

# Web of Science Journal Evaluation Process and Selection Criteria

Open House Sessions  
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## Web of Science

- Web of Science™ is the world's most trusted publisher-independent global citation database.
- We capture, index and link every piece of metadata for all items in the Web of Science Core Collection.
- We use a uniquely selective and robust evaluation and curation process by a team of expert in-house editors.
- Our principles: **objectivity, selectivity** and **collection dynamics**

# The Web of Science Platform

**34,000+**

Journals across the platform

**87 million**

Patents for over 43 million inventions

**21,000+**

Total journals in the Core Collection

**8.9 million+**

Data Sets and Data Studies

**1.9 billion+**

Cited references

**Backfiles to 1900**

With cover-to-cover indexing

**171 million+**

Records

**218,000+**

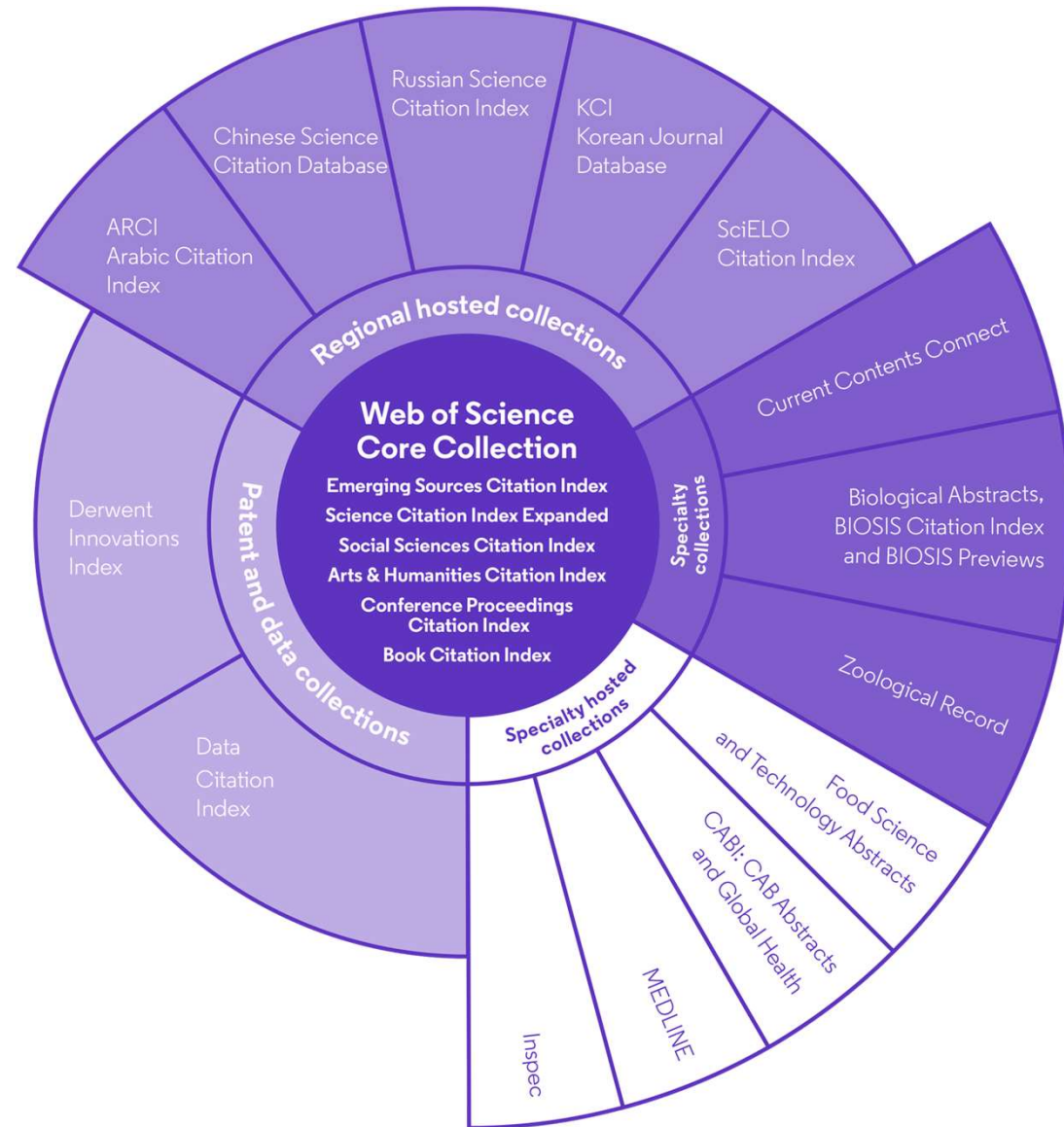
Conference proceedings

**12.6 million**

Records with funding data

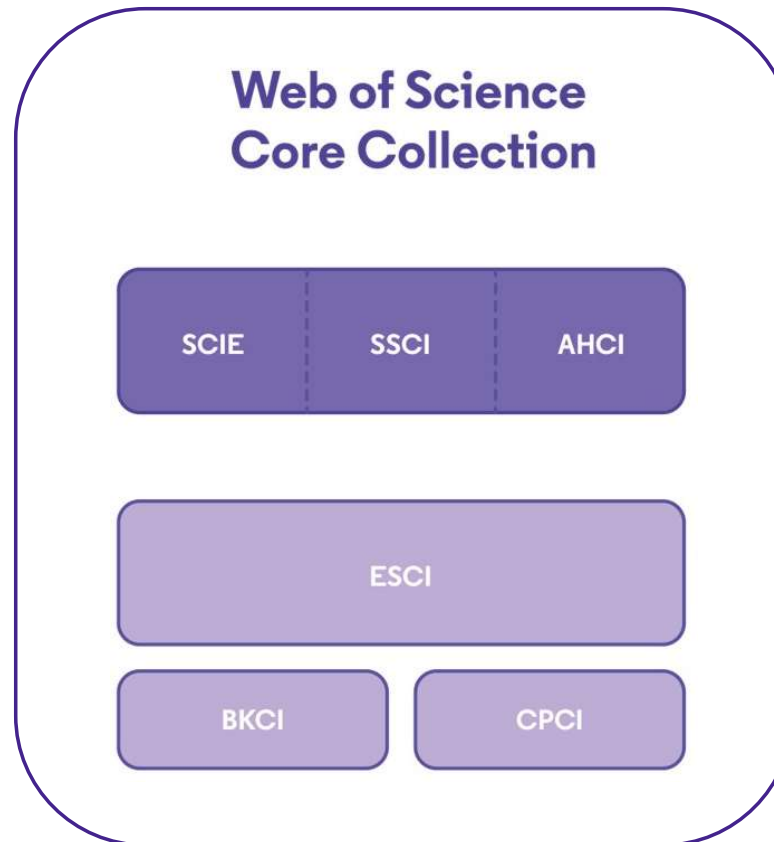
**111,000+**

Books



# The Web of Science Core Collection

At the heart of the Web of  
Science platform



Science Citation Index  
Expanded (**SCIE**)

Social Sciences Citation Index  
(**SSCI**)

Arts & Humanities Citation  
Index (**AHCI**)

Emerging Sources Citation  
Index (**ESCI**)

Books Citation Index (**BKCI**)

Conference Proceedings  
Citation Index (**CPCI**)

# Journal Evaluation Process and Selection Criteria

## Web of Science Journal Evaluation Process and Selection Criteria

- Conducted by a team of expert in-house editors.
- Not affiliated to publishers or research institutions.
- Each editor focuses on specific subject categories, getting a deep knowledge of the publishing landscape in that field.
- Journal data and information are collected by the editors independently rather than relying on data provided by the publishers.
- We do not use algorithmic approaches or delegate any editorial decisions on the research community.
- All editors use the same set of 24 quality and 4 impact criteria for all the journals.

# Web of Science Journal Evaluation Process and Selection Criteria

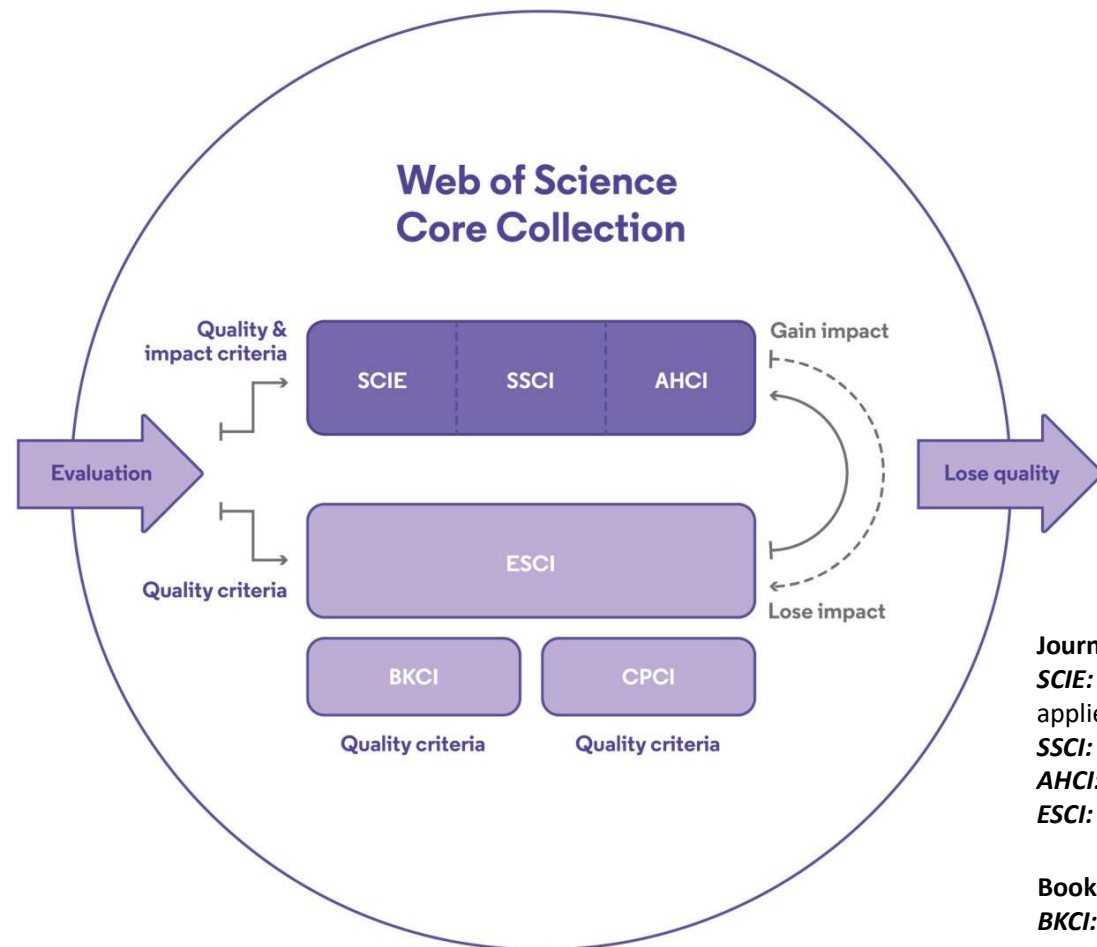
Journals that meet the quality criteria enter ESCI

Journals that meet quality and impact criteria enter SCIE, SSCI or AHCI

ESCI journals that gain impact move to SCIE, SSCI or AHCI

SCIE, SSCI and AHCI journals that decrease in impact move to ESCI

Any journal that fails to meet all quality criteria will be removed from the *Web of Science Core Collection*

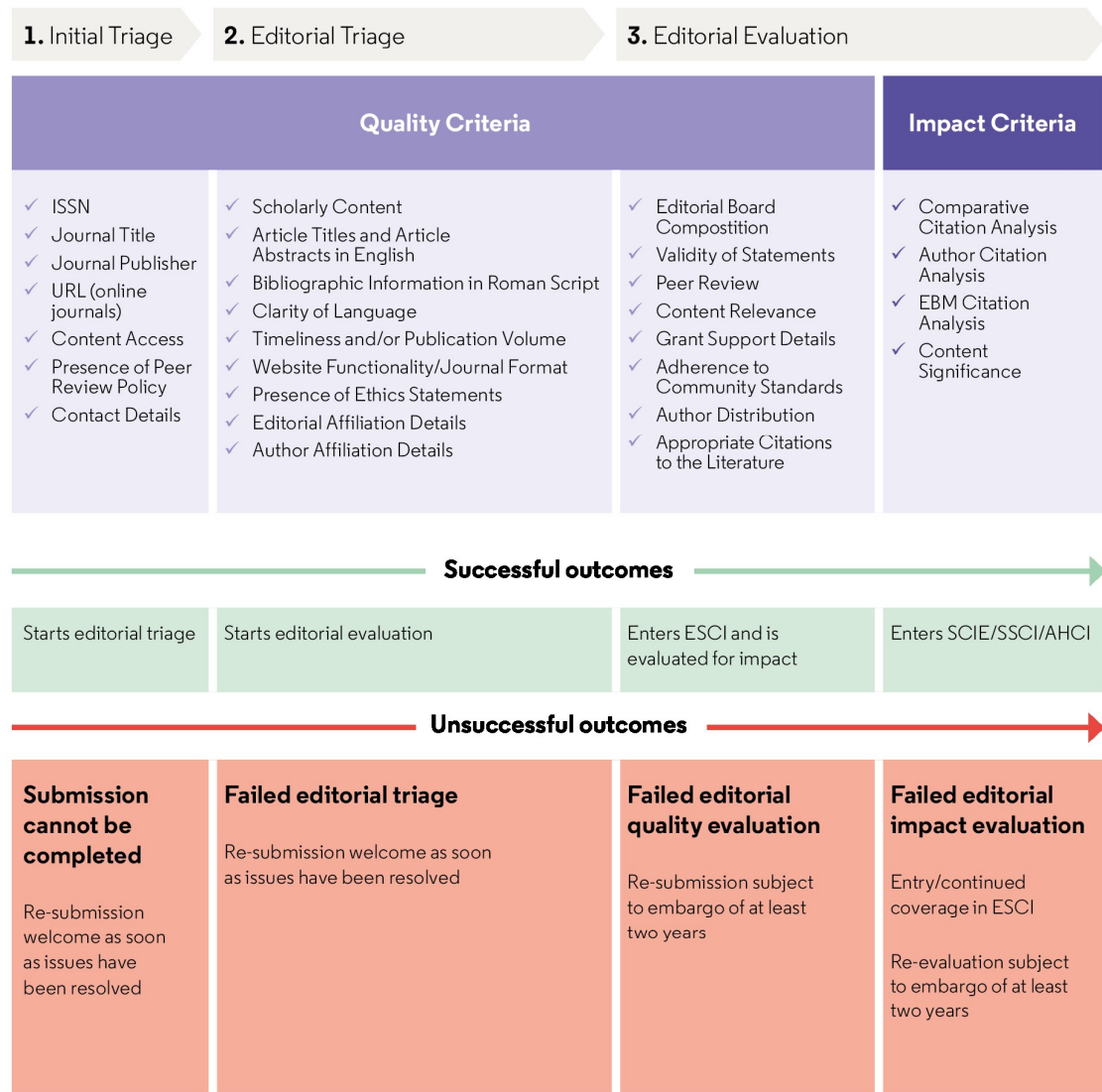


# Journal Evaluation Process

**28**  
selection criteria in total

**24**  
quality criteria to select for editorial rigor and publishing best practice

**4**  
impact criteria to select for the most impactful journals







The **Initial triage** stage ensures unambiguous identification of the journal, access to content and contacts.

## Initial Triage

Editorial Triage

Editorial Evaluation (Quality)

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)

- ✓ ISSN
- ✓ Journal Title
- ✓ Journal Publisher
- ✓ URL (online journals)
- ✓ Content Access
- ✓ Presence of Peer Review Policy
- ✓ Contact Details



The **Initial triage** stage ensures unambiguous identification of the journal, access to content and contacts.

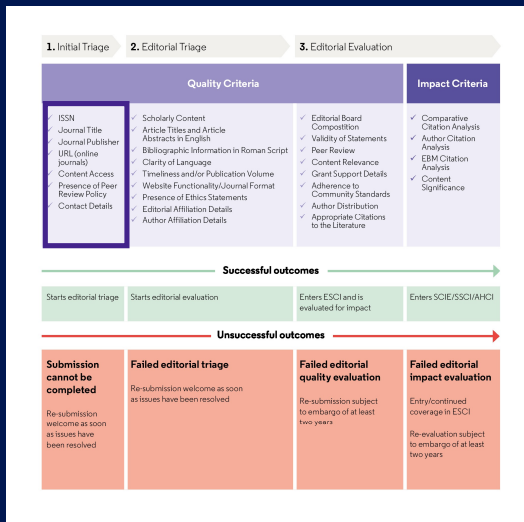
**Initial Triage** → Re-submission (no embargo)

Editorial Triage

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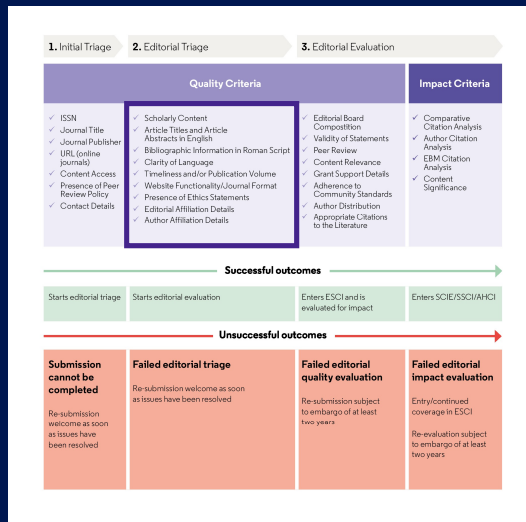
Initial Triage ✓

Editorial Triage

Editorial Evaluation (Quality)

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)

- ✓ ISSN
- ✓ Journal Title
- ✓ Journal Publisher
- ✓ URL (online journals)
- ✓ Content Access
- ✓ Presence of Peer Review Policy
- ✓ Contact Details



**Editorial Triage** determines if the journal merits a complete in-depth evaluation. Basic editorial practices are reviewed.

- ✓ Scholarly content
- ✓ Article Titles and Article Abstracts in English
- ✓ Bibliographic Information in Roman Script
- ✓ Clarity of language
- ✓ Timeliness and/or Publication Volume
- ✓ Website Functionality/Journal format
- ✓ Presence of Ethics Statements
- ✓ Editorial Affiliation Details
- ✓ Author Affiliation Details

Initial Triage

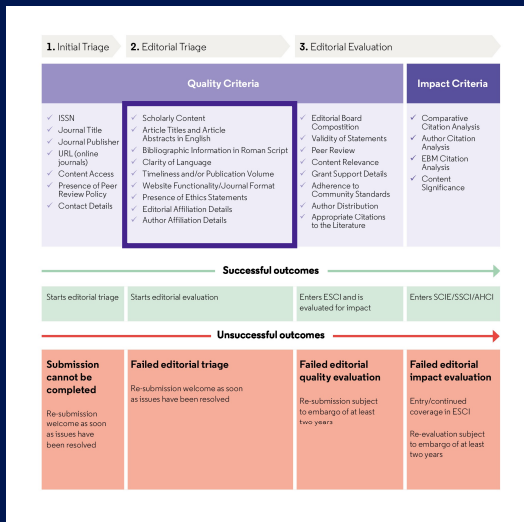
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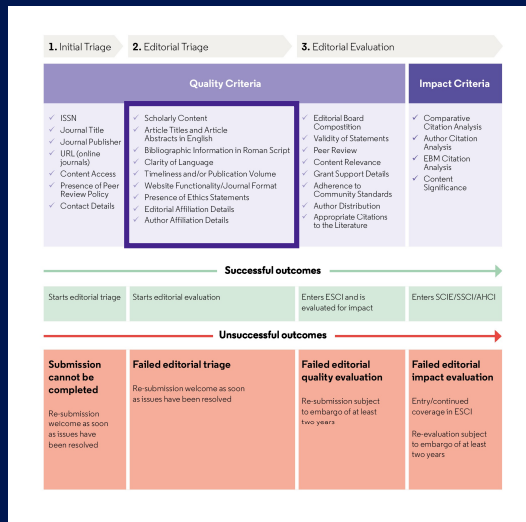


Initial Triage

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Editorial Evaluation (Impact)



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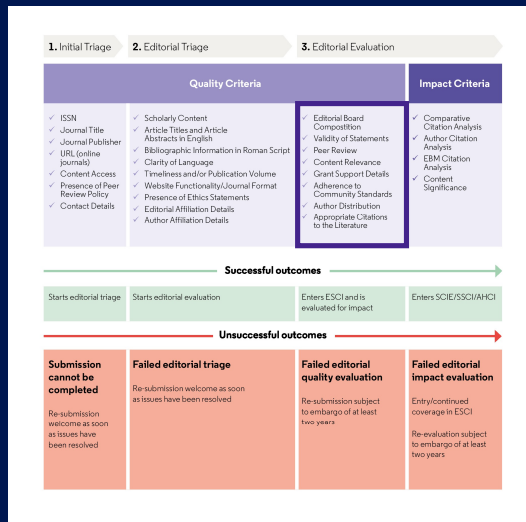
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Initial Triage

**Editorial Triage** ✓

Editorial Evaluation (Quality)

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)



At the **Quality** step we check the alignment of the journal's title and scope with the editorial board and published content. Evidence of **editorial rigour** is also sought for.

- ✓ Editorial Board Composition
- ✓ Validity of Statements
- ✓ Peer Review
- ✓ Content Relevance
- ✓ Grant Support Details
- ✓ Adherence to Community Standards
- ✓ Author Distribution
- ✓ Appropriate Citations to the Literature

Initial Triage

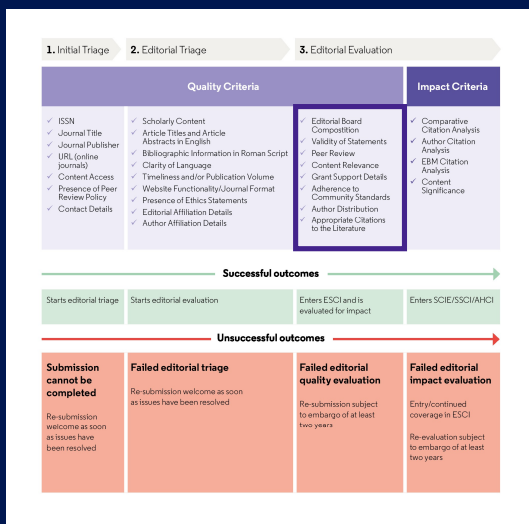
Editorial Triage

**Editorial Evaluation (Quality)**

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)

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Initial Triage

Editorial Triage

**Editorial Evaluation (Quality)**

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)

Re-submission (2-year embargo) ↑



At the **Quality** step we check the alignment of the journal's title and scope with the editorial board and published content. Evidence of **editorial rigour** is also sought for.

- ✓ Editorial Board Composition
- ✓ Validity of Statements
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- ✓ Content Relevance
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- ✓ Adherence to Community Standards
- ✓ Author Distribution
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Initial Triage

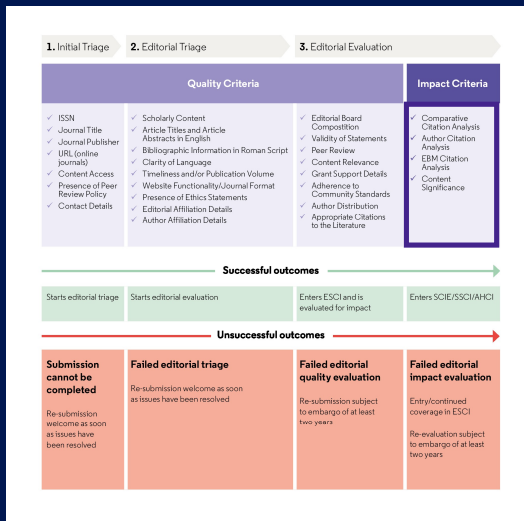
Editorial Triage

**Editorial Evaluation (Quality)** ✓

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)

Criteria at the **Impact** evaluation step are designed to select the **most influential journals** in the field. **Citation activity** and uniqueness of the journal **content** are the main indicators.

- ✓ Comparative Citation Analysis
- ✓ Author Citation Analysis
- ✓ EBM Citation Analysis
- ✓ Content Significance

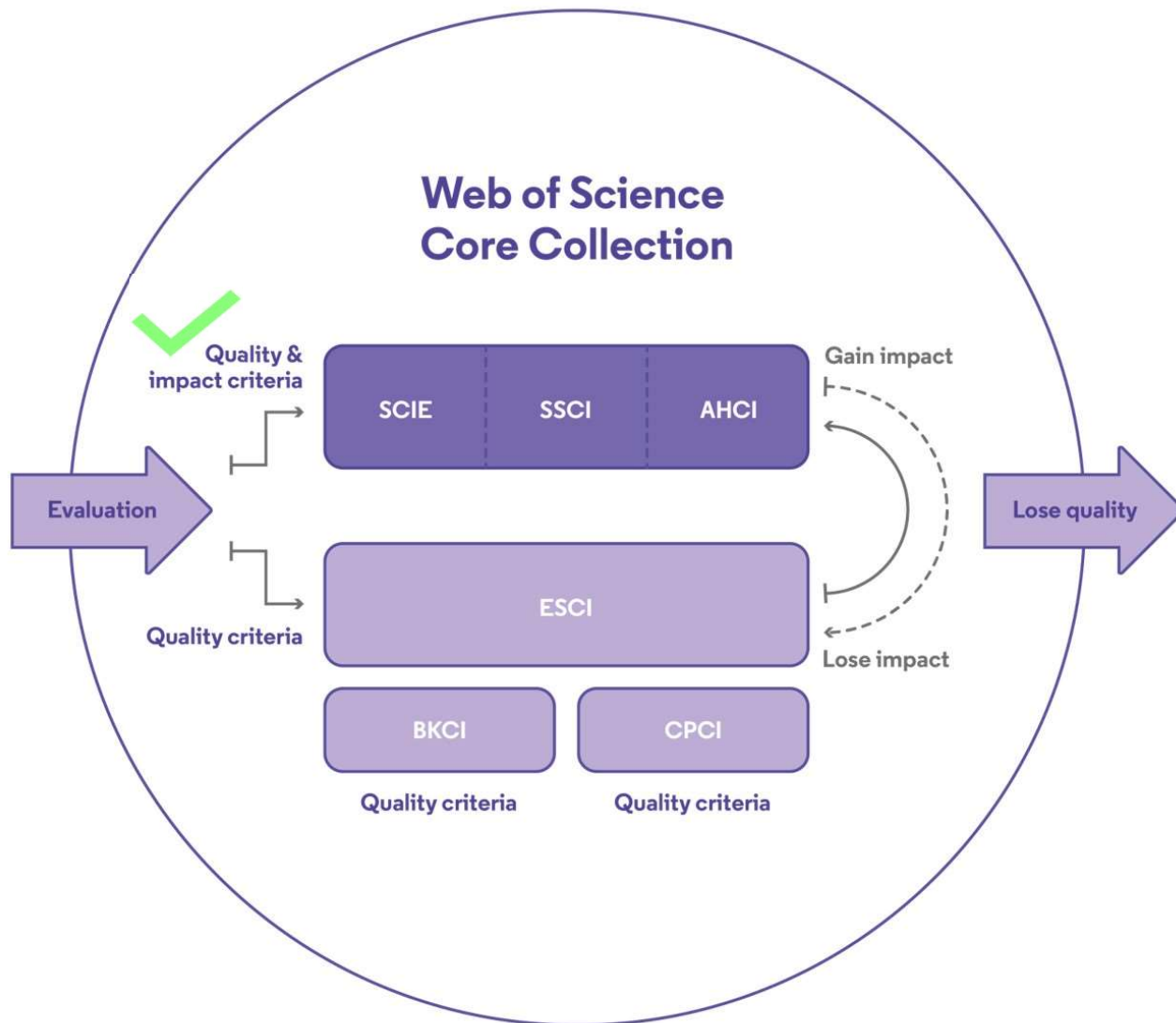
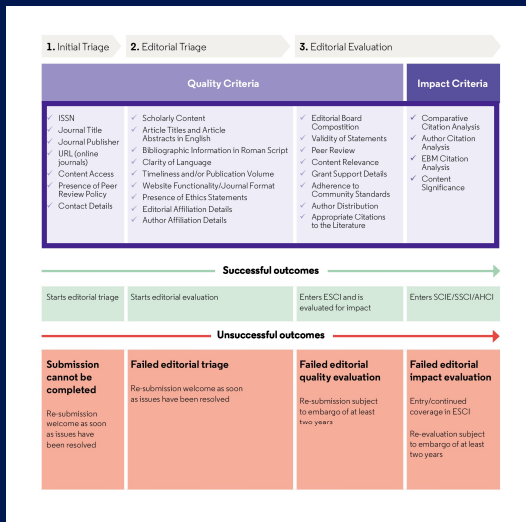


Initial Triage

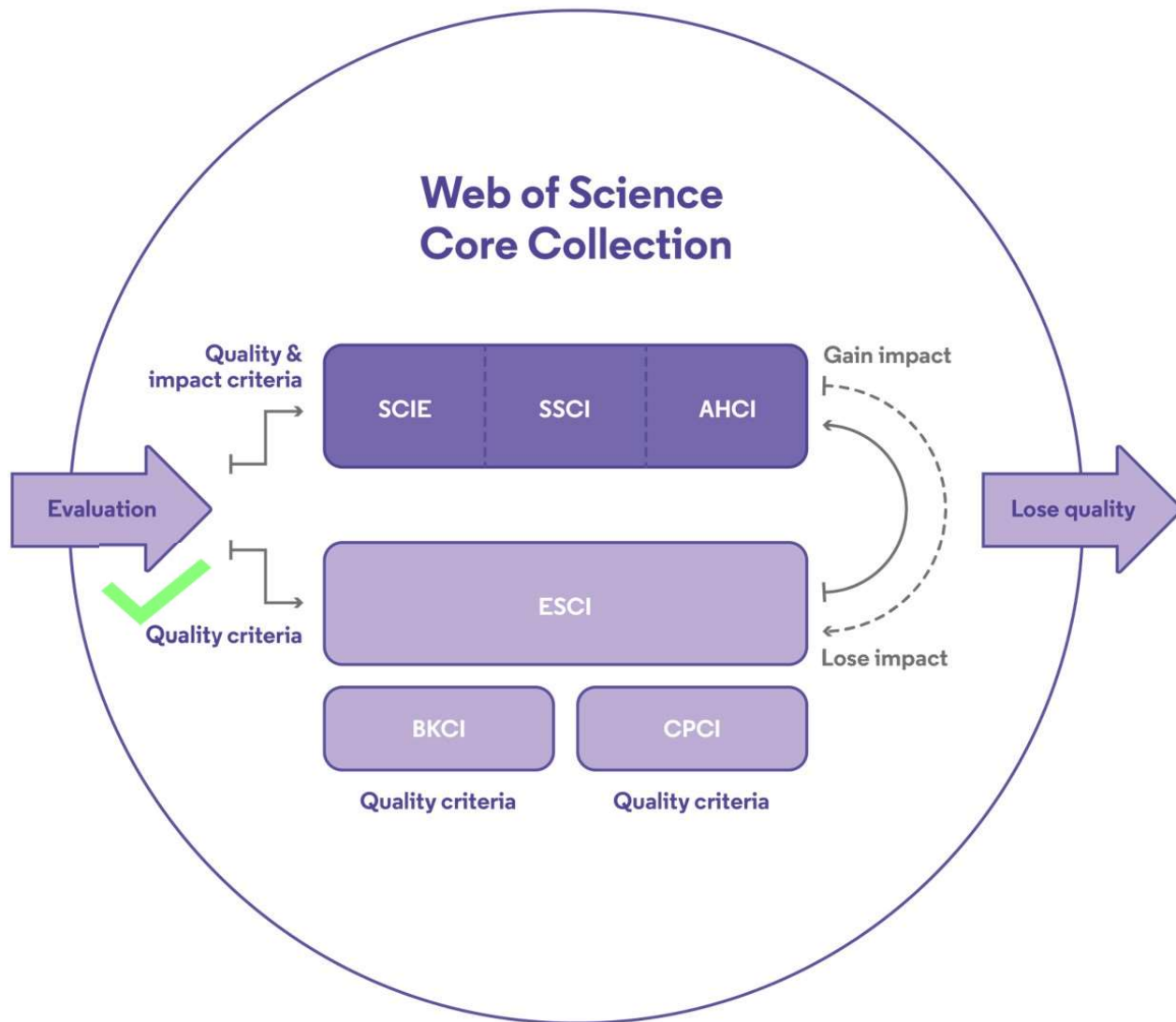
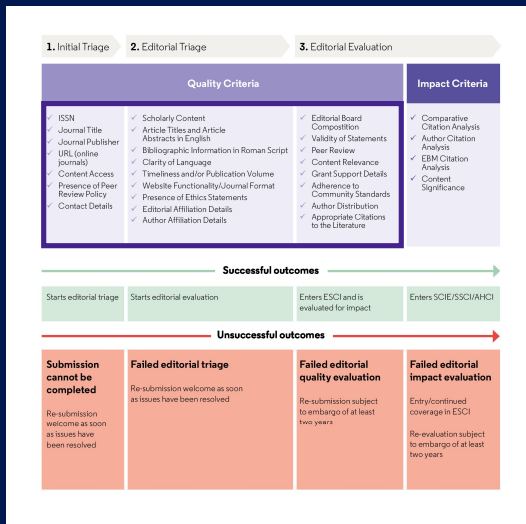
Editorial Triage

Editorial Evaluation (Quality)

**Editorial Evaluation (Impact)**



- Initial Triage ✓
- Editorial Triage ✓
- Editorial Evaluation (Quality) ✓
- Editorial Evaluation (Impact) ✓

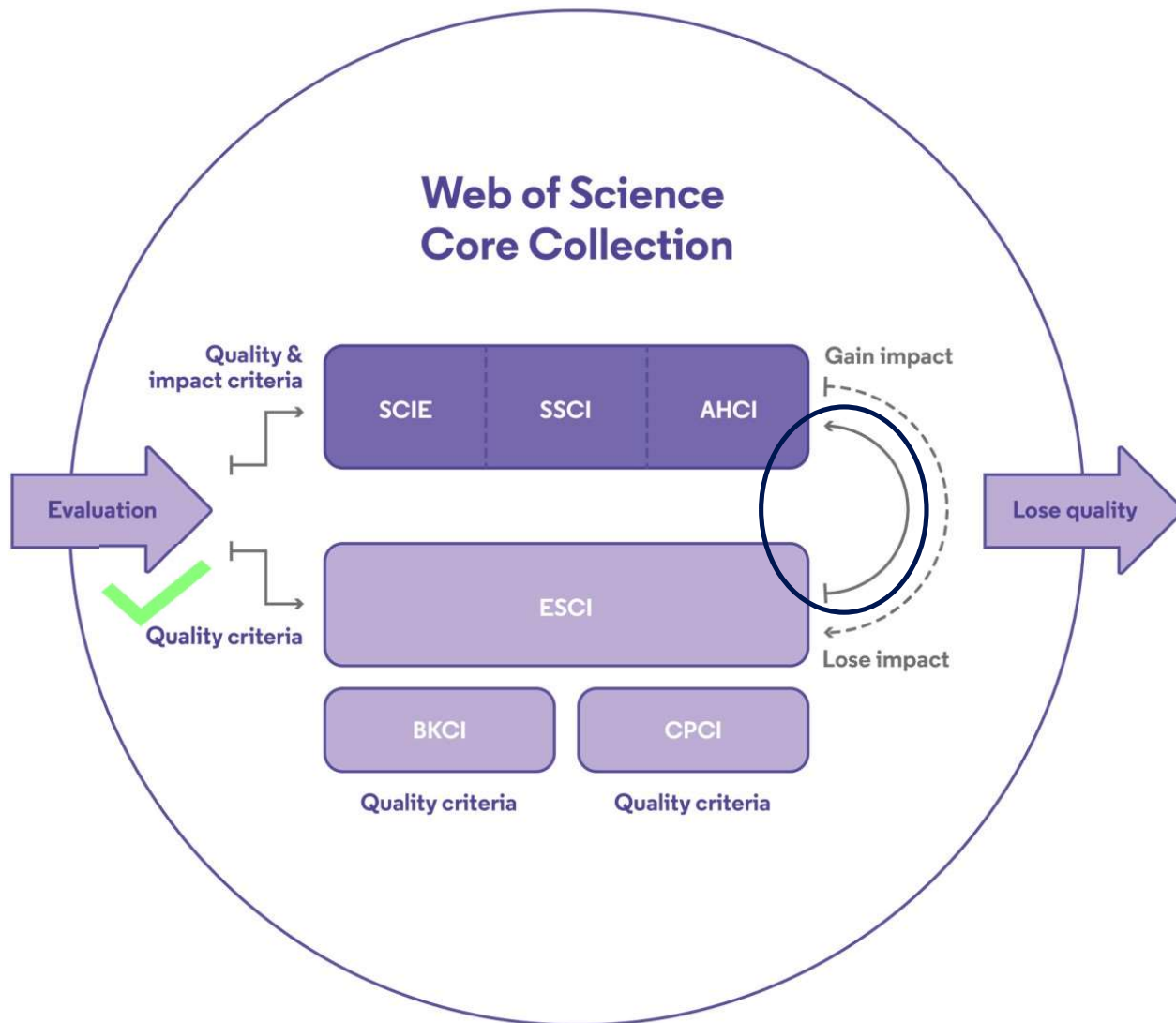
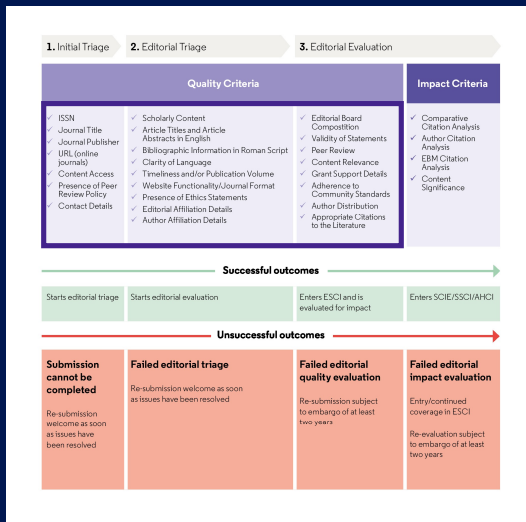


Initial Triage ✓

Editorial Triage ✓

Editorial Evaluation (Quality) ✓

Editorial Evaluation (Impact) ✗



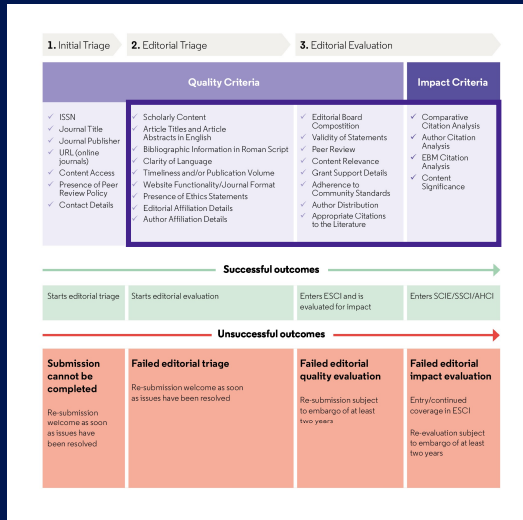
Initial Triage ✓

Editorial Triage ✓

Editorial Evaluation (Quality) ✓

Editorial Evaluation (Impact) ✗

# Collection Dynamics



Initial Triage

Editorial Triage

Editorial Evaluation (Quality)

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)

- Re-evaluations are prioritised for journals that display high citation performance.
- We **monitor** the citation performance of **all journals indexed in ESCI** and perform a re-evaluation when indicators show that the impact criteria may be met.
- The re-evaluation process starts at the Editorial Triage stage. Journals are **re-evaluated for Quality** first; **Impact evaluation is subject to quality** being met.
- The **first half** of the year is dedicated to **new evaluations**, the **second half** to **re-evaluations**. We continuously evaluate journals for quality.

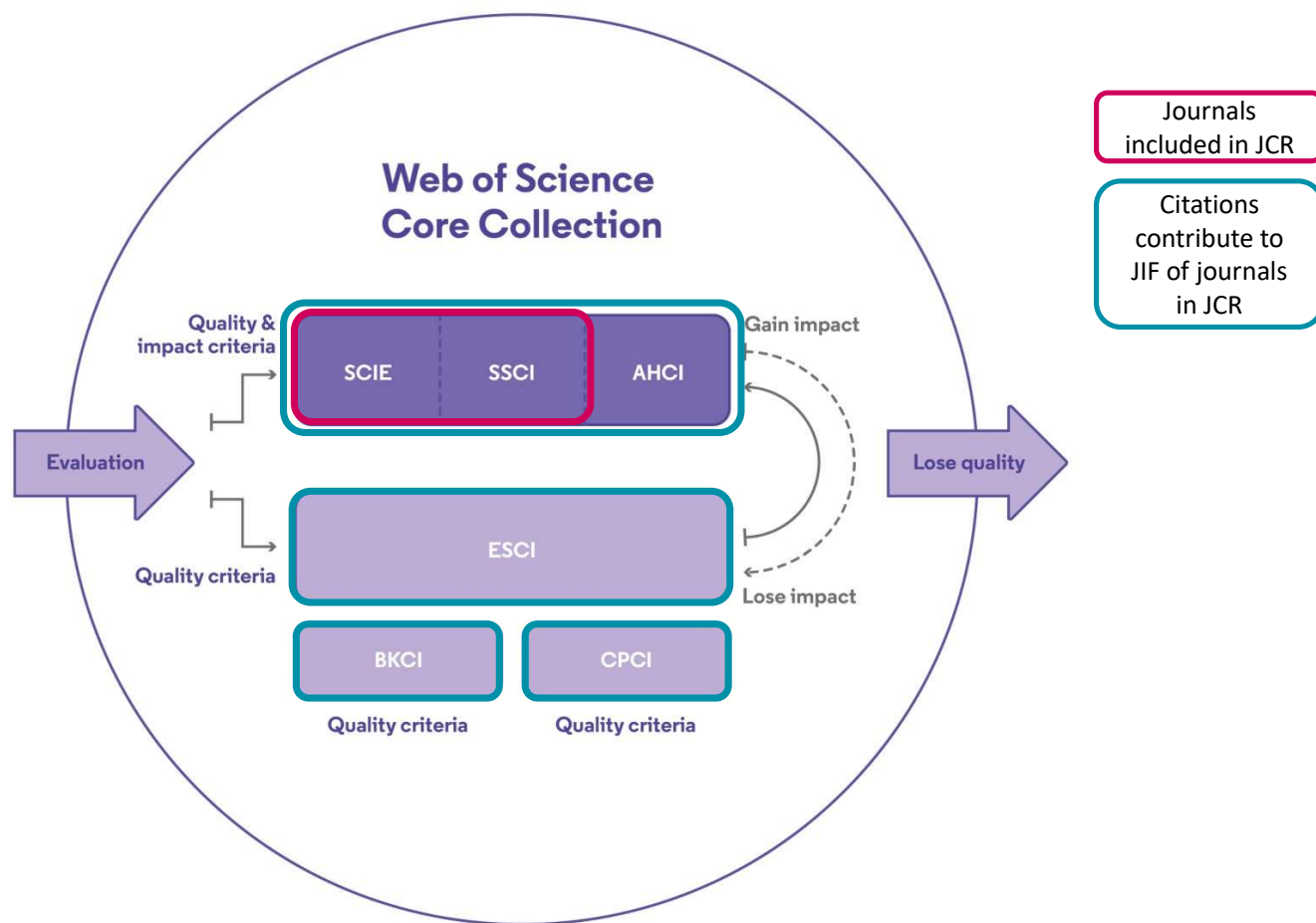
# Web of Science Journal Citation Reports (JCR)

# What's included in JCR?

JCR includes journals indexed within SCIE and SSCI

Only journals contained within JCR are awarded a Journal Impact Factor (JIF)

Citations from all content indexed within the Web of Science Core Collection contribute to the Journal Impact Factor (JIF)

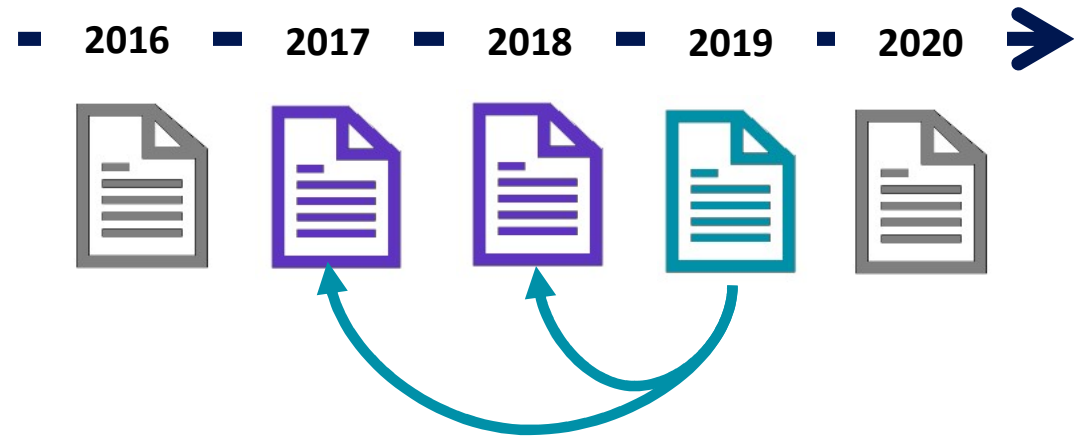




# The Journal Impact Factor

The JIF is a journal-level metric developed for responsible use in journal management

It should not be used to assess individual articles or individual researchers and should always be used together with other metrics and criteria



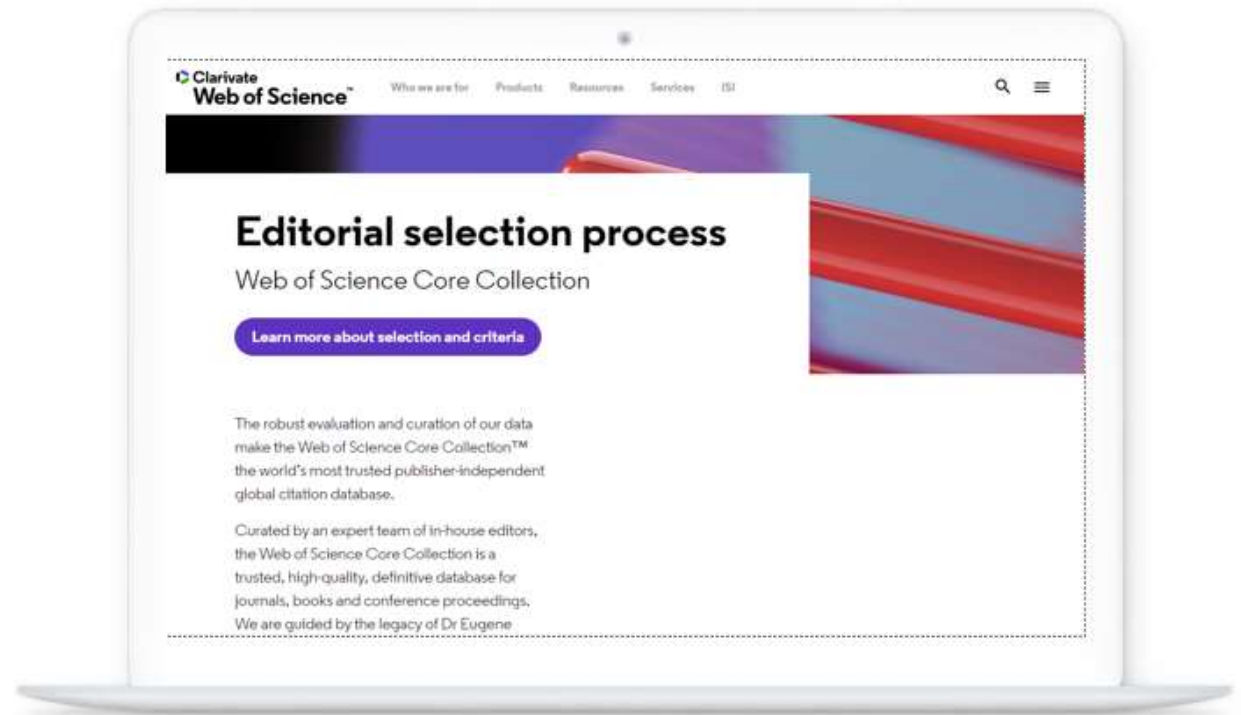
$$\text{2019 Journal Impact Factor} = \frac{\text{2019 citations to 2017 and 2018 content}}{\text{Citable items published in 2017 and 2018}}$$

# Web of Science Journal Evaluation Process and Selection Criteria

<https://clarivate.com/webofsciencegroup/journal-evaluation-process-and-selection-criteria/>

# Submit your Journal for Evaluation

<http://mjl.clarivate.com/journal-submission/>



## Useful Links

### Web of Science

<https://clarivate.com/webofsciencegroup/solutions/web-of-science/>

### Journal Citation Reports

<https://clarivate.com/webofsciencegroup/solutions/journal-citation-reports/>

### Master Journal List Help Center

<https://mjl.clarivate.com/help-center>

### Web of Science Core Collection Training

<https://clarivate.libguides.com/woscc/basics>

### Web of Science Support

[https://support.clarivate.com/ScientificandAcademicResearch/s/?language=en\\_US](https://support.clarivate.com/ScientificandAcademicResearch/s/?language=en_US)

# Thank you

