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THE BOOK SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE
BOOK CITATION INDEX
IN WEB OF SCIENCE

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THOMSON REUTERS™

INTRODUCTION:

*Web of Science*SM is well known for its coverage of top tier international and regional journal literature in the *Science Citation Index Expanded*TM (1900 to present), the *Social Sciences Citation Index*[®] (1900 to present), and the *Arts & Humanities Citation Index*[®] (1975 to present). *Web of Science* also covers the conference proceedings literature in its *Conference Proceedings Citation Index* (1990 to present). These indexes are characterized by the quality of the publications covered in them. Their content has been developed over decades of time employing well-defined selection criteria in a systematic and consistent manner.

With the inclusion of *The Book Citation Index* in *Web of Science*, Thomson Reuters has expanded the scope of its presentation of citation coverage to include this essential scholarly format. As with the journal and proceedings literature books will also be selected according to a well-defined set of criteria.

The goal of these selection processes is to build a comprehensive view of the scholarly literature across the major formats: journals, conference proceedings, and now scholarly books. By careful evaluation of the content and format of each publication, Thomson Reuters assures not only that all citation indexes in *Web of Science* contain the most relevant and timely research, but also that rigorous Bibliographic Control will ensure that this research is discoverable.

But comprehensive does not necessarily mean all-inclusive. With books, as with journals and conference proceedings, there is a need to select those publications that will most likely contain significant scholarship. Thomson Reuters has demonstrated that, by applying rigorous selection criteria to the literature it covers, researchers are able to discover the scholarly content that best serves their needs quickly and efficiently. The aggregation of important book content in the *Book Citation Index* within *Web of Science* will enable researchers publishing in books to reach a far wider audience and to measure citation impact across various publishing formats.

THE BOOK SELECTION PROCESS

BASIC PUBLISHING STANDARDS

Currency of publication is a basic criterion in the evaluation process. In general, books selected for both Science and Social Sciences & Humanities Editions must bear a copyright from the current year or previous five (5) years. However, books outside this range, especially in Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities subjects, are often considered for coverage with the understanding that older books in these areas are often of relatively greater value.

Full address information for all authors is highly desirable, and complete bibliographic information for all cited references is essential.

English language full text is highly desirable, but books with full text in a language other than English are also considered for coverage in *Book Citation Index*. Including English language Bibliographic information (e.g. chapter title, author abstract, keywords) in these cases is most helpful.

Book publishing involves a collaborative effort between Publishing Editor and Author, with authors typically invited to write on a certain subject. As with journals, a peer review process is also associated with scholarly books, and Thomson Reuters relies on the integrity of the publisher to insure that book content is valid and original.

EDITORIAL CONTENT

The *Book Citation Index* covers only scholarly books that present fully referenced articles of original research, or reviews of the literature with the understanding that these books may be published in a wider variety of formats.

Special consideration is given publications in the following list of book formats. These are the book formats most frequently presented for coverage in the *Book Citation Index*.

• Dissertations

- Dissertations are considered for coverage if they are part of an established book series with diverse content, or published as a well edited and reviewed monograph by a reputable scholarly publisher.

• Textbooks

- Well referenced textbooks aimed at a graduate or advanced research audience are considered for coverage.

• Books in Series

- Scholarly books in both series and non-series format are considered for coverage.

• Reprinted /Reissued Content

- Reissued content may be considered if it bears a current copyright date and has not been covered previously.
- Books containing reprinted content are generally not considered.

• Translations and Non-English Content

- Translations of non-English content are considered if they include significant, well-referenced, scholarly commentary.

• Biography

- Well referenced critical or scholarly biographies are considered.

• Reference Books

- Scholarly reference books where the items include cited references are considered.

CITATION ANALYSIS

Priority is given to books and book series that have relatively greater citation impact. *Book Citation Index* now covers over 150 highly cited book series in Science, Social Science, and Arts & Humanities. Journal and proceedings citations to books in these series indicate that they are well-integrated into the scholarly communication network. The *Book Citation Index* uncovers another dimension of this network by opening citation pathways leading to and from publications in the wider world of books. These connections will further enhance and deepen the ability to search and navigate the scholarly literature especially in those fields where book authorship is a critical academic achievement.

Capturing and indexing citations to books allows Thomson Reuters to identify those books and series that have a relatively greater impact on the scholarly literature and to include these publications in *Book Citation Index*. As book citation data grows Thomson Reuters will further refine the selection of publications for *Book Citation Index*.

SUMMARY

WHAT KINDS OF BOOKS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE BOOK CITATION INDEX?

- The *Book Citation Index* will cover only scholarly books that present fully referenced articles of original research, or reviews of the literature.
- The *Book Citation Index* will cover both series and non-series books.
- Books with copyright from the current or previous five (5) years are considered for coverage in the *Book Citation Index*.