



NARRATIVE REVIEW

# A 2026 Edition of the Procedure for Forming the List of Scientific Professional Publications of Ukraine: Scopus and/or Web of Science Core Collection

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## ABSTRACT

On January 19, 2026, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, by Order No. 56, approved a new edition of the Procedure for Forming the List of Scientific Professional Publications of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the List), registered with the Ministry of Justice on January 28, 2026 under No. 129/45523. The updated Procedure establishes a new mechanism for forming the List, which is formed on the basis of unified criteria for selecting scientific periodicals, taking into account the principles of academic integrity and internationally recognized standards of publication ethics, in order to integrate the results of Ukraine's scientific activity into the international and European research space and provides for their division into two categories: (a) Category "A", which is assigned to scientific periodicals indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection (WoS) and/or Scopus databases, and (b) Category "B", which is assigned to scientific periodicals that meet the requirements of paragraph 7 of the Procedure. To assign a scientific periodical to category "A", the founder submits an application in electronic form through the URIS system, completed in accordance with the requirements of the Procedure. The deadline for submitting an application for inclusion of a scientific periodical in category "A" of the List is not limited. The article provides a full translation of the Ministry's Order detailing the requirements of paragraph 7. In Ukraine, a specialist who wants to develop as a clinician and scientific and pedagogical worker may need publications in Scopus and/or WoS in 7 different directions. The article details all 7 areas. The new edition of the Ministry's order cements the importance of databases such as Scopus and/or WoS for both peer-reviewed publications and the careers of practitioners and scientific and practical workers. At the same time, obtaining publications in journals indexed in these databases opens up wide career opportunities for specialists.

## KEY WORDS

Scientific professional publication, professional publication, List of Scientific Professional Publications of Ukraine, Web of Science Core Collection, Scopus, category "A" professional publication, category "B" professional publication

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**Article type:** Narrative review.

**Please cite this article as:** Tymofieiev OO, Fesenko II. A 2026 edition of the procedure for forming the List of Scientific Professional Publications of Ukraine: Scopus and/or Web of Science Core Collection. *J Diagn Treat Oral Maxillofac Pathol.* 2026;10(2):100315.

Manuscript received 20 February 2026  
Accepted 26 February 2026  
Available online 28 February 2026

<https://doi.org/10.23999/j.dtomp.2026.2.100315>

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The development of a peer-reviewed journal in Ukraine and around the world is a long, exhausting, and extremely laborious process. This is not just a journal, but a full-fledged institution with its own staff, resources, traditions, and achievements. And a key element in the development of the journal is indexing by such prestigious databases as Scopus and/or Web of Science Core Collection (WoS) [1-3]. And the new Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine on Scientific Professional Publications of Ukraine contributes to their further evolution. The previous Order No. 32 was dated January 15, 2018 [4].

The purpose of this article is to translate a new edition of the Procedure for Forming the List of Scientific Professional Publications of Ukraine and highlight the needs of journals in international databases. Areas of the professional life of clinicians and academics that require publications in journals indexed in Scopus and/or WoS will also be presented.

## 2. LEGISLATION

### Valid

- Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine dated January 15, 2018 No. 32 (as amended by the Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine dated January 19, 2026 No. 56) [5]. Registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on January 28, 2026, under No. 129/45523.

### Procedure for Forming the List of Scientific Professional Publications of Ukraine

1. This Procedure establishes the mechanism for forming the List of Scientific Professional Publications of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the List), as well as the classification and monitoring of publications included in the List [5].

2. Submission of a scientific periodical for inclusion in the List is carried out by its founder on a voluntary basis in accordance with the requirements of this Procedure.

The List is formed on the basis of uniform criteria for the selection of scientific periodicals, established taking into account the principles of academic integrity and internationally recognized standards

of publication ethics, in order to integrate the results of scientific activity of Ukraine into the international and European research space.

The terms used in this Procedure have the following meaning:

- Founder of a scientific periodical of Ukraine (hereinafter - founder) - a legal entity (individuals may act as co-founders) that initiates the creation of a scientific periodical of Ukraine, makes a decision on its foundation, determines its concept, goals and topics, and also acts as a registrant in the register of subjects in the media sector and is responsible for its organizational and legal support.
- Cluster - an association (group) of scientific professional publications of Ukraine belonging to related fields of knowledge and/or united by a common thematic direction and/or areas of research.
- Scientific professional publication of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as professional publication) - a scientific periodical that is included in the List.
- Dishonest scientific periodical - a scientific periodical that does not meet the criteria established by subparagraphs 10, 11 of clause 7 of these Procedures.
- Publication ethics - adherence to the principles of academic integrity during the preparation, review, publication and dissemination of scientific results.
- Editorial board (board) of a professional publication (hereinafter referred to as editorial board) - a collegial body established by the founder to form and approve the editorial policy of a scientific publication, organize independent review and exercise control over compliance with publication ethics during the preparation, publication and dissemination of submitted materials.
- Rating score - an integrated indicator determined by summing up the points awarded according to the evaluation criteria established by this Procedure for scientific periodicals.
- Retraction of an article - an official withdrawal (cancellation), including at the initiative of the author, of an already published scientific article, the decision on which is made by the editorial board in case of detection of violations of publication ethics and/or other significant shortcomings (errors,

plagiarism or incorrect borrowing of text, ideas, data or research results, lack of proper references to primary sources of data, re-publication of the same article in another publication without proper justification, inclusion of authors who did not make a significant scientific contribution to the research, or exclusion of authors who made such a contribution, detection of an unfair review process, presence of a conflict of interest that could have influenced or influenced the research results, etc.), which make it impossible to reliably use the results of such an article. After retraction, the article is stored in the archive of the scientific publication with a clear indication of the fact of its retraction.

- Other terms are used in the meanings given in the Law of Ukraine "On Publishing", the Procedure for Awarding and Depriving the Scientific Degree of Doctor of Sciences, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated November 17, 2021, No. 1197.

3. The list is formed from scientific periodicals and provides for their division into two categories:

- Category "A", which is assigned to scientific periodicals indexed in the WoS and/or Scopus databases.
- Category "B", which is assigned to scientific periodicals that meet the requirements of paragraph 7 of these Procedures.

A professional publication of category "A" is not limited to the declared specialties and clusters.

A professional publication of category "B" may be represented by a maximum number of specialties within one cluster (Appendix 1).

4. To assign a scientific periodical to category "A", the founder submits an application in electronic form through the National Electronic Scientific Information System (hereinafter - the URIS system), drawn up in accordance with Appendix 2. The deadline for submitting an application for inclusion of a scientific periodical in category "A" of the List is not limited.

5. To assign a scientific periodical to category "B", the founder submits an application in electronic form through the URIS system, completed in accordance with Appendix 3.

Applications are accepted from February 1 to April 30, inclusive, once every three years.

6. To assign a category "A", the scientific periodical must be indexed in the WoS and/or Scopus databases.

7. To be assigned category "B", a scientific periodical must meet the following requirements:

- (1) It has been founded and published for at least two years as of the date of submission of the application for inclusion in the List and has a frequency of at least one issue per year.
- (2) Each article must have a registered digital object identifier (DOI), which provides redirection to the publication's web page where the corresponding article is posted.
- (3) The editorial board includes at least nine scientists who have a scientific degree and conduct scientific research in the declared cluster, of whom no more than half are in employment relations with the founder, and at least two foreigners who are in employment relations with foreign higher education institutions and/or scientific institutions. A scientist may be a member of no more than three editorial boards of professional publications of category "B". The editor-in-chief may be a member of no more than two editorial boards of professional publications of category "B", including being the editor-in-chief of only one professional publication of category "B". To include a scientist in the editorial board, his written consent is required.
- (4) Scientists involved in the editorial board must have scientific publications in the relevant field, including at least three scientific publications over the past five years, indexed in the WoS and/or Scopus databases. The following is equated to a publication indexed in the WoS and/or Scopus databases:

- Three completed manuscript reviews resulting in articles being accepted for publication in WoS publications, as confirmed in the corresponding author profile.
- Management of a scientific research and/or development project funded by the results of an international competitive selection (Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, NATO, Euratom competitions, other international projects), registered in accordance with the Procedure for Registration of International Scientific and Technical Programs and Projects Implemented within the Framework

of International Scientific and Technical Cooperation by Ukrainian Scientists, as well as Grants Provided within the Framework of Such Cooperation, Approved by Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine No. 1507 of November 20, 2017, Registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on December 27, 2017 under No. 1564/31432, or by the results of a nationwide competitive selection (competitions of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Innovation Development Foundation, the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation).

- Monograph (except chapters in collective monographs), reviewed and recommended for publication by a higher education institution or scientific institution and/or indexed in the WoS and/or Scopus databases, published within the last five years (for the clusters "National Security and Defense" and "Humanities and Arts").
- A scientific publication in a publication classified in the first quartile (Q1) according to the SCImago Journal and Country Rank or Journal Citation Reports classification is equal to two publications.

(5) The presence of a website (webpage) of the publication with identical Ukrainian and English interfaces (the interface may also include other foreign languages related to the scope of distribution of the publication), which contains the following information:

- General information about the publication: title, ISSN number, publisher's EDRPOU code, DOI prefix, year of foundation, scientific profile of the publication (cluster name), contact information of the publisher and/or founder.
- The purpose and objectives of the publication; requirements for design and procedure for submitting publications; review policy; policy of academic integrity and publication ethics; procedure for considering complaints regarding violations of ethical norms; policy on the use of artificial intelligence (hereinafter referred to as AI) and technologies with its support; retraction procedure; information about the amount of money established by the publication that the author or an affiliated organization pays for processing, reviewing and publishing an article in the publication (article processing charge [APC]) or information about its absence; open access

policy and terms of use of copyright objects.

- The review procedure, publication ethics and editorial policy of the publication, which meets the recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics (Committee on Publication Ethics [COPE]).
- The composition of the editorial board with an indication of the scientific degree, academic title, main place of work and country, as well as web links to research profiles (ORCID, ResearcherID, Scopus author ID), which must contain up-to-date information about publishing activities. The availability of the current issue and archive with an indication of the source information of the publication, the date of online placement and the date of printing.
- In the case of open access - full texts of articles on the website (webpage) of the scientific periodical. Each article must be available as a separate full-text unit, accompanied by a title, abstract, keywords, a list of sources used in Ukrainian and/or English, have a separate standardized resource address (URL) and be presented in HTML and/or PDF format.

(6) The HTML and/or PDF version of each scientific article must contain the ISSN number of the publication, the DOI of the article, the ORCID of the author(s), the open access license (if available), as well as clear and reliable dates:

- The date of the first receipt of the article by the publication.
- The date of acceptance of the article for publication after review.
- The date of publication (publication).
- The publication date indicated on the website (webpage) and in the article file must fully correspond to the date registered in the DOI metadata of this article. Publication is carried out by simultaneously posting on the own website (webpage) the entire next issue of the publication or by gradually publishing it by posting individual articles.

(7) Must receive a rating score of at least 30 percent of the maximum sum of points specified in Appendix 4.

(8) The functioning of the publication's website (webpage) using the HTTPS protocol, which

is ensured by the presence of a valid SSL/TLS certificate.

- (9) During the year preceding the year of application submission, it was not excluded from the List.
- (10) Adhere to the policy of academic integrity and publication ethics, information about which is posted on the publication's website (webpage) in accordance with the requirements of subparagraph 5 of this paragraph.
- (11) Adhere to the policy of publishing transparency and quality control, which provides for:

- Information published on the publication's website, in particular on the composition of the editorial board, review procedures, policies and actual indexing in scientometric databases, must be complete, reliable and subject to verification.
- Control over the volume of publications: in one issue (number) of the publication, no more than one article by one author (co-author) may be published. The total annual volume of published materials (number of articles) must not increase by more than 50 percent compared to the previous year, except for cases that have an objective and documented justification.
- Transparency of financial policy: the APC policy published in accordance with subparagraph 5 of this paragraph must clearly define the stage at which payment is charged. The amount of APC cannot be changed for the author after the date of official submission of the article by him.

8. The List is formed by the Ministry of Education and Science.

The organizational support for the consideration of applications is carried out by an independent structural unit of the Ministry of Education and Science, which is entrusted with the functions of certification of highly qualified personnel (hereinafter referred to as the Unit) with the technical support of the State Scientific and Technical Library of Ukraine through the URIS system.

In order to provide expert support for the consideration of applications, the Ministry of Education and Science shall establish a commission on publication ethics and the formation of the List of scientific professional publications of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the Commission), which is an advisory and consultative body of the Ministry of Education and Science, and shall approve the

regulations on it. In its activities, the Commission shall be guided by the recommendations of COPE on the formation of publication ethics and shall exercise its powers in accordance with the regulations on the Commission.

9. The Commission is formed from leading specialists who have experience in publishing articles in leading international publications and significant professional experience in the field of assessing the quality of scientific periodicals, their publishing activities, as well as representatives of interested executive bodies, institutions and public organizations, higher education institutions and scientific institutions (upon consent). A member of the Commission who is the editor-in-chief and/or a member of the editorial board of a scientific periodical undergoing expert evaluation for inclusion in category "B" of the List does not have the right to participate in voting on a decision regarding such a publication if it has a real or potential conflict of interest.

Proposals for candidates for the Commission are submitted by the Council of Presidents of the Academies of Sciences of Ukraine, the Scientific Committee of the National Council of Ukraine on the Development of Science and Technology, scientific institutions and higher education institutions.

The First Deputy (Deputy) Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, who is responsible for ensuring the formation and implementation of state policy in the field of scientific and scientific and technical activity, and the Head of the Unit, who performs the functions of the Secretary of the Commission, are members of the Commission *ex officio*.

The personal composition of the Commission is approved by order of the Ministry of Education and Science. Once every six years, the personal composition of the Commission is subject to mandatory renewal. The decision of the Commission is made by a majority vote of the members of the Commission present at the meeting.

Functions of the Commission:

- Adopts the rules of its work.
- Provides recommendations to the editorial boards of professional publications on compliance with the provisions of publication ethics in accordance with the recommendations of COPE.
- Participates in conducting an expert assessment of applications submitted by founders for inclusion

of scientific periodicals in categories "A" and "B" of the List, and in forming a rating list of scientific periodicals for category "B" within each cluster.

- Makes proposals for determining the final results of the assessment of scientific periodicals for category "B".
- Participates in the annual monitoring of the List and in considering issues regarding the exclusion of professional publications from the List.
- Analyzes cases of violations of publication ethics and provides recommendations on these issues to the editorial boards of scientific periodicals.
- Monitors compliance with publication ethics and considers issues regarding violations of publication ethics and academic integrity by founders and/or publishers.

10. Applications are submitted through the URIS system and registered by the Ministry of Education and Science on the day of their receipt, of which the founder is automatically notified. The procedure for reviewing the application is displayed in the electronic account of the founder who submitted an application for inclusion in category "A" or "B" of the List.

If the application is submitted in violation of the requirements established by this Procedure, the Ministry of Education and Science makes a decision to leave the application without action and no later than within three working days from the date of receipt of the application sends a notification via the URIS system about leaving the application without action, which indicates information about the identified shortcomings, the method and time frame for their elimination, as well as the methods, procedure and time frames for appealing the decision to leave the application without action.

11. The applicant must eliminate the identified shortcomings within five working days from the date of receipt of such notification, and the application is considered submitted on the day of its initial submission, and the term for its consideration is extended by the term for leaving the application without action.

At the applicant's request, the Ministry of Education and Science makes a decision to extend the term for eliminating the identified shortcomings.

Repeatedly leaving the application without action is not allowed if the identified shortcomings indicated in the notification of leaving the application without action have been eliminated.

12. The decision of the Ministry of Education and Science to leave the application without action may be appealed by the founder in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Administrative Procedure" and/or to the court in accordance with the procedure and terms established by law.

13. Submitted applications for inclusion of a scientific periodical in the List and assignment of category "B" are considered by the Ministry of Education and Science for compliance with the requirements of paragraph 7 of this Procedure and are evaluated according to the criteria specified in Appendix 4 to this Procedure. For each criterion, a scoring scale is established within the range from 1 to 5. The maximum sum of points is 30.

The rating list of scientific periodicals of category "B" is formed within each cluster for a period of three years no later than May 30 of the year in which the publications are evaluated.

Based on the results of the inspection and evaluation, the Ministry of Education and Science shall make one of the following decisions:

- On including a scientific periodical in the List and assigning it the appropriate category.
- On refusing to include a scientific periodical in the List and assigning it the appropriate category.

The decision of the Ministry of Education and Science shall contain a motivational part.

14. The grounds for refusing to include a scientific periodical in the List and assigning it the appropriate category are:

- for categories "A" and "B":

Providing by the founder of unreliable information specified in the submitted application.

Inclusion in the editorial board of persons in respect of whom, in accordance with the legislation, facts of violation of academic integrity have been established.

Inclusion in the editorial board and/or involvement as reviewers of persons who are residents of a state recognized in accordance with the established procedure as an aggressor or occupying state, or of the Republic of Belarus, as well as persons who had confirmed facts of scientific and technical cooperation, in particular through co-authorship in publications submitted for publication after February 24, 2022.

- for category "A":  
non-compliance of the scientific periodical with the requirement established by paragraph 6 of these Procedures.

- for category "B":  
non-compliance of the scientific periodical with the requirements established by paragraph 7 of these Procedures.

15. In the event that there are grounds for the Ministry of Education and Science to make a decision to refuse to assign the relevant category to a scientific periodical and its inclusion in the List, provided for in paragraph 14 of these Procedures, the applicant shall be notified via the URIS system of the need to submit his/her explanations and/or objections, indicating the deadline and method for their submission.

The Ministry of Education and Science shall consider the explanations and/or objections provided by the applicant and shall make a final decision on the refusal to assign the relevant category to the scientific periodical and its inclusion in the List by issuing an order, a copy of which shall be sent to the founder no later than within three working days from the date of its adoption via the URIS system.

The decision to refuse to assign the relevant category to the scientific periodical and its inclusion in the List may be appealed in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Administrative Procedure" and/or to the court in accordance with the procedure and terms established by law.

16. The list of professional publications included in the List is approved by order of the Ministry of Education and Science and published on the official website no later than three working days from the date of its approval.

When a scientific periodical is included in the List, it is assigned the appropriate category, which, together with the name of the cluster and the date of inclusion in the List, must be indicated in the source information of the publication, and which must be constantly visually available on the website (webpage) of the publication.

17. Professional publications included in the List are subject to annual monitoring of compliance with the requirements of this Procedure, which is carried out by the Subdivision.

18. The grounds for excluding a professional publication from the List are:

- The founder's own initiative (at the founder's request).

- Termination of publishing activities (at the founder's request).
- Termination of indexing of a category "A" professional publication in the Web of Science Core Collection and/or Scopus databases.
- Detection in a professional publication of category "B" of violations of the requirements stipulated in paragraph 7 of these Procedures.
- Systematic (more than two cases) publication of materials that do not meet scientific quality standards, namely materials that do not have a clearly defined scientific problem and/or research methodology, that do not contain substantiated conclusions that meet the purpose of the research, and/or that duplicate already published research results without proper development or new application.

19. In the event of establishing grounds for excluding a professional publication from the List, specified in paragraphs four to six of paragraph 18 of these Procedures, the Ministry of Education and Science shall notify the founder in writing with a proposal to provide explanations and/or objections within a period not exceeding one month.

The Ministry of Education and Science shall consider the explanations and/or objections submitted by the founder regarding the violation of the requirements of these Procedures and shall make one of the following decisions:

- To leave the professional publication on the List.
- To exclude the professional publication from the List.

20. In the event of exclusion of a professional publication from the List, the Ministry of Education and Science shall issue a corresponding order, a copy of which shall be sent to the founder no later than within three working days from the date of its acceptance to the e-mail address specified in the application and via the URIS system.

The decision of the Ministry of Education and Science to exclude a professional publication from the List may be appealed in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Administrative Procedure" and/or to the court in accordance with the procedure and terms established by law.

21. In the event of changes to the official name of a professional publication, the name of the founder (for legal entities), or the surname, first name and

patronymic (for individuals), the founder shall submit a request to the Ministry of Education and Science to make the corresponding changes to the List regarding this publication within one month.

## DISCUSSION

WoS and Scopus have been the two most widely used databases for bibliometric analyses (Singh et al., 2021) [6]. According to Baas et al. (2020) and Pranckutė (2021), WoS was the only source of bibliographic data for more than 40 years, until 2004, when Scopus was launched by Elsevier [7, 8]. Numerous analytical works explore Scopus and WoS [9-16], as two competing citation databases (Zhu and Liu, 2020) [17]. There are also those that compare with Dimensions (Thelwall, 2018) [18]. A truly thorough analysis of Scopus can be considered the work of Susan Fingerma (2006) [3]. That is, 2 years after its launch.

As we can see from the new edition of the Procedure for Forming the List of Scientific Professional Publications of Ukraine [5], Scopus and WoS are the pinnacle for Ukrainian peer-reviewed journals.

Each peer-reviewed journal goes through its own path of evolution [19-23]. And in the eyes of the scientific community, the indexing of a journal in such databases as WoS and/or Scopus is evidence of high levels of development and standards of the journal. Moreover, the Ministry's assignment of category "A" to such journals and their inclusion in the List emphasizes the need for these databases for the successful trajectory of development of a scientific professional publication.

An equally important element of the visibility of articles and the success of the journal is its inclusion in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) [24], which is also a requirement in the new version of the order for category B journals [5].

As we can see from the new edition of the Ministry's order, each journal must indicate its policy regarding the APCs [5, 25, 26].

Publications (i.e., articles, book chapters, etc.), published in publications indexed in Scopus and/or WoS are the driver and gasoline that moves the career machine of a dentist and scientific and pedagogical worker forward.

Below is a list of where published articles/book chapters in journals/books indexed in WoS and Scopus are needed at various stages of career

development in Ukraine:

1. For dissertation defense:
  - 1.1 For obtaining the scientific degree of Doctor of Philosophy [27, 28].
  - 1.2 For obtaining the scientific degree of Doctor of Sciences [29].
2. For awarding academic titles:
  - 2.1 For the award of the academic title of Associate Professor [30].
  - 2.2 For the award of the academic title of Professor [31].
3. For accruing continuing professional development (CPD) points [32].
4. To ensure that the educational and/or professional qualifications of a scientific and pedagogical, pedagogical and scientific worker correspond to the educational component (e.g., educational component "Dentistry"). To determine the level of scientific and professional activity of a scientific and pedagogical worker over 5 years: The presence of at least five publications in periodical scientific publications included in the List of scientific professional publications of Ukraine, in scientometric databases, in particular Scopus, WoS.
5. For members of editorial boards of peer-reviewed journals [5].

## 4. CONCLUSION

The new edition of the Ministry's order cements the importance of databases such as Scopus and/or Web of Science Core Collection for both peer-reviewed publications and the careers of practitioners and scientific and practical workers. At the same time, obtaining publications in journals indexed in these databases opens up wide career opportunities for specialists.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

### Author Contributions

Concent and writing – I.I.F.; Critical review – O.O.T.

## Declaration of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies in the Writing Process

The authors declared that search for career requirements according to Ukrainian legislation for publishing articles in journals indexed in Scopus and WoS was conducted using Gemini 3 AI mode (Google, Inc.).

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