



# Editors' Update

Your network for knowledge

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## Behind the scenes...

### Practical use of Scopus<sup>®</sup>

A co-founder of the [General Practice Airways Group](#) and ten years' editor of the [Primary Care Respiratory Journal](#), focussing on respiratory issues in primary care, Mark Levy is also a physician in general practice (GP), a clinical research fellow to Edinburgh University, and chairman of the primary care and general practice scientific group of the European Respiratory Society (ERS).

As well as authoring several books and chapters, he has published more than 60 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals during his career. Visit his [consulting site](#) to find out more about his medical and research career. Also an accomplished wildlife photographer, Levy specialises in photographing African animals in their natural habitat. Visit his [wildlife site](#) to see some of his images.

Looking for practical aids for his own research and editorial work, Levy spoke up about the need for tools at a recent Elsevier editors' conference. The result was his membership on the Scopus Advisory Board and unlimited individual access to the tool (most users have shared access to Scopus through their institutions). Levy told us how he uses Scopus in his daily work and as an editor, and where he can see a need for improvement.

#### Daily use

"I use Scopus to find information all day long. I save search results and store them on my Scopus account. It is a really useful tool for daily professional life." Levy continues, "As a journal editor, I use Scopus to review subjects and citations, and to survey authors for what is being cited and by whom. Since I am an active author myself, I keep a file of my own work to see whether it is being cited. Any aspect of a search result: publication, abstract, author, and so on, is only one click away.

"I look for reviewers and check on authors who have sent submissions to the journal. I use Scopus to check for dual submission. I can select and sub-select by year, by publication, by author, and more." With 14,000 titles from 4000 publishers and daily content updates, Scopus is currently the largest abstract and indexing database.

#### Area for improvement

"The author search feature in Scopus needs refining," explains Levy. "The layout of an author's name may vary from paper to paper. My name appears as Mark Levy, M. Levy, Mark L. Levy, and M. L. Levy. I need to find a list of authors with one click. If there are differences in the name's appearance, I need to see near matches and add anything I might have missed to my search results; then add the different layout of the name to that author's data for future searches.

"The individual access I have had to Scopus has speeded my daily work and increased my effectiveness. I have information at my fingertips that I did not have before. I think individual access to Scopus should be the rule instead of the exception for all Elsevier editors and researchers."