

Web of Science Journal Citation Reports: 2021 Release Updates

February 2021 (revised March 2021)

Early Access JCR Policy Change for 2021

Change coming in the 2021 release

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)

Citing Record Year	Cited Record Year(s)		JIF Numerator	Citable Item		JIF Denominator
	EA Year	Publication Year		EA Year	Publication Year	
2020	2020	2021	No	2020	2021	No
2020	2019	2020	No*	2019	2020	No*
2020	2018	2019	Yes	2018	2019	Yes
2020	2017	2018	Yes	2017	2018	Yes

How this will work over time

$$2020 \text{ JIF} = \frac{\text{Citations in 2020 to items published in 2018 + 2019}}{\text{Number of articles \& reviews published in 2018 \& 2019}}$$



$$2021 \text{ JIF} = \frac{\text{Citations in 2021 to items published in 2019 + 2020}}{\text{Number of articles \& reviews published in 2019 \& 2020}}$$

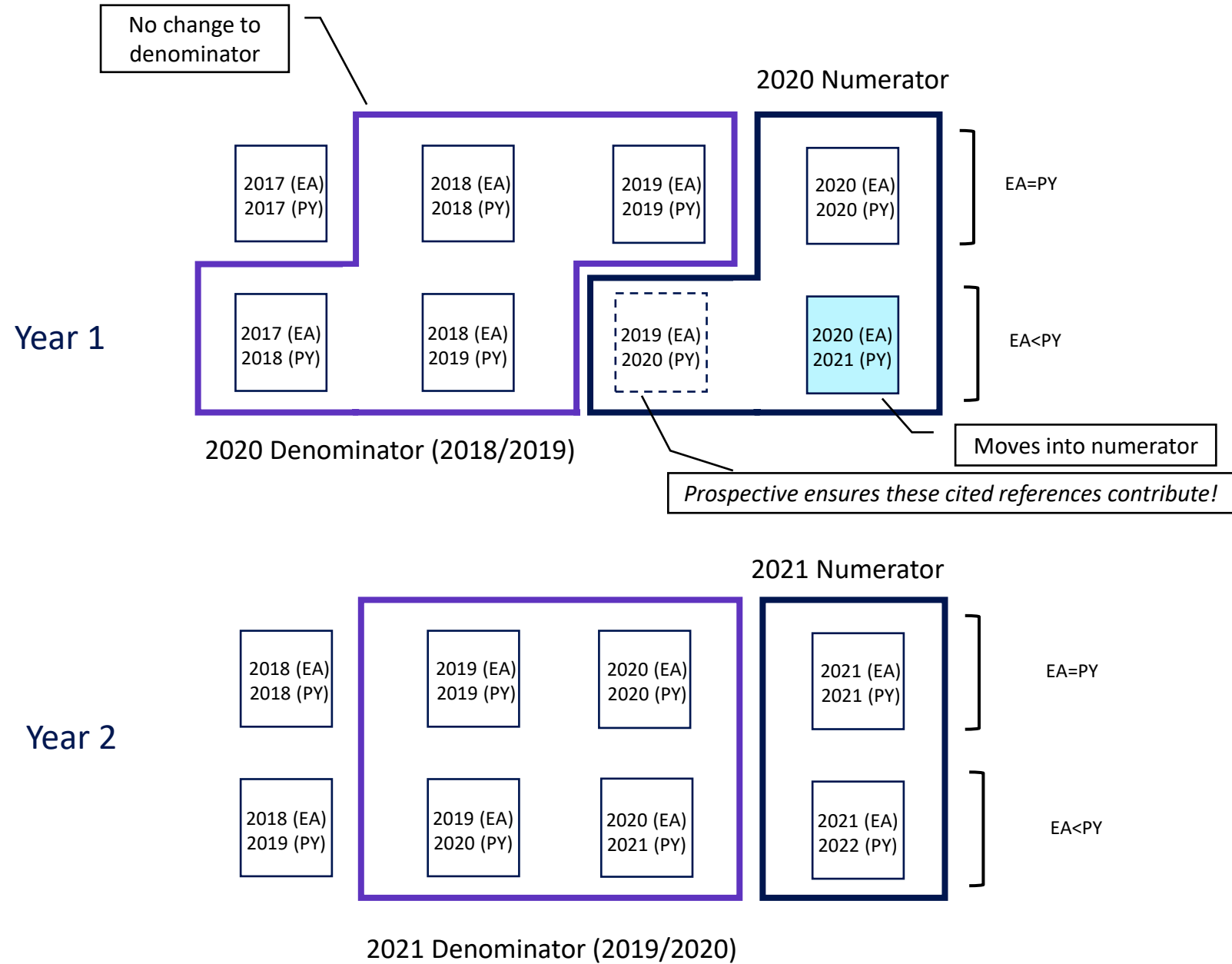


$$2022 \text{ JIF} = \frac{\text{Citations in 2022 to items published in 2020 + 2021}}{\text{Number of articles \& reviews published in 2020 \& 2021}}$$

Example A

Journal onboarded 2020 or earlier

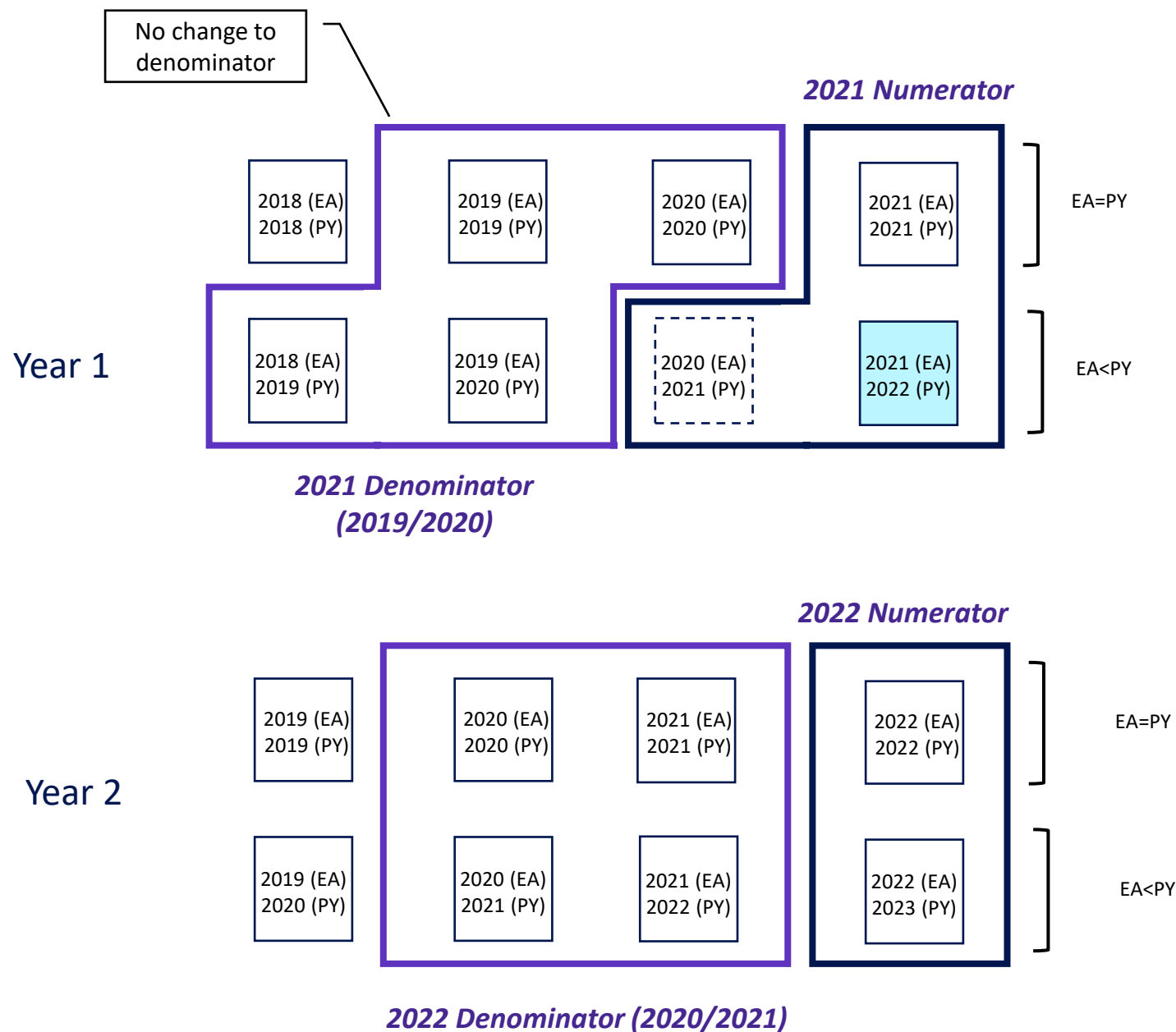
- No Change in the Denominator
- Change in Numerator for Year 1 only
- Citations from the Numerator **apply to all journals that material cites**



Example B

Journal onboarded 2021 will see the **same change but one year later**

- Applies to journals added to JCR in the future



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

JOURNAL OF [REDACTED]
DOI: [REDACTED]
Early Access: SEP 2020
Document Type: Article; Early Access

120
Cited References

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

The diagram illustrates the citation flow for an early access article. At the top, a box displays the article's metadata: 'JOURNAL OF [REDACTED]', 'DOI: [REDACTED]', 'Early Access: SEP 2020', and 'Document Type: Article; Early Access'. To the right of this box is a callout indicating '120 Cited References'. A purple arrow points from this box to a row of three article snippets, representing citations from 2020 to 2019 (7) or 2018 (16), with a contribution to 2020 JIF of 25. A green arrow points from the '120 Cited References' box to a row of three article snippets, representing citations from 2021 to 2020 (0) or 2019 (7), with a contribution to 2021 JIF of 7. The article snippets show references and conclusions, with some text highlighted in purple and green.

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.

Criteria for Early Access Indexing

Eligible journals* that meet these requirements will be onboarded in 2021, for all current 2021 EA content

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

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**

* Temporary default values may be possible pending onboarding assessment.

Onboarding Process

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.

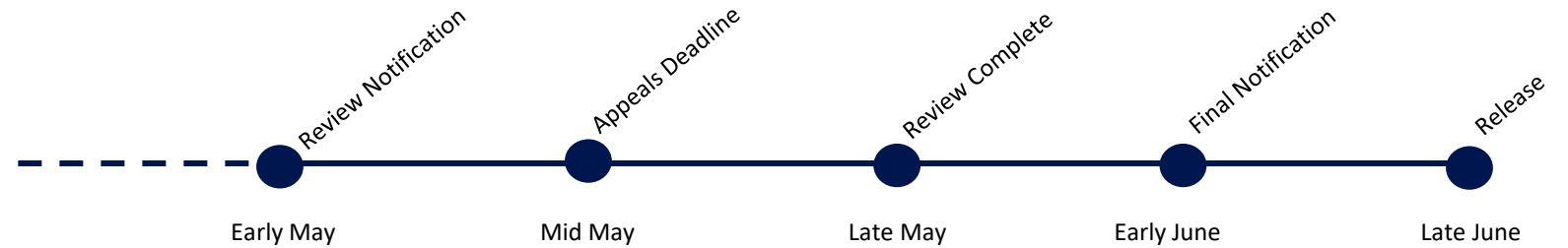
1. Initial outreach requesting publisher confirms journals that meet our EA indexing criteria
2. Clarivate schedules onboarding timing
3. Publisher provides samples for onboarding review and testing
4. Clarivate and publisher verify EA content access, where appropriate
5. Publisher provides all 2021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

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

