

Unveiling the Uniqueness: Scholar-Led Publishing as a Catalyst for Diverse Research Assessment Systems

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Abstract

Since the emergence of citation indices in the 1960s, they have become the primary source for research assessments, offering decision-makers a convenient tool. Web of Science, primarily relying on indicators based on publication and citation counts, has been critiqued for predominantly covering journals from developed countries and published in English. Even if citation indices have diversified their content, following the advent of new commercial products like Scopus in the early 2000s, they still collectively represent only a relatively small share of the global scholarly communication ecosystem. Yet, in many countries across the world, citation indices remain the fundamental (and often only) information source for evaluating individuals, institutions, and nations.

The main objective of this study is to compare journals published worldwide with those indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus in terms of various characteristics including:

- Ownership of journals (professional publisher, university, association)
- Publisher countries and regions
- Languages of publication
- Open access

The global journal lists will be obtained using some of the most comprehensive open sources for publication and journal information, matched with the International ISSN Center data.

The primary aim of this study is to underscore the vital importance of journals operated by universities and learned societies in scientific communication and emphasize the necessity for more open, comprehensive, and diverse infrastructures supporting research assessment.