



CWTS and Clarivate recognize diverging models for research information

The Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) at Leiden University and Clarivate today confirmed that CWTS will transition its Leiden Ranking and related services away from Web of Science data, as the organizations' research information models continue to evolve in different directions.

The decision reflects a mutual recognition that CWTS' strategic commitment to fully open research information and the carefully curated, proprietary research data model that underpins the Web of Science are no longer aligned for CWTS' future research analytics services.

CWTS has used Web of Science data for scientometric analysis for several decades, including in the CWTS Leiden Ranking and in services provided to organizations across the research system and to support advanced bibliometric analysis.

Shared respect for different approaches

Ludo Waltman, Scientific Director of CWTS, emphasizes the importance of the open research information transition for CWTS: "We have always valued the Web of Science database as an important source of data for scientometric analyses. However, we recognize the importance of openness, transparency, and inclusiveness in scientometric analyses. The proprietary model of the Web of Science database is incompatible with this. We have therefore decided to discontinue our use of Web of Science data and to move to open alternatives."

Emmanuel Thiveaud, Senior Vice President, Product Management, Academia & Government at Clarivate, explains: "We value our long partnership with CWTS. We have a shared understanding that open, transparent research can accelerate discovery and strengthen trust; which is why Clarivate invests in open infrastructure, introduced Research Commons and supports open workflows in the Web of Science. We take a balanced approach: we support openness, but we never lose sight of upholding research integrity and the standards that protect customers from the risks of untrustworthy sources and unreliable data."

In 2024, CWTS launched the Leiden Ranking Open Edition, based on open data from OpenAlex, as part of its commitment to move fully toward open research information. CWTS is one of the initiators of the Barcelona Declaration and has made a [commitment](#) that its work will be “fully based on open research information”.

Waltman adds: “The Barcelona Declaration has gained strong support in the Netherlands, in Europe, and elsewhere in the world. In the Netherlands, research assessments based on the [Strategy Evaluation Protocol](#) will from now on be based on [open research information](#). In light of these developments, we are confident that this is the right time to further advance our open research information transition. At CWTS we aim to be at the forefront of this hugely important development.”

Transition timeline

Later this year, there will be one more update of the Leiden Ranking Traditional Edition based on Web of Science data. From 2027 onward, the Traditional Edition of the Leiden Ranking will be discontinued and only the Open Edition will remain.

CWTS will also discontinue services for external organizations based on Web of Science data. These services will be offered until the second half of 2027 at the latest. CWTS will provide support to organizations to help them transition to alternative solutions.

The future of the Web of Science

On the future of the Web of Science, Thiveaud adds: “The Web of Science Core Collection remains a trusted source of curated research information, selected through consistent editorial criteria and supported by expert evaluation, which helps institutions, funders, governments and researchers make confident mission-critical decisions. Web of Science also supports open workflows and includes [Research Commons](#). The new Web of Science Research Intelligence builds on the curated foundation of the Web of Science Core Collection by bringing together publications, funding, patents, policy documents, clinical trials and other research signals in a unified, AI-native platform.”