

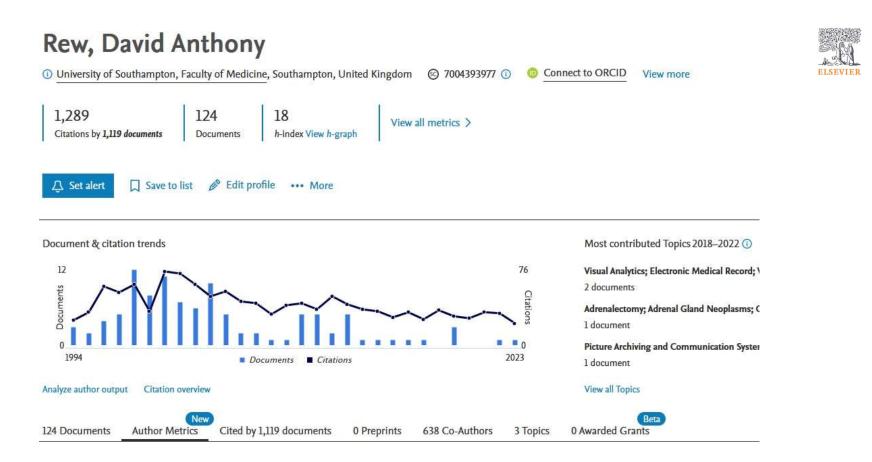
Successful Development and Promotion of a (Medical) Academic Journal through SCOPUS

David Rew MA MChir FRCS Consultant General Surgeon Southampton Hospitals, UK

Subject Chair for Medicine, SCOPUS Content Advisory Board 2009 ->

Former Editor in Chief, EJSO 2003 -2009 (The European Journal of Surgical Oncology)





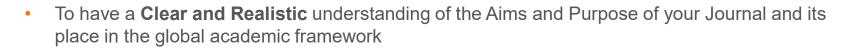
Scopus Author metrics provide insight into scholarly impact, helping researchers gauge their influence. Using comprehensive citation data from the last 10 years, Scopus allows authors to track and showcase the reach and significance of their research among the global scientific community. Learn more 71



#### Your Strategic Vision: Why publish an academic journal? What do you what to achieve?

- To meet the needs of authors, readers and a professional community (the target audience)
- To advance the reputation of the Editors, Publishers & of the sponsoring institution / society / organisation / Government:
- To have academic impact Locally, Nationally, Regionally and/or Internationally
- To communicate trustworthy information & knowledge to the target audience
- To create an enduring record of that knowledge

#### The Challenges for the Editor and Publisher of Any Journal



- To understand all of the principles, processes, costs and demands of successful and sustainable journal publication
- To understand the challenges of quality, originality, excellence in the clarity and conciseness of writing, illustration and presentation in your own language
- To provide leadership in your community of authors, editorial board colleagues, reviewers and readers
- To understand and implement the principles and practice of **ethical** research and publication, and the recognition of **malpractice**.



### What can a Journal Listing in SCOPUS do for you?

- Act as a portal into a quality assured global citation system
- Provide you with a benchmark of quality relative to your peers and competitors
- Provide your authors with a trusted global branding
- Provide you with access to the honest and rigorous evaluation of your quality and potential for further development
- Provide experienced advice from independent reviewers on how to improve and develop your journal



#### What makes a good (Croatian) academic journal?

- A clear and realistic editorial strategy and vision for a trusted title
- An informative title with the origins and purpose (The Croatian Journal of XYZ)
- Interesting, original and informative content with excellent presentation
- A focus on local and regional content as the Unique Selling Point (USP)
- A sustainable long term plan and financial stability
- A supportive, trustworthy and well resourced publisher
- A strong web profile with global listings in systems such as SCOPUS





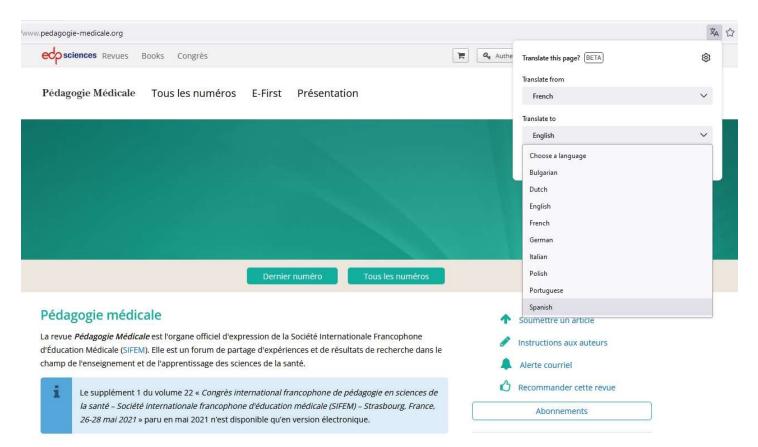


## Some thoughts on the language(s) of publication of STEM Journals



- It is correct and necessary to publish in your local language for your local audience However:
- If you wish to reach an international audience, then co-publication in English will help you to reach the widest audience
- English has evolved as the global common language of communication in many applications, including scientific writing
- SCOPUS requires as a minimum the translation of the Title and the Abstract of each article in English
- It probably helps if the (sub)title of your journal makes sense in English
- Professional translation is expensive and resource intensive
- Machine translation is imperfect but evolving rapidly (CAUTION NEEDED!)
- This will simplify communication across many languages and reduce costs

#### Integral machine translation of a journal web page 10/2023





#### BRODOGRADNJA

An International Journal of Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering for Research and Development



#### Aims and scope

The journal is devoted to multidisciplinary researches in the fields of theoretical and experimental naval architecture and oceanology as well as to challenging problems in shipping, shipbuilding, offshore and related industries worldwide. The aim of the journal is to integrate interests in shipbuilding, ocean engineering, sea and ocean shipping, inland navigation and intermodal transportation as well as environmental issues, overall safety, objects for wind, marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy production and sustainable transportation development at seas, oceans and inland waterways. The journal focuses on hydrodynamics, structures, reliability, materials, construction, design, optimization, production engineering, building and organization of building, project management, repair and maintenance planning, information systems in shippards, quality assurance as well as outfitting, powering, autonomous marine vehicles, power plants and equipment onboard. Brodogradnja publishes original scientific papers, review papers, preliminary communications and important professional papers.



#### Brodogradnya (Journal of Marine Engineering): University of Zagreb: Performance in SCOPUS



Brodograd					CiteScore 2022		0
ublisher: Uni	e years: from 1985 to 1988, 1994, from 1996 to Preser iversity of Zagreb Faculty of Mechanical Engineering a 5X E-ISSN: 1845-5859				sjr 2022 <b>0.467</b>		0
ubject area: ( ource type: Jo View all document					SNIP 2022 0.930		Ū
liteScore Ci	iteScore rank & trend Scopus content coverage						
iteScore ran	In category: Ocean Engineering	~		CiteScore		→] Export content fo	ir catego
CiteScore ran	nk	3.1	56th percentile	CiteScore		]	100 90
#44			56th percentile Percentile	4		]	100 90
<b>* </b> <sup>#44</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	Brodogradnja	3.1		4		]	100 90
7 #44 100 Rank	Brodogradnja Source title	3.1 CiteScore 2022	Percentile	4 3 exaine		]	100 90
#44 100 Rank #1	Brodogradnja Source title Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Water	3.1 CiteScore 2022 14.6	Percentile 99th percentile	4			100
#44 100 Rank #1 #2	Brodogradnja Source title Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Water International Journal of Mechanical Sciences	3.1 CiteScore 2022 14.6 11.3	Percentile 99th percentile 98th percentile	4 3 2 2 1 1 0			100 90 Percentile in category 60 50 40 30 20 10

#### How does Journal Evaluation work in practice?



- The title suggestion and submission process captures information about the title and the publisher, which meets all of the key requirements (eg Ethics, Archiving, Language)
- The information is processed and enriched with bibliometric data by the office team
- The journal is allocated in an electronic format to the relevant Subject Chair, with a combination of qualitative and quantitative information in a standard format
- The Subject Chair assesses the evidence and makes a recommendation of Acceptance, "Wait and See" (1,2 3, 5 years) or rejection ("Never again")

#### The SCOPUS Content Selection Advisory Board, Singapore, May 2023





#### More about the Subject Chair decision making process



- The Subject Chair role is unique in global publishing with no simple script
- All are experienced academic journal editors. None are Elsevier employees
- Journal assessment requires a range of skills and experience to evaluate quality, integrity, trustworthiness of the journal and the publisher.
- The "Reviewer Comments" aim to be supportive and constructive, with useful feedback to improve the focus and quality of weaker journals.
- Journals are rarely totally rejected for SCOPUS, but some may require many improvements and much time to increase their chances of acceptance

#### Key points to improve the chances of market impact: First impressions



- An informative, unique title and subtitle stating the origin and subject of the journal.
- Avoid terms such as "International", World": overused by weak journals
- Check your title for meaning and uniqueness in translation
- Write clear, concise and realistic aims and scope
- Focus upon subject specialisation and original content
- Encourage content which is specific to your subject, purpose and locality

#### How does SCOPUS work for you if you already have a listing?



- A SCOPUS listing is not the end of the process. It merely opens the door to future opportunities for your journal.
- SCOPUS is concerned to maintain standards and to identify and remove failing and failed journals from the system
- The SCOPUS Radar scans the entire system regularly for sudden changes and anomalous performance by a range of criteria
- The SCOPUS title re-evaluation programme investigates any reports and concerns about journals which may have "gone bad".
- The focus is on the selection of individual journals, but the Board recognises that publishers and their behaviours have an important influence on any journal. They are also kept under review.

#### **Reflections on Medical Journal Editorship**

- It can be a uniquely rewarding professional experience
- An opportunity to demonstrate leadership, and deliver a vision.
- Understand your audience, your sustainability and your "competition"
- A challenge in people management (publisher, editorial board, authors)
- Not everyone will remain your friend! (eg Rejected authors)
- Needs awareness of the scope & scale of publication fraud & malpractice
- A test of economy of effort to achieve maximum impact for your outputs.



### Journal Editorship in 2023: What has changed in 15 years?



- The internet has transformed academic publication, global projection and economics
- Publication strategies are centred on-line rather than print, but paper remains a powerful communication and storage medium
- Open Access & "Pay to Publish" has transformed academic publishing models
- The ease of publishing has created a tsunami of poor to average content
- Quality has a premium, but sorting the wheat from the chaff is difficult
- The academic journal landscape is increasingly crowded, competitive and complex







# Discussion Points?

