



Archives of Plastic Surgery's efforts to become indexed in Science Citation Index Extended (SCIE) over the last 3 years



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Three years ago, in 2016, *Archives of Plastic Surgery* (APS) prepared itself for inclusion in the Science Citation Index Extended (SCIE), but did not succeed. At that time, Thomson Reuters created a new rating system, Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), which encompassed many journals that hoped to be included in SCIE. APS could not help but follow the same path.

APS, the official journal of the Korean Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, has been applying for inclusion in SCIE since it was changed to an all-English journal in 2012. In 2016, APS was reviewed again by Thomson Reuters for inclusion in SCIE and has received notice that it will be reviewed again later this year (2019). APS was not indexed in SCIE in the last review for the following reasons: a lack of international diversity of authors, too many papers with non-citable images, and the fact that many plastic surgery titles already exist. For the last 3 years, APS has been continually striving to improve in response to the issues raised during the previous review, and further details on the process and results are presented below.

INTERNATIONAL DIVERSITY OF AUTHORS

Regarding the international diversity of authors, the recent issues of APS have regularly published articles by authors from over 20 countries, with papers written by authors from 10, 25, 20, 19, 22, 20, and 25 countries in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively. The percentage of authors from countries other than Korea has been steadily growing, with proportions of 10.14%, 29.94%, 38.46%, 36.09%, 30.65%,

39.39%, and 50.45% in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively. Currently, the percentage for 2019 is 52.85%. Fifty-seven editorial board members from 15 countries are active, including 29 foreign editorial board members from 14 countries other than Korea, while 306 reviewers from 41 countries are active, including 117 foreign reviewers from 40 countries other than Korea [1,2].

ABOUT PAPERS WITH NON-CITABLE IMAGES

The percentage of papers with non-citable images was high from 2012 to 2016 (15.94%, 22 out of 138 papers in 2012; 25.74%, 43 out of 167 papers in 2013; 23.07%, 36 out of 156 papers in 2014; 36.09%, 61 out of 169 papers in 2015; and 32.11%, 44 out of 137 papers in 2016), but since then, it has been kept low. The percentages of papers with non-citable images in 2017 and 2018 were 9.82% (11/112) and 10.09% (11/109), respectively.

JOURNALS OF PLASTIC SURGERY TITLES ALREADY EXIST

No journal from Asia has yet been indexed in SCI(E) in the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery. This gap is noteworthy, given the need for high-quality studies from Asian countries to be well-represented in the increasingly diverse world of scientific research. Even considering the language barrier, various translation technologies have been developed in the 21st century, suggesting that it would be appropriate for APS to be in-

dexed. The cites/document (2 years) in the SCImago Journal & Country Rank, which is provided by Scopus, was 1.53, while its SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) was 0.717, corresponding to second place out of 38 journals in 2018 when the scope was limited to Surgery-Asiatic Region. The estimated impact factor of APS was 1.39 (284/203), 1.47 (278/189), 1.45 (239/167), and 1.46 (232/159) in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively. These figures show the steady and competitive growth of APS within the plastic surgery field, with an impact factor of about 1.4 [3].

OTHER EFFORTS

APS is the official journal of PRS Korea, one of the world's largest conference in the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery, after for the American Society of Plastic Surgeons [4,5]. In Korea, the capital of plastic surgery, researchers and clinical practitioners are actively developing new ideas and techniques, and plastic surgery is widely performed. At PRS Korea 2018, 120 international invited speakers presented on various themes and 300 international plastic surgeons—not counting Korean surgeons—participated. At PRS Korea 2019, which will be held in November 2019, many prominent scholars will participate, including Alan Matarasso, the 2019 President of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons; Gregory M. Buncke, Director of the Buncke Medical Clinic; and David W. Chang, Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at University of Chicago Medicine.

Finally, while taking steps to address the issue of publishing ethics, APS ran an editorial and review article on statistics and ethics [6,7].

Although Clarivate Analytics was spun off from Thomson Reuters, we believe that the principles underlying inclusion in SCIE remain the same. We anticipate that our ongoing efforts to be indexed in SCIE will be evaluated fairly, and that APS will become the first and only SCIE journal in the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery in Asia. Furthermore, we hope that PRS will serve as the leading forum for communications in this field not only for Asian-Pacific researchers, but for researchers all over the world.

NOTES

Conflict of interest

Yong-Ha Kim has served as an editor-in-chief of the *Archives of Plastic Surgery*, but have no role in the decision to publish this article. Except for that, no potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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