

REGIONAL CONTENT EXPANSION UPDATE IN WEB OF SCIENCE®

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Thomson Reuters has always included regional journals in *Web of Science*. In 2006, however, we began a rigorous review of regional scholarship in order to identify key titles and subjects that are important to the global research community¹. The Editorial Development Department at Thomson Reuters continues to devote substantial resources to this effort. The result has been a significant expansion of our coverage of the world's best regional journals. Total coverage of scholarly journals in *Web of Science* is now over 10,500 publications. Twelve hundred (1,200) of these are newly selected regional journals.

These added journals do not represent the wholesale adoption of all journals from a particular country or region. Rather, they represent a set of select journals that deepens our coverage in specific subject areas. The editorial contours of *Web of Science* journal coverage now better reflect trends in scholarly research at both the international and regional levels. The areas of most significant growth include regional studies on the following topics:

- History
- Language & Linguistics
- Environment /Ecology
- Plant Sciences
- General & Internal Medicine
- Cardiovascular & Respiratory Systems
- Engineering Management
- Mechanical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Pharmacology & Toxicology
- Earth Sciences
- Mathematics
- Economics
- Education
- Psychology
- Sociology & Social Sciences

The Thomson Reuters Editorial Development staff approaches this literature armed with a well-defined journal selection process. This process insures selected journals meet the highest publishing standards and can be relied upon to produce timely issues on specific topics of regional importance and interest². As a result, we now find in *Web of Science* the definitive collection of top-tier international and regional journals published today.

Bibliographic control of all journals covered in *Web of Science* is key to its value. Titles that cease publication, that have merged into other titles, been suspended, or have changed are not left unresolved. As a result, bibliometric, topic, and citation studies are reliable and are based on a well-defined, stable, and homogeneous population. For example, conference proceedings (except insofar as they are published in covered journals), are not a part of the journal literature covered in *Web of Science*. The conference proceedings literature is covered in the *Conference Proceedings Citation Index™*, a separate edition of *Web of Science*.

The present emphasis and intense interest in the evaluation and selection of the best regional content will continue in full force through 2009.

In 2010, we will initiate a review of the changes in citation dynamics occurring because of this influx of regional coverage. This will enable us to refine further our selection criteria for regional journals, incorporating rigorous contextualized citation analyses. With the addition of many regional journals to *Web of Science*, we have introduced citation information from them about other journals in that region on the specific subject. We have created a citation infrastructure that leads to the discovery of all scholarly material in the region, on the subject.

The continued internationalization of science will come into clearer focus as the collection of journals in *Web of Science* embraces not just the best international literature, but now the regional literature, much of which will become known to users in the US, UK, and Western Europe for the first time.

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