Web of Science Group

A Clarivate Analytics company

Web of Science Core Collection journal selection process

We are making our journal evaluation process faster and more transparent

We are guided by the legacy of Dr Eugene Garfield, inventor of the world's first citation index, and we adapt to respond to technological advances and changes in the publishing landscape.

Our robust evaluation and curation makes the *Web of Science Core Collection* the world's most trusted publisher–independent global citation database.

The curation process for *Web of Science Core Collection* is unique: our editorial decisions are conducted by our expert in-house editors who have no affiliations to publishing houses or research institutes thus removing any potential bias or conflict of interest.

Each editor is focused on specific subject categories enabling them to gain a deep, nuanced knowledge of the journals in that field. This level of curation cannot be replicated by purely algorithmic approaches or delegating aspects of editorial decision-making to the research community.

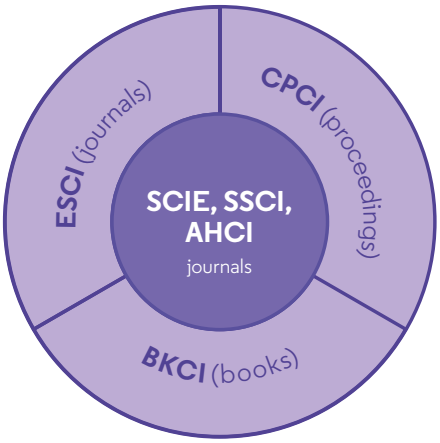
The basic principles of our selection process remain the same: objectivity, selectivity and collection dynamics. We use a single set of 28 criteria to evaluate journals; these are divided into 24 quality criteria designed to select for editorial rigour and best practice at the journal level, and four impact criteria designed to select the most influential journals in their respective fields using citation activity as the primary indicator of impact.

Journals that meet the quality criteria enter *Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)*. Journals that meet the additional impact criteria enter *Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)* or *Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)* depending on their subject area.

These are dynamic collections subject to continuous curation to ensure journals are in the appropriate collection. ESCI journals that gain impact move to SCIE, SSCI or AHCI. SCIE, SSCI and AHCI journals that decrease in impact move to ESCI. Any journal that decreases in quality will be removed from the *Web of Science Core Collection*.

The *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR) is updated annually. Journals that are accepted in to SCIE and/or SSCI before January 1st and that remain covered in one of these collections when JCR production is started in March, are eligible to appear in the June release of the JCR data and receive a Journal Impact Factor (JIF).

Web of Science Core Collection



Allows search and discovery of a trusted set of publications with comprehensive coverage in terms of subject, region and medium.

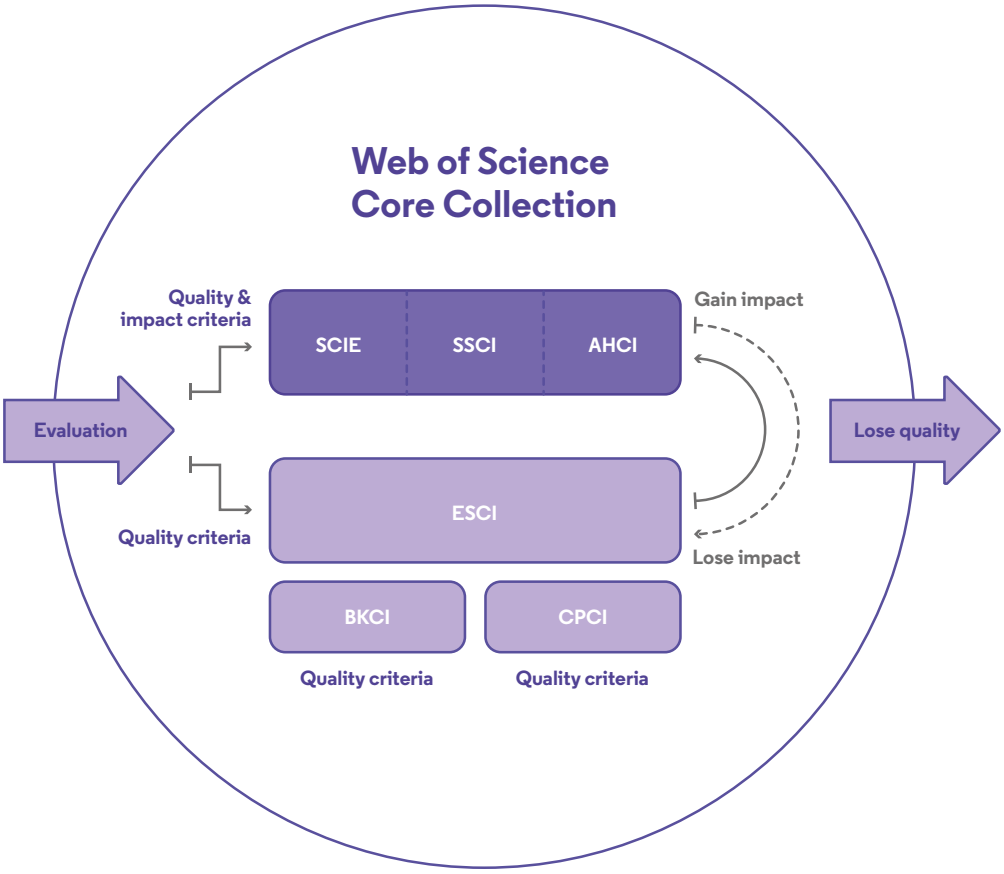
SCIE, SSCI, AHCI

Contain the most impactful journals enabling searches to be restricted to the most influential publications.

Web of Science Core Collection

Curated by an expert team of in-house editors

The *Web of Science Core Collection* is a trusted, high-quality, definitive resource for journals, books and conference proceedings.



Journals

Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE): clinical, natural and applied sciences

Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI): social sciences

Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI): arts and humanities

Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI): all disciplines

Books

Book Citation Index (BKCI): all disciplines

Conference proceedings

Conference Proceedings Citation Index (CPCI): all disciplines

The journal evaluation process for the Web of Science Core Collection

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 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			
Failed initial triage Re-submission welcome as soon as issues have been resolved	**Failed editorial triage** Re-submission welcome as soon as issues have been resolved	**Failed editorial quality evaluation** Re-submission subject to embargo of at least two years	**Failed editorial impact evaluation** Entry/continued coverage in ESCI Re-evaluation subject to embargo of at least two years

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