# GENERAL THEORETICAL ASPECTS REGARDING BIBLIOMETRICAL RESEARCH

**Dana Stana**

University of Piteşti,
e-mail: dana.stana@upit.ro

**Abstract**. *An important role in information services is bibliometrics, which monitors and analyzes information resources, and provides a knowledge management in a social and organizational context. Providing this information is done via bibliometric research through the librarian.*

**Key words***: bibliometrics, scientometrics, metrics, bibliometric research, bibliometric indicators, bibliometric databases.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Today's term *bibliometrics* merges with the term *scientometrics*, and is increasingly replaced with the term *metrics*. For these terms some definitions have been attempted over the years [1,2,3]. Thus, in 1969, Pritchard, Nalimov and Mulcheko almost simultaneously introduced the terms *bibliometrics* and *scientometrics*; the definition they give for the former term is *an application of mathematical and statistical methods to books and other press communications of the media type* (Pritchard), and for the second, *the application of those quantitative methods dealing with the analysis of science seen as a process of information* (Nalimov).

In 1988, Vinita took over the term of *infometrics* and explained that it *deals with electronic media, and includes topics such as statistical analysis of scientific texts and the hypertext system, the circulation of documents in libraries, measurement of information in electronic libraries, models for production and management of information, and quantitative aspects of information storage.*

In 1994, Glanyel and Schoephlin argued that *bibliotemetrics* and *infometrics* include *all the quantitative aspects and scientific communication models, storage, dissemination and storage of scientific information.*

The most commonly used of the three terms, is *bibliometrics*, which is also the most frequent in the literature; it is defined as being the branch of bibliology branch whose scope is the quantitative study methods relating to the production, characteristics and flow of information [4].

## 2. MODERN BIBLIOMETRIC RESEARCH

Therefore, society as a whole needs a review of the exigencies of the moment. It seems that teachers, researchers and students increasingly need librarians.

Only they can restore the balance to the scientific community, it is they who will be responsible for the content of the information handled and used in libraries and documentation centers, in both processing and information processes, and the so-called info-documentary processes. At present only they have the necessary skills related to the specific specialty of that content. A reference librarian or bibliographer is an information specialist, a person who must prove both his/her analytical ability and his/her good knowledge of the various systems of information retrieval.He/she can involve himself/herself in the work meant to support the education and research process by means of: a) providing consulting services and specialized assistance; guidance in the modern information system, by querying databases (which are purchased institutionally, because individual costs are not justified); b) supplying products in print and digital format regarding information literacy (first-year students are given a leaflet when they enrol, or are informed that there is a library guide, a guide for consulting the databases, etc). c) development of bibliographies on request.

In these circumstances, visiting the library becomes mandatory for users, who will discover an even wider range of publications and valuable information that meets their needs.

On the other hand, those who are expected to make knowledge in their areas advance are those who write and publish articles and papers in journals that are recognized by the scientific community. It is to their interest that the result of their research should reach all the colleagues in the scientific community as quickly as possible, and especially that they could get a feedback that expresses the measure of their value. Sometimes, this does not happen or happens with more difficulty because prices of subscriptions to scientific journals are prohibitive, or there are various hindrances from the publishers. The author is asked by the publisher, for his/her paper to be published in a top-ranking scientific journal, that he/she gives them their copyright, lest the author should not subsequently post the article on their Web site, being liable to be sued by the publisher. And it will take some time, because there occurs the "embargo" that delays information from reaching those interested, as a certain spell of time should elapse before it eventually appears in a commercial data base – a period the publisher needs to publish the paper version.

From that angle as well, librarians feel involved and advocate *open access to scientific information*, free and rapid implementation of literature in scientific periodicals for all researchers in all countries to use, and protecting it via non-restrictive licenses, which should allow any type of use in compliance with certain rules on attribution and citation.

In an attempt to understand the scope and dynamics of the scientific world and its interaction with the rest of society, we find that there are several different dimensions and dynamics to distinguish. A comprehensive approach to the problem is provided by the regular statistics and reporting released by the *National Science Foundation in the United States*. [5]

We can mention some of them:

*I. The cognitive dimension of research*

The activity of research has a set of special connotations, as an organized cognitive activity in society resulting in discovering more appropriate representations of reality, disseminated in society, that is published and stored in bibliometric databases that make them more available.

Research is usually carried out in the academic disciplines, and new knowledge is produced, which can be new only if it is recognized as such worldwide.

*II. The commercial dimension of research*

Research income = the income of the group concerned, arising fromexoliting the intellectual property rights of the results of the research. This dimension can be determined directly from the accounts of the respective institution if the group assessed is the staff of one institution.

Some institutions have other purposes, too: practical (commercial exploitation of scientific authority in the form of consultancy services), educational or accounting. Whatever the involvement, the literature would profit, it will be promoted, ideas will be exchanged, will be professional improvement, and itwill all reflect the quality and progress in the field. The bibliometric analysisenvisages the evaluation of scientific research productivity and effectiveness. The rate of input / output is regularly calculated, and resourcesare monitored at all levels and, on that basis, allocated. The place of a researcher or organization in the national, regional or world system can be determined, who is the leader in a particular field of research, or even the dynamics of scientific directions, the history of science, etc.

Databases provide access to differentiated bibliometric indicators. The basic components of bibliometric tools are generally: 1) *the units of bibliometric analysis*: books, monographs, reports, theses, articles in journals, reviews and other periodicals; 2) *the basic unit in bibliometric analyses*: the article in peer reviewed scientific journals; 3) *the elements of bibliometric analysis*: the articles, the authors, the references and citations; 4) *the simple bibliometric indicators*: the number of items, the number of authors, the number of citations; 5) *complex bibliometric indicators*: index of citations, impact factor, Hirsch index, etc.

Therefore, the units of analysis can be books, theses, magazine articles, papers, etc. The statistical expression of the various ratios of these elements represents *the bibliometric indicators*. We use the following*bibliometric indicators for publications*: the impact factor, the relative influence score, and the Index Copernicus Value [6].

*The impact factor* is an index that allows us to approximate the value of scientific publications and help to compare them.It allows assessing the importance of a journal or review, and is calculated as equal to the number of citations of the article or paper, divided by the number of citable articles over a period of time (Thompson company do this calculation;it is generated using data from the Web of Science;it can be found in the *Journal Citation Reports* or on the website of the journal).It is assumed that, the more important a journal is in a field of science, the more it will be used and cited, and so it will have a higher impact factor.

*The relative influence score* is the ratio of the influence score of the articles in a journal and the influence score of the journal. The article influence scoreis calculated by Thomson Reuters in *Journal Citation Reports*. This indicator is important for the eligibility of the titles of teachers in higher education, of the professional degrees in research and development, and the habilitation certificate(for detailsone mayconsultthe UEFISCDI link at:http://uefiscdi.gov.ro/articole/3055/Scorul-relativ-de-influenta.html).

The *Index Copernicus Value* comes from the international platform specialized in promoting scientific results. It enables collaboration between researchers and publishers of scientific journals. *IC Journal Master List* is a database that indexes over 13,000 journals in the world. For ICV calculation methodology one can access:http://jml2012.indexcopernicus.com/page.php?page=3.

As *significant bibliometricindicators for articles* one can analyze the citation index and the Hirsch index. The *citationindex* (number of citations) remains the most widely used indicator, and it represents all the citations of an article over a period. It is found in *Web of Science*, *Scopus*, *Google Scholar*and *Publishor Perish* and. However, *Google academic* does not search in library subscriptions. The *Hirschindex* (or *h-index*) is the bibliometric indicator that measures the scientific visibility of an author, his/her scientific performance.A scientist has an *h* index if h scientific articles of the total number ofhis/her published articles each has at least h citations numbers. This index (calculated by *Scopus*, *Web of Science*and *Publish or Perish*) has the capacity of highlightingthose researchers who have made a significant contribution in their field, but did not gainthe reputation they deserve from the scientific community.

Ca *indicatori bibliometrici pentru autori* există şi este mai des accestat *Publish or Perish,* un software gratuit de analiză a citărilor ce utilizează datele din Google academic şi Microsoft Academic Search. / As there bibliometric indicators for authors and Publish or Perish accestat often, a free software citation analysis using data from Google and Microsoft Academic Search Academic.

Other indicators that are often used are Altmetrics and Webometrics. The former shows how far and how wide the content of a paper was spread on the web, and the content of the papers could be signaled on social networks, blogs or libraries through the management of references such as Mendeley, Zotero, Connotea, End Notes (seehttp://altmetrics.org/manifesto/), the latterprovides a) indicators underlying the ranking of universities (Nobel laureates, medals, Highly Cited Researchers, papers published in Nature or Science, large number of papers indexed Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) and Social Science Citation Index (SSCI), and b) indicators underlying the ranking of world universities: the volume of the web content, i.e. web pages and web files, as well as the visibility and impact of the web publications through the full number of occurrences of the link on the webhttp://www.webometrics.info/en/Methodology

*Bibliometricresearch* is aimed at three target groups of "contemporary bibliometrics": a) bibliometrics for *bibliometricians*, which considers informationmeant for users (it helps librarians to manage the collections of series and the subscription budgets, and publishers to monitor their competitors); this research represents basic research in bibliometrics and is aimed at the methodological aspects of developing and operation of instruments; b) bibliometrics for *researchers and scientists* (it helps them to keep abreast of scientific information in a particular area, to identify the journals relevant for their research). This is the group represented by most of the users; c) bibliometrics for *policy makers and managers in the field of science* (the tools provide data necessary for evaluating research,for individual and / or institutional scientific evaluation).

However, bliometric research has some disadvantages. Some mediocre people may become 'learned'thanks to the "bibliometric method", while a real, innovative researcherfails to progress and remains unnoticed. What could be of interest is cognitive rather than quantitative evaluation: this is the only path leading performance. Another major drawback is the fact that older specialized literature

and it could be omitted, because the main goal is to cite recent literature (within 5 years).

The Library of the Piteşti University provides access to the bibliometric database*Thomson ISI - Web of Science*–which is actually a complex and comprehensive information resource; it isat once a bibliometric and bibliographical database, available on line onthe*Web of Knowledge* platform. There are references on journals and conferences, most of which have with an ISI impact index. It is a useful tool for librarians in terms of decisions on annual procurement of journals.The user can set up their personal account, thus becoming part of the online community of researchers, and sohaving the promise of visibility:i) alerts configured for citations; ii) list of relevant journals, viewing or sending their contents by e-mail; iii) lists of saved results; iv) reports of the articles published and criteria received in keeping with the years, and for some papers and articles it is even allowed to access the full version; v) citations, the sum of all citations, average number of citations per articleand *Hirschindex*, etc.Also,an alert for citations can be created, so when the article is cited, a notification will be received by e-mail. In much the same way,the articles related to it can be seen, as well as the references used, and whether the journal that published the article selected is ISI or not, through a link to the database *Journal Citation Reports*. It can also generate a graphical representation of the impact factor.

The *Institute for Scientific Information* (ISI) has been indexing scientific journals, conferences and patents after an evaluation process since 1955, when it was founded by Eugene Garfield, now being part of Thomson Reuters Corporation. A journalthat is not found among the journals indexed journal ISI is considered to be BDI (indexed in international databases), so it is part of the *Master Journal List*.

The*Master Journal List* includes all the journals that are found in the various scientific products of the Thomson Reuters Corporation of Philadelphia, USA. *Thomson ISI – Journal Citation Report* is available online on the *Web of Knowledge* platform and provides quantifiable statistical data that allow visualization of ISI journals, with no exceptions, and only the full list of the journals, and statistical data on the dynamics of citations (e.g.citations of the articles in the journal, in an annual report, and/or the table including the papers that have cited the papers in the journal).

At the address http://addmin.apps.isiknowledge.com can be viewed Romanian ISI journals. ISIannually publishes the *Journal Citation Report*, which lists several scientometric indicators. Publishing in an ISI journal means to respect certain international requirements of research and writing, providing the chance of being read and commented on. *Thomson ISI – Dervent Inovation Index* includes data on patents and inventions recorded in 40 countries, including Romania.

It provides an international overview of an invention, including its novelty, its legal owner and its degree of protection. It helps users to identify the progress of technology, reduces duplication of research in a particular field, oversees the global activity of all competitors, develops new ideas, identifies the possible gaps in the market and leads to the patenting of new research.An important role in information services is bibliometrics that monitors and analyzes information resources and provides a knowledge management in a social and organizational context. Providing this information is done by means of bibliometric research, helped along by the librarian – a *guide and leader*, a *mediator of culture and science*, a *creator of links*.

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Excerpt from the list of publication of the authors of indexed articles THOMSON REUTERS ISI-WEB OK KNOWLEDGE at the University in Piteşti, in 2013 (inter-, trans-, cross and muldisciplinary papers)

| Name | Surname | Institution | Papers ' title | Journal | ISSN | Impact Factor (IF)in2013 |
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| Savoiu | Gheorghe | Universitatea din Piteşti | FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT BASED ON COUNTRY RISK AND OTHER MACROECONOMIC FACTORS ECONOMETRIC MODELS FOR ROUMANIAN ECONOMY | ROUMANIAN JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC FORECASTING, VOL. 16:1, PAGES: 39-61 (THOMSON REUTERS ISI-WEB OK KNOWLEDGE) PUBLISHED :MARCH 2013 | 1582-6163 | |
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