

What's new in Dimensions?

Update of the publication year definition

With the recent update of our publication data on December 18, 2020, we've applied an improved method to determine the publication date used for filtering and standard analytics. With this change, we are no longer prioritising print dates but instead are trying to identify the date at which the version of record first became available.

How does this work

There are two dates commonly used for the version of record of a publication: online date and print date. Where possible we identify both dates and use the earlier one as the publication date in the Dimensions data - if only one date is identified we choose it as the publication date. This means that some publications have a print date, some an online date, some both, and some publications have a date which is not identified as either.

What is the effect

With the update approx. 4 million of the 114 million publications got an earlier publication year - that's usually a change by one year (in 3.8m cases).

Both online and print dates will be made available in all our services (web applications, API, bulk data export / GBQ) shortly after the data update. Filters in the web application are now updated with the new publication year, and hence have a small effect on analytical views based on publication year.