

WHITE PAPER

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND THEIR IMPACT ON GLOBAL RESEARCH

ENHANCING PROCEEDINGS COVERAGE
WITH CITED REFERENCE SEARCHING



CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS CITATION INDEX: DIGGING DEEPER INTO PROCEEDINGS COVERAGE

Every year, thousands of professionals in the sciences and social sciences gather to refresh their skills, network and collaborate with their colleagues, and learn about the latest developments in their field.

At these worldwide gatherings — whether they are conferences, symposia, seminars, colloquia, workshops or conventions — participants present the ideas and paths that will shape the future of research. The proceedings that result are frequently referred to and highly cited in subsequent research papers.

Conferences are the place where ideas are often first presented and begin their development. Their proceedings are published in both books and journals, and each format appeals to different areas of research:

“Conference proceedings published in books are known to be a popular vehicle for scholarly communication in the physical sciences, particularly engineering. However, in fast-moving areas of the biomedical sciences, conference proceedings are more typically published in journals. In the life sciences, for example, a rapid dissemination of critical information is essential and journals provide the best medium for this.”

– Conference Proceedings Selection Process, by Jim Testa

TOP 10 CONFERENCE CATEGORIES*

CATEGORY	# OF CONFERENCES
SURGERY	6357
ENGINEERING, ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC	6164
COMPUTER SCIENCE, THEORY & METHODS	4215
COMPUTER SCIENCE, INFORMATION SYSTEMS	3440
OPTICS	3173
ECONOMICS	2969
MATERIALS SCIENCE, SOFTWARE ENGINEERING	2675

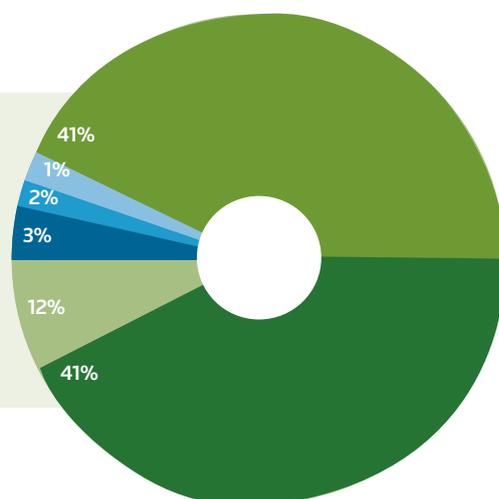
Conference Proceedings offer broad coverage of new ideas and emerging developments in fast-moving areas of research.

* Data from 2007.

GLOBAL COVERAGE OF CONFERENCES

LOCATION OF CONFERENCES

EUROPE	41%
VIRTUAL	> 1%
AFRICA	1%
SOUTH AMERICA	2%
AUSTRALIA	3%
ASIA	12%
NORTH AMERICA	41%



USING CITED REFERENCE SEARCHING TO DISCOVER THE FULL IMPACT OF THE LATEST EMERGING RESEARCH

Web of Science® now includes full coverage of both journal and book-based proceedings. The significance of this addition lies with the hundreds of thousands of citations made each year to conference proceedings. These citations are the key to tracking influence and discovering connections, and they are now unified with cited references from the journal literature.

Users will now see significantly higher citation counts in areas of rapidly developing areas of research. These citation counts will depict a more accurate assessment of the full impact of the latest emerging research, and show how professional conferences fit into the overall research picture.

A UNIFIED CITATION COUNT INCLUDES BOTH JOURNALS AND PROCEEDINGS CITATIONS

Researchers can use *Conference Proceedings Citation Index* within *Web of Science* to track the influence and impact of individual proceedings papers, conferences as a whole, or the conference series. They can more effectively detect emerging trends that help them pursue successful research and grant acquisition. And they can create performance metrics that show the true impact of their work. This capability is especially valuable in fields such as computer science, engineering and the physical sciences, where proceedings can have a huge impact on the total number of citations to an individual's or institution's work.

Department heads, provosts, and other administrators will also be able to derive a more complete picture of their department's or institution's productivity and influence – invaluable as they review programs, allocate resources, decide on tenure and promote accomplishments.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND CITED REFERENCE SEARCHING: CONTRIBUTING TO A MORE ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE SCHOLARLY RECORD

Conference proceedings published in books are carefully acquired and selected, and meet the high standards for quality expected from every Thomson Reuters resource. Proceedings are a key part of the scholarly literature and an important aspect of an individual's record of research activity and impact. Accessing conference proceedings through a citation database enables users to see the full value of a paper – and the full reach of a discipline or an institution.

Conference Proceedings Citation Index coverage:

- Global coverage of over 110,000 conference proceedings from 1990
- Cited references and cumulative citation counts from 1999
- Two editions: Science; Social Sciences and Humanities
- 256 disciplines
- Nearly 400,000 proceedings records added each year
- Direct links to the full text of proceedings papers

DISCOVER THE TRUE IMPACT OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

The image displays two screenshots of the Web of Science interface. The top screenshot shows a record for the article "Cooperative diversity in wireless networks: Efficient protocols and outage behavior" by Laneman JN, Tse DNC, and Wornell GW. The "Times Cited" is 741, which is circled in red. The bottom screenshot shows a record for "On power-law relationships of the Internet topology" by Faloutsos M, Faloutsos P, and Faloutsos C. The "Times Cited" is 499, also circled in red. Both screenshots show the "Cited by" count and a list of citing articles.

< Proceedings are an especially valuable indicator of impact in fields such as engineering, computer science, and physics. Times Cited counts now provide a more complete assessment of an article's influence.

< The combination of proceedings coverage and cited reference searching offers unique insights into the impact of important, highly influential research.

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