HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT JOURNAL VIA ELSEVIER TOOLS?

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AGENDA

o Tips for assessing a journal's aims and scope

o Journal and article level metrics

o Elsevier Tools to find the right journal

o How to avoid from predatory journals?

Origin of Scientific Publishing

- 1665: Publication of first scientific journal **"Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society"**

- The society's council minutes dated 1 March 1664 ordered that *"the Philosophical Transactions, to be composed by Mr Oldenburg, be printed the first Monday of every month, if he have sufficient matter for it."*

- Private venture of the Royal Society's secretary, Henry Oldenburg

- Still exist (as Part A and Part B)

"Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society" already contained 3 key elements of a journal:

- **Registration and archiving:**
"We must be very careful as well of registering the person and time of any new matter, as the matter itself, whereby the honor of the invention will be reliably preserved to all posterity"

- **Dissemination**
"...all ingenious men will thereby be encouraged to impact their knowledge and discoveries"

- **Peer review**
"...being first revised by some Members of the Council of this Society "
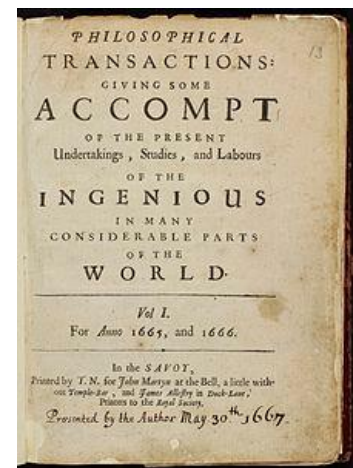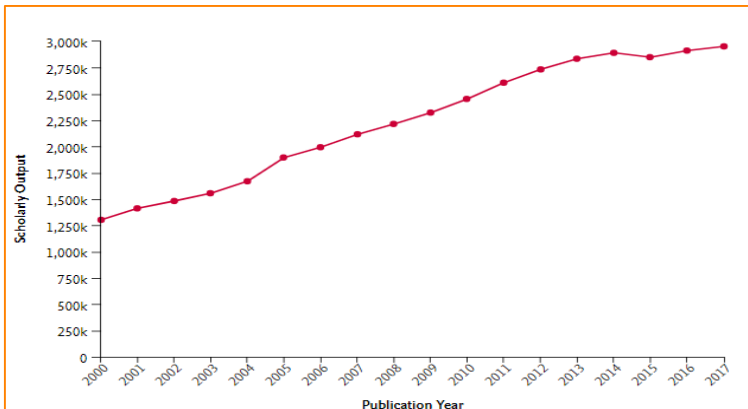
Scientific Publishing Nowadays

~5,500 scientific journal publishers

~35,000 peer reviewed journals

~2,700,000 articles published per year

The top four largest publishers:

1. Elsevier
2. Springer-Nature
3. Wiley
4. Taylor & Francis

*Together they publish 40% of all journals, only Elsevier publishes **25%** of all scientific publications.*
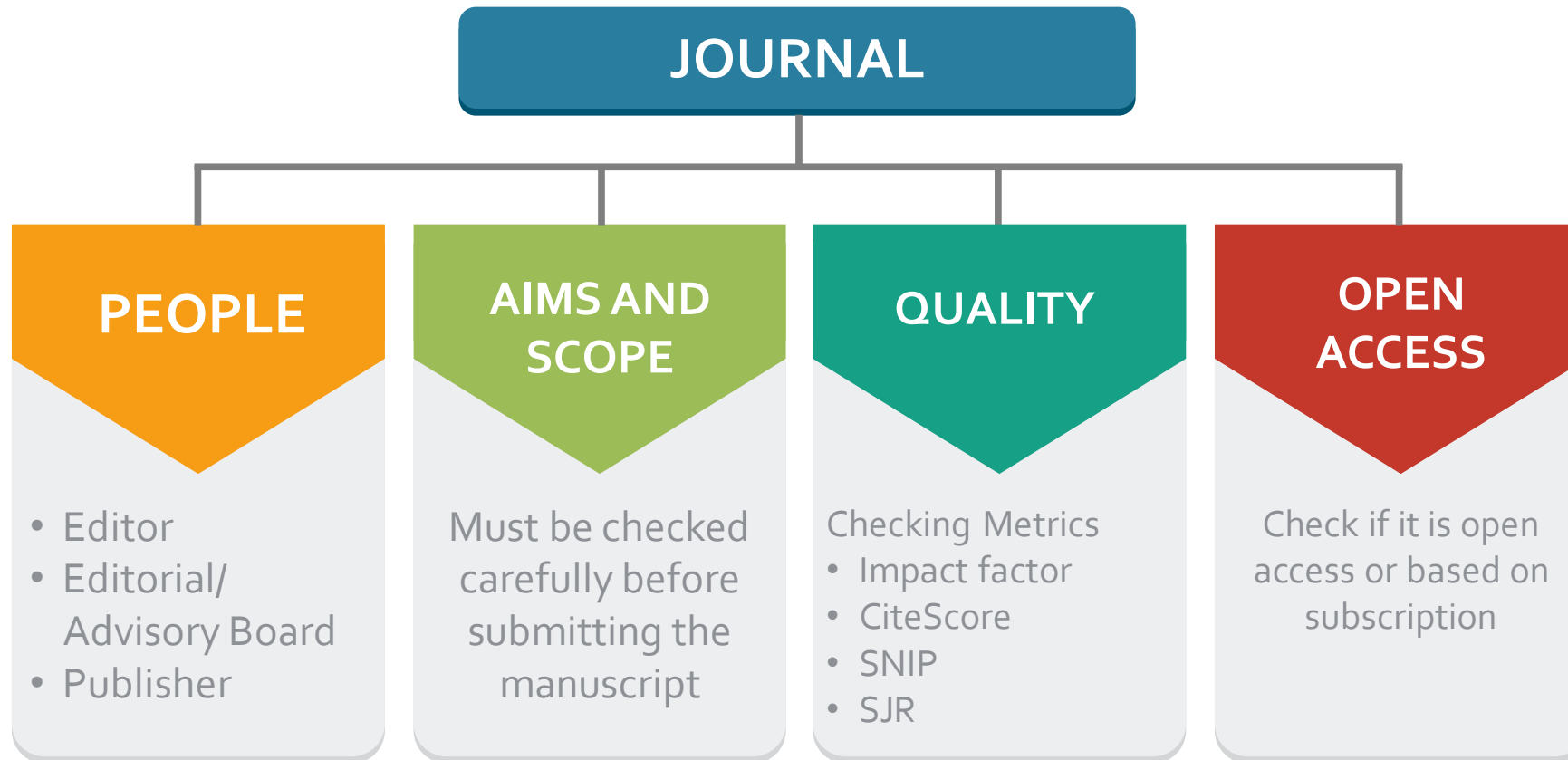
~4,000,000 unique authors in a year
(this number increases with ~3% per year)

HOW IS A JOURNAL ORGANIZED?

Journal Structure

```
                              JOURNAL


    PEOPLE        AIMS AND        QUALITY          OPEN
                   SCOPE                          ACCESS


  • Editor       Must be checked   Checking Metrics   Check if it is open
  • Editorial/   carefully before  • Impact factor    access or based on
    Advisory Board submitting the   • CiteScore        subscription
  • Publisher    manuscript        • SNIP
                                   • SJR
```

1. PEOPLE - Who are the people in a journal?

Editor in Chief

- Responsible for scientific quality
- Checks papers and decides which papers get published
- Coordinates the peer-review process
- Communicates with authors and reviewers
- Defines aim & scope of journal (with publisher)
- Advises on strategy and direction of journal
- Usually professor at esteemed university
- Often a team of editors

Editorial Members

- appointed by publisher and editors
- experts in a subfield of the journal
- can be consulted when needed
- sometimes involved in review process

Advisory Board

- advises on topics for special issues and review papers
- advises on strategy and future direction of journal
- represent authors and readers of the journal

1. PEOPLE - Who are the people in a journal?

Publisher

- Overall management of journal
- Providing the editorial infrastructure (peer-review process)
- Arranging the publication of accepted manuscripts
- Distribution and promotion of journal to readers/libraries
- Tagging and archiving of all published articles
- Dealing with ethical and copyright issues
- Appointing editors and editorial board

2. AIMS & SCOPE

A journal always has an Aims & Scope, a text that describes the goal of the journal:

- Subject
- Audience
- Type of articles
- Quality or coverage of field
- Association with group

Always check the scope of the journal first! Read Guide for Authors and some recent issues carefully to understand whether it is the right match for your paper.
Don't forget: Poor match is a common reason for editors to reject papers before peer review!

2. AIMS & SCOPE

EXAMPLE:

- *Tetrahedron* publishes experimental and theoretical research results of outstanding significance and timeliness in the field of organic chemistry and its application to related disciplines especially bio-organic chemistry.

- Areas covered by the journal include the many facets of organic synthesis, organic reactions, natural products chemistry, studies of reaction mechanism and various aspects of spectroscopy.

- Contributions take the form of full papers, which are major original contributions to the literature.

- *Tetrahedron* also publishes specially commissioned review articles - Tetrahedron Reports - and collections of original papers - Tetrahedron Symposia-in-Print.

3. QUALITY

- Several indicators are available to measure the quality of the journal, which assume that the importance of a paper can be assessed by number of citations:

  - Impact Factor
  - CiteScore
  - SJR
  - SNIP

- Always check if the journal is accredited by databases and covered by respected sources such as Scopus

When used correctly, research metrics together with qualitative input give a balanced, multi-dimensional view for decision-making. Always use more than one metric before making any decision.

3. QUALITY

1 **Impact factor :** average number of times articles from a journal published in the past 2 or 5 years have been cited in the current year

2 **CiteScore :** average number of citations received in a calendar year by all items published in that journal in the preceding 3 years. Calculation is below:

CiteScore 2015 value $= \dfrac{A}{B}$

Citations in 2015

Documents from 3 years

A

| 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |

B
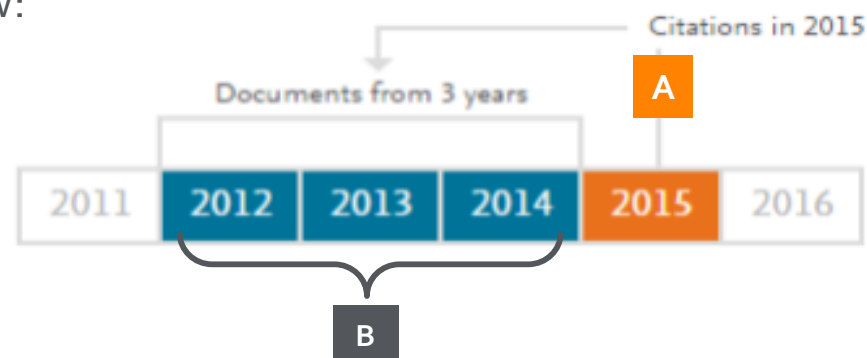
Differences from Impact Factor:

- IF - citation to 2 or 5 years of documents are covered.

- Citations in all type of documents in these years covered, while citable items are only articles and reviews

Advantages of CiteScore:

- **Comprehensive:** based on Scopus, available for all serial titles
- **Transparent:** Available for free, easy to calculate for yourself. Underlying database is available for you to interrogate
- **Current:** Updated monthly. New titles will have CiteScore a year after indexed

3. QUALITY

3

SNIP – **Source Normalized Impact per paper :**

- It is developed by Henk Moed - CWTS (Centre for Science   and   Technology   Studies)- Leiden University
- It Measures the average citation impact of the publications of a journal, correcting for the differences in citation practices between scientific fields and therefore allowing for more accurate between-field comparisons of citation impact.
- Its calculation is based on last 3 years.

It is field-normalized and allows us the direct comparison of sources in different subject fields!

4

SJR – **SCImago Journal Rank:**

- It is developed by by Felix de Moya, CSIC (Spanish Research Council)
- It is a Prestige metric -advocates not all citations are the same
- Citations are weighted depending on the status of the source they come from.
- **The subject field, quality and reputation of the journal has a direct impact on the value of a citation. This means that a citation from a source with a relatively high SJR is worth more than a citation from a source with a lower SJR**
- Its calculation is based on last 3 years.

4.Open Access

- Most journals are subscription journals, they are purchased by university/library and are only accessible to subscribers.

- Currently also 'open access' journals are available. Authors (or their funders) pay 'article process charges ' (APC) and the article is freely available.

- Most subscription journals offer option to make an article 'open access'. These are so-called 'hybrid' journals.

- **Gold open access**: author pays to publish in journal
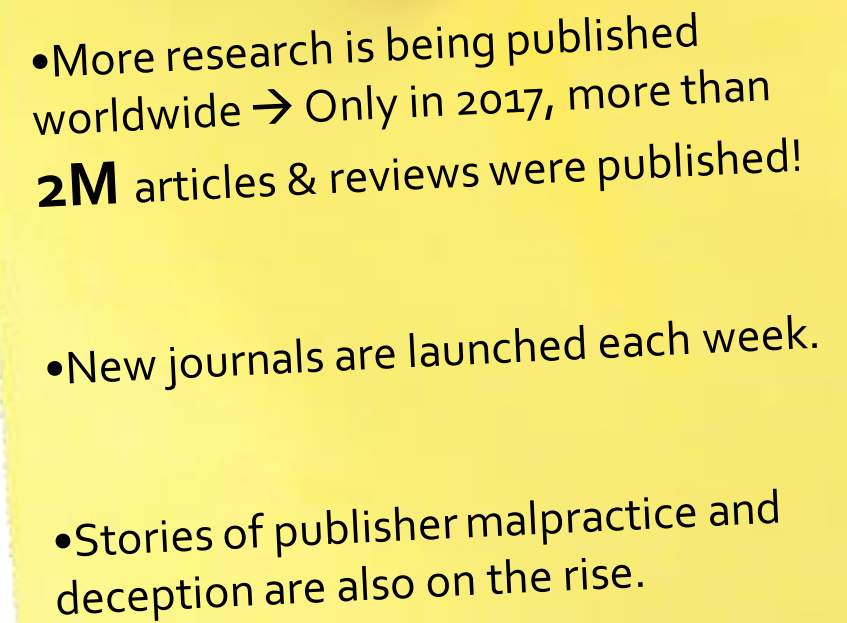- **Green open access**: manuscripts is available through institutional repository.

FINDING THE RIGHT JOURNAL

RESEARCHER'S CHALLENGE: ARE YOU READY TO PUBLISH?
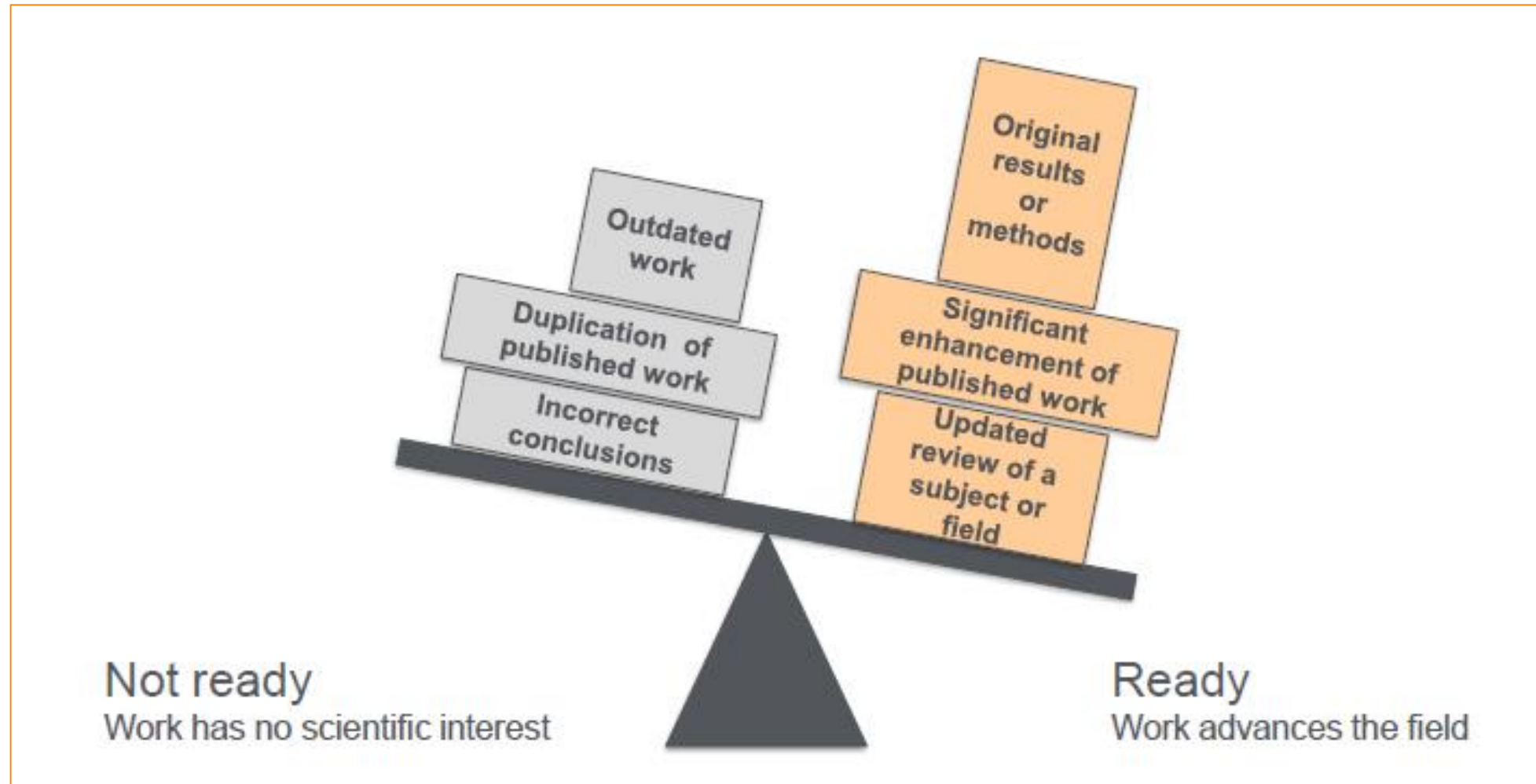
RESEARCHER'S CHALLENGE: FINDING THE RIGHT JOURNAL

- Are you submitting your research to a trusted journal?

- Is it the right journal for your work?

- How can you be sure you can trust a particular journal?

- More research is being published worldwide → Only in 2017, more than **2M** articles & reviews were published!

- New journals are launched each week.

- Stories of publisher malpractice and deception are also on the rise.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT JOURNAL – BEST PRACTICES

- Aim to reach the intended audience for your work
- Choose only one journal, as simultaneous submissions are prohibited
- Supervisors and colleagues can provide good suggestions
- Shortlist a handful of candidate journals and investigate them:

  - Aims
  - Scope
  - Accepted types of articles
  - Readership
  - Current hot topics

Articles in your reference list will usually lead you directly to the right journals

Publishing in the right journal for your research will raise
your professional profile, and help you progress
in your career

Your paper can be indexed or archived which will
increase your discoverability and visibility

FIRST STEP: CREATING A CHECKLIST

When you are trying to identify a journal, it is better to begin with a checklist

✔ **Is this journal the right fit for my work?**

    o Does the topic match the journal's scope?
    o Does the journal publish this type of article?
    o Is there a chance of acceptance?

✔ **Do you or your colleagues know the journal?**

    o Have you read any articles in the journal before?
    o Is it easy to discover the latest papers in the journal?

✔ **Is the journal accredited by relevant databases? E.g Scopus, PubMed etc**

✔ **Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?**

    o Is the publisher name clearly displayed on the journal website?
    o Can you contact the publisher by telephone, email, or post?

✔ **Do you recognize the editorial board?**

    o Have you heard of the editorial board members?
    o Is the editorial board mentioned on the journal website?

Useful website: Think, Check, Submit

https://thinkchecksubmit.org/

SECOND STEP: FINDING A JOURNAL

There are several directories and tools that you can use to find a journal with the right scope

✔ You can get help from journal directories, for example:

- JournalGuide: www.journalguide.com
- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ): https://doaj.org
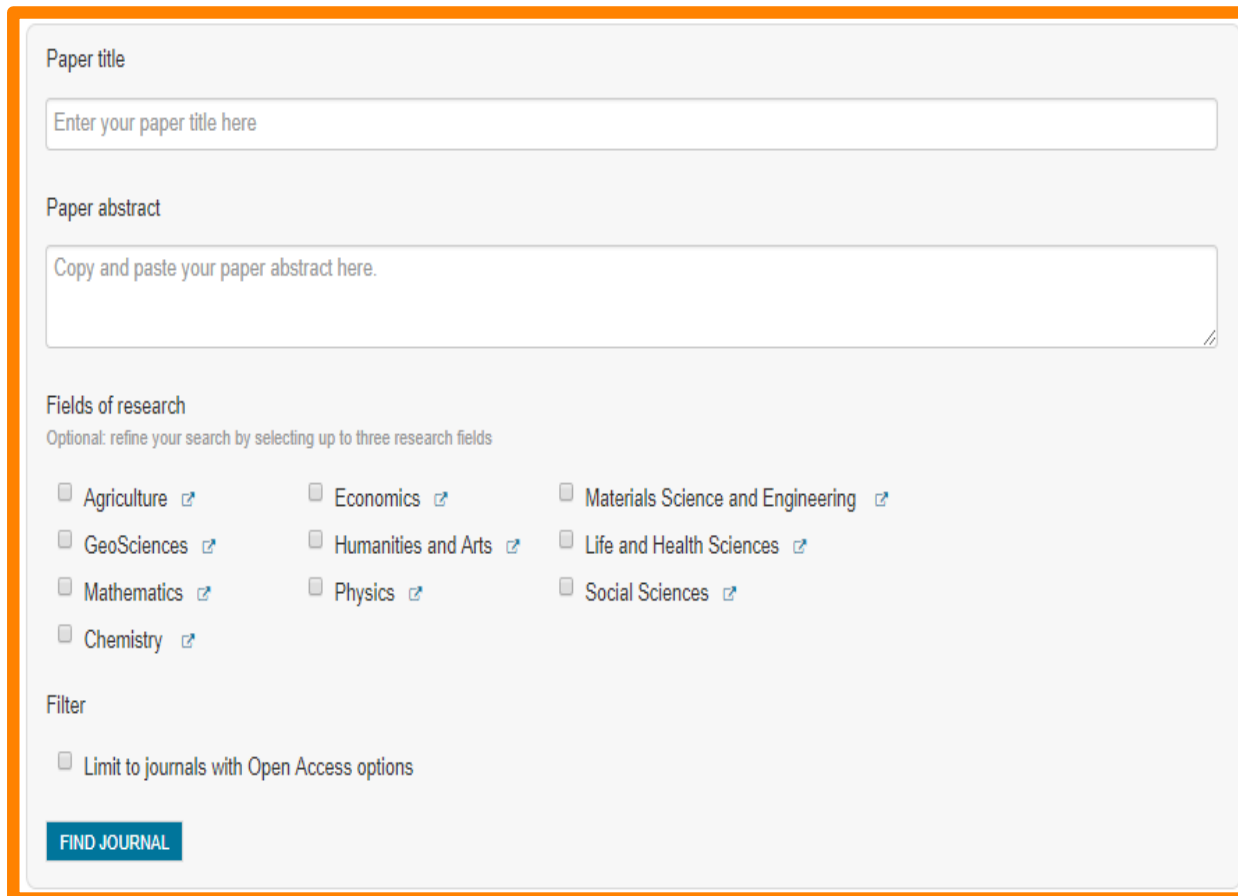
✔ You can get help from tools that match your paper's title/ abstract to related journals:

- Edanz Journal Selector Tool www.edanzediting.com/journal-selector
- Journal/Author Name Estimator http://jane.biosemantics.org/
- Publisher Tools: e.g Elsevier Journal Finder:
https://journalfinder.elsevier.com/

ELSEVIER JOURNAL FINDER

Elsevier Journal Finder tool uses Scopus and Elsevier Fingerprinting Engine which uses Natural Language Processing (NLP) to match with published articles in Elsevier journals.

A shortlist of Elsevier journals is recommended if it has published articles that have a high similarity with the article

Paper title

Enter your paper title here

Paper abstract

Copy and paste your paper abstract here.

Fields of research
Optional: refine your search by selecting up to three research fields

- Agriculture
- GeoSciences
- Mathematics
- Chemistry
- Economics
- Humanities and Arts
- Physics
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Life and Health Sciences
- Social Sciences

Filter

- Limit to journals with Open Access options

FIND JOURNAL

- *It helps inexperienced authors to select the correct journals for their papers*

- *It helps authors working in multidisciplinary fields identify possible journals*

- *It highlights journals that offer open access option*

THIRD STEP: MATCHING JOURNAL SCOPE

Once you have selected a journal, it is important to study its scope more in a detail and read some recent issues to understand whether it is the right match for your paper

Poor match is a common reason for editors to reject papers before peer review!

- Does the subject match to its scope?

- Does the journal prioritize novelty?

- Does it welcome inter-disciplinary papers?

- Does it seek theoretical papers or more applied papers?

CHECKING JOURNAL HOMEPAGE

It is critical to check Guide for Authors in the journal homepage of the publisher. Not only it will lead you in a right way, but also it will save you time

CHECKING THE JOURNAL MORE IN A DETAIL

Is the journal accredited by databases and covered by respected sources?

Some lists and services to check:

- Ulrich's Web Global Serials Directory
- JournalGuide
- PubMed
- Scopus
- Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports
- Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE)
- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA)

Facts and Figures - Scopus®

The **largest abstract and citation database** of **peer-reviewed** literature, and features **smart tools** that allow you **track, analyse and visualize** scholarly research

+70 Million Multiple regional content types from more than **6.000 publishers** and **105** countries

*Records back to **1788**
*Over 8.000 'article in press'
*Over 4.000 active Gold Open Access journals are indexed
*Additional **enhanced metadata,**í.e. 100% Medline coverage

*Database is updated **daily**
*40 different languages** are covered
*Automatically generated researcher and affiliation profiles

	JOURNALS	CONFERENCES	BOOKS	PATENTS*
Physical Sciences	**23,507** peer-reviewed journals **301** trade journals	**106K** conference events **8.3M** conference papers	**613** book series **38K** volumes	**27M** patents
Health Sciences	• Full metadata, abstracts and cited references (refs post-1970 only)		**166K** stand-alone books	From 5 major patent offices
Social Sciences	• Funding data from acknowledgements	Mainly Engineering and Computer Sciences	**1.5M** items	- WIPO - EPO - USPTO
Life Sciences	• Citations back to 1970			- JPO - UK IPO

Source: Scopus.com, January 30, 2018

Publishers Coverage - Scopus®

Scopus covers more than 6.000 publishers worldwide to support your research needs

- 11% ELSEVIER
- 7% SPRINGER NATURE
- 5% Taylor & Francis (Taylor & Francis Group)
- 4% WILEY-BLACKWELL
- 2% SAGE
- 1% Wolters Kluwer Health
- 1% BRILL
- 1% IEEE
- 1% Emerald
- 1% KARGER Medical and Scientific Publishers
- 1% OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
- 1% BENTHAM SCIENCE
- 1% INDERSCIENCE PUBLISHERS
- 1% CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Other 60%
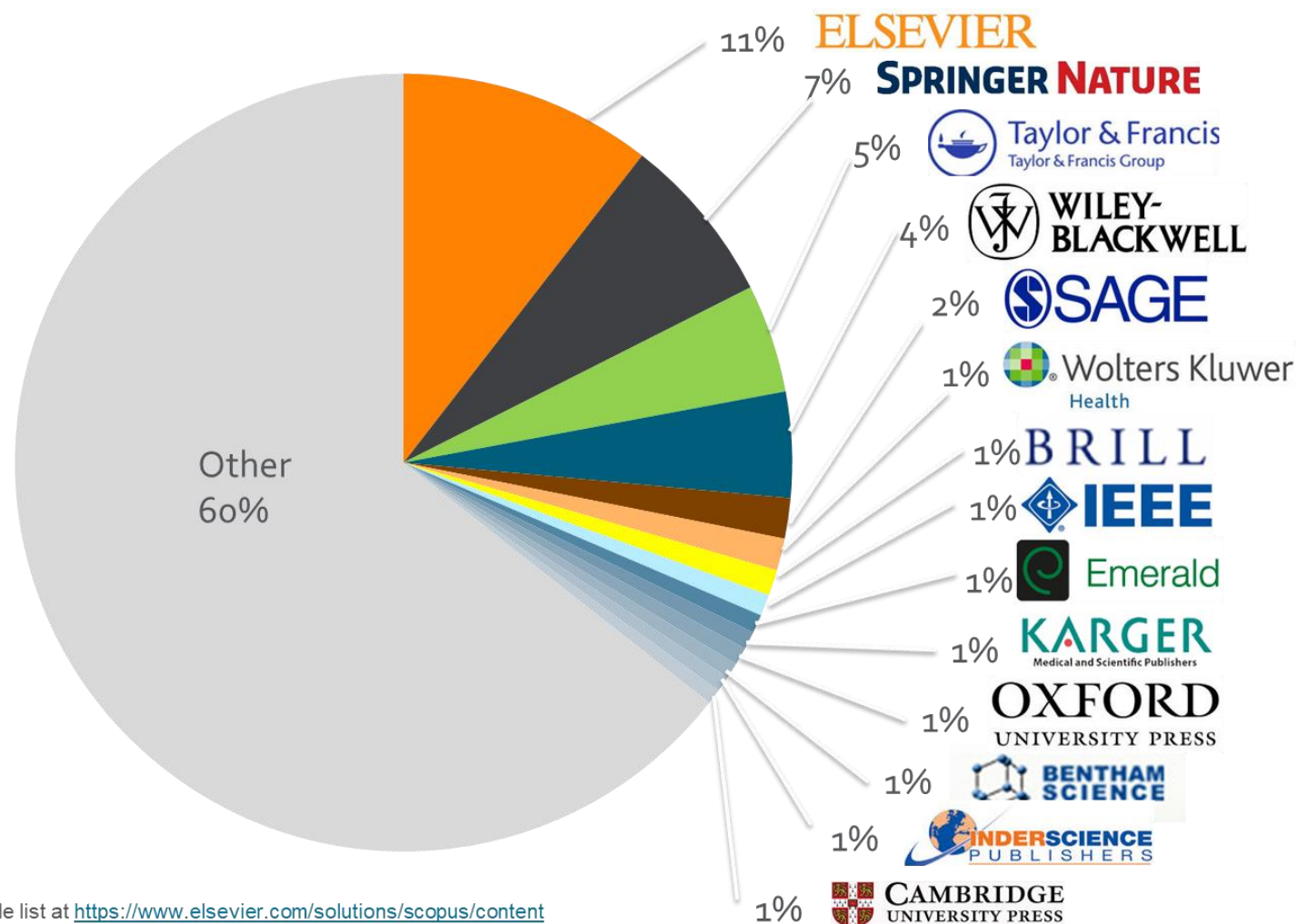
Source: May 2016 title list at https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content

Subject Coverage - Scopus®

Titles on Scopus are classified under 4 subject clusters and indexed into **27** main subject areas:

Life Sciences
6,809 titles

Physical Sciences
12,263 titles

16%

28%

25%

31%

Social Sciences
10,905 titles

Health Sciences
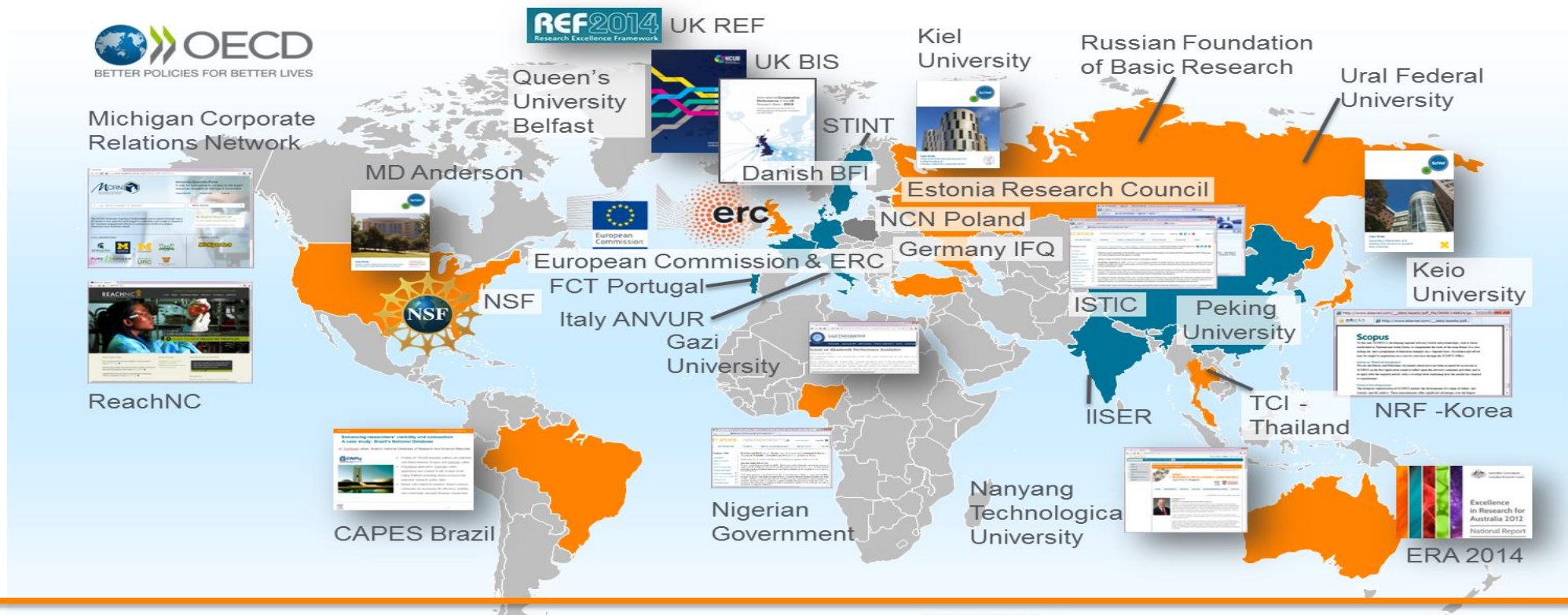**13,819 titles**
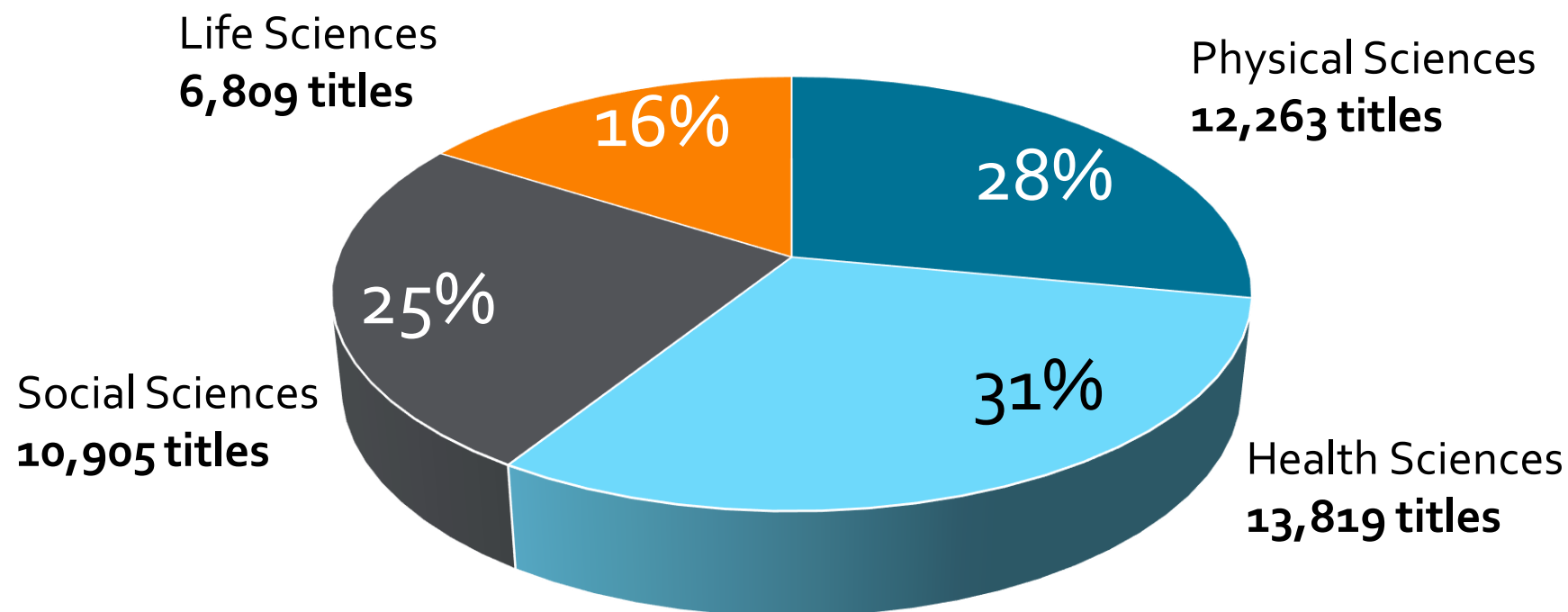
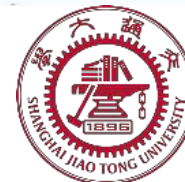Number of journals in Scopus by subject area by Jan,2018
* Includes active titles. Titles may fall into more than one subject area

Scopus® As a gold standard

Scopus is recognized as the **Gold standard** in 4.000 universities and 150 leading research organizations worldwide. A lot of global key reports also use Scopus data

Rankings:

Selection Process & Criteria - Scopus®

Scopus content is selected via independent Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB)

The CSAB is an independent board of subject experts from all over the world.

Board members are chosen for their expertise in specific subject areas; many have (journal) Editor experience.

The CSAB is selective and strict on quality: in total 5,411 titles reviewed (2011 –2015) of which 2,587 (48%) accepted for Scopus

For more info:
https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content/content-policy-and-selection or titlesuggestion@scopus.com
https://www.elsevier.com/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/95118/SC_FAQ-content-selection-process-22092014.pdf

Selection Process & Criteria - Scopus®

The CSAB is selective and strict on quality: in total 5,411 **titles reviewed** (2011 –2015) of which 2,587 (**48%**) **accepted** for Scopus

All titles should meet all minimum criteria in order to be considered for Scopus review:

Peer-reviewed → English abstracts → Regular publication → Roman script references → Pub. Ethics statement

Journal policy	Quality of Content	Journal standing	Regularity	Online Availability
• Convincing editorial concept/policy	• Academic contribution to the field	• Citedness of journal articles in Scopus	• No delay in publication schedule	• Content available online
• Type of peer-review	• Clarity of abstracts	• Editor standing		• English-language journal home page
• Diversity geographic distribution of editors	• Quality and conformity with stated aims & scope			• Quality of home page
• Diversity geographic distribution of authors	• Readability of articles			

Eligible titles are reviewed by the CSAB according to a combination of 14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria:

Selection Process & Criteria - Scopus®

Transparent, annual re-evaluation process to ensure titles continue to meet high quality standards

Full Scopus Journal base

Year 1	Analyze full Scopus journal corpus performance based on set metrics & benchmarks
	Flag underperforming journals & inform journal publishers
Year 2	Analyze full Scopus journal corpus performance based on set metrics & benchmarks
	Flag underperforming journals & inform journal publishers
CSAB review	If a journal underperforms for 2 consecutive years, CSAB will re-evaluate the title based on Scopus selection criteria
	Flagged journals for which concerns are raised, CSAB will re-evaluate the title based on Scopus selection criteria
CSAB decision	Continue forward flow or Discontinue forward flow

How do we flag?

- Direct feedbacks from users and stakeholders on poor performing journals

- Identification of poor performing journals using metrics and benchmarks

- 'Radar' to predict journals with outlier performance

Learn more on this topic via the Scopus blog: http://blog.scopus.com/posts/scopus-launches-annual-journal-re-evaluation-process-to-maintain-content-quality
or Elsevier.com: http://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content/content-policy-and-selection#title_re-evaluation

Selection Process & Criteria - Scopus®

Metrics and benchmarks to identify poor-performing journals for re-evaluation are as follows.
If a title does not meet one of the conditions it is flagged

Metric	Benchmark	Explanation
Self-citations	200%	The journal has a self-citation rate two times higher or more, when compared to peer journals in its subject field
Citations	50%	The journal received half or the less number of citations, when compared to peer journals in its subject field
Impact per Publication	50%	The journal has an IPP score half or less than the average IPP score, when compared to peer journals in its subject field
Article output	50%	The journal produced half, or less, the number of articles, when compared to peer journals in its subject field
Abstract usage	50%	The journal's abstract are used half as much, or less, when compared to peer journals in its subject field
Full text links	50%	The journal's full text are used half as much, or less, when compared to peer journals in its subject field

Selection Process & Criteria - Scopus®

'Radar' that identifies journals with outlier performance
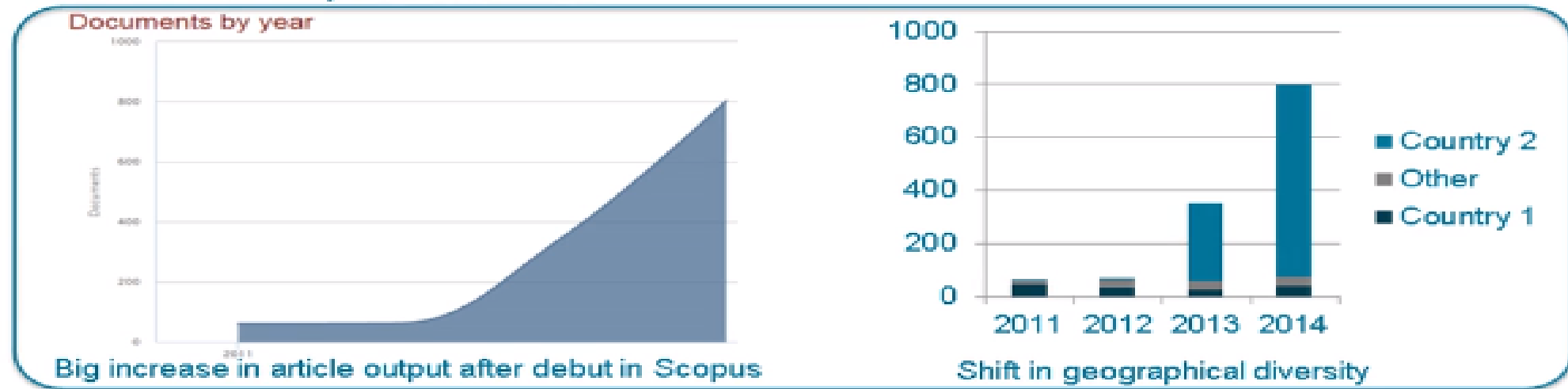
Elsevier data scientists created a 'Radar' that can identify, flag and ultimately predict outlier performance of journals. Some examples are as follows:

- Total article output and sudden article output growth
- Shift in geographical diversity among authors and editors
- Shift in received citations and percentage of self-citations

Selection Process & Criteria -   Scopus®

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Learn more on this topic via the Scopus blog: http://blog.scopus.com/posts/scopus-launches-annual-journal-re-evaluation-process-to-maintain-content-quality
or Elsevier.com: http://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/content/content-policy-and-selection#title_re-evaluation

# How to benefit from Scopus® to evaluate different journals?

Scopus Compare Sources tool allows you a direct comparison of Journals in terms of subject area, ISSN or publisher by checking different metrics!
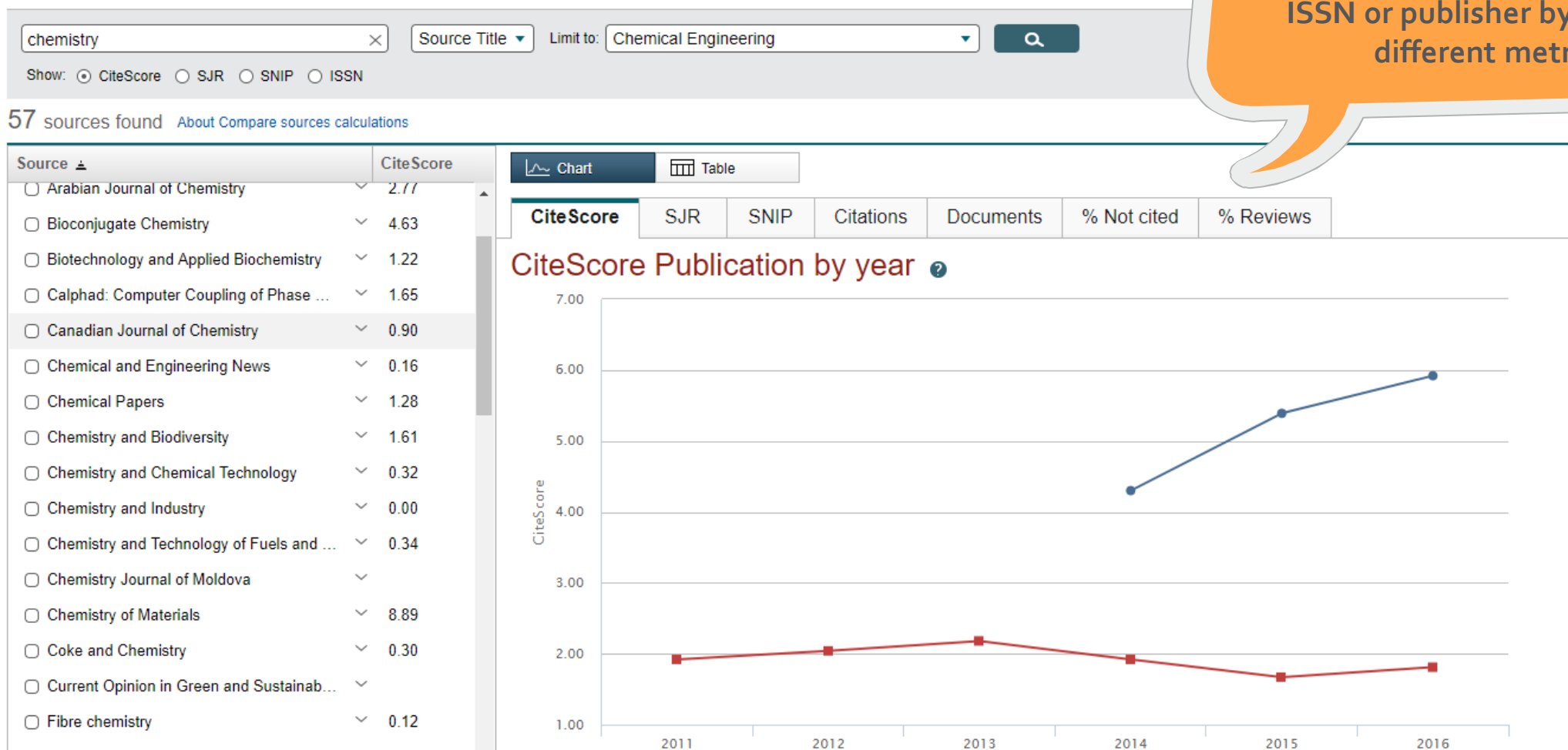
Importance of Reference Management Systems

It is critical to utilize reference management systems

- **Writing of an article is a hard work –** finding and sorting research, preparing references, sourcing feedback..

- Convert the reference style as journal requests

- **Get Help from Mendeley!**

  o Generate citations and bibliography
  o Adapt your citation style per journal
  o Connect with colleagues, securely share papers, notes and annotations
  o Benefit from social network to identify potential collaborations
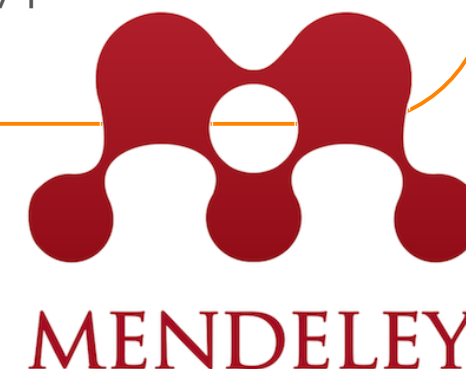
MENDELEY

Importance of **MENDELEY**

Mendeley is **a free research workflow tool and academic social network** that enables and empowers researchers to **organize their references**, **connect and inspire each other**, **store and share their data** and **find new career opportunities**.
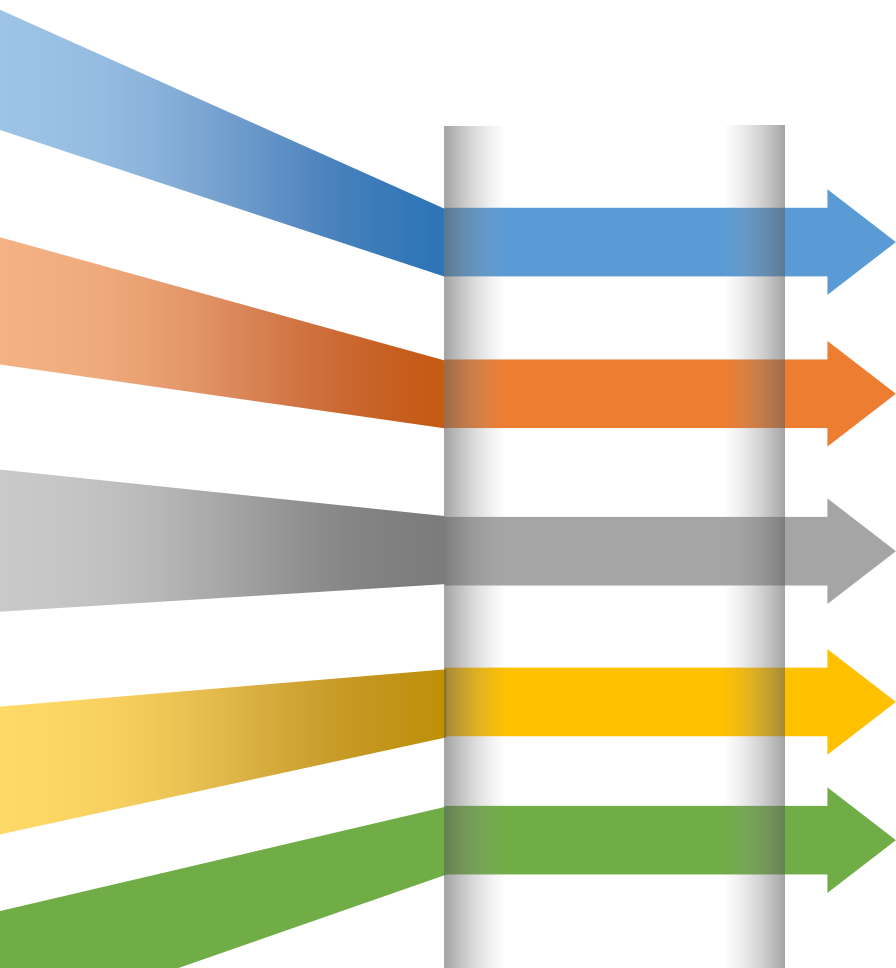
Reference Management
Read, organize and cite all of your research from one library.

Research network
Promote your work. Connect and collaborate with millions of researches worldwide.

Datasets
Store, share and cite datasets with one secure online repository. There are over 10 million datasets from different platforms

Careers
Search for science and technology jobs in institutions worldwide.

Funding
Find funding opportunities from over 2,000 organizations across the globe

HOW TO AVOID FROM PREDATORY JOURNALS?

WHAT IS A PREDATORY JOURNAL?

- So-called 'predatory' publishers and journals charge authors Article Processing Charges (APCs) to publish articles but offer **little to no editorial support**. They abuse the Open Access system.

- Legitimate open access publishers also charge APCs but use them to cover their publishing and archiving costs. Predatory publishers usually promise these same services but do not provide them once authors have paid the APCs.

- **Note that Open Access journals are not by definition predatory. There are many credible Open Access journals and some even do not have APCs.**

Publishing in Predatory Journals or using references from Predatory journals can be harmful for authors as publications in these journals can not count as others and they are not thoroughly peer-reviewed.

HOW TO ASESS PREDATORY JOURNALS?

1. **Check the information in its website**

    - Missing or incomplete list of editorial board and their contact information

    - Verify its address / location

    - Verify the metrics if stated any , Impact Factor, CiteScore, SJR..

    - Incomplete information on articles / aim and scope / goals and objectives

2. **Take a look at how journal presents itself**

    - Poor layout of the website and poor language

    - Poorly prepared or overly flattering emails received from publisher

    - Persistent advertising or spam mailings directly or through intermediaries

    - Short review periods (up to a month) and minimum requirements to get published

    - Check if peer review process, publishing schedule, copyright agreements and fees are stated clearly. **TRANSPARENCY** is the key. Open access should never demand the copyright.

3. **Check if the journal is accredited by relevant databases such as Scopus, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and Pubmed**

4. **Check published articles**

    - Check the quality of published articles, read some of them. Do the articles fit within the journal's scope? How is the preparation of the article?

    - Anomalies in the geographic diversity of authors and editors

    - Sharp increase in the number of publications

CONCLUSION – HOW TO AVOID PREDATORY JOURNALS?

It is critical to distinguish 'good' journal for your paper

- 'Good' journal is trusted and respected by the community which it serves. There is also **transparency** of process for authors and readers.

- Always check the metrics and databases, do the internet search!

- Seek advice from your colleagues, word of mouth is important!

- Choosing wrong journal may have some consequences:
    - Monetary cost to you/your institution
    - Reputational cost for your work and employability
    - No assurance of longevity for your paper
    - Delisting by the reputable citation systems

How to reach the resources by yourselves?

Researcher Academy provides free access to countless e-learning resources designed to support researchers on every step of their research journey.

Browse our extensive module catalogue to uncover a world of knowledge, and earn certificates and rewards as you progress.

https://researcheracademy.elsevier.com

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  Browse our extensive module catalogue to uncover a world of knowledge, and earn certificates and rewards as you progress.
  https://researcheracademy.elsevier.com

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- Subscribe Scopus and Mendeley blogs to receive the latest developments and updates:
  www.Blog.scopus.com and www.Blog.mendeley.com

- Online resource centre where you will find detailed guides, videos and tutorials that will help you to read some of the features of Mendeley in a little bit more detail.
  http://www.resources.mendeley.com

- For further questions: o.sertdemir@elsevier.com

Thank you!