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# Working with displaced Ukrainian Academics

December 6<sup>th</sup> 2022

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# February 2022



- Russian invasion of Ukraine begins
- Mass displacement of millions of people heading to Poland, Germany, Czechia, Moldova, Italy *etc.*
- Many researchers also left the country; predominantly female and some older male researchers
- We formed a small group in Elsevier to work with colleagues to determine best form of support
- We had some internal ideas
- We wanted to ensure that we were offering the right thing and took some advice

# Working with others

- We contacted a number of organizations
  - CARA: <https://www.cara.ngo/>
  - Scholars at risk: <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/> (European Office in Republic of Ireland)
  - National Academy of Sciences in Poland
  - Young Scientists Council of Ukraine
  - A number of Ukrainian academics in Poland where we could make contact
  - Persons in charge of International relations at a number of Polish Universities
  - Some Ukrainian authors and Editors with whom we had contact

## Some early responses

- “Elsevier condemns Russian invasion of Ukraine”, March 4, 2022:
- Together with our sister companies in RELX, we made a donation to the UNICEF Ukraine Appeal, Red Cross and other aid organizations to provide immediate protection; and medical and emergency supplies
- We set up an internal donation matching program from employees
  - Purchasing children’s books
  - Funds for the purchase of medical supplies
  - Funds such as organizing a sports day for Ukrainian children and providing training for Ukrainian women in the Netherlands who wish to apply for a job
- Humanitarian 2022 Special Issue on the RELX SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Resource Center

## Later activities

- We worked with the National Academy of Sciences in Poland and offered a donation to provide fellowships and research support for displaced Ukrainian academics, administered by the NAS Poland.
- We worked with the Young Scientist Council of the Ukraine (YSCU) who are based in the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and who were established with the purpose of supporting young researchers.
  - They indicated that access to Researcher Academy (for lectures and webinars); ScienceDirect; Scopus [and researcher discovery]; Mendeley Data; SciVal [and Funding Institutional]; accessing waived and reduced APCs; Clinical Key, Complete Anatomy and Osmosis – all would be helpful
- To access these resources, personal registration was required and subject to satisfactory review, access was provided with *ad personam* tokens and authentication
- We set up a mentorship programme to support Editors of Ukrainian journals.
- We are starting to carry out and publish interviews with Ukrainian researchers/editors

# The resource page



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[www.elsevier.com/promo/ukraine-academic-support/\\_nocache](http://www.elsevier.com/promo/ukraine-academic-support/_nocache)

## Ukraine Academic Support

Supporting Ukrainian academics,  
researchers, and students

Elsevier is providing complimentary access to its academic support tools, datasets and education solutions during this time of need.



Researcher Academy   ScienceDirect   Scopus   Mendeley   APC waivers

# The resource page

[Resource Center page](#) , [Access page](#) and the and [Elsevier email](#) launched 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022

- **32,669** Ukrainian authors, editors, reviewers and users emailed from Elsevier database email with bespoke code (received 6% click-through)
- **2,496** Registrants (~8% of those contacted)
- **100,139** downloads in August, **36,343** downloads in September and **24,733** in October (~65 per registrant).

# Registrants to access program: **2,496**

(~7% of those contacted)



Since launch 1 August

**From Elsevier email:** known contacts provided with bespoke access codes: **1,634** researchers have completed their registration and now have access to the platforms offered.

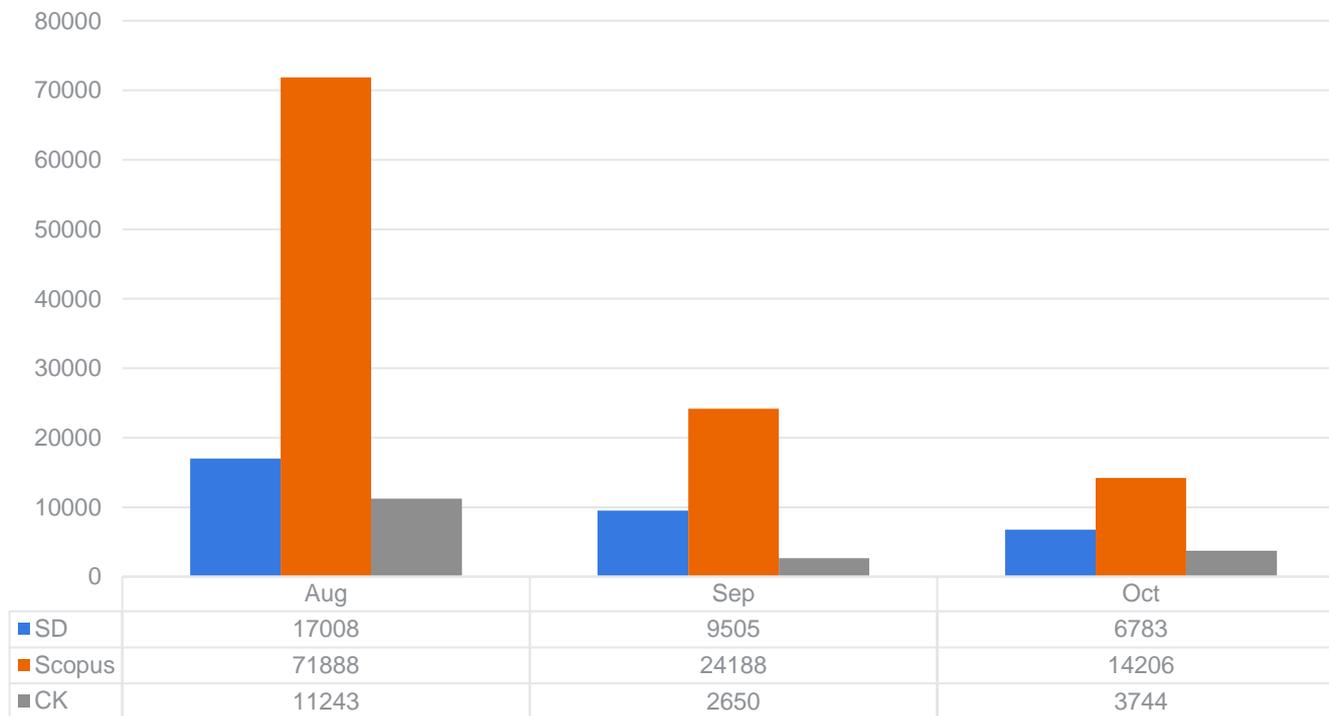
**From learned society promotion:** **1005** researchers requested access codes requested; **594** finalized the registration process. Team receives 4-5 access requests per day.

Increase of **+298 (14% since 8 Oct report)**

# Ukraine Complimentary Account Usage ~65 articles per registrant.



## Ukraine Complimentary Access - Monthly



Data for Oct is as of 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct

# Young Scientists' Council of Ukraine and a workshop



- Idea for programme was to enable Ukrainian journals (Editors) to build back stronger, and more effectively when the war is over, and the country can rebuild.
- Program was in person, over 2 weeks (12 days), in Warsaw.
- Focus is on operations, but also publishing, marketing, indexation, etc.
- Elsevier Editors presented (aligned with fields of mentees)
- YSCU provided names of 15 Ukrainian Editors
- ✓ How to internationalize a journal
- ✓ How to increase likelihood of indexation.
- ✓ The role of the editor and the editorial staff
- ✓ Ethics and how to handle difficult situations

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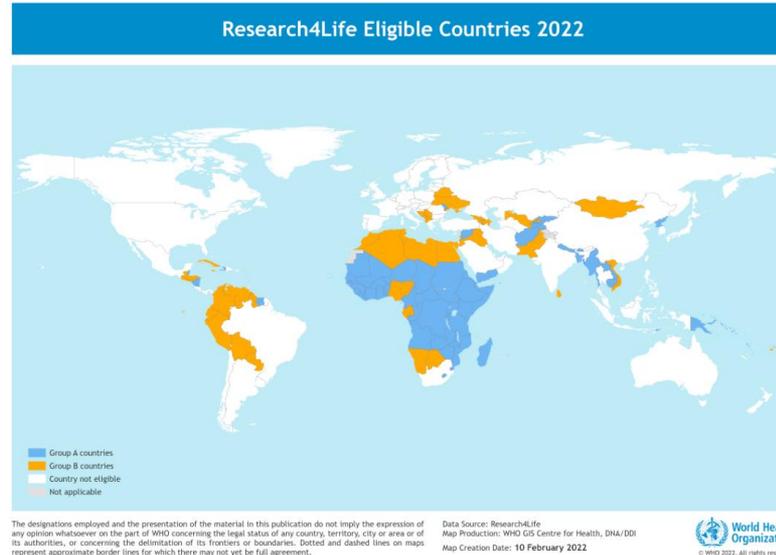
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- R4L provides free or very low-cost access to research publications and online resources,
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- Research4Life's eligibility criteria based upon Gross National Income per capita
  - Group A (free access) and Group B (low cost access)
  - Some 125 countries and territories included
- The need for access to, and participation in, knowledge production and dissemination is at the core of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals



# Summary

- People in the company pulled together and wanted to help
- Working with our academic colleagues was critical in finding best solutions for them
- The donations were appreciated, but the provision of support from products and solutions were most needed
- We continue to support and review the arrangements regularly
- Internal lessons for the company were to establish a working group
- We have documented how we went about this so that when another crisis develops we are discuss how we should respond