Web of Science Journal Citation Reports: 2021 Release Updates

February 2021 (revised March 2021)
Early Access JCR Policy Change for 2021
First, what is Early Access in the Web of Science...

Compatible Early Access material is journal material that is the Version of Record (VOR), made available early, before it is published in an issue. It has a DOI and distinct early access publication date. When it is later published in an issue, it then has volume, issue, pages, and final publication date data.

*Accepted manuscripts and corrected proofs are not VOR.
Most items, indexed when Early Access, have an early access date and final publication date within the same year. The treatment of these items in JCR will not change under the new policy.

For items indexed when Early Access where the early access date is in a different year from the final publication date, we will only use the early access date, starting with content indexed in 2020.
Prospective Approach

Based on our analysis, we determined to take a prospective approach, starting with content indexed in 2020.

See Adding Early Access to Journal Citation Reports* for details about this analysis.

Determining Year used for JCR metrics for citing and cited records

- For indexed items with a final publication date earlier than 2020, the final publication date is used
- For indexed items with a final publication date from 2020 and later with no early access date, the final publication date is used
- For indexed items with final publication date from 2020 and there is an early access date:
  - If the early access date is 2020 or later, the early access date is used
  - If the early access date is earlier than 2020, the final publication date is used
- For indexed items with an early access date earlier than 2020 and no final publication date, it will contribute to the JCR when a final publication date is added

2021 Release (2020 Data)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citing Record Year</th>
<th>Cited Record Year(s)</th>
<th>JIF Numerator</th>
<th>Citable Item</th>
<th>JIF Denominator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EA Year</td>
<td>Publication Year</td>
<td></td>
<td>EA Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>No*</td>
<td>2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How this will work over time

\[
\begin{align*}
2020 \text{ JIF} & = \frac{\text{Citations in 2020 to items published in 2018 + 2019}}{\text{Number of articles & reviews published in 2018 & 2019}} \\
2021 \text{ JIF} & = \frac{\text{Citations in 2021 to items published in 2019 + 2020}}{\text{Number of articles & reviews published in 2019 & 2020}} \\
2022 \text{ JIF} & = \frac{\text{Citations in 2022 to items published in 2020 + 2021}}{\text{Number of articles & reviews published in 2020 & 2021}}
\end{align*}
\]
Example A

Journal onboarded 2020 or earlier

- No Change in the Denominator
- Change in Numerator for Year 1 only
- Citations from the Numerator apply to all journals that material cites
Example B

Journal onboarded 2021 will see the same change but one year later
- Applies to journals added to JCR in the future

No change to denominator

2021 Numerator

2021 Denominator (2019/2020)

2022 Numerator

2022 Denominator (2020/2021)
Early Access Citations

Early Access content typically has a higher contribution to JIF when counted by the early access date.

Early Access 2020 example with 2021 planned publication

2020 citations to 2019 (7) or 2018 (16)
Contribution to 2020 JIF: 25

2021 citations to 2020 (0) or 2019 (7)
Contribution to 2021 JIF: 7
Other FAQs

My journal content includes an Early Access date that’s different than the issue. Does this policy apply?

- This policy applies if we are indexing your content when it is Early Access only before its’ assigned to an issue. If you publish Early Access but have not been onboarded, the policy will apply in the 2022 release, assuming successful onboarding in 2021.

- It does not apply to Continuous Article Publication (CAP) models or Build Online if the item date and issue date are in the same month/year.

What if my journal(s) has Early Access items from 2019 and earlier that have not been assigned to an issue?

2019 Early Access items and earlier not been assigned to a volume/issue will only contribute to the JCR when the items are indexed in the final volume/issue.
Early Access Onboarding
Other Publishing Models

- Continuous Publishing model does not require onboarding since those items have a single publication date and final journal metadata (volume, issue, pages)

- Build Online model will be assessed on a case-by-case basis

Continuous Article Publication (CAP) – Content published through a continuous publication model is comparable to Early Access in that it is published as soon as it is the VOR. Unlike Early Access, it is not later updated with final metadata. Continuous publication material with respect to the JIF denominator, including the timing of the cited reference contributions for JIF numerators, are not affected by the Early Access policy change.

Build Online – This is a publication model whereby journal content is published in a volume and issue while the issue is building to completion. The current Web of Science indexing policy for this model is to index the issue upon completion. Since Build Online issues typically complete within a calendar year, their published content with respect to the JIF denominator, including the timing of the cited reference contributions for JIF numerators, are not affected by the Early Access policy change. There may be exceptions where Build Online journals publish Early Access Content before assignment to an issue. Those can be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

*Accepted manuscripts and corrected proofs are not VOR.
Early access content must meet certain criteria to be compatible for indexing in the Web of Science Core collection.

Eligible content must:

• Be the version of record that will not change, aside from the final assignment in a volume/issue

• Include a DOI that will not change

• Include an Early Access publication date

• Include the cited references if present in the version of record

• Not include volume, issue, page range, final publication date*

• be published in a journal with a volume/issue model

* EA indexing for books, book series, and proceedings is not planned for 2021 but will be evaluated for future expansion

* Temporary default values may be possible pending onboarding assessment.
Onboarding Process

1. Initial outreach requesting publisher confirms journals that meet our EA indexing criteria
2. Clarivate schedules onboarding timing
3. Publisher provides samples for onboarding review and testing
4. Clarivate and publisher verify EA content access, where appropriate
5. Publisher provides all 2021 EA content that has not been published in a final volume/issue
6. EA content processing begins.

Note: Early Access onboarding starts when the Early Access content is indexed in full. We do not capture early access dates when processing from the final volume/issue.
Suppression Timing and Appeals Process
Suppressions

**Suppression notification, appeals, and final review before release**

- Publishers will have 5 days from notification to submit appeal
- One appeal permitted
- All suppression decisions will be final for the June release

**New Suppression Timeline:**

1. Journals will be identified for suppression review earlier in the schedule
2. Publishers will be notified of titles identified for suppression review early May*
3. Publishers will have 5 days from notification to submit an appeal
4. Final suppression analysis, including appeals submissions, will conclude by end of May for the June release
5. Publishers will be notified of the final decision in advance of the June release

* Tentative timing based on the current schedule
Thank you