

Web of Science Journal Evaluation Process and Selection Criteria

Mireia Guardingo, PhD.

mireia.guardingo@clarivate.com

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+

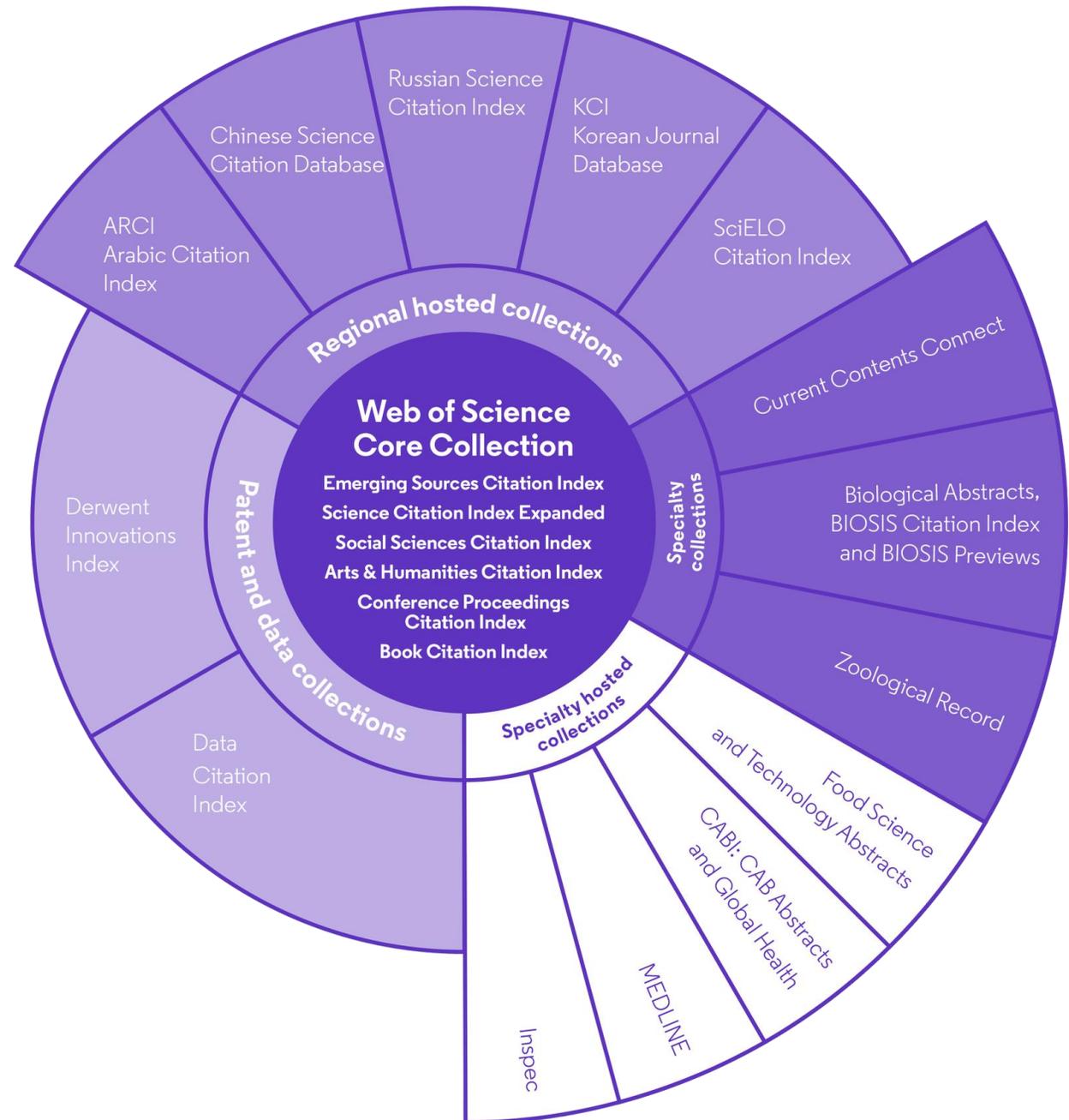
Conference proceedings

12.6 million

Records with funding data

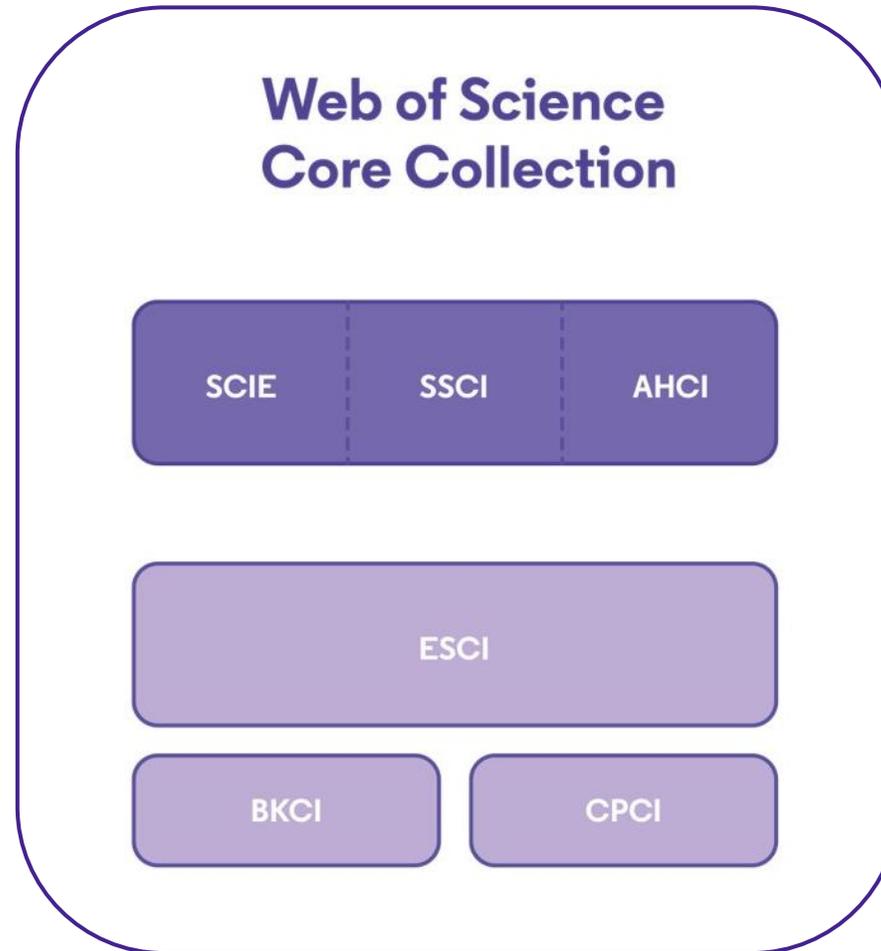
111,000+

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

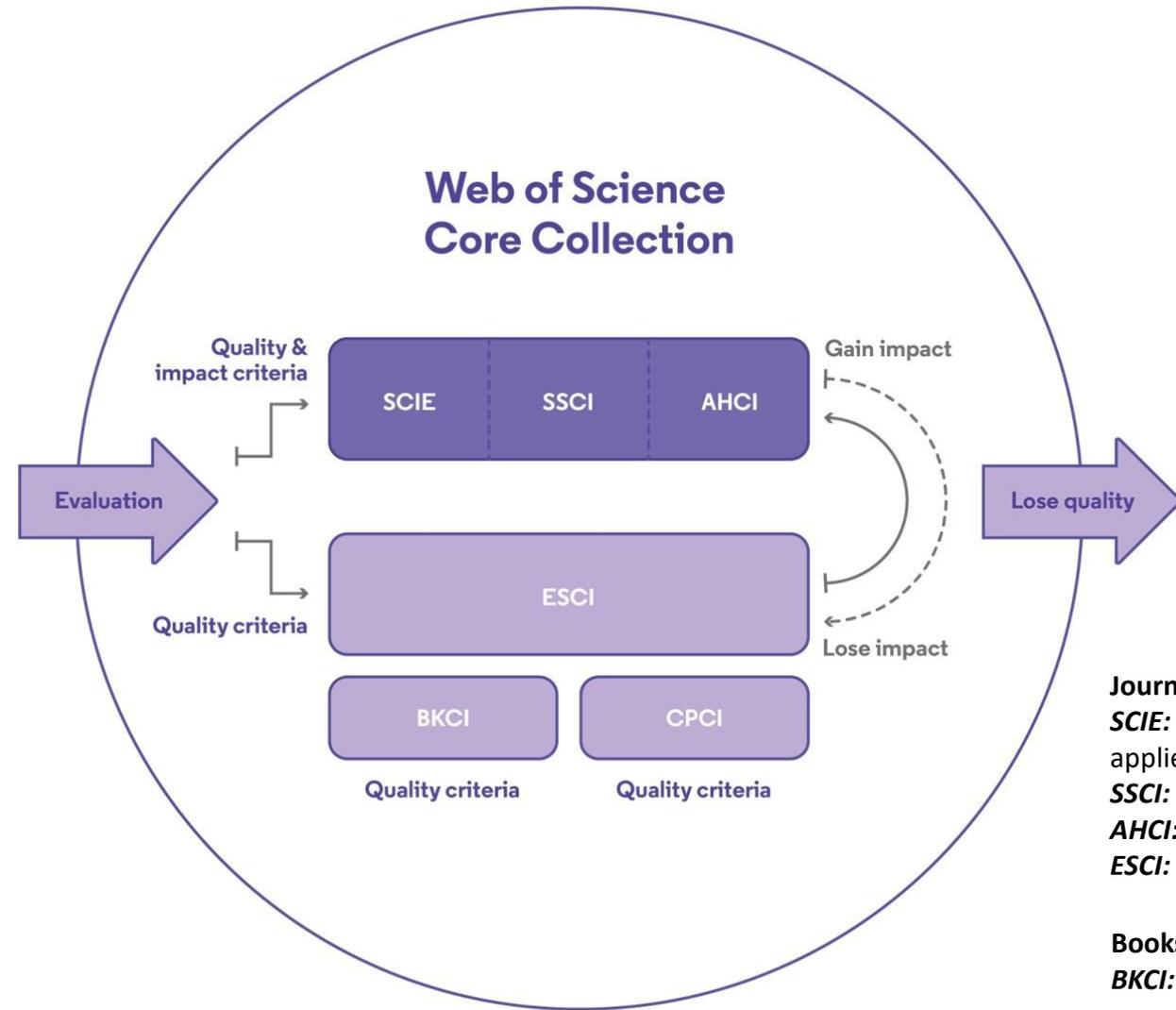
Journals that meet the quality criteria enter ESCI

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*



Journals

SCIE: clinical, natural and applied sciences
SSCI: social sciences
AHCI: arts & humanities
ESCI: all disciplines

Books

BKCI: all disciplines

Conference Proceedings

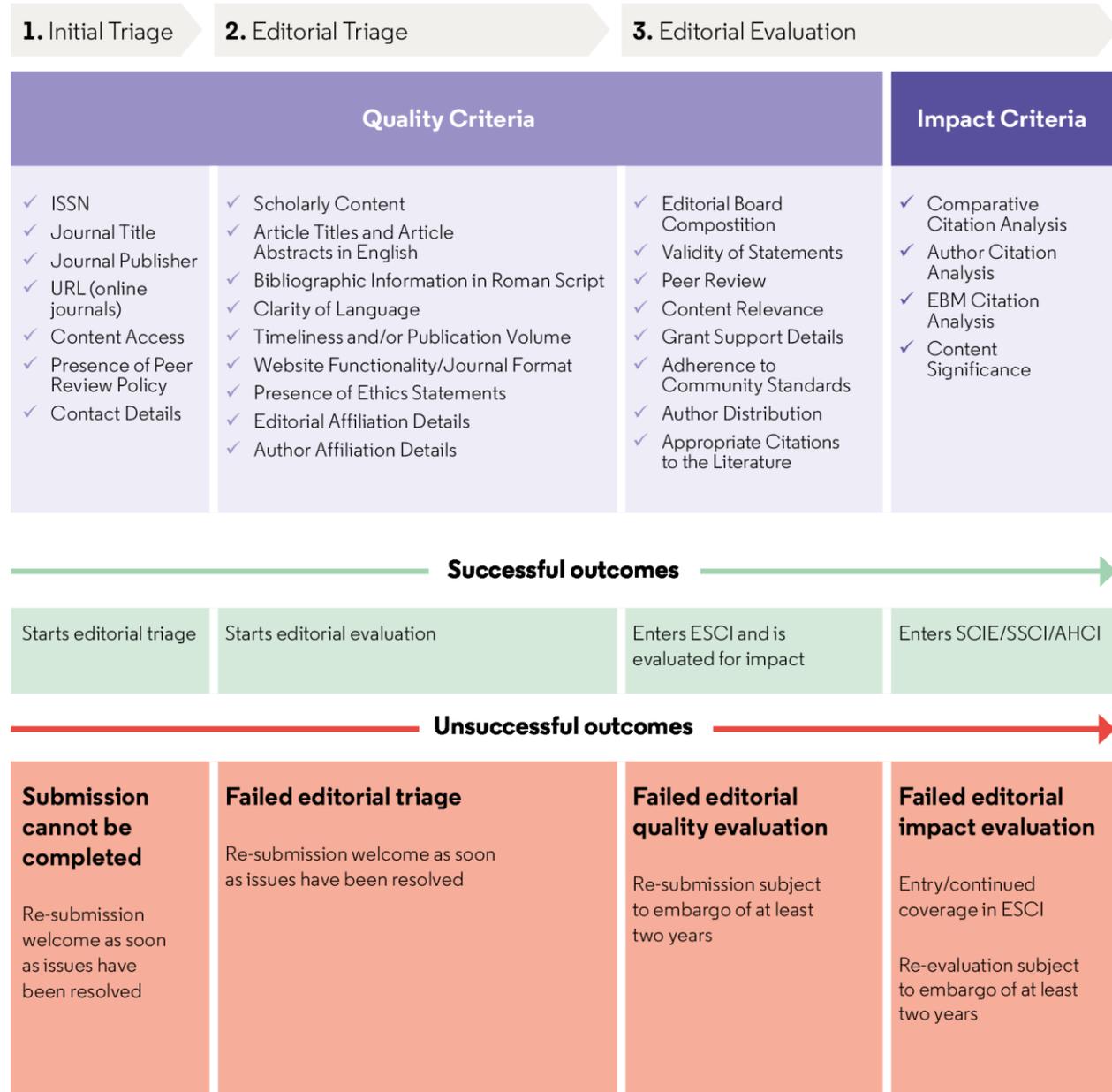
CPCI: all disciplines

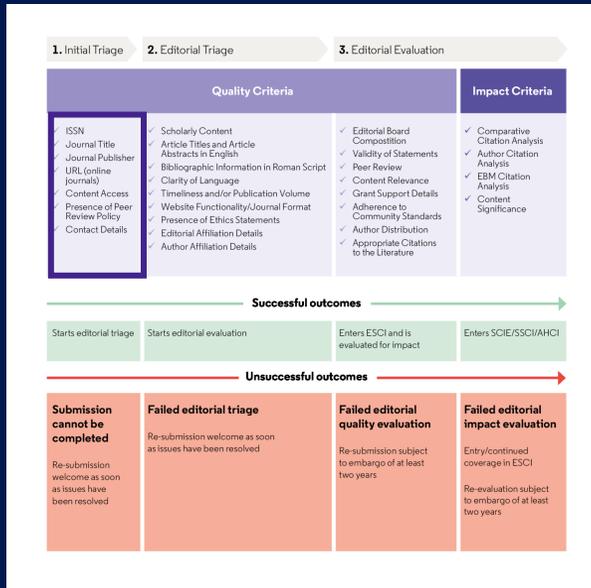
Journal Evaluation Process

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.

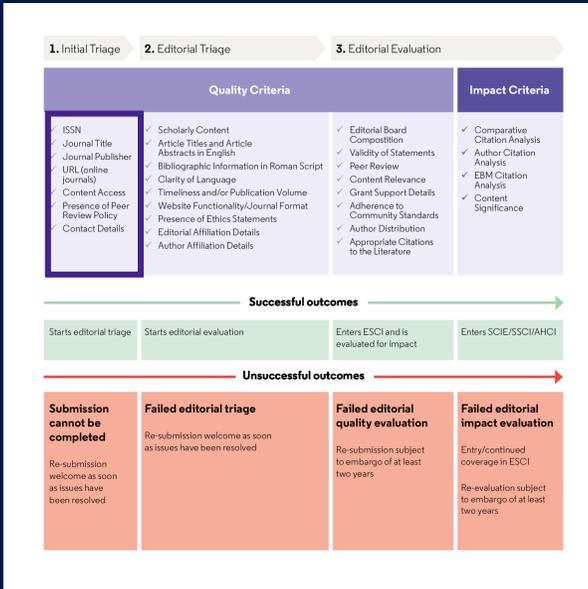
Initial Triage

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)

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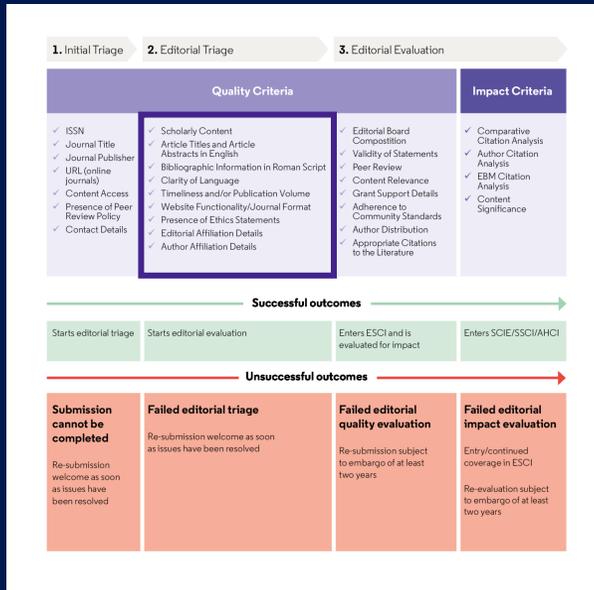
Initial Triage ✓

Editorial Triage

Editorial Evaluation (Quality)

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)

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



Initial Triage

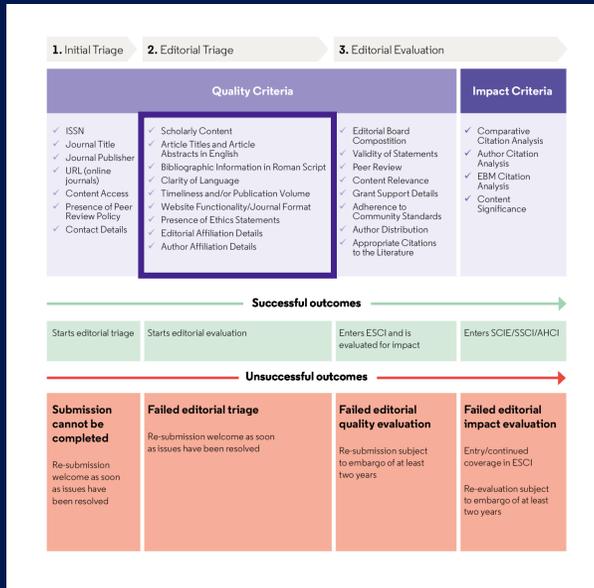
Editorial Triage

Editorial Evaluation (Quality)

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)

- ✓ 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

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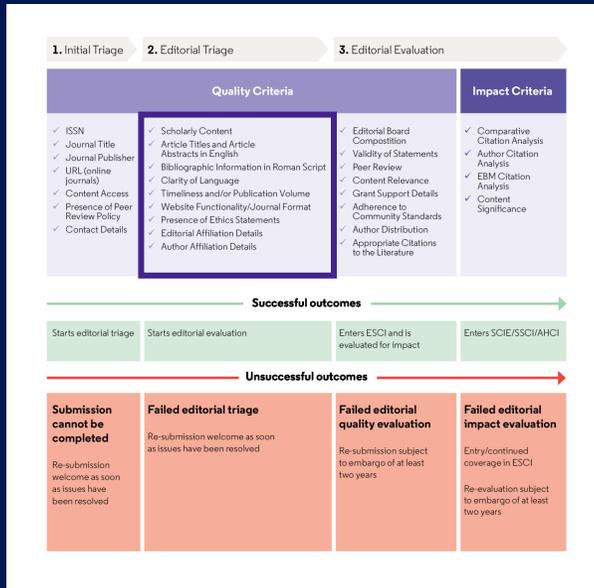
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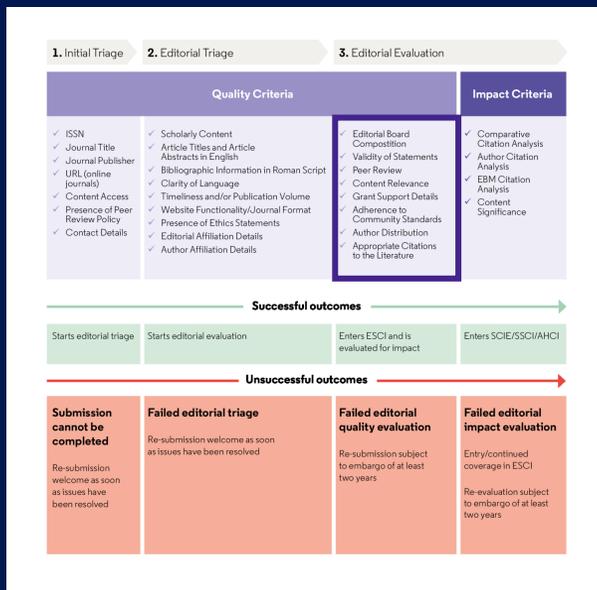
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At the **Quality** step we check the alignment of the journal's title and scope with the editorial board and published content. Evidence of **editorial rigour** is also sought for.



Initial Triage

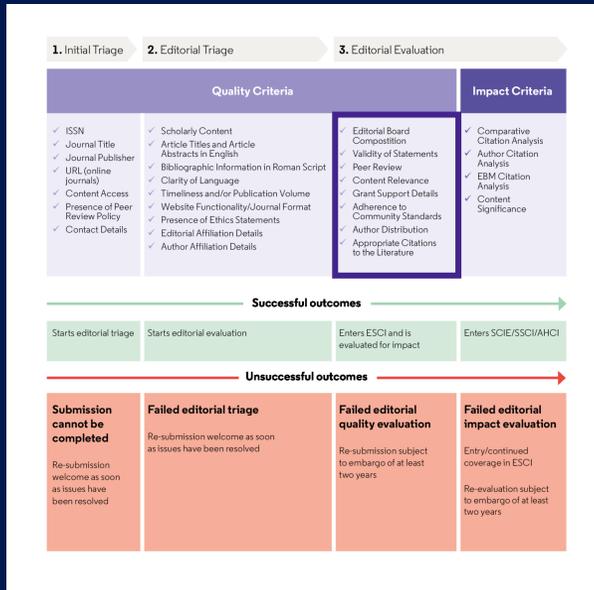
Editorial Triage

Editorial Evaluation (Quality)

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)

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

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Initial Triage

Editorial Triage

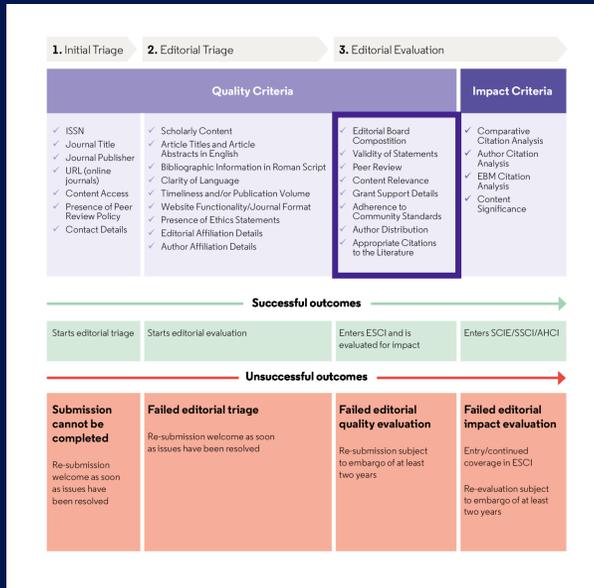
Editorial Evaluation (Quality)

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)

Re-submission (2-year embargo)

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

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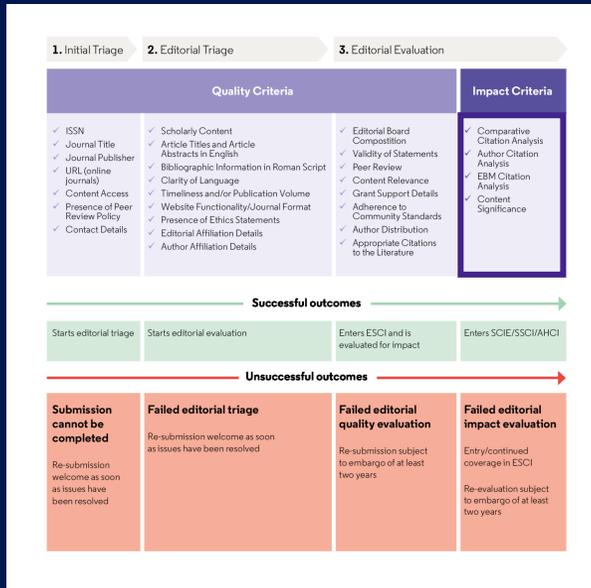
Initial Triage

Editorial Triage

Editorial Evaluation (Quality) ✓

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)

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



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.

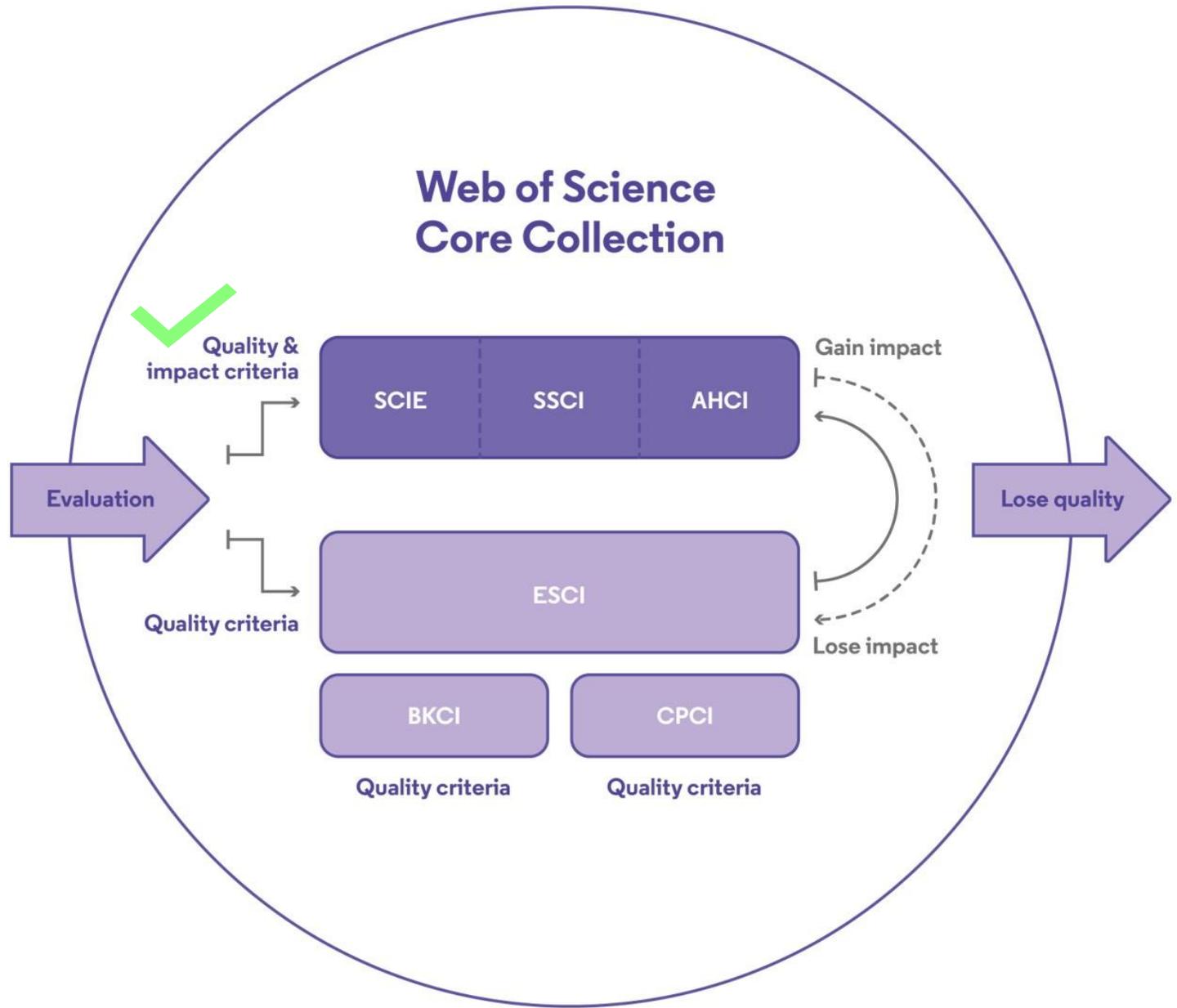
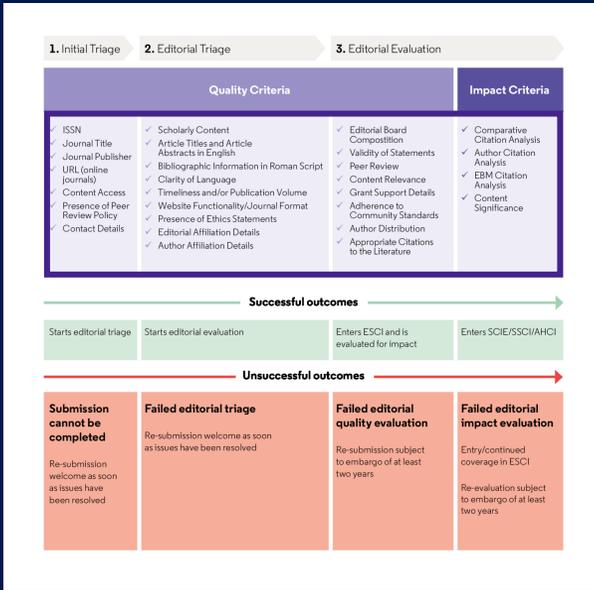
Initial Triage

Editorial Triage

Editorial Evaluation (Quality)

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)

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

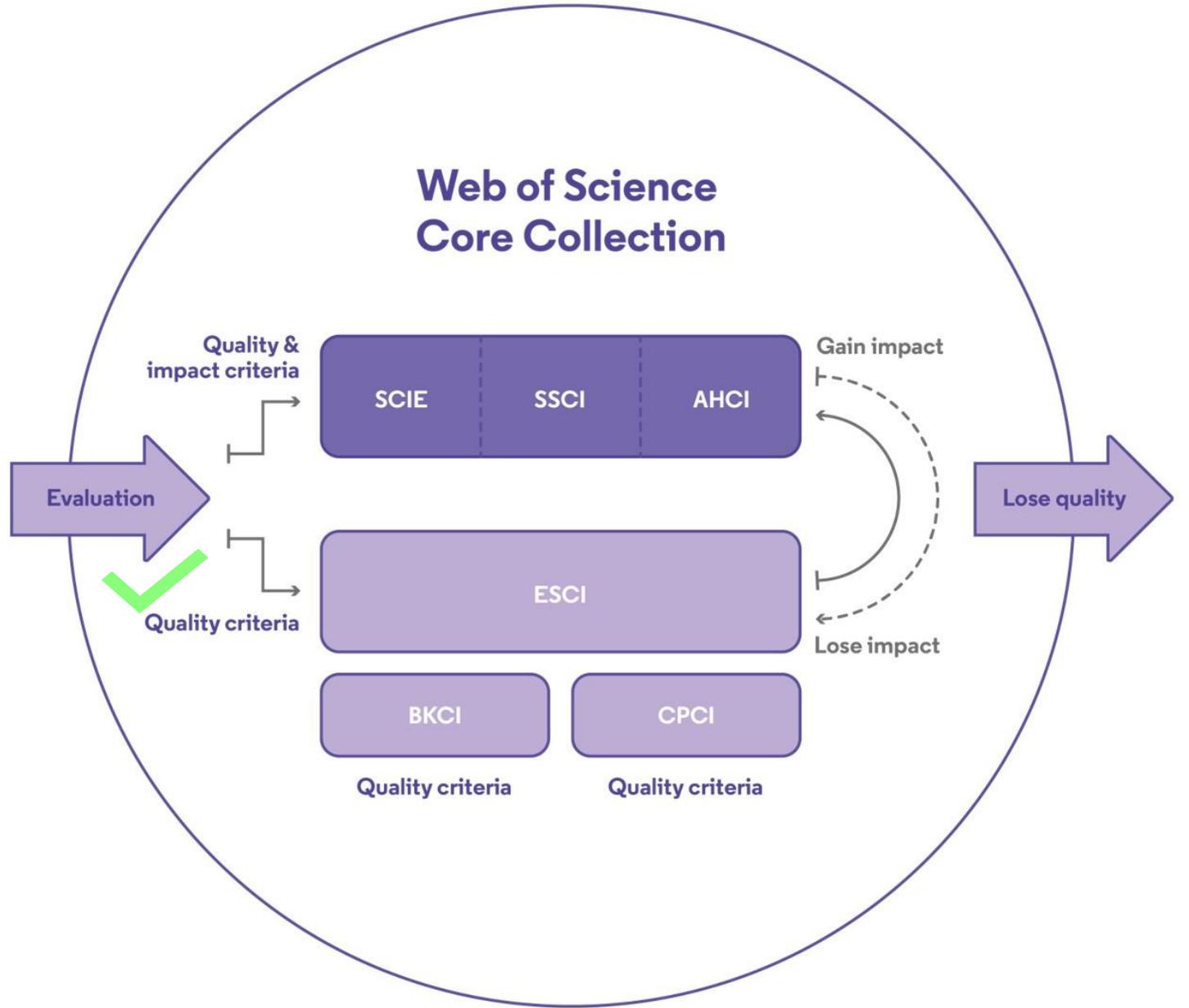


- Initial Triage ✓
- Editorial Triage ✓
- Editorial Evaluation (Quality) ✓
- Editorial Evaluation (Impact) ✓

1. Initial Triage			2. Editorial Triage			3. Editorial Evaluation				
Quality Criteria						Impact Criteria				
✓ ISSN	✓ Scholarly Content	✓ Editorial Board Composition	✓ Comparative Citation Analysis	✓ Author Citation Analysis	✓ Content Significance	✓ Journal Title	✓ Article Titles and Article Abstracts in English	✓ Validity of Statements	✓ Peer Review	✓ EBM Citation Analysis
✓ Journal Publisher	✓ Bibliographic Information in Roman Script	✓ Peer Review	✓ Adherence to Community Standards	✓ Author Distribution	✓ Appropriate Citations to the Literature	✓ URL (online journals)	✓ Clarity of Language	✓ Content Relevance	✓ Grant Support Details	
✓ Content Access	✓ Timeliness and/or Publication Volume	✓ Adherence to Community Standards	✓ Author Distribution	✓ Appropriate Citations to the Literature		✓ Presence of Peer Review Policy	✓ Website Functionality/Journal Format	✓ Adherence to Community Standards	✓ Author Distribution	
✓ Contact Details	✓ Presence of Ethics Statements	✓ Editorial Affiliation Details	✓ Author Affiliation Details			✓ Contact Details	✓ Presence of Ethics Statements	✓ Editorial Affiliation Details	✓ Author Affiliation Details	

Successful outcomes			
Starts editorial triage	Starts editorial evaluation	Enters ESCI and is evaluated for impact	Enters SCIE/SSCI/AHCI

Unsuccessful outcomes			
Submission cannot be completed Re-submission welcome as soon as issues have been resolved	Failed editorial triage Re-submission welcome as soon as issues have been resolved	Failed editorial quality evaluation Re-submission subject to embargo of at least two years	Failed editorial impact evaluation Re-evaluation subject to embargo of at least two years

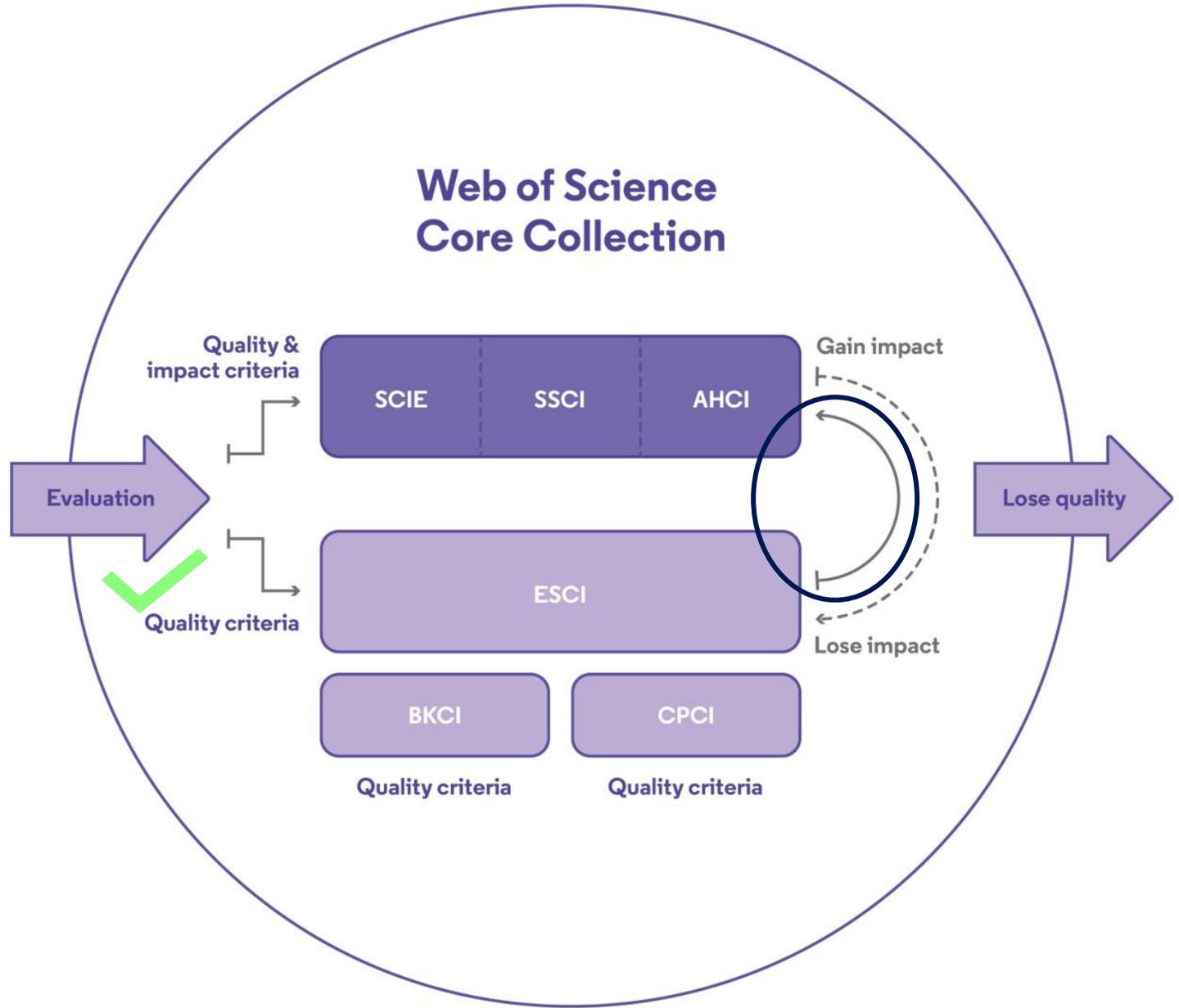
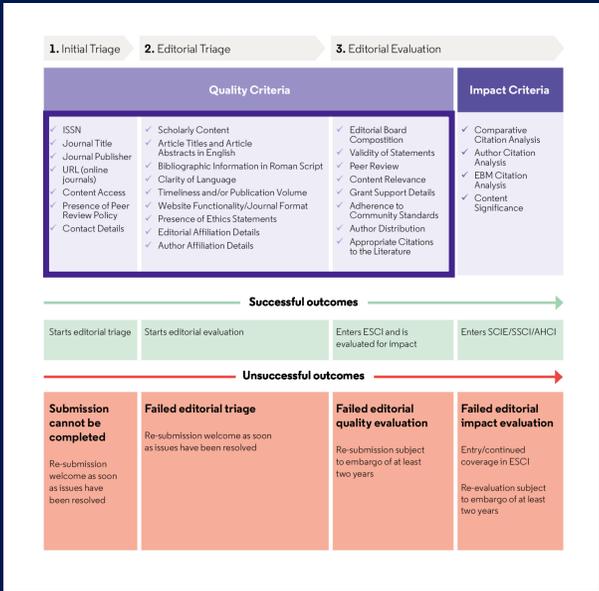


Initial Triage ✓

Editorial Triage ✓

Editorial Evaluation (Quality) ✓

Editorial Evaluation (Impact) ✗



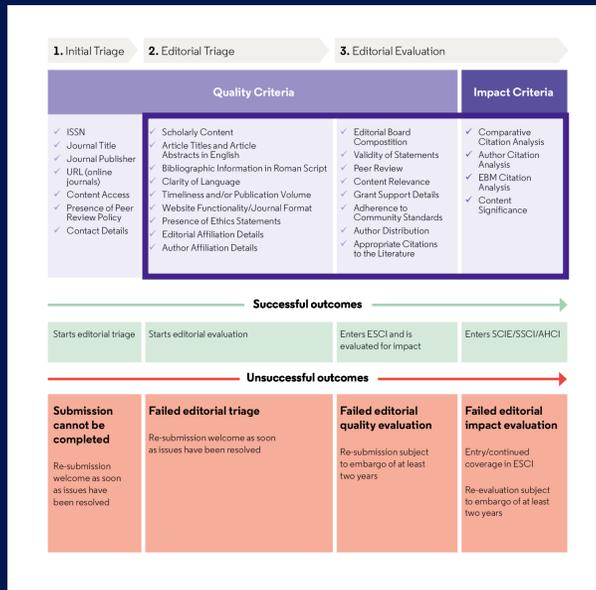
Initial Triage ✓

Editorial Triage ✓

Editorial Evaluation (Quality) ✓

Editorial Evaluation (Impact) ✗

Collection Dynamics



Initial Triage

Editorial Triage

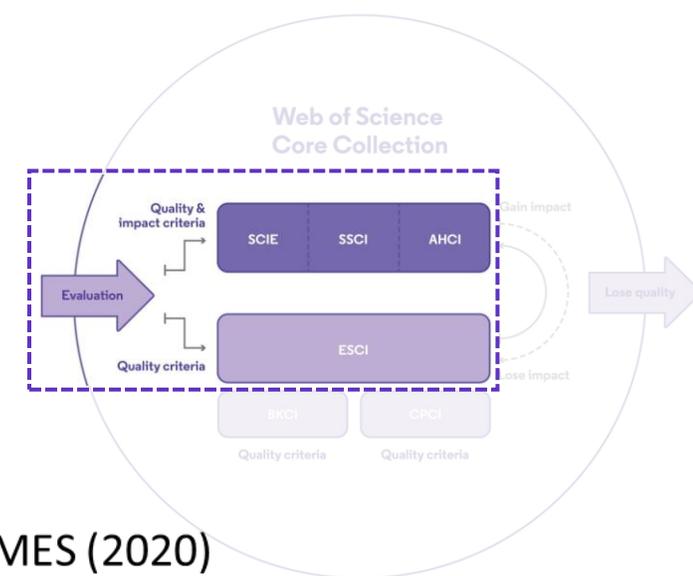
Editorial Evaluation (Quality)

Editorial Evaluation (Impact)

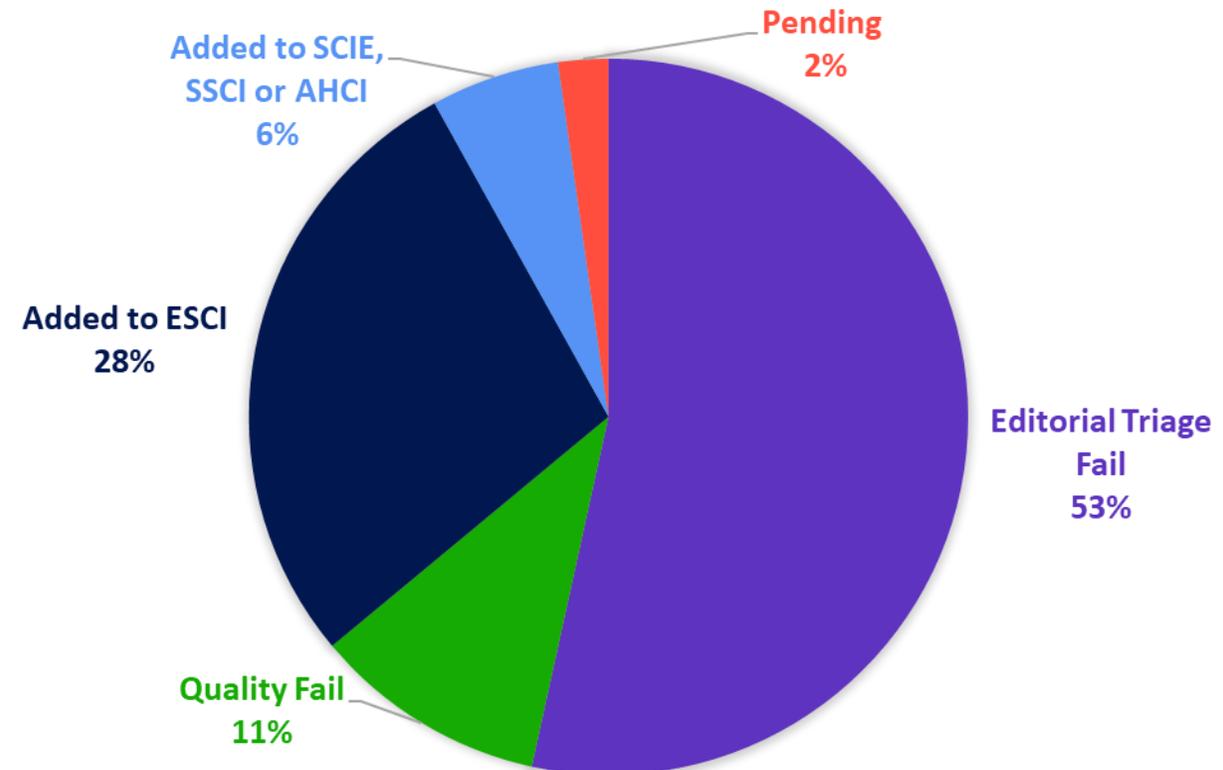
- Re-evaluations are prioritised for journals that display high citation performance.
- We **monitor** the citation performance of **all journals indexed in ESCI** and perform a re-evaluation when indicators show that the impact criteria may be met.
- The re-evaluation process starts at the Editorial 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.

The Web of Science™ Journal Evaluation Process

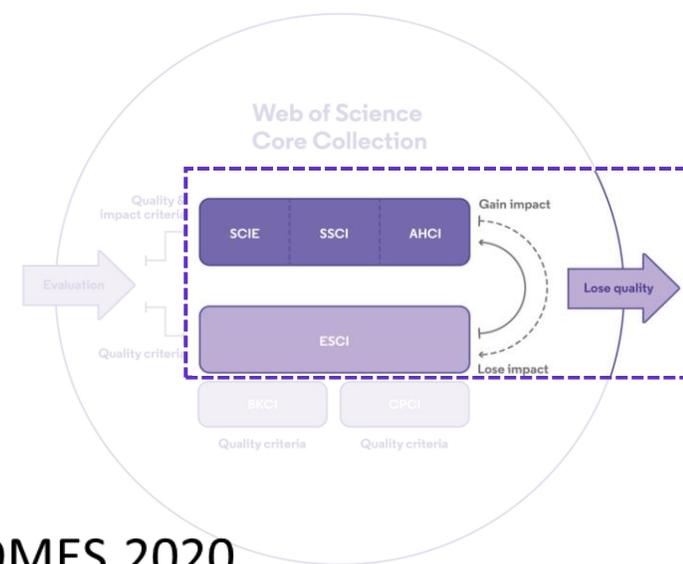
- **64% of journals evaluated were not accepted for indexing.**
53% failed Editorial Triage
11% failed Quality
- **34% of journals evaluated were added to the Web of Science Core Collection™.**
- **6% were added directly to SCIE, SSCI or AHCI.**
- **2% were pending further discussion.**



NEW EVALUATION OUTCOMES (2020)

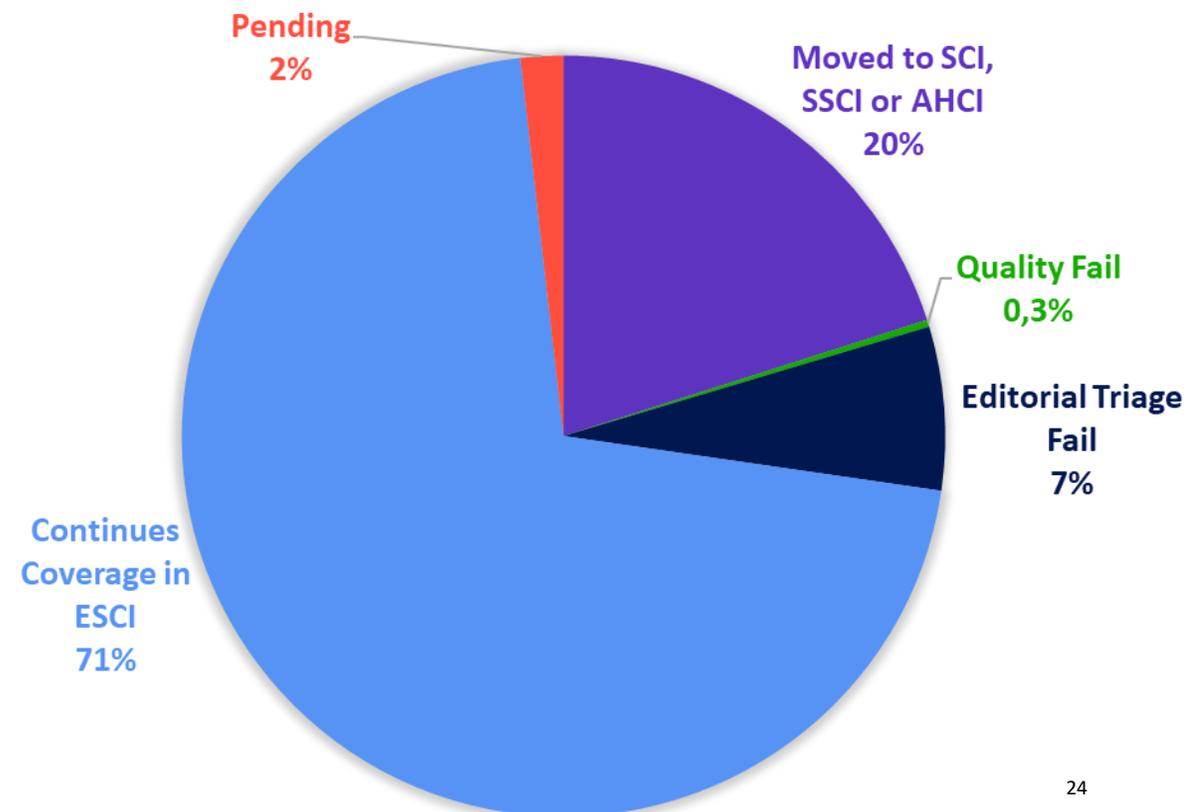


The Web of Science™ Re-evaluation Process



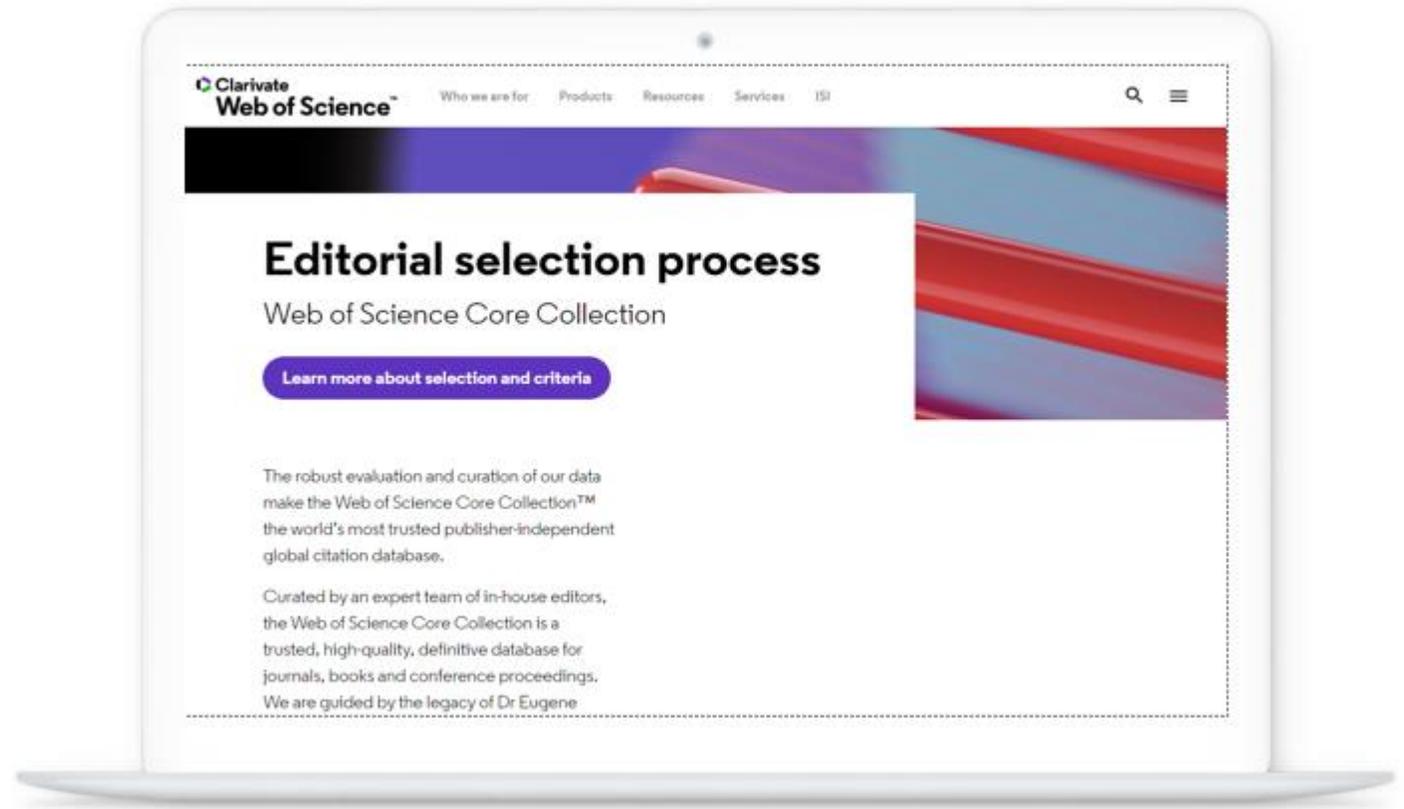
- 700 journals were identified for re-evaluation.
- 20% of journals identified for re-evaluation moved from ESCI to flagship.
- 71% remained in ESCI.
7% were given 6 months to address Editorial Triage fail points
- 2 journals were de-selected and 12 are under review.

RE-EVALUATION OUTCOMES 2020



Web of Science Journal Evaluation Process and Selection Criteria

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



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

Web of Science Publisher Portal

<https://clarivate.com/webofsciencegroup/support/wospublisherportal/>

Thank you

