This amount of time is needed to ensure the quality of Scopus content and establish the right context and linking.

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2.2.1 Quality Control

Scopus aims to contain content that is as complete and correct as possible.

Occasionally, Scopus is alerted to the fact that a record is either missing or incorrect.

In the case that an omission or error is found, the Scopus E-Helpdesk should be notified (www.info.scopus.com/contactus/).

When correcting omissions or errors, a record will be processed or re-processed in the same way as outlined above in section *2.2 Content Processing*. In some cases, sourcing of documents will be required. As such, there is no standard time frame in which corrections are made.

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3.0 Overlap with Other Databases

An institute has the opportunity to assess many aspects of library resources when making a purchasing decision. Content coverage is undoubtedly one aspect, but it is not necessarily the most important criteria to consider.

The quality or value of a database is not necessarily determined by its content alone. Different results can be yielded from databases that cover the exact same titles. This is because they will each use different search techniques, index content in different ways, use alternative methods to link between records and use varying combinations of thesauri and controlled vocabulary.

As such, assessing a database on how "findable" the content is can be of great importance.

The white paper entitled "*A report on the functionality of abstract & indexing (A&I) database platforms*" offers a check-list of functionality per database. The white paper is available to download at www.info.scopus.com/docs/wp3_aI_functionality_evaluation.pdf.

As it is still important to assess a database on content coverage, Scopus makes its title list freely available at www.info.scopus.com/docs/title_list.xls and keeps it up-to-date. Scopus thereby enables interested institutes the opportunity to compare and assess a database's relevance for their unique set of users.

To support such analysis there are software products that enable comparative analysis of literature resources, such as that produced by Ulrich's that breaks coverage down by subject and offers comparisons against their master list of all journals currently available.

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4.0 Strategy & Policy

Although Scopus covers the largest number of titles of any database, its aim is to cover the relevant and high-quality titles; not just any and all titles. For this reason the Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB) was established and the new Title Coverage Policy drawn up.

4.1 The Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB)

In 2005, Scopus established the CSAB. This board consists of scientists and subject librarians from all scientific disciplines and geographical areas.

The function of the board is to support Scopus management in prioritizing content additions, setting strategy and evaluating functionality.

4.1.1 Content

The CSAB's function is relation to content is as follows:

- Work through a list of new title suggestions annually and vote to accept or reject the titles based on agreed criteria set out in the Title Coverage Policy. See section *4.2.1 Title Coverage Policy.*
- Set priorities for content backfill activities
- Approve and prioritize requests for non-journal content or non-STM content
- Set and re-evaluate the Title Coverage Policy annually

4.1.2 Strategy

In relation to strategy, the CSAB:

- Recommends long-term courses of action to keep Scopus focused on real needs
- Keeps the Scopus team abreast of trends and developments in the research community, such as new standards, protocols or software with which to integrate

4.1.3 Functionality

Regarding functionality, the CSAB:

- Prioritizes new development requests
- Recommends enhancements to the interface or navigation
- Participates in usability testing sessions and/or provide opportunities for students or staff to participate

The fact that members come from all scientific and geographical areas gives a truly global, all-science representation on the CSAB. Names and affiliations of the board members can be requested by contacting advisoryboard@scopus.com.

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4.2 Content Inclusion Criteria

The Scopus Title Coverage Policy, set by the Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB), is used to evaluate requests for new title additions in Scopus.

Every year, the CSAB evaluates a list of titles compiled from suggestions from various groups, such as users or CSAB members.

Suggestions of titles can be submitted using the web form on the Scopus Info Site at www.info.scopus.com/etc/suggesttitle/.

Inclusion of the titles in Scopus is determined by applying the following policy:

4.2.1 Title Coverage Policy

Scopus aims to be the most complete and comprehensive resource for all research literature in Science, Social Science, Technology and Medicine.

Additional titles are selected annually for inclusion in Scopus by the external, independent CSAB based on its collective professional expertise and background.

Criteria for inclusion in Scopus include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. A title must have an English-language title and publish English-language abstracts of all research articles. However, full-text articles can be in any language.
2. Timely publication of issues, with a minimum of one issue per year, is required.
3. A title must demonstrate some form of quality control (e.g. peer review).
4. Overall quality must be high. Assessment of a journal's quality may include, but is not limited to, the following:
    - Authority: including the reputation of a commercial or society publisher, the affiliation of authors and the existence of/affiliation of an editorial board.
    - Popularity & Availability: including the number of references the title has received in Scopus; the number of institutions that have subscribed to the title; and the number of times the title has been requested for inclusion.

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4.3 Four Pillars of Scopus Content Strategy

Scopus content strategy is based on four pillars:

- Completeness
- Comprehensiveness
- Currency
- Transparency

In the short term, the following activities are planned in light of these priorities:

4.3.1 Completeness

The CSAB has indicated that adding records from material before 1996 has a higher priority than adding references to records for that time. For that reason, Scopus is planning to add backfile collections from major publishers, with a special focus on Chemistry, Physics and Social Sciences. Scopus will ensure cover-to-cover coverage for the publisher backfiles back to volume one, issue one.

4.3.2 Comprehensiveness

One of the key aims of Scopus is to continue to be the most comprehensive source of research literature. In the short term, the following activities are planned:

- Add backfiles of records from Publishers to volume one, issue one (see 'completeness' above).
- The yearly addition of new titles submitted and approved by the CSAB.
- Index additional sources via Scirus such as institutional repositories and theses and dissertation databases, thereby rendering them searchable via Scopus.

4.3.3 Currency

Scopus is on par with major comparable databases, but efforts are made to continuous improve currency, such as the restructuring of Scopus content processing workflows as well as agreements with publishers for timely delivery of material.

4.3.4 Transparency

The depth and breadth of coverage should be clearly identifiable to users so they know precisely through what they are searching. Scopus titles are listed on the 'Sources' browse page within Scopus. In the near future, additional information will be displayed as follows:

- Coverage span of titles i.e. which years are included in Scopus
- Non-active or ceased titles will be included
- Title changes will be clearly indicated.

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5.0 Appendix 1 – Subjects Grouped by Category

Life Sciences	**Social Sciences**
Agricultural and Biological Sciences Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology Immunology and Microbiology Neuroscience Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics	Arts and Humanities Business, Management and Accounting Decision Sciences Economics, Econometrics and Finance Psychology Social Sciences
Physical Sciences	**Health Sciences**
Chemical Engineering Chemistry Computer Science Earth and Planetary Science Energy Engineering Environmental Science Materials Science Mathematics Physics and Astronomy	Medicine Nursing Veterinary Dentistry Health Professions

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6.0 Appendix 2 - Scopus Indexing Terms Example

The example below shows the controlled vocabulary indexed terms attributed to an article from the EMBASE and Medline databases, and the resulting index terms used by Scopus.

Article: Hauser, I.A. et al. *ABCB1 genotype of the donor but not of the recipient is a major risk factor for cyclosporine-related nephrotoxicity after renal transplantation.* Journal of the American Society of Nephrology 16 (5), pp. 1501-1511

	MEDLINE	**EMBASE**	SCOPUS **Index Keywords**
Controlled vocabulary	Adult Aged Cyclosporine/adverse effects* Female Genes, MDR/genetics* Genetic Predisposition to Disease/epidemiology Genotype Humans Immunosuppressive Agents/adverse effects* Kidney Diseases/chemically induced* Kidney Diseases/epidemiology Kidney Diseases/genetics* Kidney Transplantation* Male Middle Aged P-Glycoprotein/genetics Polymorphism, Genetic Postoperative Complications/chemically induced Postoperative Complications/epidemiology Predictive Value of Tests Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't Risk Factors Tissue Donors*	*Cyclosporin / ae [Adverse Drug Reaction] Glycoprotein P protein abcb1 Unclassified Drug *Nephrotoxicity / co [Complication] *Nephrotoxicity / si [Side Effect] *Drug Induced Disease *Kidney Transplantation Chronic Allograft Nephropathy Graft Failure Genotype DNA Polymorphism Donor Risk Factor Kidney Function Gene Frequency Immunosuppressive Treatment Statistical Analysis Human Major Clinical Study Clinical Trial Controlled Study Article Priority Journal	**EMTREE medical terms:** donor; kidney transplantation **MeSH:** Kidney Transplantation; Tissue Donors *Medline is the source for the MeSH terms in this example.*

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7.0 Glossary

A&I	Abstracting & Indexing The terms now used is Abstracting & Citation (A&C)
Citation	The number of times a Scopus source is referred to by other Scopus sources. Also known as forward citation.
Correspondence address	A postal address specified in a record to where correspondence with the author(s) can be sent.
CSAB	Content Selection & Advisory Board See section *4.0 Strategy & Policy* for full description of the CSAB functions.
Medline	MEDLINE is the U.S. National Library of Medicine's bibliographic database covering the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the health care system, and the preclinical sciences. It provides access to abstracts of articles and citations from more than 4,000 biomedical journals published worldwide.
Record	Also known as an abstract.
Reference	A source to which a Scopus record refers. Also known as backward citation.
Scopus Info Site	www.info.scopus.com A website providing support information for Scopus users and administrators.
STM	Science, Technology and Medicine

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