

Scopus Re-evaluation

Workflow and Timelines

Introduction

This document discusses the workflow and timelines of the annual Scopus title re-evaluation program. All journals covered in the Scopus database, regardless of who they are published under, are reviewed each year to ensure high-quality standards are maintained. Journal performance is measured against the following six metrics and benchmarks:

Metric	Benchmark not met when	Explanation
Self-citation rate	$\geq 200\%$ compared to the average in its subject fields	The journal has a self-citation rate two times higher, or more, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.
Total citation rate	$\leq 50\%$ compared to the average in its subject fields	The journal received half the number of citations, or less, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.
CiteScore	$\leq 50\%$ compared to the average in its subject fields	The journal has a CiteScore half or less than the average CiteScore, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.
Number of articles	$\leq 50\%$ compared to the average in its subject fields	The journal produced half, or less, the number of articles, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.
Number of full-text clicks on Scopus.com	$\leq 50\%$ compared to the average in its subject fields	The journal's full texts are used half as much, or less, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.
Abstract usage on Scopus.com	$\leq 50\%$ compared to the average in its subject fields	The journal's abstracts are used half as much, or less, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.

Table 1. Re-evaluation metrics and benchmarks

During the annual performance analysis, if a journal meets at least one of the above benchmarks (Table 1), it is not subject to the re-evaluation program during that year. However, if none of the six benchmarks from Table 1 are met, the journal will be added to the re-evaluation program.

Please note that journal coverage will continue during the re-evaluation process.

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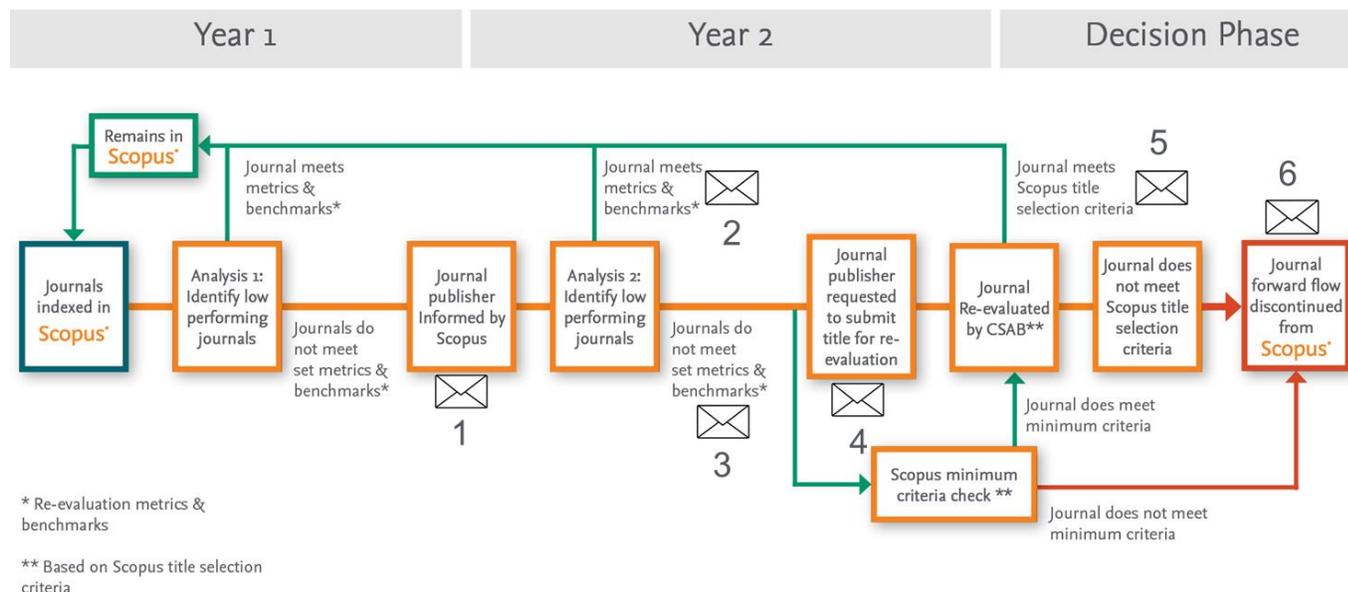


Figure 1. Re-evaluation workflow

The re-evaluation program is an annual rolling program. Refer to Figure 1 above to see the timing and workflow in detail. There are six situations (see Envelopes in Figure 1) in which a journal's publisher will be contacted by Scopus regarding the re-evaluation program.

Situation 1:

All journals indexed in the Scopus database, regardless of publisher, undergo Analysis 1 in Year 1 (Fig. 1). Journals that meet at least one of the six metrics and benchmark criteria from Table 1 are not subject to re-evaluation during that year and therefore will not be contacted by Scopus on this matter. However, journals that do not meet any of the six benchmarks will be informed by Scopus of its performance. Scopus will contact the journal publisher by e-mail (Envelope 1 in Figure 1) and the journal will be given one year to improve its performance based on the established criteria.

Situation 2:

One year after receiving the initial journal performance letter (Envelope 1) from Scopus, the journal performance analysis will be re-done, based on the same metric and benchmark criteria used the previous year (Analysis 2 in Year 2). If a journal meets at least one of the six set metric benchmarks, the journal will receive an e-mail from Scopus (Envelope 2) informing them of the journal's improved performance. Again, as re-evaluation is an annual program, this journal's performance will be checked after another 12 months to evaluate if it continues to meet at least one of the 6 metric benchmarks. If not, the re-evaluation program will begin again starting from Analysis 1 in Figure 1 and continuing onwards.

Situation 3:

One year after receiving the initial journal performance letter (Envelop 1) from Scopus, the journal performance analysis will be re-done based on the same metric and benchmark criteria used the previous year (Analysis 2 in Year 2). If for a second consecutive year the journal does not meet any of the six metric benchmark criteria, the publisher will be contacted by Scopus informing them of the journal's performance (Envelop 3) and that the title will be re-evaluated by the independent [Content Selection and Advisory Board](#) (CSAB).

Situation 4:

Prior to the CSAB re-evaluation, Scopus will check whether the journal meets all five minimum criteria (peer reviewed, English abstract, regular publication schedule, Roman script references and ethics statement). If the journal does not meet these criteria, the forward flow of its content will be discontinued from Scopus. If the journal does meet all five minimum criteria, Scopus will contact the journal publisher asking for additional publisher information and journal subject area feedback (Envelop 4). The additional publisher information will be used by the CSAB for their re-evaluation analysis and final decision. The CSAB's re-evaluation will be based on criteria identical to the initial [Scopus content selection criteria](#) used when selecting new journals: journal policy, quality of content, journal standing, publishing regularity and online availability.

Situation 5 & 6:

In the Decision Phase, occurring at the end of Year 2, the CSAB will decide whether the journal meets the [Scopus content selection criteria](#), or not. If the journal meets all criteria, Scopus will send an e-mail to the journal publisher regarding this positive information (Envelop 5) and the journal will continue its Scopus coverage. As re-evaluation is an annual rolling program, the journal's performance will be checked again in 12 months' time to ensure it continues to meet at least one of the 6 metric benchmarks.

If the CSAB decides the journal does not meet all of the Scopus selection criteria, the journal publisher will be informed by the Scopus team (Envelop 6) and the forward flow of the title's content will be discontinued in Scopus. The journal will also receive an embargo period of 5 years before it can be again suggested for Scopus coverage via the [Scopus Title Suggestion Form](#).

For questions, please contact: re-evaluation@scopus.com.