

# Abstracts for the NordForsk Workshop on Bibliometrics for the Social Sciences and Humanities

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## **Issues with data sources for social science and humanities bibliometrics**

*Diana Hicks, Georgia Institute of Technology*

Bibliometrics in the social sciences and humanities presents a particular set of challenges, yet social science research communities around the world face pressures for quantitative evaluation. This talk will review the difficulties and measures that are being taken to move the field forward. Bibliometric evaluation in the social sciences is possible. However, if done correctly, it is messy, complex and expensive. Why? In the social sciences, we find English language journal publication, books, publishing in local languages and contributions to trade literature and the popular press. Citations accumulate slowly and the idea of a core set of journals can be problematic. This paper examines these difficulties and what I have come to call the four literatures of social science: journal articles, books, national literature, and non-scholarly literature. I will examine the methodological problems the four literatures present in evaluation and will assess the success of efforts to resolve the problems and the consequences of ignoring them.

## **Bibliometrics on the humanities: its current practice and implications for future research**

*Björn Hammarfelt, Uppsala University*

This paper analyzes research on the topic of bibliometrics and the humanities in order to depict the developments in this area in recent years. The study shows that previous studies emphasize issues such as the coverage of databases, the heterogenic audience of the humanities and the general purpose of scholarship in these fields. Several solutions for amending available methods and improving current databases have been proposed by researchers, but there is still considerable debate concerning if and how bibliometrics can be applied to disciplines in the social sciences and the humanities. This paper discusses different possibilities of developing a ‘bibliometrics for the humanities’. In connection to this it considers the implications that recent changes in scholarly communication—such as digital publishing, evaluation schemes and open access—might have for the use of bibliometric methods. The paper concludes with some reflections on what might lie in the future of the growing bibliometric research that is directed towards the humanities.

## **How to evaluate social sciences and humanities?**

*Maria Forsman, University of Helsinki*

The bibliometric analyses – especially citation analyses – have raised a lot of discussion and critics among social scientists and humanities. Researchers feel that bibliometric analyses are often unfair for SSH, because they don't give a good enough picture of publishing in these fields. The citation databases – Web of Science and Scopus – cover weakly journals of these fields. Although there can be seen changes in humanities and social sciences to publish articles in international journals, monographs and articles in monographs form still the main publishing forum. Before the recently launched Book Citation Index monographs did not include in citation databases, if they were not cited in some article in a journal.

Researchers' opinions have been taken into account during the research evaluation at the University of Helsinki (UH). For the International Evaluation of Research and Doctoral Training at the UH 2005-2010 bibliometric specialists of the university library carried out analyses for the SSH research groups. The data was downloaded from the UH research information system TUHAT (PURE) that includes all the publications and other research activities that the researchers themselves have considered important.

## **Developments in the evaluation of Dutch Social Sciences and Humanities**

*Thed van Leeuwen, Sarah de Rijcke, Erik van Wijk and Paul Wouters, Leiden University*

Recently CWTS conducted a bibliometric study for a university in the Netherlands, which has a large medical faculty/hospital, while most other research relates to law, social sciences, and humanities. Goal of the analysis was 'to measure the impact of the university'. The input for the study consisted of registered publications in a research information system called METIS, covering the period 2004-2009. These publications were all held against the Web of Science. The results could be used for a so called external coverage analysis ('what part of the output was found in WoS'), this was complemented by an internal coverage analysis ('to what extent do authors of papers in WoS refer to other WoS publications'). The combination of the two coverage analyses indicates the adequacy of the WoS for usage in bibliometric research assessment applications.

Not surprisingly, the medical faculty came out quite well in this analysis, with 84% of all publications of the university covered in WoS. However, the business school and the economics school, together with the faculty of social sciences did much less on this analysis, as each unit covered roughly 5% of the university output in WoS. The remaining 1% of the output is related to Law, History, and Philosophy, while these units produced in total 8,400 various types of scientific output.

An additional analysis of the output types of the various units of the university learned that the social sciences related units, Law and the humanities units did actually publish quite some journal publications, which are simply not covered by WoS. Furthermore, the output contained, as might be expected, many books and book chapters, which are also not covered in WoS. For Law we found in addition many annotations, notes on legislation. Finally, a category 'Other' contained many outputs related to prizes won, and participation in editorial boards and peer review committees.

This recent study by CWTS will be used as illustration for recent initiatives in the Netherlands to come to more balanced assessment procedures which fit the various types of scientific activity and the resulting

outputs in the SSH. This will be discussed in the light of a recent report by the Royal Academy for assessments in the Humanities, showing some new approaches to come to quality judgments in the SSH. Furthermore, comparisons are made with initiatives regarding the evaluation of the SSH in the Nordic countries and Belgium.

## **Comparison of Nordic Publication Channel Ratings with special regard to SSH**

*Janne Pölönen, Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, Helsinki*

My presentation compares the ratings of scientific journals, publication series and book publishers produced on national level in Norway, Denmark and Finland. I propose first to discuss the common principles and criteria as well as the structural differences between the Nordic classifications, followed by brief overall examination of the three journal lists and the ratings.

The presentation is focused on the group of SSH publication channels, defined by their inclusion in the lists of social sciences and humanities panels in Norway, Denmark and Finland. I hope to address two questions of importance with regard to the possible use of these lists and ratings in evaluation of SSH publication activity in Nordic countries:

1. to what extent the titles are of international/Nordic or national importance?
2. to what extent the three Nordic lists agree upon the ratings?

The material consists of the journal and series title lists produced in Norway, Denmark and Finland. In this analysis, I take it as a broad measure of more international/Nordic importance that a title is included in all the three lists, and as a measure of more national importance that a title is included in only one of the lists. With regard to consensus in ratings, a distinction is made between titles rated to level 2 in all the three countries, titles rated to level 2 at least in one country, and titles that have received only level 1 ratings.

## **Using the Norwegian model in a Swedish setting: consequences for social sciences and humanities**

*Karin Henning, University of Gothenburg*

Bibliometric indicators are often discussed (on a local or a national level) as disfavoring different subject areas or disciplines. The case for social sciences and humanities has been difficult due to the lacking coverage in citation databases as Web of Science and Scopus. The bibliometric publication point model of Norway has, in this respect, tackled the coverage deficiency.

In 2010 the University of Gothenburg changed the bibliometric model of allocating (parts of) direct research funds. The previous model was criticized of only measuring quantitative output and therefore a committee with representation from all faculties of the university was assembled. The goal of the discussion was to present one indicator that would suite the scientific publishing culture of all faculties (arts/humanities, economics/law, education, fine arts, IT, medicine, science and social sciences). The result was twofold. The committee was strongly opposed of using bibliometrics for any resource allocation, but if necessary - a model was proposed where every faculty could choose their own indicator, and the relative change of each

faculty measured. Five out of eight faculties selected the Norwegian model, among them the faculty of arts (humanities) and the faculty of social sciences.

The model will be presented in full, and could serve as an example of taking into account different publishing patterns and demands from a variety of academic disciplines. Also of general interest are the questions raised from the faculties of arts (humanities) and social sciences when choosing the Norwegian model: Is it suitable to "import" a foreign model to a Swedish setting? Are there areas within, for example, humanities that are disfavored with respect to prestigious national publishing channels? The legitimacy aspect is meant to be analyzed comparing the Danish and Norwegian models and possible differences of outfall between the models and subject disciplines.

## **Different approaches for measuring the publishing activity of researchers in Humanities**

*Brian Kirkegaard Lunn, Anne Lyhne Høj and Paul Meier Melchiorsen, Aalborg University*

**Introduction:** We aim at **The Workshop on Bibliometrics for the Social Sciences and Humanities** to investigate different approaches for measuring the publishing activity of researchers in Humanities. In order to do that, we study the publishing activity of researchers in Humanities at one Danish university, namely Aalborg University (AAU) compared to researchers from all fields at AAU. In this way, the paper will continue the study by Lunn et al. (2012), with its focus on publishing activity in the Humanities.

**Method:** We will compare the share of publications from researchers in Humanities at Aalborg University with the overall share of publications from AAU. In order to measure prestige of the publications we use an internal yardstick, namely The Danish Bibliometric Research Indicator. The Bibliometric Research Indicator is a model that gives different weights for different types of publications and publication channels based on the so-called Authority Lists of publication channels. We also use external yardsticks namely the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) from Web of Science (WOS) and the Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP) from Scopus. Further, we will use the European Reference Index for the Humanities and their categorization of international journals in two levels, to see whether the development here corresponds with the development that can be found in the Danish Bibliometric Research Indicator, JIF and/or SNIP. In addition, we will look into the 14 different subject categories used in the ERIH lists, to see whether interesting differences can be identified. Similarly, we investigate the publishing activity in the 68 different research fields applied in the Danish Bibliometric Research Indicator, with a focus on the research fields used by humanistic scholars from AAU.

**Preliminary results:** A comparison of the publications by researchers in Humanities and the publications of researchers from all fields, show that the share of publications that has been given a weight, also called BFI-publications, overall increases in the 10-year span investigated, while it decreases slightly for publications from the Humanities.

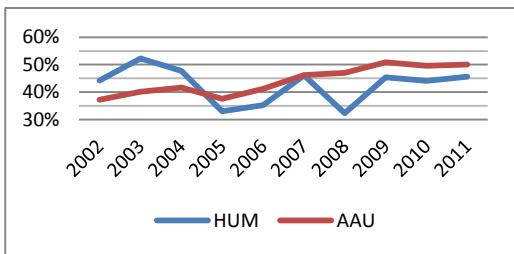


Figure 1: The percentage of BFI-publications from researchers in Humanities and from all AAU researchers

We have compared the share of publications in sources with ISSN with the two major citation databases, namely Scopus and WOS. Here, we see that the Humanities have a similar development in the share of publications in both databases as all research fields, though they as expected are much less represented.

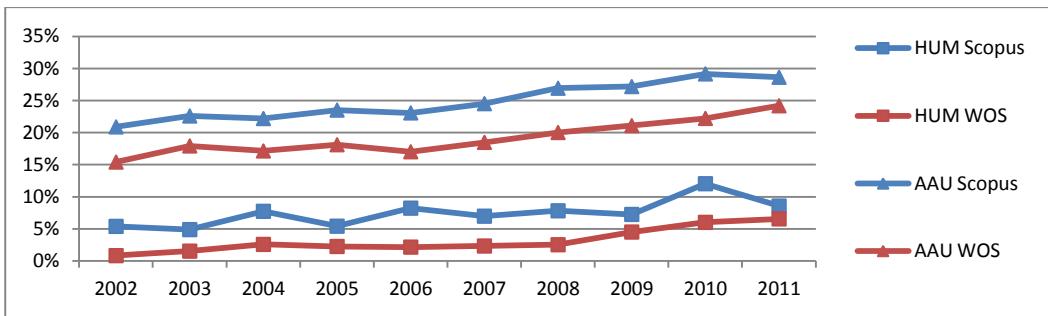


Figure 2: The percentage of publications from researchers in Humanities and from all AAU researchers in Web of Science and Scopus, respectively

## The use value of research in the social sciences

Reetta Muhonen, Risto Kunelius and Marja Alastalo, University of Tampere

Recent decades have faced the emergence of an intensifying call to redefine the role of science in societies. A powerful *discourse* focusing on the explicit economic and social *use value* of research is led by the natural and technical sciences and their links to business and national economies. It is not easy for social sciences to situate themselves well in the criteria set in this kind of market driven impact discourse. The current call for the use value of research – for shorthand purposes here labeled as “use value discourse” – is articulated in several forms.

In this presentation we are scrutinizing the role of social sciences and humanities in the use value discourse. We describe this use value discourse in relation to two questions. Firstly, the use value discourse can be characterized in relation to goals of research; are they derived from the internal ambitions or external benefits of science. Secondly, we ask to which extent the logic of the research is characterized by the ethos of competition and to which extent by the ethos of social consequences. Most important points of contestation that define this discursive landscape can roughly be identified with four ideal types of science: 1) Innovation Science and (2) Indicator Science (3) Public Science and (4) Evidence Science. The presentation is based on the literature review.

The research is part of the project: "From Impact to Relevance: Tracking the dynamics of social scientific knowledge and society". The project is in a planning phase.

# **Using co-authorship for analyzing international collaboration in the social sciences and humanities. A study of the University of Bergen**

*Dag W. Aksnes and Susanne Mikki, University of Bergen*

Data on international co-authorship is often used for analyzing international research collaboration. This is based on the assumption that when researchers from different countries co-author a publication this reflects international collaboration. International co-authorship may in this way be used as an indicator of such collaboration.

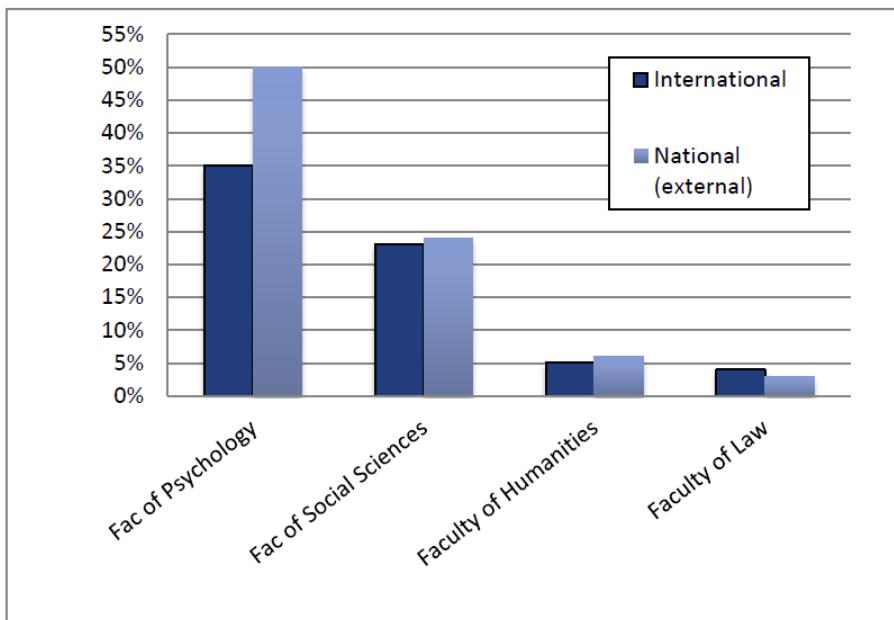
A large number of studies have been published using this approach. Most of the studies have been based on data from the database Web of Science (Thompson Reuters) and more recently, Scopus (Elsevier). However, these databases have severe limitations in respect to the social sciences and humanities as only a small fraction of the scholarly literature is indexed. Thus, the picture obtained concerning the extent of international collaboration in these fields is unreliable.

In this study we are using an alternative data source to analyze the extent of international collaboration in these fields. This is the Norwegian publication database which has a complete coverage of the scholarly publication output.

**Data and methods:** The analysis is based on publication data from CRIStin (Current Research Information System in Norway) for the University of Bergen for the years 2009 and 2010. In the study, we have only included scholarly publications. The restriction to *academic* publications, rend us a complete and highly qualified set, suitable for collaboration studies across selected faculties at the University of Bergen: The Faculty of Psychology, The Faculty of Social Sciences, The Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Law.

**Results:** We have analysed the proportion of the publications having external national co-authors (i.e. co-authors from Norwegian institutions outside University of Bergen) and international co-authors (i.e. co-authors from foreign institutions). The results are illustrated in Figure 1. There are large differences between the faculties both in the proportion of national and international collaboration. Of the selected faculties, The Faculty of Psychology is the one with strongest international collaboration rate, with 35 % of the publications co-authored with foreign scientists. Then follow the Faculty of Social Sciences (23%). The Faculty of Law and The Faculty of Humanities, on the other hand, have very few internationally co-authored publications. This is related to the fact that the large majority of the publications at these faculties have one author only. The latter issue will be elaborated at the conference. We will also make a comparative analysis where the set of publications indexed in Web of Science is analysed for international collaboration.

**Figure 1. Co-authorship by faculty. Proportion of publications with international and national (external) co-authors.**



## Patters of co-publishing in different publication types in the social sciences and humanities

*Hanna-Mari Puuska, CSC - IT Centre for Science, Finland*

Most studies on co-authorship in scientific publications concern articles in international scientific journals indexed by international databases Thomson Reuters Web of Science or Elsevier Scopus. In social sciences and humanities, the research results are frequently published as books or book chapters and in national forums. Therefore, a great share of publications in these disciplines is not covered by these databases. There is some evidence that co-authoring patterns vary by publication types and that some publication types are co-authored more often than others. A study of three Finnish universities' publications in 1998-2005 shows that while the journal articles have a higher number of authors on average than monographs or book chapters in natural sciences and medicine, the case is opposite in social sciences and especially in the humanities (Puuska & Miettinen 2008).

This study shows results on co-publishing patterns in social sciences and humanities in Finnish universities. The following indicators are calculated and compared between various publication types (journal articles, monographs, book chapters, conference proceedings, non-scientific publications):

- the share of multi-authored publications
- the average number of authors
- the share of internationally co-authored publications

Furthermore, differences in co-publishing patterns between different subfields of social sciences and humanities will be investigated.

The analysis is based on all Finnish universities' publications published in 2011. The universities have reported bibliographic data on all their publications to the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture as part

of the annual national data collection in March 2012. The data includes 13,791 publications in SSH from 15 universities. All publications include information on the number of their authors and if they are international co-publications. Publications are classified according to a 16-itemized publication type categorization that covers not just scientific output but also popular publications.

## **A measure of collaboration for edited books in the social sciences and humanities**

*Truyken L. B. Ossenblok and Tim C. E. Engels, University of Antwerpen*

The paper will present the results of a feasibility study into designing a bibliometric measure for the degree of research collaboration as apparent from edited books in the social sciences and humanities (SSH). Research collaboration has been demonstrated to correlate with both the quantity and the quality of research output (Bukova, 2010; Benavent-Pérez, Gorraiz, & Gumpenberger, 2012). In order to quantify the degree of research collaboration, several collaborative measures based on mathematical computation of the number of co-authors have been put forward, e.g. the collaborative index and the revised collaborative coefficient (Liao & Yan, 2012).

Research has shown that the publication output of SSH entails not only journal articles, but also a significant number of books as well as chapters in edited books (Hicks, 2004; Nederhof, 2006). As the collaboration within edited books comprises both the authors of the chapters as well as the editor(s) of the book, the question arises whether the known measures of research collaboration suffice to quantify the degree of research collaboration involved in editing a book. In particular an edited book not only represents collaboration between the authors of the chapters and the editors of the book, but also between the authors and the editor(s). Therefore, the paper investigates the feasibility of a new measure that expresses this kind of collaboration.

The proposed new measure is applied to data from the Flemish Academic Bibliographic Database for the social sciences and humanities (VABB-SHW), a comprehensive database of peer reviewed publication output in SSH developed for the region of Flanders, Belgium. Data from different SSH disciplines are compared and, in addition, a distinction between the social sciences and the humanities is made. Engels, Ossenblok & Spruyt (2012) have shown that in the humanities 17.2% of all publications included in the VABB-SHW are book chapters, whereas in the social sciences book chapters comprise only 5.9%. Therefore, we expect the new measure to be of particular interest for bibliometric studies of research collaboration in the humanities.

## **Comparison of two national portals for scientific literature in Sweden and Norway**

*Leif Eriksson, Uppsala University and Gunnar Sivertsen, NIFU, Oslo*

This study is a comparison of two national portals for scientific literature, SwePub in Sweden and Cristin/Frida in Norway. Both portals are based on local repositories at universities and colleges in the two countries, but the incentive for setting up the systems differs. While the Cristin/Frida portal in Norway was designed to provide publication data for the new national model of resource allocation for research funding, the Swedish counterpart SwePub is merely a tool for combined searching in the repositories of the

30 participating universities and colleges and the system is at this point not being used as a research assessment tool. However, there are discussions about how SwePub also could be used as a data source for national funding in the same way as the Cristin/Frida system. We will study how the different starting points affects the coverage and selection of publications in the portals but also what they can contribute in terms of visualizing literature that usually is not covered in common databases.

## **Developments in the scholarly publishing practices of the social sciences and humanities**

*Gunnar Sivertsen, NIFU, Oslo*

What is happening to scholarly book publishing and to the use of national languages in the social sciences and humanities? Is the journal article in English becoming dominant? Will it completely take over?

These questions are presently being asked in several countries, not only in Europe. They are not only discussed in relation to the process of internationalization of research communication, but also in relation to questions concerning scholarly standards and societal responsibility.

In a historical perspective, it is a process of reinternationalization. Three hundred years ago, most scholarly publications would be in latin, and a hundred years ago, scholars were expected to use several international languages, not only English, in addition to their native language. The nationalization of the humanities and social sciences mainly took place during the last fifty years in connection with the expansion of the higher education system. This was a process of democratization, not only of higher education, but also of research. This is the reason why scholars in the social sciences and humanities may worry about their societal relevance if they should publish only in English in specialized international journals, why other scholars in the same field may argue that the same change would enhance the quality of research along with the transition into multidisciplinary specialization.

I will give some empirical evidence from Norway that can be used in these discussions. The evidence is partly based on surveys among Norwegian university staff that have been performed every decade since 1981, and partly on a database with complete records of scholarly publications in the Norwegian Higher Education Sector 2005-2011. The data will be analyzed with regard to language (national/international) and publication type (articles in journals and series/articles in books/monographs).