

Chapter 1

MEASURING SCIENCE

CAPITA SELECTA OF CURRENT MAIN ISSUES

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Abstract: After a review of developments in the quantitative study of science, particularly since the early 1970s, I focus on two current main lines of 'measuring science' based on bibliometric analysis. With the developments in the Leiden group as an example of daily practice, the measurement of research performance and, particularly, the importance of indicator standardization are discussed, including aspects such as interdisciplinary relations, collaboration, 'knowledge users'. Several important problems are addressed: language bias; timeliness; comparability of different research systems; statistical issues; and the 'theory-invariance' of indicators. Next, an introduction to the mapping of scientific fields is presented. Here basic concepts and issues of practical application of these 'science maps' are addressed. This contribution is concluded with general observations on current and near-future developments, including network-based approaches, necessary 'next steps' are formulated, and an answer is given to the question 'Can science be measured?'

Key words: measurement of science, bibliometric analysis, indicators, research performance, citation analysis, journal impact, field-specific normalization, research profiles, interdisciplinarity, Sleeping Beauties, networks, mapping, concept similarity, self-organization, co-word analysis.

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1. TOWARD A METRIC OF SCIENCE REVISITED¹

From the early sixties onwards we see a strong increase in quantitative material on the state-of-the art in science and technology. National institutes of statistics, UNESCO, OECD, and the European Commission are main examples of organizations starting to collect systematically data on the development of science and technology. An important milestone is the first issue of the OECD ‘Frascati Manual’ (OECD 1963), a handbook devoted to the development of a standard practice for surveys of the measurement of scientific and technical activities. At the same time, and strongly related to this data explosion, the quantitative appraisal of current science gains influence. As a genre in the study of the history of science, the quantitative approach of the development of science, ‘scientometrics’, is certainly not new. A remarkable early piece of work is “Histoire des sciences et des savants depuis deux siècles”. The author, Alphonse de Candolle (1873), described the changes in the scientific strength of nations by membership of scientific societies, and he tried to find ‘environmental factors’ of all kinds (even including the role of the celibate) for the scientific success of a nation. Later, in the 1920s, Lotka (1929) published his famous work on the productivity of chemistry researchers. Here scientometrics is clearly differentiated into ‘bibliometrics’.

Undoubtedly the invention of the Science Citation Index by Eugene Garfield is a major breakthrough (Wouters 1999). This invention enabled statistical analyses of the scientific literature on a very large scale. It marks the rise of bibliometrics as a powerful field within the studies of science. Such great scientists as Derek de Solla Price and Robert Merton recognized the value of Garfield’s invention, Price from the perspective of contemporaneous history of science, Merton from the perspective of normative sociology.

Scientists are fascinated by basic features such as simplicity, symmetry, harmony, and order. The Science Citation Index enabled De Solla Price to start with the development of a ‘physical approach’ to science, in which he tried to find laws to predict further developments, inspired by the ideas of Newtonian and statistical mechanics. In this perspective, quantitative measures of science, ‘*indicators*’, are guides to find and, as a crucial next step, to understand such basic features. The most basic feature concerns the cognitive dimension: the development of content and structure of science. More on the mundane surface science indicators relate to the social

¹ The book *Toward a metric of Science: The Advent of Science Indicators* (Elkana et al 1978) has always been a one of my major sources of inspiration. This contribution to the Handbook is based on earlier publications by the author (Van Raan 2000a; Van Raan and Noyons 2002).

dimension of science, in particular to aspects formulated in questions such as ‘How many researchers? How much money is spent on science? How ‘good’ are research groups? How does communication in science work, particularly what is the role of books, journals, conferences (Borgman 1990)? And longer than we often realize there is another question: ‘What is the economic profit of scientific activities?’ A landmark in the development of science indicators is the first publication in a biennial series of the *Science Indicators Report* in 1973. Stimulated by the success achieved by economists in developing quantitative measures of political significance (e.g., unemployment, GNP), the US National Science Board started this indicator report series in which we find more emphasis on the demographic and economic state of science than on the cognitive state of science (National Science Board 1973).

Making quantitative indicators of anything thinkable fascinates some people and horrifies others as being nonsense and taking us back to the cabalistic magic number world of Paracelsus. But there are famous classical pronouncements to support the attempt to measure things. Horace (65-5 BC): “There is a measure in all things” (Est modus in rebus), Johannes Kepler (1597): “The mind comprehends a thing the more correctly the closer the thing approaches toward pure quantity as its origin”, and, from the place where I live and work, Leiden, the discoverer of superconductivity, Heike Kamerlingh Onnes (1882): “Measuring is knowing”.

There is no final theory of science providing *the* methodology of measurement. It is a returning hype in the social studies of science to incite the scientific community with this observation. But are we really troubled by this poverty of theoretical content? I don’t think so (van Raan 1997). Do not expect a classical mechanics of scientometrics. With very high probability: it does not exist. The absence of any explicit theory to guide the making and use of indicators may not be good, but the adoption of a single one, for instance, a trendy dominating ‘theory’, is likely to be worse (Holton 1978). It is normal practice in empirical science to begin a search without a theoretical clarification and try to establish a model to explain the findings later. Certainly in such measurements we do have at least implicit basic ideas about ‘how things work’ and the same is true for the construction and use of science indicators. Therefore it is crucial to make these implicit assumptions clear to the outside world. This will allow us to turn the absence of a general theory of the development of science into a very profitable situation, in the words of Gerald Holton: ‘perhaps indicators may be developed eventually that are *invariant* with respect to theoretical models. They and only they allow rival theories to be put to empirical tests’. To put it more bluntly: we cannot develop a sound theoretical model of the ‘sociology of knowledge’ yet, as we simply need more empirical work based on the richness of

available and future data in order to develop a better quantitative understanding of the processes by which science and society mutually influence each other's progress. In this contribution I will argue that advanced bibliometric indicators approach the above characteristic of invariance.

What is the difference between data and indicators? An indicator is the result of a specific mathematical operation (often simple arithmetic) with data. The mere number of citations of one publication in a certain time period is *data*. The measure in which such citation counts of all publications of a research group in a particular field are normalized to citation counts of all publications worldwide in the same field, is an *indicator*. An indicator is a measure that explicitly addresses some assumption. In our example the assumption is: this is the way to calculate the international scientific influence of a research group. So, to begin with, we need to answer the question: what features of science can be given a numerical expression? Thus indicators can not exist without a specific goal in mind, they have to address specific questions, and thus they have to be created to gauge important 'forces'; for example, how scientific progress is related to specific cognitive as well as socio-economic aspects. Indicators must be problem driven, otherwise they are useless. They have to describe the recent past in such a way that they can guide us, can inform us about the near future. A second and more fundamental role of indicators is their possibility to test aspects of theories and models of scientific development and its interaction with society. In this sense, indicators are not only tools for science policy makers and research managers, but also instruments in the study of science. But we also have to realize that science indicators do not answer typical epistemological questions such as: How do scientists decide what will be called a scientific fact? How do scientists decide whether a particular observation supports or contradicts a theory? How do scientists come to accept certain methods or scientific instruments as valid means of attaining knowledge? How does knowledge selectively accumulate? (Cole *et al* 1978).

De Solla Price (1978) strikingly described the mission of the indicator maker: find the most simple pattern in the data at hand, and then look for the more complex patterns which modify the first. What should be constructed from the data is not a number but a pattern, a cluster of points on a map, a peak on a graph, a correlation of significant elements on a matrix, a qualitative similarity between two histograms. If these patterns are found the next step is to suggest models that produce such patterns and to test these models by further data. A numerical indicator or an indicative pattern, standing alone, has little significance. The data must be given perspective: the change of an indicator with time, or different rates of change of two

different indicators. Crucial is that numerical quantities are replaced by geometrical or topological objects or relations (Ziman 1978).

We know already from the early indicator work that these ‘simple patterns’ exist: the rank of countries by the number of publications is remarkably stable from year to year (Braun *et al* 1995). The absolute size of the scientific research activity in the number of publications of any nation is in very good agreement with its electrical power consumption in kilowatt-hours, indicating that scientific power, economic power, and national wealth are strongly related.

More or less at the same time as the above thoughts on the metric of science, Francis Narin coined the concept of ‘evaluative bibliometrics’. His pioneering work on the development of research performance indicators (Narin 1976, 1978), mainly on the macro level, i.e., the performance of countries, was a new, important breakthrough which contributed substantially to the measurement of scientific activities. In 1978 Tibor Braun founded the journal *Scientometrics*. This event marks the emancipation of the field of quantitative studies of science. Also in journals such as *Research Policy* and the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science* we find more and more publications about ‘measuring science’, and most of them are on topics that are still very relevant. We mention, without being exhaustive, the seminal papers in the 1970s on the development of ‘relational’ methods such as co-citation analysis for the mapping of scientific fields (Small 1973), on scientific collaboration by deB. Beaver and colleagues (Beaver 1978), on measuring the growth of science (Moravcsik 1975, Gilbert 1978), the meaning of citation patterns for assessing scientific progress (Moravcsik and Murugesan 1978), and on mobility in science (Vláchy 1979).

In the early eighties we see the rapid rise of co-citation analysis (Small and Greenlee 1980; Sullivan *et al* 1980; Price 1981; White and Griffith 1981; Noma 1982; McCain 1984) and of co-word analysis (Callon *et al* 1983; Rip and Courtial 1984), an increasing emphasis on advanced statistical analysis of scientometric parameters (Haitun 1982; Schubert and Glänzel 1983), the application of bibliometric methods in the social sciences (Peritz 1983), indicators of interdisciplinary research (Porter and Chubin 1985), and comparison of peer opinions and bibliometric indicators (Koenig 1983).

An important further breakthrough was the work of Martin and Irvine (1983) on the application of science indicators at the level of research groups. Around the same time (the beginning of the eighties) had our Leiden institute had also started with bibliometric analysis oriented on research groups (Moed *et al* 1983) and Braun and co-workers focused on the scientific strength of countries in a wide range of research fields (Braun *et al* 1988).

Now, almost thirty years after Narin's *Evaluative Bibliometrics*, twenty-five years after the publication of *Toward a Metric of Science: The Advent of Science Indicators* (Elkana et al 1978), twenty years after Martin and Irvine (1983), and fifteen years after the *Handbook of Quantitative Studies of Science and Technology* (van Raan 1988) we may state *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*. What changed is the very significant progress in application oriented indicator work based on the enormous increase of available data and, above all, the almost unbelievable, compared with the situation in the seventies, increase of computing power and electronic facilities. I hope this contribution and handbook as a whole will prove this progress convincingly.

What also changed is the method of publishing. Electronic publishing and electronic archives mark an area of new information technology. I expect that most changes will be primarily technological but not conceptual. Publication via journals of high reputation is in most fields of science crucial for receiving professional recognition. That will remain so in the rapidly developing electronic area. A much more revolutionary change in science is the increasing availability and sharing of research results and, particularly, research data.

What remained, however, are some of the most fundamental questions. For instance: do science maps derived from citation and/or concept-similarity data have reality in a strictly spatial sense? In other words, do measures of similarity imply the existence of a metric space? This question brings us to an even more fundamental problem: the ontological status of maps of science will remain speculative until more has been learned about the structure of the brain itself (de Solla Price 1978). For instance, it remains fascinating that science can be represented quite well in 2D space. Why is that so? Because our own brain is a (folded) two dimensional structure?

And yes, some old wishes have come true. It is now possible to make a time series of science maps, a 'science cinematography' that enables us to examine shifts in clusters over time and to investigate the nature of change of research themes and specialties. Short term extrapolation may be feasible.

A new development is a 'physical' network approach to analysing publication and citation relations. Recently we reported some first results on network characteristics of a reference based, bibliographically coupled publication network structure (van Raan 2003). It was found that this network of clustered publications shows different topologies depending on the age of the references used for building the network. Also progress is made in the understanding of the statistics of citation distributions. This is of crucial importance, as it is directly related to the 'wiring' (citations) of the 'nodes' (publications) in the network structure of science. A two-step competition process is applied as a model for explaining the distribution of

citations ('income') over publications ('work'). A distribution function of citing publications is found which corresponds very well to the empirical data. It is not a power law, but a modified Bessel function. This model has a more generic value, particularly in economics for explaining observed income distributions (van Raan 2001).

In this contribution we focus on two main lines of 'measuring science' based on bibliometric analysis. First, in the next section, we discuss the measurement of research performance, including aspects such as interdisciplinarity, collaboration, 'knowledge users'. I address several important problems: language bias; timeliness; comparability of different research systems; statistical issues; the relation between bibliometric findings and peer judgements. The latter issue is followed by a first discussion of Holton's ideal of 'theory invariant' indicators. In Section 3 an introduction to the mapping of scientific fields is presented. I discuss basic concepts and issues of the practical application of these 'science maps'. Finally, in Section 4 this contribution is concluded with some general observations on current and near-future developments, particularly in relation to network-based approaches and growth phenomena. Necessary 'next steps' are formulated. But first, back to the basics.

2. BIBLIOMETRIC MEASUREMENT OF SCIENTIFIC PERFORMANCE

2.1 Basic Concepts

The rationale of the bibliometric approach to measuring scientific performance presented in this contribution is as follows. Scientific progress can be defined as the substantial increase of our knowledge about 'everything'. In broad outline we discern basic knowledge ('understanding') and applicable knowledge ('use'). This knowledge can be tacit ('craftsmanship') or codified ('archived & publicly accessible'). Scientists have communicated (and codified) their findings in a relatively orderly, well defined way since the 17th century. Particularly is the phenomenon of serial literature crucial: publications in international journals. Thus communication, i.e., exchange of research results, is a crucial aspect of the scientific endeavour. Publications are not the only, but certainly very important elements, in this process of knowledge exchange.

Each year about 1,000,000 publications are added to the scientific archive of this planet. This number and also numbers for sub-sets of science (fields, institutes) are in many cases sufficiently high to allow quantitative analyses

yielding statistically significant findings. Publications offer usable elements for ‘measuring’ important aspects of science: author names, institutional addresses, journal (which indicates not only the field of research but also status!), references (citations), concepts (keywords, keyword combinations). Although not perfect, we adopt a publication as a ‘building block’ of science and as a source of data. This approach clearly defines the basic assumptions of bibliometrics (Kostoff 1995).

Thus bibliometric assessment of research performance is based on one central assumption: scientists who have to say something important do publish their findings vigorously in the open international journal (‘serial’) literature. This choice introduces unavoidably a ‘bibliometrically limited view of a complex reality’. For instance, journal articles are not in all fields the main carrier of scientific knowledge; they are not ‘equivalent’ elements in the scientific process, they differ widely in importance; and they are challenged as the ‘gold standard’ by new types of publication behaviour, particularly electronic publishing. However, the daily practice of scientific research shows that inspired scientists in most cases, and particularly in the natural sciences and medical research fields, go for publication in the better and, if possible, the best journals. A similar situation is developing in the social and behavioural sciences (Glänzel 1996; Hicks 1999), engineering and, to a lesser extent, in the humanities. This observation is confirmed by many years of experience in peer review based research evaluation procedures.

Work of at least some importance provokes reactions of colleagues. They are the international forum, the ‘invisible college’, by which research results are discussed. Often these colleagues play their role as a member of the invisible college by referring in their own work to earlier work of other scientists. This process of citation is a complex one, and it certainly does not provide an ‘ideal’ monitor on scientific performance (MacRoberts and MacRoberts 1996). This is particularly the case at a statistically low aggregation level, e.g., the individual researcher. But the application of citation analysis to the work, the ‘oeuvre’ of *a group of researchers as a whole over a longer period of time*, does yield in many situations a strong indicator of scientific performance.

Citation analysis is based on reference practices of scientists. The motives for giving (or not giving) a reference to a particular article may vary considerably (Brooks 1986; MacRoberts and MacRoberts 1988; Vinkler 1998). There is, however, sufficient evidence that these ‘reference motives’ are not so different or ‘randomly given’ to such an extent that the phenomenon of citation would lose its role as a reliable measure of impact (van Raan 1998).

Why bibliometric analysis of research performance? Peer review undoubtedly is and has to remain the principal procedure of quality judgment. But peer review and related expert-based judgments may have serious shortcomings and disadvantages (Moxham and Anderson 1992; Horrobin 1990). Subjectivity, i.e., dependence of the outcomes on the choice of individual committee members, is one of the major problems. This dependence may result in conflicts of interests, unawareness of quality, or a negative bias against younger people or newcomers to the field. Basically, the methodological problem of determining the quality of a subject is still far from solved, as illustrated by the results of re-review of previously granted research proposals, see, for instance, Nederhof (1988). I do not plead for a replacement of peer review by bibliometric analysis. Subjective aspects are not merely negative. In any judgment there must be room for the intuitive insights of experts. I claim, however, that for a substantial improvement of decision making an advanced bibliometric method, such as presented in this contribution has to be used in parallel with a peer-based evaluation procedure.

The earlier mentioned pioneering work of Narin (1976) and of Martin and Irvin (1983) clearly showed that the most crucial parameter in the assessment of research performance is international scientific influence. Citation-based bibliometric analysis provides indicators of international impact, influence. This can be regarded as, at least, one crucial aspect of scientific quality, and thus a 'proxy' of quality as follows from a long standing experience in bibliometric analysis. Perhaps this is the best answer of the classical question posed by Eugene Garfield (1979): 'Is citation analysis a legitimate evaluation tool?' Therefore we have developed standardized bibliometric procedures for assessing research performance within the framework of international influence. Undoubtedly, this approach does not provide us an ideal instrument, working perfectly in all fields under all circumstances. But the approach presented in this contribution works very well in the large majority of the natural, the medical, the applied, and the behavioural sciences. These fields of science are the most cost intensive and the ones with the strongest socio-economic impact. For a recent application of bibliometric research performance assessment in a typical applied field such as food and nutrition research we refer to Van Raan and Van Leeuwen (2002). The application of bibliometric analysis in the humanities is discussed by Moed et al (2002).

A first and good indication of whether bibliometric analysis is applicable to a specific field is provided by the publication characteristics of the field; in particular, the role of *international* refereed journals. If international journals are a dominating or at least a major means of communication in a field, then in most cases bibliometric analysis is applicable. Therefore it is

important to study the ‘publication practices’ of a research group, department, or institute, in order to establish whether bibliometric analysis can be applied. A practical measure here is the share of CI-covered² publications in the total research output. For ‘not-CI covered publications’ a restricted type of analysis is possible, in so far as these publications are cited by articles in journals covered by the CI.

We have already noticed that journal publications are challenged as the ‘gold standard’ in science as the worldwide web has changed scientific communication. Researchers use the web for information seeking, and in addition to the above mentioned ‘not-CI covered publications’ there is an enormous number of further publications and data included in institutional and personal websites. Thus next to citation analysis, in the use of data provided via the internet, ‘webometrics’ offers interesting additional opportunities to aid citation-based bibliometric analysis in evaluation and mapping approaches (Björneborn and Ingwersen 2001; Bar-Ilan 2001; Thelwall and Smith 2002; Thelwall and Harries 2003).

The Leiden group has gained an extensive experience in bibliometric analysis. In a period of almost 20 years we have studied the research performance of many thousands of research groups, worldwide. By all these activities an empirical gold mine was created. We first discuss our methodology in the next section, and in Section 2.3.5 we explain why we think that this methodology has yielded indicators which, at least, approach Holton’s ideal of theory-invariant measures.

2.2 Details of the Methodology

One of the most crucial objectives in bibliometric analysis is to arrive at a consistent and *standardized set* of indicators. The methodology presented in this section is driven by this motive. Research output is defined as the number of articles of the institute, as far as covered by the Science Citation Index (SCI) and all its related databases (see footnote 3). As ‘article’ we consider the following publication types: normal articles (including proceedings papers published in journals); letters; notes; and reviews (but not meeting abstracts, obituaries, corrections, editorials, etc.).

I take the results of a recent analysis by our institute of a German medical research institute as an example (over the period 1992-2000). Table 1 shows

² The Science Citation Index, the Social Science Citation Index, the Arts & Humanities Citation Index, and the ‘specialty’ citation indexes (CompuMath, Biochemistry and Biophysics, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Material Science, Neurosciences) are produced and published by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI/Thomson Scientific) in Philadelphia. Throughout this paper we use the term ‘CI’ (Citation Index) for the above set of databases.

the number of papers published, P , which is also a first indication of the size of an institute. This number is about 250 per year. Next we find the total number of citations, C , received by P in the indicated period, *and corrected for self-citations*. For papers published in 1996 citations are counted during the period 1996-2000, for 1997 papers citations in 1997-2000, and so on. For the outsider this looks like 'just counting numbers'. But the reliable establishment of even these two basic indicators is far from trivial. Verification is crucial in order to remove errors and to detect incompleteness of addresses of research organizations, departments, groups.

In citation analysis an entire range of pitfalls and sources of error is lurking. We refer to Van Raan (1996) for the many methodological and technical problems which have to be solved in order to conduct a bibliometric analysis properly. There is ample empirical evidence that in the natural and life sciences, basic as well as applied, the average 'peak' in the number of citations is in the third or fourth year after publication. Therefore a five-year period is appropriate for impact assessment. A trend analysis is then based on 'moving' and partially overlapping five-year periods, as presented in Table 1.

The third and fourth indicators are the average number of citations per publication (CPP), again without self-citations, and the percentage of not-cited papers, % Pnc . We stress that this percentage of non-cited papers concerns, like all other indicators, the given time period. It is possible that publications not cited within such a time period will be cited after a longer time. This is clearly visible when comparing this indicator for the five-year periods (e.g., 1996-2000: 30%) with that of the whole period (1992-2000: 21%). The values found for this medical research institute are quite normal.

How do we know that a certain number of citations, or a certain value of citations-per-publication is low or high? To answer this question we have to make a comparison with (or normalization to) a well chosen international reference value, and thus to establish a reliable measure of *relative, internationally field-normalized impact*. Another reason for normalizing the measured impact of an institute (CPP) to international reference values is that overall worldwide citation rates are increasing. I stress, however, that the distribution of citations over publications is skew and therefore we have to be careful with the use of mean values. In Section 2.3 a short discussion of statistical problems in bibliometric analysis is given.

First, the average citation rate of all papers (worldwide) in the journals in which the institute has published ($JCSm$, the **mean Journal Citation Score** of the institute's 'journal set', and JCS for one specific journal) is calculated. Thus this indicator $JCSm$ defines a worldwide reference level for the citation rate of the institute. It is calculated in the same way as CPP , but now for all publications in a set of journals (see van Raan 1996, 2003). A novel and

unique aspect is that we take into account the type of paper (e.g., letters, normal article, review) *as well as* the specific years in which the papers were published. This is necessary, because the average impact of journals may have considerable annual fluctuations and large differences per article type, see Moed and Van Leeuwen (1995, 1996).

Table 1-1. Bibliometric analysis of a medical research institute, 1992-2000

period	P	C	CPP	%Pnc	CPP/ JCSm	CPP/ FCSm	CPP/ D-FCSm	JCSm/ FCSm	%S Cit
1992 - 00	2,245	43,665	19.45	21	1.26	1.95	1.85	1.55	18
1992 - 96	1,080	11,151	10.33	36	1.27	2.02	1.95	1.58	22
1993 - 97	1,198	12,794	10.68	34	1.24	2.03	1.92	1.63	21
1994 - 98	1,261	12,217	9.69	32	1.19	1.85	1.72	1.55	22
1995 - 99	1,350	13,709	10.15	31	1.21	1.89	1.76	1.56	21
1996 - 00	1,410	14,815	10.51	30	1.20	1.91	1.76	1.59	21

With help of the ratio *CPP/JCSm* we observe whether the measured impact is *above* or *below* the international average. However, comparison of the institute's citation rate (*CPP*) with the average citation rate of its journal set (*JCSm*) introduces a specific problem related to journal status (Lewison 2002). For instance, if a research group publishes in prestigious (high impact) journals, and another group in rather mediocre journals, the citation rate of articles published by both groups may be equal *relative to* the average citation rate of their respective journal sets. But generally one would argue that the first group evidently performs better than the second. Therefore we developed a second international reference level, a *field-based* world average *FCS*, and *FCSm* in the case in which more fields are involved. This indicator is based on the citation rate of *all* papers (worldwide) published in *all* journals of the field(s)³ in which the institute is active, and not only the journals in which the institute's researchers publish their papers. Thus, for a publication in a less prestigious journal one may have a (relatively) high *CPP/JCSm* but a lower *CPP/FCSm*, and for a publication in a more prestigious journal one may expect a higher *CPP/FCSm* because publications in a prestigious journal will generally have an impact above the field-specific average.

The same procedure is used as applied in the calculation of *JCSm*. Often an institute is active in more than one field. In such cases a weighted average value is calculated, the weights being determined by the total number of papers published by the institute in each field. For instance, if the institute

³ We here use the definition of fields based on a classification of scientific journals into *categories* developed by ISI. Although this classification is not perfect, it provides a clear and 'fixed' consistent field definition suitable for automated procedures within our data system. A more 'real world', user oriented, definition of fields can be provided by the bibliometric mapping methodology discussed in Section 3 of this contribution.

publishes in journals belonging to genetics as well as to cell biology, then the *FCSm* of this institute will be based on both field averages. Thus the indicator *FCSm* represents a *world average*⁴ in a specific (combination of) field(s). It is also possible to calculate *FCSm* for a specific country or for the European Union. The example discussed in this paper concerns a German medical research institute, and for this institute we calculated the Germany-specific *FCSm* value, *D-FCSm*.

As in the case of *CPP/JCSm*, if the ratio *CPP/FCSm* is above 1.0 the impact of the institute's papers exceeds the field-based (i.e., *all* journals in the field) world average. We observe in Table 1 that the *CPP/JCSm* is 1.20, *CPP/FCSm* 1.91 and *CPP/D-FCSm* is 1.76 in the last period 1996-2000. These results show that the institute is performing well above international average. The ratio *JCSm/FCSm* is also an interesting indicator. If it is above 1.0, the mean citation score of the institute's journal set exceeds the mean citation score of all papers published in the field(s) to which the journals belong. For the institute this ratio is around 1.59. This means that the institute publishes in journals with, generally, a high impact. The last indicator shows the percentages of self-citations (*%Scit*). About thirty percent is normal, so the self-citation rates for this institute are certainly not high (about 20%).

A general, and important, observation is the 'stability' over time of most indicators. This is quite typical, particularly for groups and institutes of high reputation. The conclusion to be drawn from this observation is that the indicators are not a 'noisy set of measures' but apparently represent an enduring characteristic of scientific work, including communication practices.

I regard the *internationally standardized impact indicator CPP/FCSm* as our 'crown' indicator. This indicator enables us to observe immediately whether the performance of a research group or institute is significantly far below (indicator value < 0.5), below (indicator value between 0.5 and 0.8), about (between 0.8 and 1.2), above (between 1.2 and 1.5), or far above (>1.5) the international impact standard of the field. I stress, however, that for the interpretation of the measured impact value one has to take into account the *aggregation level of the entity* under study. The higher the aggregation level the larger the volume of publications and the more difficult it is to have an impact significantly above the international level. Based on our long standing experiences, I can say the following. At the 'meso level' (e.g., a university, faculty, or large institute, with about 500 or more

⁴ About 80 percent of all CI-covered papers is authored by scientists from the United States, Western Europe, Japan, Canada, and Australia. Therefore our 'world average' is dominated by the Western world.

publications per year), a *CPP/FCSm* value above 1.2 means that the institute's impact as a whole is significantly above the (western) world average. With a *CPP/FCSm* value above 1.5, such as in our example, the institute can be considered to be scientifically strong, with a high probability of finding very good to excellent groups. Thus the next step in a research performance analysis is a breakdown of the institution into smaller units, i.e., research groups. Therefore the bibliometric analysis has to be applied on the basis of institutional input data about personnel and composition of groups. The algorithms then can be repeated on the lowest but most important aggregation level, the research group. In most cases the volume of publications at this level is 10 to 20 per year.

Particularly at this lower aggregation level the verification of the data is crucial (e.g., correct assignment of publications to research groups, completeness of publications sets). In our institute we have developed standardized procedures for carrying out the analysis as conscientiously as possible. These procedures are discussed thoroughly beforehand with the client institutes.

At the group level a *CPP/FCSm* value above 2 indicates a very strong group, and above 3 the groups can be, generally, considered to be excellent and comparable to the top groups at the best US universities. If the threshold value for the *CPP/FCSm* indicator is set at 3.0, excellent groups can be identified with high probability (van Raan 2000a). As an additional indicator of *scientific excellence* the number of publications within the *top 10%* of the worldwide impact distribution of the field concerned is determined for the target entity (see Noyons et al 2003). In the calculation of this indicator the entire citation distribution function is taken into account, thus providing a better statistical measure than those based on mean values (see Section 2.3).

Science is, for a major part, teamwork. Particularly is international collaboration essential, not only for the working floor but also as policy for countries to keep pace in scientific progress (Vinkler 1993; Arunachalam *et al* 1994; Melin and Persson 1996; Glänzel 2001). For all the above indicators we also perform a breakdown into types of *scientific co-operation* according to the publication addresses: work by only the unit itself; in a national collaboration; or in an international collaboration. Generally one observes the highest impact for publications in international collaboration.

A further important step is the *breakdown* of the institute's output *into* research fields. This provides a clear impression of the research scope or 'profile' of the institute. Such a *spectral analysis* of the output is based on the simple fact of an the institute's researchers publishing in journals of many different fields. Our example, the German medical research institute, is a centre for molecular research oriented towards medicine. The researchers of this institute are working in a typical interdisciplinary environment. The

institute’s publications are published in a wide range of fields: biochemistry and molecular biology, genetics and heredity, oncology, cell biology, and so on. By ranking fields according to their size (in terms of numbers of publications) in a graphical display, we construct the research profile of the institute. Furthermore, we provide the field-normalized impact values of the institute’s research in these different fields with help of *CPP/FCSm*.

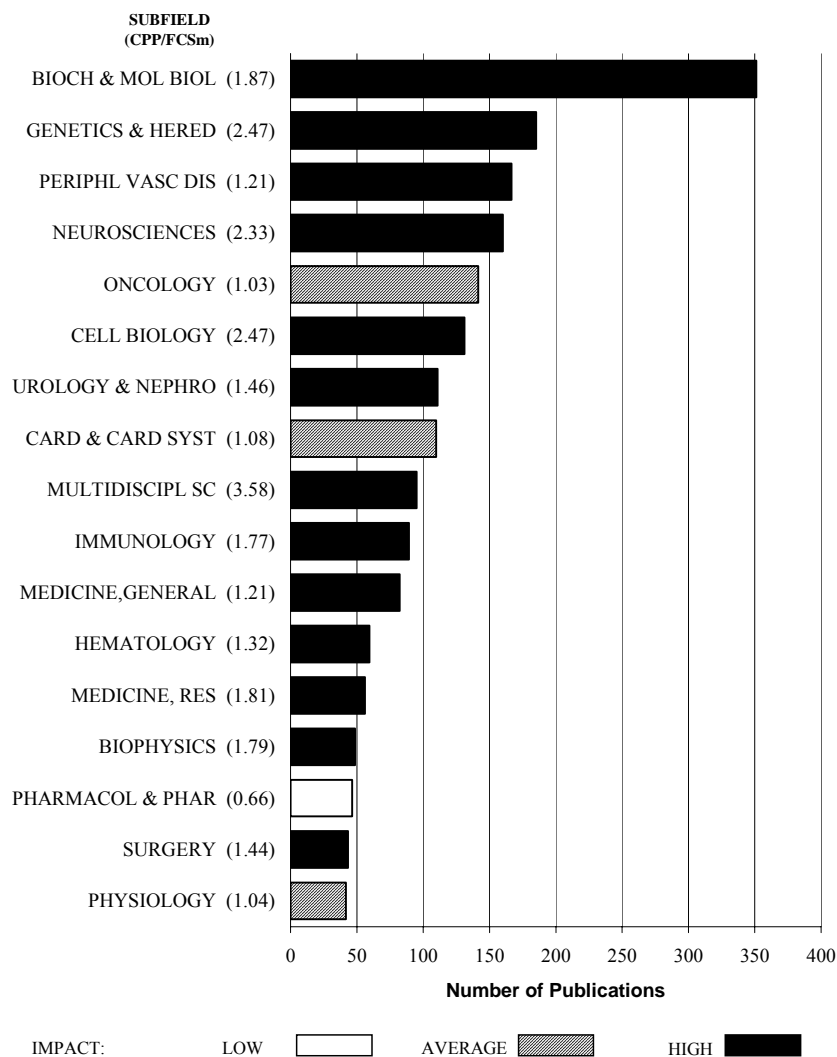


Figure 1-1. Research profile of a medical research institute, 1992-2000

Figure 1 shows the results of this *bibliometric spectroscopy*. Thus it becomes immediately visible in which fields within its interdisciplinary research profile the institute has a high (or lower) performance. We observe the scientific strength of the target institute: its performance in the top four fields is high to very high. If we find a smaller field with a relatively low impact (i.e., a field in the lower part, the ‘tail’ of the profile), this does not necessarily mean that the (few) publications of the institute in this particular field are ‘bad’. Often these small fields in a profile are those that are quite ‘remote’ from the institute’s core fields. They are, so to say, peripheral fields. In such a case the institute’s researchers may not belong to the dominating international research community of those fields, and their work may be not be cited as frequently as the work of these dominating (‘card holding’) community members.

In a similar way a breakdown of *the citing publications* into fields of science is made, which yields a profile of the *users* of scientific results (as far as represented by citing publications). This ‘knowledge users’ profile is a powerful indicator of *who* is using *which* research results, *where* (in which fields) and *when*. Thus it analyses *knowledge diffusion and knowledge use* and it indicates further interdisciplinary ‘bridges’, potential collaboration, and possible ‘markets’ in the case of applied research. For an example of these ‘knowledge user profiles’ I refer to Van Raan and Van Leeuwen (2002). The construction of these profiles can be considered also as an empirical method of studying interdisciplinary aspects of research. For instance, the distribution of the lengths of the field-specific bars in the profile can be used as a measure of interdisciplinarity.

2.3 Important Issues in Applications...and What About Theory?

2.3.1 Language bias

Recent work (Grupp *et al* 2001; van Leeuwen *et al* 2001) shows that the utmost care must be taken in interpreting bibliometric data in a comparative evaluation of national research systems (May 1997). The measured value of impact indicators of research activities at the level of an institution and even of a country strongly depends upon whether one includes or excludes publications in CI-covered journals written in languages other than English. This is owed to the simple fact of the CI covering non-English language journals of which the papers have a considerably lower impact than those in the English language journals. Differences of measured impact of the order

of 10 to 20% are possible. These findings clearly illustrate that indicators, even at the ‘macro level’, need to be interpreted against the background of their inherent limitations, such as, in this case, the effects of the language of publication.

2.3.2 Timeliness of the analysis

A frequently posed question concerns the ‘delay problem’: Does bibliometric analysis suffer from a substantial ‘delay’ in the measurement of research performance (Egghe and Rousseau 2000)? An answer to this question first needs a further refinement: delay compared to what? To the average ‘processing time’ of a publication? To the average ‘running time’ of a project? Or to peer review ‘time cycles’? The entire process starting with scientific activities and leading to ‘publishable’ results, the writing of an article, the submission of the article, the publication of the article, the citations to the article, varies considerably for the different fields of science, and often within a field. Depending on type of activities and type of results it may take years. But during that time the work is improved, the whole process time can not be regarded as a ‘delay’ or a ‘waste of time’. Furthermore, the average duration of a major research project is about 4 years, and the same is the case for most peer review time cycles. Also, during the publication process the awareness of scientific community (and peers!) evolves (e.g., average time between field-specific conferences etc.). We also have cases where the analysis can be performed almost in ‘real time’, as illustrated by an example⁵ of a recent physics paper with citing articles published in the same year as the cited publication.

The above implies that ‘bibliometric awareness’ does not necessarily take more time than ‘peer awareness’. Moreover, the bibliometric system itself proves empirically the robustness of the method simply by showing that in many cases indicators, based on citation analysis, for universities, institutes, and larger research groups, are remarkably stable, as illustrated by the results presented in Table 1. We conclude that recent past performance is a reliable predictor for near future performance.

⁵ Publication in *Physical Review Letters*, vol. 88, page 138701, year of publication 2002. The first citing articles are in the same year as the cited publication, we show the first four:

- Marc Barthélemy *et al*, Phys. Rev. E **66**, 056110 (2002);
- Petter Holme, Phys. Rev. E **66**, 036119 (2002);
- Holger Ebel *et al*, Phys. Rev. E **66**, 035103 (2002);
- Haijun Zhou, Phys. Rev. E **66**, 016125 (2002).

We also have to keep in mind that the importance of a publication does not necessarily appear immediately, even to peers, and that identification of quality may take considerable time (Garfield 1980). An interesting phenomenon in this respect is the ‘Sleeping Beauty in Science’, a publication that goes unnoticed (‘sleeps’) for a long time and then, almost suddenly, attracts a lot of attention (‘is awakened by the prince’). Recently the first extensive measurements of ‘delayed recognition papers’ (Glänzel *et al* 2003) and the occurrence of Sleeping Beauties in the science literature (van Raan 2004) have been reported. In the latter work an ‘awakening’ probability function is derived from the measurements, and the ‘most extreme Sleeping Beauty up to now’ identified.

2.3.3 Comparability of the different research systems

It is often quite problematic to understand and ‘unravel’ the structure of a research organization in terms of ‘real’ units such as departments or research groups. There are major differences in research systems between countries. For instance, the University of London is no longer a university in the usual sense. It is an ‘umbrella organization’ covering several different virtually autonomous universities. In Paris and other French cities no such umbrella structure exists, there we deal with completely autonomous universities which were originally part of one ‘mother university’. As a consequence it is very cumbersome to distinguish between departments of these different universities within a city. The two ‘Free Universities’ of Brussels (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, VUB, and the Université Libre de Bruxelles, ULB) are a notorious example in this sense. Another well known problem is the ‘interwovenness’ of the French CNRS and French universities.

This problem is, in fact, a ‘fine structure’ problem: matching bibliometric data (‘external’) with the ‘real fine structure’ (‘internal’) of the principal organization (e.g., a university). In order to do this, we need accurate ‘fine-structure’ data per organization. Moreover, this internal structure is ‘dynamic’: new departments, schools, and certainly new research groups are created all the time.

I see at least two possibilities for tackling this problem. The first is the ‘narrowing down of fields’: *the smaller the bibliometric ‘refinement’ of fields* (e.g., from neuroscience as a whole to brain infarct research as a specific research theme within neuroscience), *the more we approach ‘real’ units* such as research groups within the internal structure of a principal organization: ‘convergence principle’. The bibliometric mapping methodology discussed in Section 3 (and a detailed discussion by Noyons (2004) in this handbook) is particularly suited to this approach.

A second approach concerns networks of co-operating scientists: the analysis of collaborating researchers provides the *internal structure* of that specific (sub-)field in terms of co-authors. Thus the real ‘working floor’ groups are identified (Vinkler 1993; Melin and Persson 1996; Glänzel 2001). This identification is completely *independent* of the quality of information about principal organization addresses. It is, as it were, based on a ‘bibliometrically driven’ *self-organization* of science.

More generally, the understanding of research systems would benefit from the integration of bibliometric and other scientometric indicators into sociologically oriented studies (Gläser and Laudel 2001).

2.3.4 Statistical issues: general ones and some related to journal impact

Standard statistical techniques relate to quantities that are distributed approximately ‘normally’. Many characteristics of research performance, particularly those based on citation analysis, are not normally, but very skewly, distributed. Thus statistical averages can be misleading. For larger samples, such as the entire oeuvre of a research group over a period of years, the *central limit theorem* says that whatever the underlying distribution of a set of independent variables (provided that their variance is finite), the sum or average of a relatively large number of these variables will be a random variable with a distribution close to normal.

On the basis of these considerations I am confident that, for instance, our crown indicator *CPP/FCSm* does provide a useful measure. This can be proved empirically by the strong correlation of *CPP/FCSm* and the earlier discussed ‘top 10%’ indicator in which the distribution function is taken into account (Noyons *et al* 2003).

A heavily debated theme in bibliometric studies is the ‘predictive’ character of journal impact, i.e., the relation between journal impact and the impact of a publication within that journal (see for instance Seglen 1992, 1994; van Raan 2001). In current research we focus in more detail on the relation between *CPP* and *JCSm* and other statistical characteristics of journal impact.

The indicators *JCS* and *JCS/FCSm* are novel journal indicators which characterize a journal in a more appropriate way than the commonly used journal impact factors. The unique aspect of these journal impact indicators is that the type of paper (e.g., letters, normal article, review) *as well as* the specific years in which the papers were published are taken into account. This is absolutely necessary, as the average impact of journals may have considerable annual fluctuations and large differences per article type, see Moed and Van Leeuwen 1995, 1996.

2.3.5 Peer review judgment and bibliometric findings....signs of theory-invariance?

The results of peer review judgment and those of bibliometric assessment are not completely independent variables. Peers take ‘bibliometric aspects’ into account in their judgment, for instance (number of) publications in the better journals. Thorough studies of larger-scale evaluation procedures in which empirical material is available with data on both peer judgment as well as bibliometric indicators are rare. I refer to Rinia *et al* (1998) for a comparison of bibliometric assessment based on various indicators with peer review judgment in condensed matter physics, and to Rinia *et al* (2001) for a study of the influence of interdisciplinarity on peer review in comparison with bibliometric assessment.

I have already mentioned the empirical gold mine we created with our long standing bibliometric practice. In current work the relation between bibliometric assessment and peer judgment for several hundreds of physics and chemistry research groups is studied. This is a unique collection of data. This study shows a striking agreement between elements of research performance measurement and the results of peer review. But at the same time remarkable differences are found in which not necessarily peer judgment has to be considered as ‘right’ (van Raan en Van Leeuwen 2004).

Indeed, peers may be right or wrong in their judgement. Also they undoubtedly use bibliometric elements in their judgement; for instance, they generally attach great value to publications in the top journals. Therefore, bibliometric findings and outcomes of peer review are not independent variables in the ‘quality judgment space’. But this entanglement is unavoidable because (1) there is no higher authority to judge the quality of scientific work than a peer group of colleagues, and (2) attracting attention, provoking reactions by written communication, is very fundamental in most fields of science. *Any reasonable theory* has to ‘accept this reality’. So if bibliometric analysis is advanced in such a way that it becomes an indispensable instrument for measuring progress of science, and we think this stage is reached now, then we are approaching Holton’s ideal of ‘theory-invariant’ indicators.

3. PRINCIPLES OF CONCEPT-SIMILARITY BASED MAPPING

Each year about a million scientific articles are published. How should one keep track of all these developments? Are there specific patterns 'hidden' in this mass of published knowledge at a 'meta level', and if so, how can these patterns be interpreted (Van Raan and Noyons 2002)?

A first and crucial step is the definition of a research field. There are several approaches: on the basis of selected concepts (keywords) and/or classification codes in a specific database, selected sets of journals, a database of field-specific publications, or any combination of these approaches. Along these lines titles and abstracts of all relevant publications can be collected for a series of successive years, thus operating on many tens of thousands of publications per field. Next, with a specific computer-linguistic algorithm, titles and abstracts of all these publications can be parsed. This automated grammatical procedure yields all nouns and noun phrases (standardized) which are present in the entire set of collected publications (Noyons 1999).

An additional algorithm creates a frequency list of these many thousands of parsed nouns and noun phrases while filtering out general, trivial words. The most frequent nouns/noun phrases can be considered as the most characteristic concepts of the field (this can be 100 to 1,000 concepts, say, N concepts). The next step is to encode each of the publications with these concepts. In fact this code is a binary string (yes/no) indicating which of the N concepts is present in title or abstract. This encoding is as it were the 'genetic code' of a publication. As in genetic algorithms, the encoding of each publication can be compared with that of any other publication by calculating pairwise the 'genetic code similarity' (here: concept similarity) of all publications in a specific field. The more concepts two publications have in common, the more these publications are related on the basis of concept similarity, and thus they can be regarded as belonging to the same sub-field, research theme, or research specialty. To use a biological metaphor: the more specific DNA elements two living beings have in common, the more they are related. Above a certain similarity threshold they will belong to a particular species.

The above procedure allows clustering of information carriers -the publications- on the basis of similarity in information elements -the concepts ('co-publication' analysis). Alternatively, the more specific concepts are mentioned together in different publications the more these concepts are related. Thus information elements are clustered ('co-concept' analysis). Both approaches, the co-publication and the co-concept analysis, are related by the rules of matrix algebra. In practice the co-concept approach (Noyons

and Van Raan 1998) is most suited to science mapping, i.e., the ‘organization of science according to concepts’.

Intermezzo: For a supermarket ‘client similarity’ on the basis of shopping lists can be translated into a clustering either of the clients (information carriers, in which the information elements are the products on their shopping lists) or of the products. Both approaches are important: the first gives insight into groups of clients (young, old, male, female, different ethnic groups, etc.); and the second is important for the spatial division of the supermarket into product groups.

In outline the clustering procedure is as follows. First, for each field a matrix is constructed which composed of co-occurrences of the N concepts in the set of publications for a specific period of time. This ‘raw co-occurrence’ matrix is normalized in such a way that the similarity of concepts is no longer based on the pairwise co-occurrences but on the co-occurrence ‘profiles’ of the two concepts in relation to all other concepts. This similarity matrix is the input for a cluster analysis. Standard hierarchical cluster algorithm including statistical criteria can be used to find an optimal number of clusters. The identified clusters of concepts represent in most cases recognizable ‘sub-fields’ or research themes. Each sub-field represents a sub-set of publications on the basis of concept-similarity profiles. If any of the concepts is in a publication, this publication will be attached to the relevant sub-field. Thus publications may be attached to more than one sub-field. This overlap between sub-fields in terms of joint publications is used to calculate a further co-occurrence matrix, now based on sub-field publication similarity.

To construct a map of the field, the sub-fields (clusters) are positioned by multi-dimensional scaling. Thus sub-fields with a high similarity are positioned in each other's vicinity, and sub-fields with low similarity are distant from each other. The size of a sub-field (represented by the surface of a circle) indicates the share of publications in relation to the field as a whole. A two-dimensional structure is not sufficient to cover all relations embedded in the underlying matrix. Particularly strong relations between two individual sub-fields are indicated by a connecting line.

A next step (Noyons *et al* 1999) is the integration of mapping *and* performance assessment. It enables us to position actors (such as universities, institutes, R&D divisions of companies, research groups) on the worldwide map of their field, and to measure their influence in relation to the impact-level of the different sub-fields and themes. Thus a strategic map is created: who is where in science, and how strongly?

A series of maps of successive time periods reveals trends and changes in structure, and even may allow ‘prediction’ of near-future developments by

extrapolation. Such changes in maps over time (field structure, position of actors) may indicate the impact of R&D programmes, particularly in research themes around social and economic problems. In this way our mapping methodology is also applicable in the study of the socio-economic impact of R&D.

Bibliometric maps provide an instrument which can be used optimally in an electronic environment. Moreover, there is a large amount of detailed information 'behind the maps'. Hence it is of crucial importance that this underlying information, particularly about research performance, can be retrieved in an efficient way, to provide the user with a possibility of exploring the fields and of judging the usefulness of maps against the user's own expertise. Advanced internet-based user-interface facilities are necessary (Noyons 1999; Noyons 2004, in this Handbook) to enable this further exploration of the maps and of the data 'behind the maps'. Thus bibliometric maps and their internet-based user-facilities will enable users to compare the scientific performance of groups/institutes with other 'benchmark' institutes. Likewise, the maps can be used for the selection of benchmark institutes, for instance institutes chosen by the experts.

Co-citation analysis provides an alternative type of mapping, but it unavoidably depends on the availability of citation (reference) data and thus its applicability is less general than concept-similarity mapping. Co-citation maps are based on the number of times two particular articles are cited together in other articles. The development of this analytical technique is based on the pioneering work of Henry Small (Small 1973; Small and Sweeney, 1985; Small et al 1985). When aggregated to larger sets of publications, co-citation maps indicate clusters of related scientific work (i.e., based on the same publications, as far as reflected by the cited literature). These clusters can often be identified as 'research specialties' (McCain 1990; Bayer *et al* 1990; White and McCain 1998; Small 1999; Prime *et al* 2002). Their character may, however, be of a different kind compared with co-word based clusters: because they are based on citation practices they may reflect cognitive as well as social networks and relations (Braam *et al* 1991a,b). Moreover, citations only reflect a part of the intellectual structure, and they are subject to a certain, often field-specific, time lag. For recent work on co-citation analysis for mapping research themes of socio-economic importance I refer to Schwechheimer and Winterhager (2001).

As Derek de Solla Price formulated twenty five years ago: "scientific papers themselves form a system with a visible structure and, indeed, one that appears highly deterministic: the universe of scientific papers exhibits a clustering structure in a space of surprisingly small dimensionality: most of the behaviour can be accounted for in the usual two dimensions of a

geographical map. The clusters correspond remarkably well to entities that we intuitively feel to be the basic sub-fields of which science is composed. Whatever their physical reality, maps of science are certainly useful as heuristic tools.” (Price 1978).

Mapping of science is a fascinating endeavour. For a detailed discussion of important new developments in bibliometric mapping I refer to the contribution of Noyons (2004) in this Handbook.

4. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND OUTLOOK

The quantitative study of science aims at the advancement of our knowledge on the development of science, also in relation to technological and socio-economic aspects. Bibliometric methods play an important role in this field of research. The field is both problem oriented as well as basic in nature. There are important interdisciplinary links with philosophy, history and sociology of science, with policy and management studies, with mathematics and physics, and particularly with information science.

I distinguish four inter-related research themes: (1) the development of methods and techniques for the design, construction, and application of quantitative indicators on important aspects of science; (2) the development of information systems about science; (3) the study of the interaction between science and technology; and (4) the study of cognitive and socio-organizational processes in the development of scientific fields.

The work in the *first* research theme concerns empirical studies on the assessment of research performance and directly related aspects such as publication and citation behaviour, notions of scientific quality, differences in communication practices in the different disciplines, comparison with qualitative judgments by peers. Standardization of indicators including analysis of citing papers to assess aspects of ‘knowledge users’ mark the development of the ‘second generation’ bibliometric analysis (Van Leeuwen 2004). At the same time it will be of crucial importance to monitor the influence of the various forms of electronic publishing on all bibliometric indicators, ranging from the mere number of publications to composed indicators such as the internationally normalized impact.

It is interesting to notice that only recently, owing to the gradually increasing number of applications of large-scale bibliometric analysis for research performance assessment, bibliometric characteristics of ‘real’ working floor entities such as research groups become known. So far, these characteristics have mainly concerned ‘standard entities’ such as authors, journals, universities, and countries. The study of the ‘real working floor’ enables the inclusion of further input data about personnel which goes

beyond the data which are strictly necessary for conducting the bibliometric analysis described in Section 2.2. For instance, data about the sex and age of researchers enables one to investigate the role of women (Lewison 2001; Prpić 2002) or of the different age categories in the science system.

We have emphasized in this contribution the potential of advanced bibliometric indicators as ‘theory-invariant’ measures of scientific progress. Nevertheless, in the application of bibliometric indicators, no matter how advanced, it will remain of the utmost importance to know the limitations of the method and to guard against misuse, exaggerated expectations of non-expert users, and undesired manipulations by scientists themselves (Adam 2002; Butler 2003; Weingart 2003; Glänzel and Debackere 2003).

Given the crucial role of data as building blocks for indicators, it is not a surprise that a considerable part of the research in the field is devoted to the *second* theme: the development and maintenance of science information systems. These systems may contain data of many millions of scientific publications, but equally important are the many methodological and technical ‘added values’. This part of quantitative studies of science is mainly system design and software development, in order to handle the enormous data system and to apply complex algorithms for the calculation of a wide range of indicators, including new journal impact measures. In addition, other than the ‘classic’ bibliometric data may be added to enrich the system with, for instance, input data of scientific institutions and business companies, patent data, and web-based data (Bjørneborn and Ingwersen 2001; Bar-Ilan 2001; Thelwall and Harries 2003). Here we have an interdisciplinary bridge to information and computer science.

In the *third* research theme the focus is on the interaction between science and technology. I mention as an example the study of author-inventor relations (i.e., scientists who are active both in writing research publications as well as in creating technological breakthroughs), and the use of scientific knowledge in technological innovations (Schmoch 1993) on the basis of citation relations between patents and publications (Albert *et al* 1991; Narin 1994; Narin *et al* 1997; Glänzel and Meyer 2003). Technology in its turn strongly influences scientific progress (Etzkowitz and Leydesdorff 2000), particularly by the ever advancing development of instruments and facilities. Therefore the study of the interaction between science and technology has to take a broader perspective than only the transfer of knowledge from science to the technological domain. Most probably the development of instruments is *the* driving force of science. Hence the development of indicators describing the ‘instrumental state-of-the-art’ in scientific fields is very important.

The *fourth* theme is strongly related to bibliometric mapping techniques. The central issue here is to find optimal visual representations at different

aggregation levels by exploring the idea of ‘self-organizing structures’ in scientific and technological (on the basis of patents) development. It is a challenge to identify ‘hidden patterns’ in the enormous amount of data because all these publications (and patents) are connected by common references, concepts, classification codes. Co-citation and co-word techniques are examples of approaches to unravelling this gigantic network of inter-related pieces of scientific knowledge. These are important steps toward imaging cognitive processes. Systematic comparison of *cognitive* structures with *communication* structures based on citation analysis (Van Raan and Noyons 2002) offers the possibility of discovering areas of science which are cognitively related but not connected in terms of reference practices (pioneering work by Swanson 1986 and 1987).

Maps of science, with the locations of the major actors, are specific representations of scientific activities. They have practical values (‘strategic overviews’) as well as more cognitive (e.g., what type of scientific activities are primarily represented on the map). Co-word (concept similarity based) clusters can be used as ‘*journal set*’ *independent* entities for defining (sub-) fields and research themes. An important advance in mapping is ‘real time’ user-driven application. This enables us to observe how differences in the definitions of fields (in terms of keywords, journals, etc.) lead to different maps, and, particularly, which defining elements really do matter. It also allows simulations and other manipulations that may teach us more about the meaning of science maps. This real-time mapping is absolutely necessary for making the next step: to know more about the relation between *cognitive* and *bibliometric* mapping.

Finally, an exciting development is the study of statistical and topological properties of bibliometric networks and their relation to other networks. Theoretical work is oriented towards the understanding of fractal properties of science as a ‘bibliometric structure’ in general, and of co-occurrence structures such as found in maps based on co-citation analysis in particular. Most probably these properties are related to (cumulative) growth phenomena (van Raan 1990, 2000b). Soon the mapping and the network-based approaches will amalgamate. Bibliometric analysis then will reach its ultimate goal: to become, in the first place, an instrument for a scientist as a *grateful user*, instead of an instrument for a scientist as a *vulnerable target*.

To conclude this contribution, it is now not too vain to answer Holton’s major question ‘Can science be measured?’ with a modest ‘yes’.

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