



# Supporting integrity of the scholarly record: Our commitment to curation and selectivity in the Web of Science

**8<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Research Integrity**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**

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# Agenda

1. Web of Science™ editorial selection
2. Re-evaluation at the Web of Science
3. Transparency around coverage changes

# Web of Science editorial selection

# Web of Science Core Collection



Rigorous, transparent publisher-neutral editorial evaluation



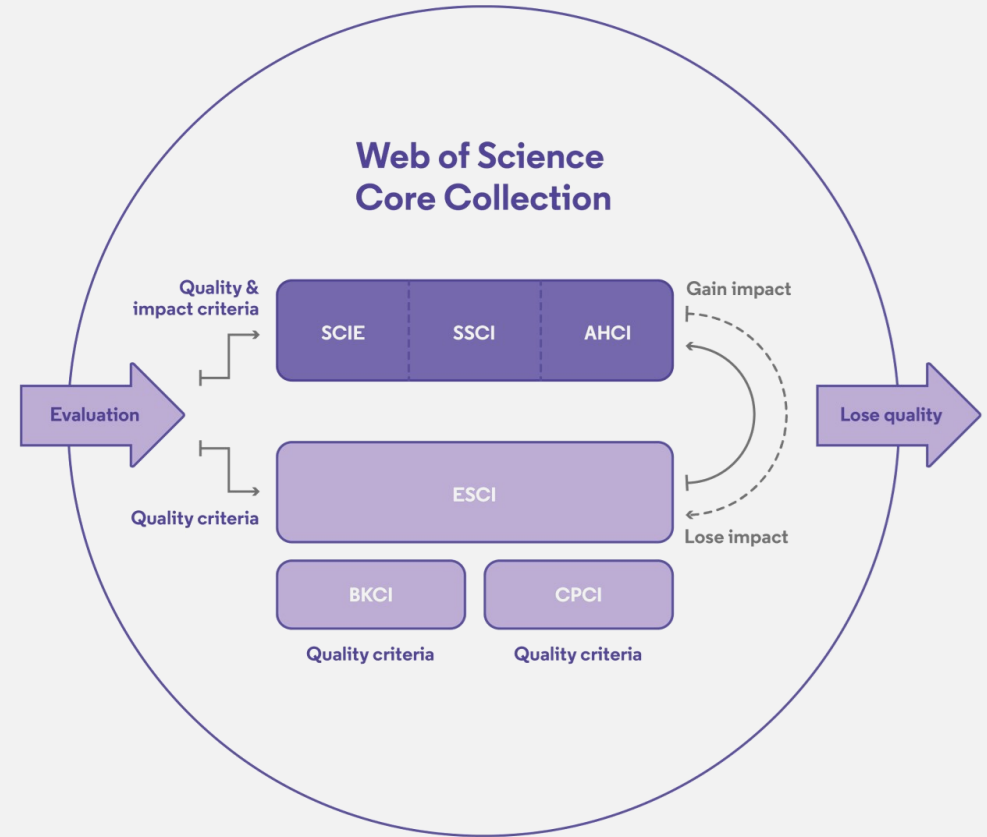
Entry into ESCI is selective but not competitive (24 quality criteria)



Entry into SCIE, SSCI or AHCI is both selective and competitive (24 quality + 4 impact criteria)



Indexed journals are subject to periodic re-evaluation



**Any journal that fails to meet all 24 quality criteria will be removed from the Web of Science Core Collection**

Science Citation Index - Expanded (SCIE)<sup>TM</sup>  
Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)<sup>TM</sup>  
Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)<sup>TM</sup>  
Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)<sup>TM</sup>

# Journal Evaluation

Quality & Impact



28

selection criteria in total



24

quality criteria to select for editorial rigor and publishing best practice



4

impact criteria to select for the most impactful journals

## 1. Initial Triage

## 2. Editorial Triage

## 3. Editorial Evaluation

### Quality Criteria

### Impact Criteria

- ✓ ISSN
- ✓ Journal Title
- ✓ Journal Publisher
- ✓ URL (online journals)
- ✓ Content Access
- ✓ Presence of Peer Review Policy
- ✓ Contact Details

- ✓ Scholarly Content
- ✓ Article Titles and Article and Abstracts in English
- ✓ Bibliographic Information in Roman Script
- ✓ Clarity of Language
- ✓ Timeliness and/or Publication Volume
- ✓ Website Functionality/Journal Format
- ✓ Presence of Ethics Statements
- ✓ Editorial Affiliation Details
- ✓ Author Affiliation Details

- ✓ Editorial Board Composition
- ✓ Validity of Statements
- ✓ **Peer Review**
- ✓ **Content Relevance**
- ✓ Grant Support Details
- ✓ Adherence to Community Standards
- ✓ **Author Distribution**
- ✓ **Appropriate Citations to the Literature**

- ✓ Comparative Citation Analysis
- ✓ Author Citation Analysis
- ✓ EBM Citation Analysis
- ✓ Content Significance

### Successful outcomes

Starts editorial triage

Starts editorial evaluation

Enters ESCI and is evaluated for impact

Enters SCIE/SSCI/AHCI

### Unsuccessful outcomes

#### Submission cannot be completed

Re-submission welcome as soon as issues have been resolved

#### Failed editorial triage

Re-submission welcome as soon as issues have been resolved  
On consecutive evaluations: Re-submission subject to embargo of at least one year

#### Failed editorial quality evaluation

Re-submission subject to embargo of two years

#### Failed editorial impact evaluation

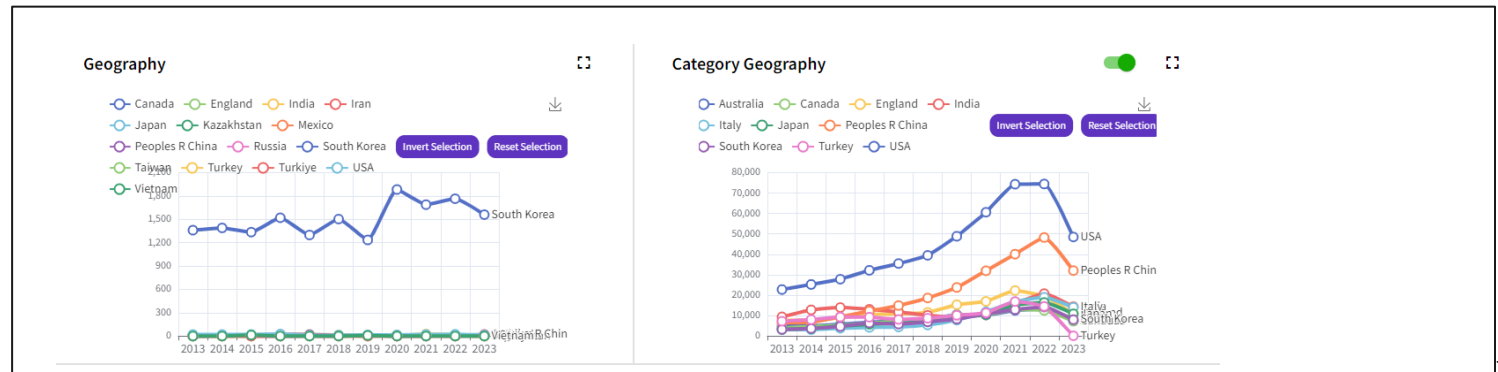
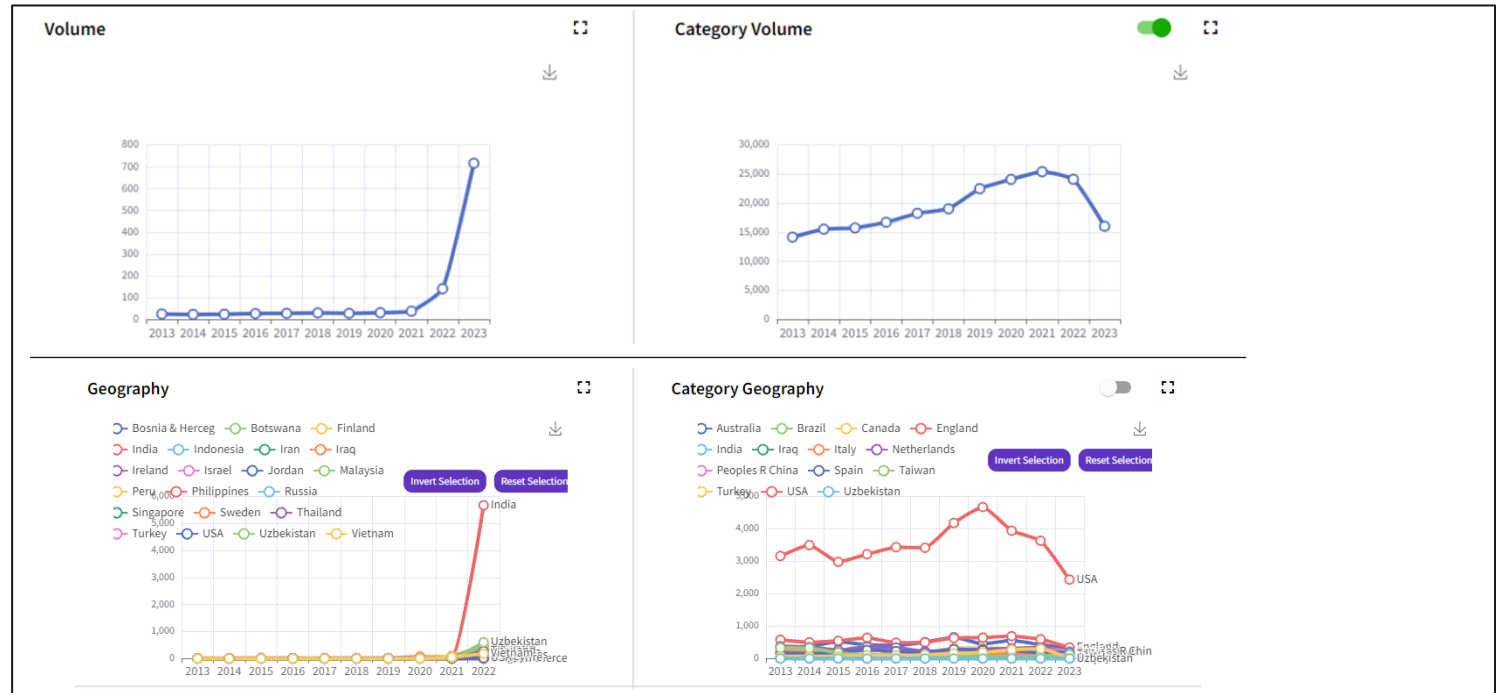
Entry/continued coverage in ESCI. Citation activity monitored. Re-evaluation subject to journal performance.

# Re-evaluation at the Web of Science

# We built an AI Surveillance Tool to assist our in-house editors in identifying journals of concern

- Use of the Surveillance Tool has not supplanted decision-making by our in-house editors – it is used to prioritize which journals to re-evaluate.
- Journals flagged by the tool are not automatically de-listed – they are reviewed by editors and, if deemed necessary, evaluated against our standard selection criteria.
- We continue to be responsive to community and customer feedback when prioritizing which journals to re-evaluate.

## Examples of true positives



## Example of false positive

# We introduced a new tool to help identify articles of concern



- A new in-house tool analyzes articles within journals of potential concern
- A machine learning model helps flag articles that appear out of scope
- Web of Science editors manually review the results
- We are exploring future capabilities such as identifying irrelevant citations

**AI tools help editors  
find anomalies; they  
do not replace  
rigorous manual  
assessment**



# We recently introduced a new policy to encourage publishers to proactively investigate breaches in research integrity and share their findings with us



Our standard policy states that any journal that fails one or more of our quality criteria will be de-listed and subject to a two-year embargo before it is eligible to be resubmitted for evaluation.

However, we are committed to work together with responsible publishers who proactively investigate breaches in research integrity and correct the scholarly record in a timely and transparent manner, to strengthen our joint capability to safeguard the integrity of the scholarly record.

In these cases, Web of Science may consider either continued coverage or a reduced embargo period for a delisted journal.

**Publishers are not penalized for sharing their findings with us or for retracting articles**

# When will we apply the new policy?



The new policy will apply when:

- Publishers directly approach us with their concerns and details of their investigations in the absence of prior notification that the impacted journals are under re-evaluation by Web of Science.

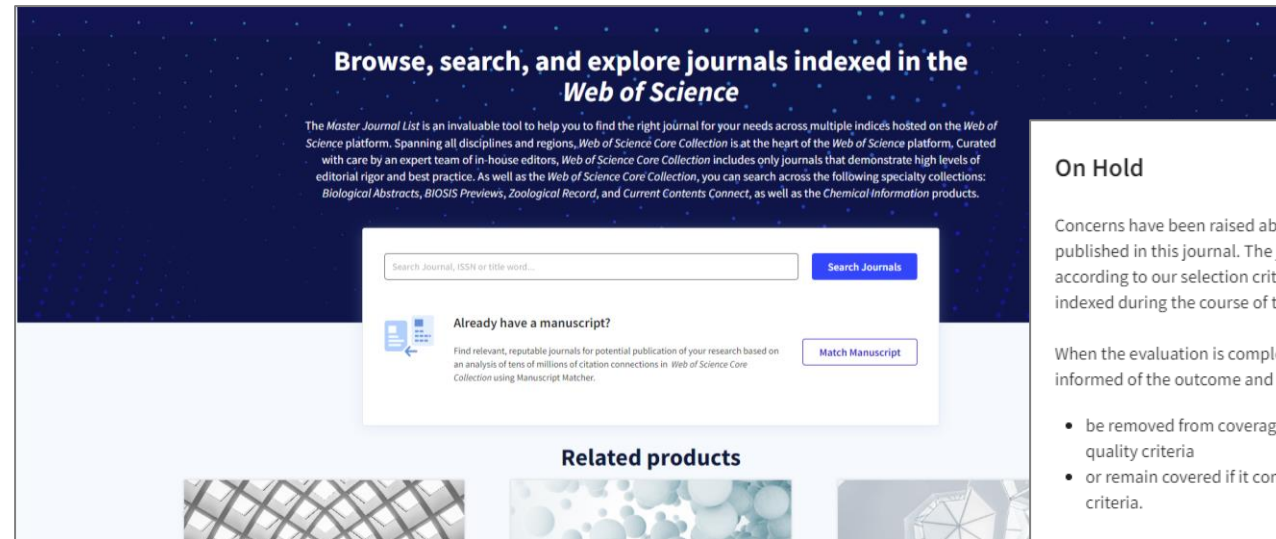
*Or*

- Publishers provide timely details of their investigation and act promptly in response to notification that their journal is under re-evaluation by the Web of Science editorial team, either as a result of our own findings or community feedback.
- Information shared by the publisher will be subject to verification by our independent, internal analyses where possible. Any discussions and details shared by either party will be handled confidentially.
- Details of conditions can be found on our editorial website:  
<https://clarivate.com/products/scientific-and-academic-research/research-discovery-and-workflow-solutions/webofscience-platform/web-of-science-core-collection/editorial-selection-process/editorial-policies-category-change-requests-and-appeals-process/>

# Transparency around coverage changes

# We are transparent about changes to Web of Science coverage

- Master Journal List (MJL) provides the authoritative source of coverage
- Journals under re-evaluation are flagged as 'On Hold' in the MJL
- Coverage changes are detailed in monthly downloads from the MJL



**Browse, search, and explore journals indexed in the Web of Science**

The *Master Journal List* is an invaluable tool to help you to find the right journal for your needs across multiple indices hosted on the Web of Science platform. Spanning all disciplines and regions, *Web of Science Core Collection* is at the heart of the Web of Science platform. Curated with care by an expert team of in-house editors, *Web of Science Core Collection* includes only journals that demonstrate high levels of editorial rigor and best practice. As well as the *Web of Science Core Collection*, you can search across the following specialty collections: *Biological Abstracts*, *Biosis Previews*, *Zoological Record*, and *Current Contents Connect*, as well as the *Chemical Information* products.

Search Journal, ISSN or title word... [Search Journals](#)

**Already have a manuscript?**

Find relevant, reputable journals for potential publication of your research based on an analysis of tens of millions of citation connections in *Web of Science Core Collection* using *Manuscript Matcher*. [Match Manuscript](#)

**Related products**

## On Hold

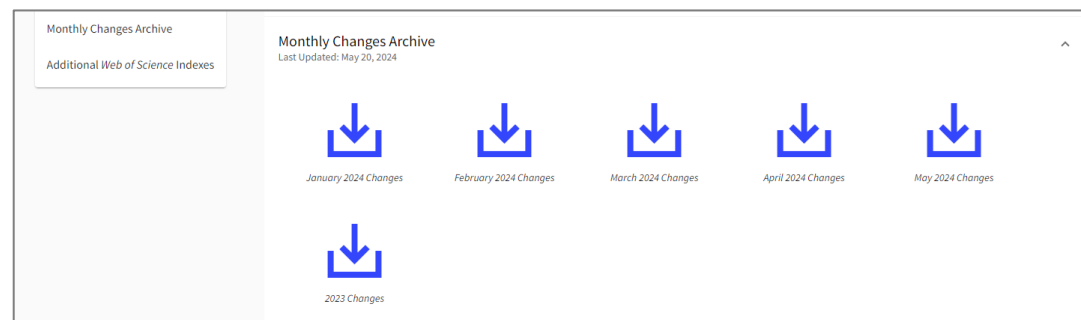
Concerns have been raised about the quality of the content published in this journal. The journal is being re-evaluated according to our selection criteria; new content will not be indexed during the course of the re-evaluation.

When the evaluation is complete, the publisher will be informed of the outcome and the journal will either:

- be removed from coverage if it no longer meets the quality criteria
- or remain covered if it continues to meet the quality criteria.

If the journal meets the quality criteria, any missing content will be indexed. If the journal is removed from coverage, content will not be backfilled. In the most serious cases of breaches in a journal's editorial standards, as determined by our selection criteria, published content may be removed from Web of Science. Timeframes for completing a re-evaluation will depend on the particular circumstances of each case.

[Close](#)



Monthly Changes Archive  
Additional Web of Science Indexes

**Monthly Changes Archive**  
Last Updated: May 20, 2024

[January 2024 Changes](#) [February 2024 Changes](#) [March 2024 Changes](#) [April 2024 Changes](#) [May 2024 Changes](#)

[2023 Changes](#)

## For more information

- **Editorial selection process:** <https://clarivate.com/products/scientific-and-academic-research/research-discovery-and-workflow-solutions/webofscience-platform/web-of-science-core-collection/editorial-selection-process/>
- **Journal selection:** <https://clarivate.com/products/scientific-and-academic-research/research-discovery-and-workflow-solutions/webofscience-platform/web-of-science-core-collection/editorial-selection-process/editorial-selection-process/>
- **Book selection:** <https://clarivate.com/products/scientific-and-academic-research/research-discovery-and-workflow-solutions/webofscience-platform/web-of-science-core-collection/editorial-selection-process/book-evaluation-process-and-selection-criteria/>
- **Proceedings selection:** <https://clarivate.com/products/scientific-and-academic-research/research-discovery-and-workflow-solutions/webofscience-platform/web-of-science-core-collection/editorial-selection-process/conference-proceedings-citation-index-evaluation-process-and-selection-criteria/>
- **Policies and appeals process:** <https://clarivate.com/products/scientific-and-academic-research/research-discovery-and-workflow-solutions/webofscience-platform/web-of-science-core-collection/editorial-selection-process/editorial-policies-category-change-requests-and-appeals-process/>



# Think forward™

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## About Clarivate

Clarivate™ is a leading global provider of transformative intelligence. We offer enriched data, insights & analytics, workflow solutions and expert services in the areas of Academia & Government, Intellectual Property and Life Sciences & Healthcare. For more information, please visit [clarivate.com](https://clarivate.com).

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