What’s new in Scopus?
A guide to our 2021 development roadmap

At Scopus, our goal is to help you make high-value decisions with confidence. We do that by ensuring that whether you are a librarian, research manager, funder or researcher, our powerful discovery and analytics tools deliver the actionable insights you need.

With the world of research constantly evolving, it’s critical to keep one eye on the future.

Our product teams are always seeking new opportunities to grow and improve Scopus, guided by these key development principles:

1. We make changes based on evidence
2. We make small changes and test to see if things improve
3. We get feedback from you, our users, throughout the process
4. We continuously innovate based on feedback, technological improvements and a shared vision of the future
5. We prioritize and plan, focusing on delivering the most important customer impact

All Scopus product developments seek to address one of the following three use cases:

- Ease of use
- Better research signals
- Search and analytics

Here's a quick overview of what we are working on in 2021 (with a nod to relevant 2020 highlights and a sneak preview of our 2022 plans).
Ease of use

Across 2021, we are undertaking an ambitious redesign of the Scopus website to optimize user experience, improve functionality and move over to a state-of-the-art technology platform. The redesign will also allow us to increase the frequency and pace of development updates, minimizing disruptions to your work. Improvements include:

• A revamp of the author pages: We've expanded the existing functionality to provide additional information and context. For example, the page design and layout have been improved and we've added a new section, "Most Contributed Topics," highlighting the author’s top three publication areas.

• A refresh of the Scopus homepage: We are working to personalize and increase the usefulness of the information featured. Alongside small, iterative improvements we will introduce more significant enhancements designed to provide targeted insights, and rapid access to popular options.

• An improved Author Feedback Wizard: By optimizing the design and feedback loops, we are providing more high-quality data, simpler, intuitive workflows, and shorter request response times.

• An enhanced document search: We are refreshing the design and layout of the search results page to bring more flexibility into editing searches and refining search results. In 2022 we will add more analytics options to the search and discovery workflow.

Better research signals

We are delivering more and improved insights, making it easy for you to identify opportunities, track activity and source crucial data for decision-making. In 2021, we are working to:

• Expand our coverage of preprints: Preprints support early assessment of research. In January this year, links to 750,000 preprints from arXiv, bioRxiv, ChemRxiv and MedRxiv were added to Scopus Author Profiles. By the end of the year, we will add links to SSRN preprints dating back to 2017.

• Make it easier to monitor awards and comply with funding requirements: In the first half of this year, the number of Scopus articles containing funding information rose to 16.5 million—an increase of more than 900,000. In addition, Scopus can now:
  — Track and display funding information for an article.
  — Combine and disambiguate funding information drawn from multiple sources.
  — Deliver search results containing not only papers associated with the primary funder name, but publications acknowledging that funder’s sub-divisions.

• We have added select grant information to Scopus Author Profiles: This contributes to a more holistic view of a researcher’s activity. We are working to expand our coverage to more regions.

Search and analytics

With our state-of-the-art search tools and filters you can discover critical information, monitor trends, and identify subject experts. Meanwhile our analytics tools make it simple to visualize, compare and export the data you uncover. We are improving these in 2021 by:

• Upgrading our open access filters: We have added or updated OA classifications for 17 million documents to date, making open access content easier to locate and analyze.

• Optimizing document view counts: Counting views of an article’s abstract and full text can be an early indication of impact. The Document details page now includes view counts for the current year, the last full year, and the previous 10 years. In 2022, it will also be possible to sort search results by ‘most viewed’ and multiple year ranges.

• Enhancing full-text access: We are making it easier to access full-text documents, including open access articles.

• Improving discovery of publications related to a specific SDG: The United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are playing an increasingly important role in research. Over the course of 2021/22, we will make it easier to locate and analyze SDG-related papers.

• Upgrading the search experience: We are currently experimenting with new search options, such as ‘similar’ and ‘suggested’ searches.