



Scopus Enhancement Group Meeting

Harold Cohen Library, University of Liverpool, February 2012

Present:

Patti Biggs, Deputy Librarian, MRC National Institute for Medical Research
Peter Darroch, Product Sales Manager, Scopus, Elsevier
Carole Rhodes, Faculty Librarian, Science & Engineering, University of Liverpool
Martin Snelling, E-Learning Support Librarian, University of Manchester (Minutes)
Keith Trevor, UK account Manager, Elsevier
Nick Woolley, Associate Director – Information Resources, King's College London (Chair)

Apologies:

Sarah Taylor, University of Bolton

Minutes/Matters arising from the last meeting

1. API for connecting with Current research information services (CRIS). Subscribing institutions can use the Scopus API for software such as Pure.
2. Extra group member – Nick Woolley will approach other institutions to supply an extra member. (there are now 56 Scopus customers in the UK, including all but 4 of the Russell group of universities)
3. Communications releases/Updates – The Scopus Marketing group has a wider remit than just the UK. The Elsevier team continue to look into the possibility of using a JISC email list to let customers know about developments/problems/product releases. The group reiterated that Elsevier do need to be more pro-active when problems do arise and lis-e-resources might be a sensible tool in future. Scopus did promise that that they would seek to minimise the effects of future changes, especially the timing of them.
4. Authentication – switching from Scopus to Sciencedirect/sciencedirect to Scopus via Athens or Shibboleth has still not been integrated, meaning users have to login twice.
5. Integration with discovery tools – the Scopus index should be available via Summon in the second quarter of 2012, and Elsevier are continuing to work with the other discovery vendors.
6. Repository software – As part of the Scopus subscription, subscribing institutions get access to the Scopus API which allows institutions to harvest a limited set of key metadata which can be kept in perpetuity, even if the Scopus subscription is cancelled in the future. There are other options available to those who want to be provided with the metadata for institutional content in Scopus such as Scopus Custom data packages.
7. Browser issues – Firefox, latest versions of Internet explorer (IE9-) and Chrome are supported, but not Safari. Scopus will phase out support for IE6 around the end of 2012. Scopus is currently not working with IE9 but this is a high priority issue which is being looked at now.
8. Accessibility – It was acknowledged that Scopus is generally very good compared to other tools but there are improvements which could still be made. Elsevier continue to look to improve on the already good level of accessibility support in order to work towards a W3C AAA rating where possible.

9. Usability issues

- a. Results ranking – this used to be a simple click at the top of a column, but has been changed to a drop down menu. Peter and Keith will try to see if this can be reinstated so there are two options available for results ranking. The decision to use a drop down menu was taken after extensive user testing. In the previous version of Scopus, we noticed that the vast majority of users (more than 65%) were not aware that it was possible to sort by relevance. We will continue to monitor the usage of the new drop down feature and will share more details of the comparisons at the next JIBS meeting. It was also noted that the help pages seem out of date in certain circumstances and so this will be looked into and the help pages updated appropriately.
 - b. The PDF download icon on the full record suggests users can click it to access full text, but this is not the case – It was suggested that this button could be renamed to make its actual purpose more obvious. This feature was altered to address this potential issue in the last release.
10. Scopus as a target for federated search in Metalib, – this has been an issue since September 2011. Ex Libris have tried to fix it, but it seems to be a Scopus problem, so Elsevier will be revisiting the issue.
 11. Customer communications – some of the Sciverse help pages are very dated and need to be more current. It can also be hard to find definitive product information. This kind of information needs to be reviewed on a monthly or quarterly schedule. One example the group looked at in the meeting was index content updates.
 12. Book index and citation data. Scopus contains details of 400 book series so far and there is a continuous program of content evaluation involving the independent Content Selection Advisory Board.
 13. Unannounced downtime – this still seems to be a problem for Elsevier – one possible solution would be to email customer contacts – but Elsevier’s list may be out of date – a possible solution would be to use a JISC mail list such as lis-e-resources.
 14. Elsevier Development Partner Programme – communications went out from Elsevier at the end of 2011 to formally announce it has ended, but will anything take its place?
 15. REF2014 – only 11 of the subject panels will use citation data and the REF team will announce shortly the exact format and details of the citation data which will be employed in the REF 2014.. Elsevier are going to provide a data-matching service via the REF portal. This will include a verification process through the REF portal as well as the display of a static record page for each matched publication..
 16. REF support – Elsevier have a REF project team who are working closely with the REF team at HEFCE to ensure effective support is available throughout the REF process. The initial point of contact for issues related to REF 2014 is the REF team at HEFCE. However, any queries from HEIs or panel members regarding Scopus or the role Elsevier are taking to assist with REF 2014 can be sent to Peter Darroch who is a member of the Elsevier REF project team.

New products

- Strata – SciVal Strata is a flexible benchmarking tool that uses Scopus data and provide quantitative analyses of team or researcher performance, complementing the peer-review approach. Further information can be found at the following website: <http://www.info.scival.com/strata>.
- Spotlight – SciVal Spotlight is a customized, web-based tool that provides an integrated and interdisciplinary view of unique research strengths and so enables an institution or country to evaluate, establish, and execute its strategic plans and also make informed strategic decisions regarding research. More information can be found at the following website: <http://info.scival.com/spotlight>.

Date of Next Meeting – Tentatively agreed to hold the next meeting in either late August or early September 2012