

# Sherif Scopus Enhancement Group Committee Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
Elsevier Ltd, London

## Attendees:

### Sherif members:

Patti Biggs, The Francis Crick Institute - Committee secretary  
Peter Bradley, University of Bath  
Elizabeth McHugh, University of the Highlands and Islands - Committee chair  
Robyn Price, Imperial College London  
Laurian Williamson, University of Leicester

### Supplier representatives:

Iana Tsandev - Head of Product Management, Platform Content, Scopus  
Kai Wan - Senior Product Manager, Scopus  
Charles Martinez - Key Account Manager A&G UK  
Nicoline van der Linden - Vice President Scopus Business Development  
Priyanka Joshi - Technology Associate PMO

### Apologies:

Ryan Cronin, University of Cambridge, who will be replacing Lynne Meehan  
Katherine Stephan, Liverpool John Moores University

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Elizabeth welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Laurian as it was her first meeting replacing Lucy Ayre on the committee. Everyone briefly introduced themselves. Elizabeth provided a short introduction to Sherif and purpose of the committee for the benefit of those attending their first meeting, i.e. Laurian, Nicoline and Priyanka.

## 3. Minutes of the last meeting - 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Minutes of the minutes were approved as an accurate record.

### Actions from previous minutes:

Action no.	Action	Response
1	Missing book - indexing should be fixed. Please check	The book has been found and the indexing is fixed
2	Request notes on indexing book chapters from Susanne	These notes have been lost, but if Susanne will send them if she comes across them. The group is specifically interest in the selective indexing of chapters from books, when whole book is not indexed.
3	Share email about Refworks agreement with Kai	New Refworks is now working in Scopus. Elizabeth advised Scopus not to phase out the original Refworks integration until Proquest phases out old Refworks
4	Ask if pdf reader is on the Scopus road map	PDFs can currently be downloaded. Kai reported that Scopus is talking to Mendeley to see if it possible to import these directly into Mendeley and have the PDF reader in Mendeley rather than Scopus
5	Raise new Refworks integration with Refworks Enhancement Group again	See response to action 3.

6	Provide a use case for clickable keyword	Cranfield have not yet been able to provide a use case but hope to do so shortly
7	Investigate 2016 usage statistics	Iana is still trying to get this data. Robyn added that there had been an error in Imperials data dashboard, so the issue is resolved
8	To look at making sharing search URLs easier	Kai will be talking about platform changes later. Sharing will be improved as part of these changes
9	To update committee when number of exportable records is increased	<p>Current limits are 5,000 records with abstracts or 20,000 without. This is due to limits on the database search engine. Scopus is moving to Knowledge Graph which removes this bottleneck and is currently testing this.</p> <p>Elsevier asked why so many customers are interested in increasing the number of exportable records: Laurian replied that there is a lot more interest in Systematic Reviews outside of medicine than before. With BEI (British Education Index) and ERIC closing there will more pressure on Scopus for multidisciplinary systematic reviews. Kai respond that they expect Knowledge Graph to be released during 2020. Exports to Scival will also be improved by this.</p> <p>Exports to citation managers are controlled by the citation manager rather than Scopus. Elizabeth asked that Elsevier talk to Refworks about raised limits. The new Refworks is API based so takes more results per export than the old web-based system. <b>Action:</b> Elizabeth to raise this with Sherif Proquest Enhancement Group meeting.</p> <p>Kai added that currently the only way to retrieve very large sets of results is using API. Librarian then often need help from IT colleagues to retrieve and present the results. JISC has recognised the need to build skills in this area and has a training webinar on Thursday 19 March 12.30-13.30: <a href="https://www.jisc.ac.uk/training/using-scopus-apis-to-bring-value-to-your-researchers-and-institutions">https://www.jisc.ac.uk/training/using-scopus-apis-to-bring-value-to-your-researchers-and-institutions</a>.</p> <p>Writing better manuals for API, including connecting into CRIS systems is probably in top 5 priorities for Scopus.</p>
10	Feedback on useful metrics to add to Scopus API	Martin Andersson is Elseviers API lead (covering both Scopus and SciVal). He would like to meet customers interested in APIs, introductions via Charles. Please don't share Martin's contact details on Sherif list, as we don't want to swamp Martin. Patti commented that the Crick had already had a very successful meeting with Charles and Martin.

#### 4. Scopus Update and Roadmap summary (see also pdf of slides presented at meeting)

Kai Wan presented on how Scopus was going to improve during 2020. Scopus will be moving to monthly releases with small feature enhancements and bug fixes, rather than fewer large updates. During the year the Scopus platform will also be completely rebuilt from the ground up, with each component being independent of the others, so that bug fixes can be rapidly deployed if necessary. The user interface will also be revamped to be a more compact, but clean view. Scopus has also recognised that there has been an increase in competition in search and discovery areas, so will be adding more focus on assessment.

Kai then provided more information on the 10 ways Scopus wants to differentiate itself from its competitors by talking to the slide below:

**How do we want to differentiate ourselves in 2020?**

1. Linking our author profiles to additional content types
2. Further improving the quality of author and affiliation profiles
3. Optimize Scopus also for librarians/research admins: more focus on assessment use cases
4. Highlight and exploit our biggest key differentiators, e.g. author profiles
5. Introduce institution profile pages
6. Improve interoperability within the Elsevier portfolio (SciVal, Mendeley)
7. Introduce and embed Topics of Prominence, as Elsevier's standard article level subject classification
8. User interface: remove clutter and focus more on key elements
9. Only preserve and improve what is important to our users (i.e. remove pages which are hardly being used).
10. Be able to respond much quicker to market feedback, with faster and more frequent releases

For item 1 they will be linking preprints and data papers. These will be listed separately, so won't influence h-index values or other recognised metrics. For item 2 there will be a closer link to SciVal's definition of affiliation.

For item 3 Scopus will be adding funding data to papers and awarded grants to author profiles. This data will be added to all Elsevier database, including Clinical Key. Adding this data will take place after the work on preprints and is currently on timeline for August. The feeling from the Sherif side was that this would be helpful for academic reviews, provide grants where listed across the range of journals, not just Elsevier ones. Nicolene responded that it would be across range. Nicolene also asked about other data on grants that would be useful. Sherif's response was that dates of grants and which institution they were awarded would also be useful.

Item 6 has already been partially realised as FWC (field weighted citations) in Scopus have been aligned with those in SciVal. The Sherif members urged that this information is shared with LIS-bibliometrics email list and on the Scopus blog. Citation benchmarking will also be aligned in Scopus with that in SciVal by the end of March.

On item 7 Topics of prominence are going to be retained in Scopus as they give greater granularity of subject classification than keyword. Topics of prominence are currently included on the document details page and on author profiles, they will be introduced in Sources. In Sources the Topics from articles in journal will be aggregated to give the journals topic of prominence. If anyone needs more information they should look at this help page: [https://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/27947/supporthub/scopus/kw/Topic+of+prominence/](https://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/27947/supporthub/scopus/kw/Topic+of+prominence/)

Items 8 and 9 both refer to the re-platforming of Scopus. An analysis of Scopus traffic has revealed that over 80% is generated by just 6-8 pages, so the aim is to reduce the number of pages to maximum of 10 pages. The order document page is lightly used, but is crucial to customers without

an OpenURL resolver, so it will be retained. Kai ask that we notify Elsevier of any other crucial pages. This **re-platforming is a major project** and will consume a great deal of resources, both people and time. While it is occurring **only crucial bug fixes** will be implemented and there will be **no enhancements** or minor bugs addressed in the current platform. The new platform will be built in parallel, then there will be a switch-over. The Sherif members appealed for notice when testing is occurring. Charles will alert Sherif members and if it is a problem for any institution please feedback to him, so he can arrange for the institutions account to be excluded from the tests. **Action:** CM and users

Kai then presented some details on what the new platform will look like by showing an example to what the author details page might look like. He stressed that this is still work in progress (WIP), so may change before the new platform is launched.

## Design direction: author details page

Some considerations:

- Differentiate looking at my own profile versus somebody else's profile
- Consider introducing a personal landing page tracking myself and peers
- Introduce awarded grants and latest pre-prints for more comprehensive assessment
- Better at-a-glance impression of field that author is active in (e.g. using Topics of Prominence)
- Appreciate the vanity element of looking at my own profile by e.g. introduce view counts of my own profile and my documents

Features of the new platform will be:

- Inclusion of the filter facet
- Adding support for multiple affiliations and prioritisation of these affiliations
- Separate tabs for published papers, cited by (papers which cite the authors works), preprints and funding
- Scopus ID not showing on mock-up, but will probably return as an option that profile owner can hide if they wish
- Customisation of the profile will be possible for users who log in and have claimed their Scopus ID
- View of own profile and others' profiles could be different
- Customisation by institutions will be possible e.g. An Institution could ask for the h-index not to be displayed and individual authors could not override this. If the h-index is suppressed by institution it would not appear as a column in search results too
- Graph is part of the main page rather than being a separate Analyse author page
- Suppressed information would not display in Scopus but will be in any exported data.

Nicoline gave more information about the additional data tabs. There was a use case for awarded grants in that they indicate the credibility of a researcher in the eyes of funders and are indicative of future publications. Awarded grants would only be seen in the author profile. Elsevier are currently checking the fidelity of the data they have and have yet to deciding whether this is a priority for release when the new platform is available or to come later.

For preprints there is a clear use case, they show a fresher view of a researcher's work, as they are released more quickly than traditionally published papers. Scopus is planning to include preprints from ArXiv, SSRN, BioRxiv and ChemRxiv. They will prioritise ArXiv as biggest source, the SSRN in a second phase. The Sherif representatives pointed out that MedRxiv was absent from the list and is

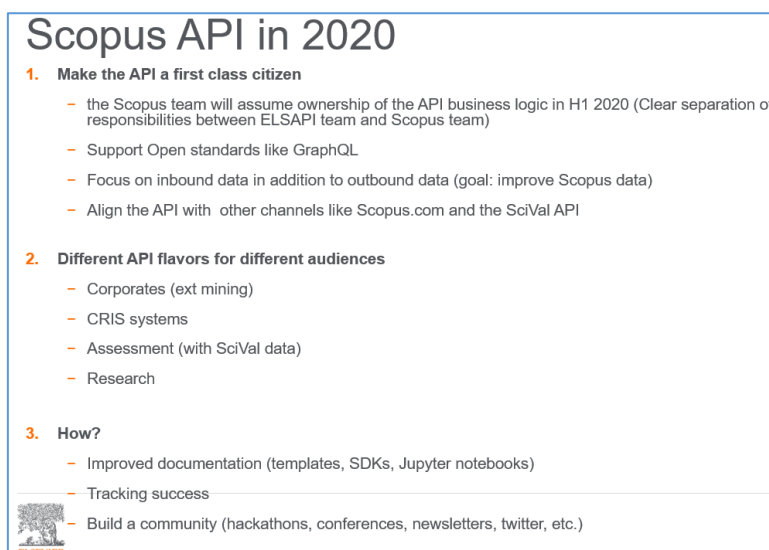
also important in current situation - Scopus noted this. The first release will be a minimal viable product (MVP) probably in third quarter of 2020: this will not include metrics or links from preprint to version of record.

Nicoline also spoke to Scopus' unique selling point : the accuracy of its author profiles with feedback from authors and institutional administrators. Building on this they are planning to introduce some new tiers of organizational profiles which will be manually curated. The assessment ready tier will be an opt in service and is being done primary for organizations in the Times Higher Education (THE) world assessments list. The next tier is a more fine-grained assessment ready profile which will go down to department level. It is being done for Top 25 THE organizations and will be available to other organisation as a paid service. A standard organisational profile will be made for organizations with many attributed articles in last 5 years. Further details of these tiers are on Slide 8 of the slide deck. Scopus will communicate with the institutions that they have profiled. Scopus is currently working on US and Chinese institutions.

Kai then gave more details about the proposed redesign of the Sources Results page (slide 9 in deck). It will provide table/list view, with facets to refine the list. The number of key metrics will be reduced from 7 to 4. The ability to do a full list of journals for a subject area is retained but will be less prominent - this has been kept as is a necessity for bibliometricians. The Source details page (slide 10 in deck) will be a single long newspaper like page with same metrics and information as is in current Scopus - the tabs to view different metrics have not been used. The Cite Score will be show as a metric across all articles in the journal (by contrast WOS calculates Cite Score based only on top 50 articles in journal), so will get better view of journal output not just the top 50 articles. Topics of prominence will also be added to the Source detail page. The Institutional pages (slide 11) will have the same information as now but will be laid out differently with more emphasis on individual publications. There are no plans for Institutional pages to be customisable.


Kai then briefly revisited the replatforming project clean up Scopus.com. Currently it is an unwieldy 226 pages and only 6 of account for 85% of page views, so it will be slimmed down to 3 pages for documents (a search page, a results page and a details), the same 3 pages for authors and 2 for institutions (search and details).

The other area of great change in 2020 will be APIs.



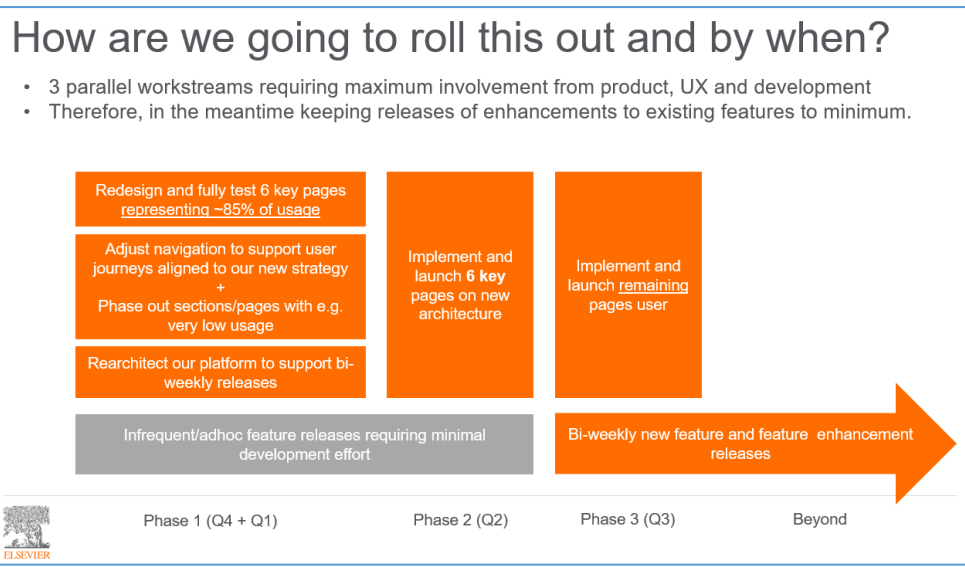
**Scopus API in 2020**

- 1. Make the API a first class citizen**
  - the Scopus team will assume ownership of the API business logic in H1 2020 (Clear separation of responsibilities between ELSAPI team and Scopus team)
  - Support Open standards like GraphQL
  - Focus on inbound data in addition to outbound data (goal: improve Scopus data)
  - Align the API with other channels like Scopus.com and the SciVal API
- 2. Different API flavors for different audiences**
  - Corporates (ext mining)
  - CRIS systems
  - Assessment (with SciVal data)
  - Research
- 3. How?**
  - Improved documentation (templates, SDKs, Jupyter notebooks)
  - Tracking success
  - Build a community (hackathons, conferences, newsletters, twitter, etc.)

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Currently the API is not owned by Scopus Team, but by a central team (ELSAPI), moving it to the Scopus team will have the benefit of them having a closer relationship with both the content and customers. The improved documentation will include Software Development Kits (SDKs).

Kai went on to provide more details and a timeline for the replatforming:



Phase 1 is almost complete, work on software and scripts for data will be complete by the end of March. Phase two will run until end of June. Details on what is proposed for second half of the year can be seen on Slide 15 of the deck.

Alongside this Scopus will continue its on-going work of checking profile accuracy and adding content from books, conferences and additional journals.

### Other major projects in 2020

Additional content and improved profiles as described below will be loaded into Scopus throughout these 4 quarters

Project	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Author profiles:</b> improve profile completeness. Enable Sales with proactive cleanups for key accounts.	3,000 profiles p/month			
<b>Institution profiles:</b> proactively further improve the institution profiles, with recall guarantees.	~1,500 institutions unt			
<b>Journals:</b> close coverage gap in strategically important countries with national assessments: Japan, China, Australia and Italy	Order of 10s of journals			
<b>Books:</b> expansion phase 1. More publishers, more years, more subjects within A&H	Order of 10s thousands of books			
<b>Books:</b> expansion phase 2 for non-English languages. Yet unknown which languages.			Order of 10s thousands of books	
<b>Conferences:</b> expansion in existing segments. Meeting abstracts (pre-conference)	Order of hundreds conf's			
<b>Conferences:</b> expansion in other segments than Computer Science and Engineering.			Order of hundreds conf's	

### 5. Queries and Comments from Sherif members

The feedback received from Sherif members is included as appendix A. The responses are recorded here:

#### Imperial

1. Ability to export specific batches of results - numbering exports is being investigated. We had spoken earlier about need for large result sets for systematic reviews.
2. Tick boxes for previous searches - In the new platform the search history will be sticky for signed in users and they will be able to clear All or specific lines as necessary. It will be a customisation option to enable or disable this at personal or institutional level, although an institutional setting would trump a personal one. The storage of saved searches is GDPR compliant. Scopus will probably go back be more like WoS with tick boxes to select searches to combine, provided this is compliant with accessibility standards. Accessibility information for new Scopus will be available by the end of the summer.

3. Publisher copyright statements in abstract - lana will check if having these statements in the abstracts is contractual. It is a serious problem when searching for nature or science. If they are not contractual the statements could be removed, or alternative Scopus could exclude any statement containing © from search keywords. **Action:** lana

#### University of Bath

1. Sort order of results - Charles confirm that sorting is controlled by a browser cookie, so could carry forward from session to session. It is also option in Personalisation for users who sign in. The default sort order is Latest date - this needs to be made more prominent. There are plans to trial sort by Relevance versus Latest date.

#### University of Bedfordshire

1. The first error is due to transition to the new Elsevier sign-in and should go away. The 403 error is due to needing to change proxy settings to the configuration for new Elsevier sign-in. The helpdesk (second line support) can supply documentation on how to change the settings. If you don't get a satisfactory answer from helpdesk you can escalate the issue your customer consultant (Charles covering most of UK at present) and he can refer it further to people like Kai.

#### University of Plymouth

1. Request for SCOPUS roadmap - response was that a URL will be sent. **Action:** Patti to chase.

#### University of the Highlands and Islands

1. Can searches be edited - this functionality already exists in Scopus, see the pencil icon ringed in red in screenshot below



## 6. AOB

We did a quick round table to pick up any additional business or comments.

- Robyn - praised the efforts being made to improve Scopus.
- Laurian - commented that library budgets are tight, so there is scrutiny of databases and those which don't link out to full-text are more likely to be cancelled. She appealed for good usage statistics that prove Scopus' worth in this regard. lana added that Scopus is looking to increase access to legal free copies of articles, including manuscripts in repositories.
- Peter - again asked that date range searching be removed as a limit on the search page and replaced with a date range option in the facets in search results. He also raised that you can search by just Title/Abstract in advanced search, but this is not possible in simple search where the nearest option is Title/Abstract/Keywords. Sometimes people want specifically to search Title/Abstract or Keywords separately. Kai respond that this will get added to search pages in new Scopus.
- Elizabeth - asked if Alumni access was included in our agreements for Elsevier products. Charles respond that its not included in the agreements for Scopus or ScienceDirect.
- Patti - raised that the Scopus deal renewal is imminent. Charles responded that it should be on JISC website in a few days.

## 7. Date and place of next meeting

Date and venue to be confirmed - probably 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August on a Tuesday or Wednesday.

**Postscript** to the meeting: With the rapidly developing situation with COVID-19 it has been agreed by email between Elizabeth and Charles that the next meeting will most likely be an online meeting on Zoom which Elsevier will host.

**Actions for next meeting:**

Action	Page ref*	Action	By whom
1	P2:I3 action 6	Provide a use case for clickable keyword- from Aug 2019 meeting	Cranfield University
2	P2:I3 action 9	To raise at next Proquest Enhancement Group the raising of export limits from Scopus to Refworks	Elizabeth McHugh
3	P4:I4 Replatforming	To alert Sherif members when tests of new platform are scheduled	Charles Martinez
4	P4:I4 Replatforming	Sherif members to feedback to Charles if a test will cause them problems e.g. clashes with training session, so their institution can be excluded from test	Any Sherif members using Scopus
5	P7:I5 Imperial 3	To check whether copyright statements in abstract are a contractual requirement	Iana Tsandev
6	P7:I5 Plymouth	Request URL for Scopus Roadmap	Patti Biggs

Page Ref constructed as

P - page of minutes

I - item number

p - pages referred to in Actions from previous minutes

Name & number - Name of university raising issue and point number in current minutes.



# Appendix A: Scopus Feedback from sheriff institutions March 2020

## Imperial College

1. Be able to specify record numbers in export. The 2000 full record export batch limit is made more complicated by only offering to export the first 2000. Web of Science also has an export batch limit but user can specify the records, making it easier to coordinate the manual batching of very large results for export.



### Export Records to File

All records on page

Records from:  to

No more than 500 records at a time.

2. Tick boxes in Saved/Past searches would be easier for students who seem to struggle with the Combine queries function, see Web of Science



Set	Results		Edit Sets	Combine Sets	Delete Sets
		Save History / Create Alert    Open Saved History		AND OR Combine	Select All Delete
# 4	9	AUTHOR: (Jackson, Christopher A. -L*) AND YEAR PUBLISHED: (2018) AND DOCUMENT TYPES: (Article) <i>Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, ABHCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, ESCI Timespan=All years</i>	Edit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
# 3	0	AUTHOR: (Jackson, Christopher A. -L*) AND YEAR PUBLISHED: (2018) AND DOCUMENT TYPES: (Book) <i>Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, ABHCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, ESCI Timespan=All years</i>	Edit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
# 2	0	ORGANIZATION-ENHANCED: (Imperial College London) AND YEAR PUBLISHED: (2018) AND DOCUMENT TYPES: (Book) <i>Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, ABHCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, ESCI Timespan=All years</i>	Edit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
# 1	570,564	TOPIC: (diabetes) <i>Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, ABHCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, ESCI Timespan=All years</i>	Edit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Option to exclude copyright statement from abstract search  
Publisher name in copyright statements seen to make non relevant terms appear in Title, Abs, Keyword search e.g. ( TITLE-ABS-KEY ( nature ) ) lists amongst results 10.1038/d41586-020-00354-4 which seems an error due to 'Nature' appearing in the Abs copyright line?

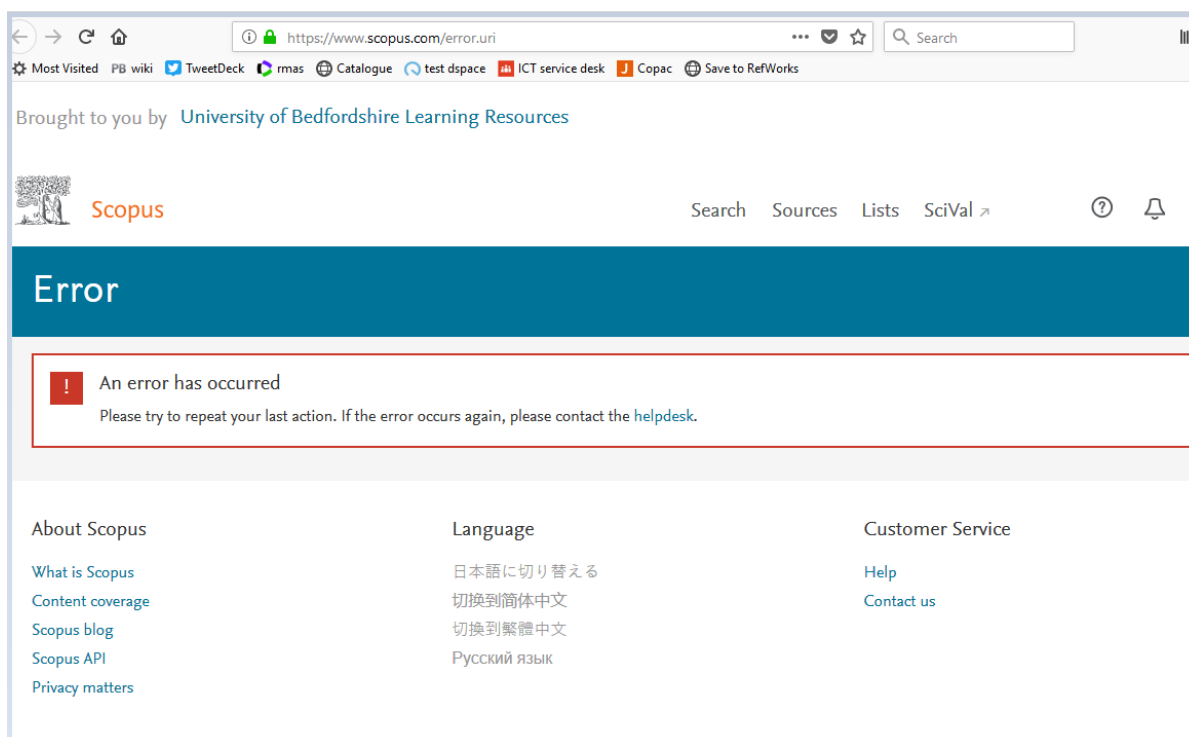
## University of Bath

- The only issue that's been raised by one of my colleagues is one partially discussed during the last meeting - the issue of making 'relevance' the default for the 'sort on' option. However, even more concerning is the lack of *any* default (as a result of a cookie tracking the previous sort-on setting?)

As it is, it can be difficult to impress upon students the value of re-sorting results, so this inconsistency makes our task more difficult still. Also, I feel that this kind of tracked/personalised functionality is only of value to those who search Scopus very regularly - and then only some of them.

## University of Bedfordshire

- We've been having some odd error messages with Scopus recently, which we have reported to them but which they say are just cookie issues and don't seem to regard as a problem, could you raise that?



### University of Plymouth

- Where we can access the 2020 Roadmap? It doesn't appear to be publicly available anywhere and we are now well into 2020..... possibly we are just missing it somewhere?

### University of the Highlands and Islands

- From a professor : I have found Scopus a joy to use. I don't really know why it has taken me so long to discover it, as I have used similar resources for years, but Scopus is the most useful that I have found so far. It is easy to use (I still have not fully explored all its functions) and a really comprehensive site to access publications that I am browsing for. I have already recommended it to several other colleagues.

Thanks for the intro.

- From the Subject Librarian for Nursing : Be good to get some functionality in which allows searches to be edited e.g. if you have a search of 10 lines and you notice a typo in line 3 it would be good to be able to go in and edit line 3.