

I. Aims

The ASEAN Citation Index (ACI) is a regional citation database that indexes academic journals published in ASEAN member countries. It enhances the visibility and accessibility of research from the region.

This study assesses the extent to which Vietnamese ACI journals meet Scopus' minimum criteria, and propose recommendations to enhance quality and increase the chances of successful inclusion in Scopus.

III. Results and Discussion

The ACI Selection Criteria

Prior to 2024: Focused mainly on abstract quality, review policy, journal information on the website, diversity of editorial team and authors.

In 2024: Additional focus on

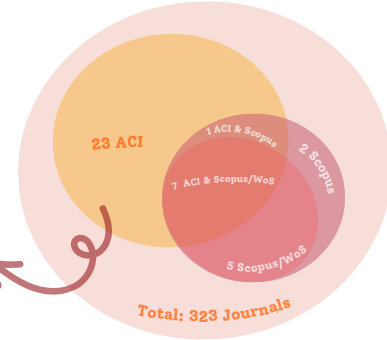
- Journal's identification (ISSN number, aims and scope, etc.),
- Academic integrity
- Quality of published articles
- Transparency of information disclosure (e.g., publication fee, APC, receipt and acceptance dates)

II. Methodology & Data

Quality Content Analysis: Interpret and analyze the meaning of qualitative data, such as journal policies and website, to identify patterns, themes, or trends.

Comparative Analysis: Compare ACI selection criteria and Scopus minimum criteria. ACI has 5 primary criteria and 9 secondary criteria; Scopus has 4 minimum criteria and 5 review categories

Data: Classification of SCOPUS/ WoS and ACI-Indexed Journals in Vietnam (Feb. 2025)



JTEM

Overview of Vietnamese Academic Journals Indexed in Scopus, WoS, and ACI

	Publication Model	Manuscript Management Systems	Publishers (Renowned International vs Local)	Editorial Board Members Diversity	International Collaboration	Website Quality	Journal Policies
Scopus/WoS -indexed Journals (n=15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diamond Open Access • Hybrid Model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScholarOne • Editorial Manager • eJManager • Open Journal Systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 73% of journals (n=11) published by international publishers (e.g., Elsevier, Springer, Emerald, etc.) • 21% of journals (n=4) published by local publishers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% journals have > 50% of members from outside Vietnam 	High	High	High
ACI-indexed Journals prior to 2024 (n=19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diamond Open Access • Hybrid Model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScholarOne • Editorial Manager • eJManager • Open Journal Systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26% of journals (n=5) published by international publishers (e.g., Wiley, Taylor and Francis, World Scientific Publishing) • 74% of journals (n=14) published by local publishers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% journals have > 50% of members from outside the publishing institution • 74% journals have > 30% of members from outside Vietnam 	Medium	High-Medium	High-Medium
New ACI-indexed Journals in 2024 (n=12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diamond Open Access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Journal Systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of journals published by local publishers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% journals have > 50% of members from outside the publishing institution • 25% journals have > 30% of members from outside Vietnam 	Medium-Low	Medium	Medium

STRENGTHS

- Vietnamese academic journals have successfully passed the initial stage of international integration, with many journals indexed in Scopus and WoS.
- Vietnamese academic community upholds high standards for scholarly publishing.
- Universities and research institutions show strong commitment to promoting open science and ensuring open access to research and knowledge.

WEAKNESSES

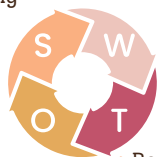
- Development of research integrity policies in academic publishing is still at an early stage and needs significant improvement.
- International co-publishing models with renowned publishers—despite being highly effective—remain limited in Vietnam.
- Replacing outdated submission platforms with high-standard systems (e.g., Manuscript Central) remains a challenge.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Resolution No. 57/NQ-TW (2024) on strengthening science and innovation in higher education potentially facilitates journal development and internationalization.
- The national digital transformation agenda supports journals in modernizing editorial systems and aligning with international indexing standards.

THREATS

- Rapid changes in technology and rise of misinformation require academic journals to improve their ability to maintain integrity, transparency, and relevance to society.
- Academic journals in Vietnam often lack enough investment, effective systems, and supportive policies to support long-term growth.



IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions:

Despite ACI's discontinuation in 2025, this study affirms its role as a valuable preparatory step for Scopus indexing. **Vietnamese ACI-indexed journals meet Scopus' minimum criteria, with all disclosing academic integrity policies.**

However, only 39% have formal policies for retraction and correction, and most lack clear guidelines on the use of AI in research.

Recommendations:

- Create a new regional database/index for Asia as well as other regions.
- Increase investment in scholar publishing.
- Develop AI usage policies for journals to ensure originality and transparency as well as involve more well-known international scholars on editorial boards/teams.
- **Boost the visibility of Vietnamese journals through international collaboration to increase impact.**