Overview of Content Indexes: Scopus and Web of Science

ABOUT CONTENT INDICES

Reliance on content indices has dominated article and journal evaluation data in academia – becoming the basis for the "impact factor". The focus of these indicators is *citation analysis,* and the two major content indices are Scopus (developed by Elsevier) and Web of Science (Thomson-Reuters now acquired by Clarivate).

Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics)
- ESCI (Emerging Sources Citation Index)
    - A new index from Web of Science, gives journals in emerging/niche areas more exposure by including them into the content databases (providing internal information about citation patterns to Web of Science)
    - ESCI provides no data on citations
- SSCI (Social Science Citation Index)
    - Produces the industry standard: impact factor (IF)
    - Impact factor is based on citations made in the previous year, on the previous 2 years of articles
    - Impact factors and citation data are released in late June for every journal indexed in SSCI

Scopus (Elsevier)
- CiteScore
    - Snapshot view of citations in the previous year for articles in the previous 3 years
    - Gives journals an idea of number of citations/number of articles
- SNIP (Source-Normalized Impact per Paper)
    - Considers the number of citations in the category/field; amount of literature; speed of publication
- SCImago Journal Rank
    - Citations are weighted based on the *citing journal*. (Put another way, is the citing journal a top journal in the category?)

PROCESS

How Does a Journal Get Accepted into Scopus or Web of Science?

Both content indices have application processes; and to qualify for acceptance, both have baseline requirements. The following are the standards expected to be met:
- 20+ articles published per year is the typical baseline
- 2+ years of consistent, timely, publication
- Meet industry standard publication requirements (online publication, ISSNs, DOIs, publication ethics policies, etc.)

Additional factors reviewed by evaluators:
- Speed of publication
- Editorial board
- Citation analysis
- International focus (authors, editors, data usage)

What can the AAA community do to enhance our chances of being included?

While journal editors and publishers may provide information for consideration in the application/review process – and we do regularly – the AAA is not involved in the determining whether journals are accepted into Web of Science or Scopus. Both indices have evaluation committees and regular timelines for reviewing content within subject areas.
- Publishers/editors can influence the process by ensuring journals meet the baseline standards and factors above.
- Web of Science particularly values international impact which can be demonstrated by global editorial, author, and article usage communities.
- Being part of a collection or established publishing brand can help niche or emerging journals be seen as contenders for review and consideration for inclusion. In turn value is built in the collection by breadth of content published.

- All members now have access to all journals via the Digital Library. This provides greater visibility to online early articles (only available through the AAA Digital Library), enhancing their opportunity to be cited within the short time frame both citation indices follow.

Evaluation Process – Web of Science

If a journal is accepted into the new Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), it receives the same visibility as journals included in the long-established SSCI list – in the same content database. However, at present, ESCI journals are not included in reports of citation data that are part of the SSCI collection.

- SSCI evaluators review journals in ESCI every 24 months for consideration of acceptance into SSCI
- Decisions are made based on evaluators review
- SSCI and ESCI are citation indices – the context of number of citations, and comparison between journals within a content area are decisions made by Web of Science reviewers
- Journals can be "bumped" from ESCI/SSCI if publication is not consistent, data are not on par with like journals, etc.

Workflow Process: How Do These Content Indices Get AAA Content?

Both Elsevier (Scopus) and Clarivate (ESCI, SSCI) access our Digital Library directly through IP access. We do not have to "deposit" content with them.

AAA COLLECTION

AAA publications strategy is supported by the Publications Committee, Intellectual Property Task Force, professional staff, and strategic consulting. In 2016, Tracey Sutherland, Julie Smith David, Susan Rockwell, and Judy Luther, the AAA's publications consultant, visited with Web of Science to discuss the AAA journal collection. We had the opportunity to highlight uniqueness of the collection and advocate that all journals not then in SSCI should be included in their new ESCI dataset.

Where are the AAA journals indexed?

Scopus:

All AAA journals are indexed in Scopus, except:
Journal of Financial Reporting (too new to meet the baseline requirements)
Journal of Forensic Accounting (too new to meet the baseline requirements)
Journal of Governmental & Nonprofit Accounting (working on consistent schedule of publication)

ESCI - Web of Science

Issues in Accounting Education – accepted in 2016
Behavioral Research in Accounting – accepted in 2016
Current Issues in Auditing – accepted in 2016
Journal of the American Taxation Association – accepted in 2016
Journal of Emerging Technologies in Accounting – accepted in 2016
Journal of International Accounting Research – accepted in 2016
Journal of Management Accounting Research – accepted in 2016
ATA Journal of Legal Tax Research – accepted in June 2017
Journal of Financial Reporting – accepted in June 2017
Accounting Historians Journal – accepted in July 2017
Journal of Forensic Accounting Research – under evaluation
Accounting and the Public Interest – under evaluation

SSCI - Web of Science -

The Accounting Review
Accounting Horizons
Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory
Note: *Journal of Information Systems* is currently under evaluation with SSCI

WHAT CAN WE DO TO IMPROVE THE PROBABILITY OF OUR JOURNALS BEING ACCEPTED?

Ideas for improving a journal's impact data (or to support moving from ESCI to SSCI):

1. Reducing time to publication – Both indices count citations in the most recent 2-3 years. Working together across the collection to make content available as soon as possible, could allow it to be cited sooner.
2. All journals are now available to all members through the AAA's DigitalLibrary (www.aaajournals.org). Sections could encourage their members to sign up for alerts for article acceptances.
3. Citing articles from our literature.
4. Sharing preprints and working papers to build momentum.
5. Making it easier to digitally track our work
   a. The AAA assigns DOI's to all accepted articles, ensuring that DOIs travel with articles to track data & drive readers to publisher site: Authors should use DOI's in their citations. Sharing within the AAA Digital Library ensures retaining DOIs when sharing articles
   b. Authors should link their author ORCIDs (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) during journal submission. This helps to organize citations and content, making it easier for others to cite. In 2018, the AAA incorporated ORCIDs into our submission process.
6. Using Kudos: a tool using "plain language" descriptions to extend the reach of articles beyond traditional audiences, tracks altmetric data, and gives authors a dashboard to track social media/emailing efforts. These activities have proven to increase downloads and readership in other disciplines, enhancing impact. Eight journals are now participating in the Kudos pilot.
7. Promoting content: The AAA works with firm Hurley and Haimowitz to promote findings published in AAA journals by working with authors to create summary press releases of chosen articles, enhancing visibility and potentially citations.
8. Promote/share research during meetings.