



# ISSI NEWSLETTER

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## EDITORIAL

### THE SEVEN-YEAR ITCH?

Another four years went by since the first résumé about the newsletter had appeared (Glänzel, 2008). The e-zine was launched seven years ago to support communication among ISSI members and to keep them informed about important events, about individuals and about the social and academic life in our society. The first summary of 2008 reported a success story, in particular, we could establish that we had succeeded in accomplishing our ambitious

aims by presenting a mixture of information and entertainment to the readers and we were also able to publish a number of short research notes on topical questions in the relevant research fields.



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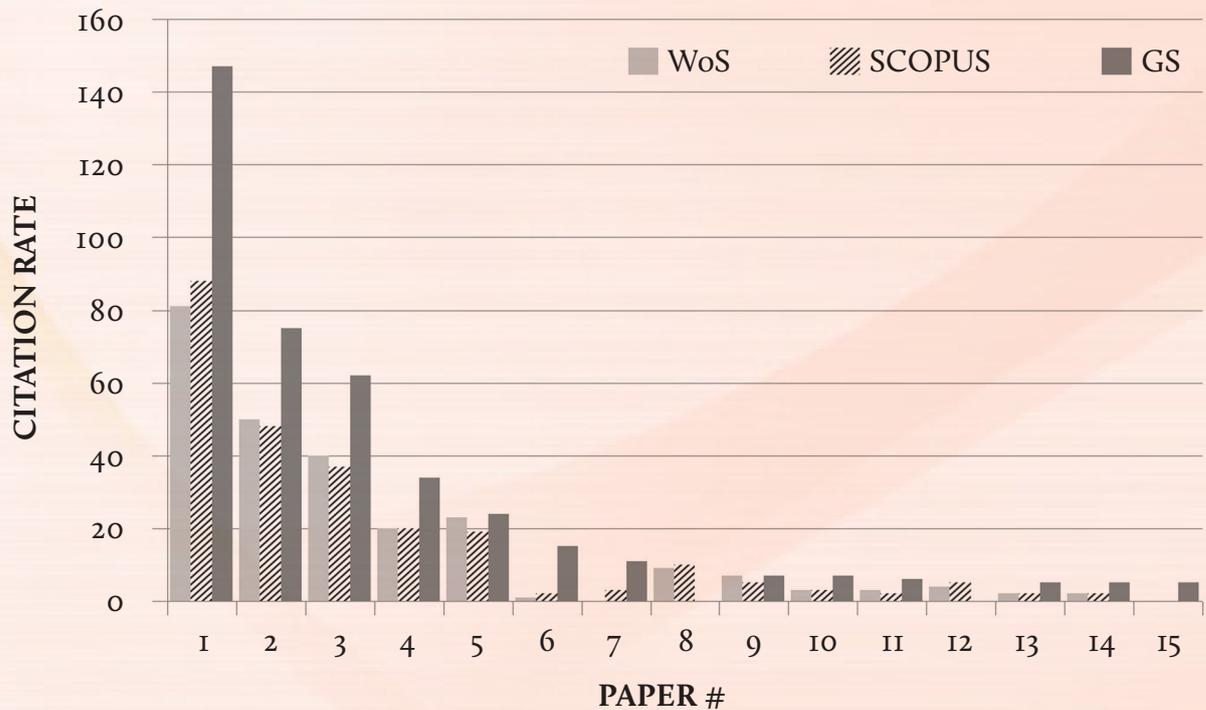


Figure 1 The ISSI Newsletter in the mirror of citation indices (2005-2011)

Now, after seven years have elapsed since the foundation of the newsletter, the question arises of whether the enthusiasm of the makers and the readership of the e-zine has continued or, in contrast, signs of fatigue or even the “seven-year itch” made itself felt.

It is time now to prove or to reject the seven-year-itch hypothesis. The newsletter stands on four important pillars, (1) the editorials introducing the special focus of the number or addressing society-relevant or topical issues of general interest, (2) the announcements and event reports, (3) the items about individuals, notably Balázs Schlemmers’ famous refreshing interviews with awardees, and, finally, (4) the book reviews, research articles and short communications. Besides the regular numbers we have supplemented the newsletter by special volumes. Four festschriften have been edited so far. The first one was to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of Tibor Braun in 2007. It was followed by the two volumes to honour Olle Persson and Manfred Bonitz on the occasion of their 60<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, respectively, and by the festschrift on the retirement of Peter Ingwersen in 2010.

A retrospective bibliographic editorial, written by bibliometricians, will of course not go without statistics. In total, 4 book reviews and 68 articles and short communications have been published during the seven years, that is, 2.4 articles and notes per number. 37 of them have been cited in at least one of the following three databases: Thomson Reuters’ Web of Science (WoS), Elsevier’s SCOPUS and Google Scholar (GS). The citation rates of those papers, that have received at least five citations in one of these databases, are plotted in Figure 1. Citations are counted from the publication year till 15 February 2012. 15 papers have met this criterion. The mean citation rate of the 68 articles and short communications amounts to 4.13 according to the WoS, 4.04 according to SCOPUS and GS reported 417 citations, that is, 6.13 citations per paper. The deviation between WoS and SCOPUS is negligible indeed (about 2%). However, impact is not only a matter of quantity, the newsletter always attempted to be innovative and to grasp the nettle. The newsletter was among the first periodicals to react on the h-index, an initiative that has been rewarded by the

community through its attention – and citations. Glänzel and Persson (2005) received 20/20/34, Bar-Ilan (2006) 23/19/24, Egghe (2006) 81/88/147, and Kosmulski (2006) 50/48/75 citations by documents indexed in the Wos/SCOPUS/GS databases. Egghe's paper on the improvement of the h-index has become the most frequently cited paper in the history of the newsletter. However, this is only one example of innovativeness. The paper by Labbé (2010) reported an interesting and bold experiment: How to produce (fake) papers to become a new star in scientific firmament? His message was a clear warning addressed to the community. He pointed to the fact that gaps in the present computer-aided system of academic writing, reviewing and publishing along with the uniformed use of quantitative evaluation tools facilitate manipulation and fraud. No editor dared to publish the paper in his/her journal. We did. The response by the public was not long in coming: the online version of the renowned German newspaper "die tageszeitung" headlined "Do you know Ike Antkare?" (Balmer, 2011). Cantoni (2011) recounts the story of "Ike Antkare, the non-existing researcher" in the Italian online magazine *Oggi Scienza*. Also the prestigious French newspaper *Le Monde* referred to this case (Anon., 2011). This list of examples is, of course, not exhaustive.

Another example of public interest in our pieces is the paper on the emergence of Turkish science (Glänzel, 2008). A shortened Turkish version of this articles appeared in the "Science and Technology" supplement of the newspaper *Cumhuriyet* (18.05.2008, p.20-21).

We think that the continuing success tells against the hypothesis of the seven-year itch, and there is no sign of fatigue either. The newsletter has, despite of this success, a big potential for providing more information and achieving greater visibility and impact. However, the number of authors is still limited. We would like

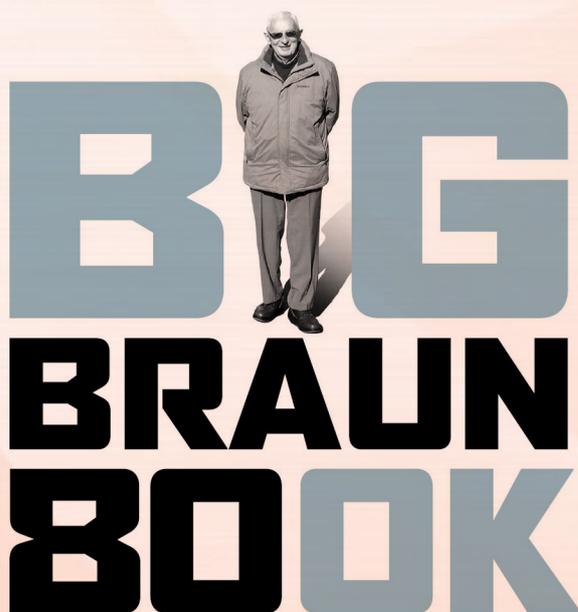
to take this opportunity to encourage all readers of the ISSI Newsletter to actively contribute to the future success of this project by submitting announcements, reports or research notes. At the same time we thank all contributors who have already supported the newsletter with their endeavours and enthusiastic work. We sincerely look forward to further years of fruitful co-operation.

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# BIG BRAUN BOOK

## PICTORIAL & VERBAL TRIBUTES TO TIBOR'S BIRTHDAY



An album of the above title was compiled for Tibor Braun on the occasion of his

80<sup>th</sup> birthday (March 8, 2012) by two of his “descendants”: his younger son, András Braun and one of his oldest coworkers, András Schubert. Only a very limited number of printed copies will be delivered to the jubilarian (it is certainly going to be a bibliological rarity after a while), but an electronic version will be available in wider circulation; the ISSI Newsletter will inform the interested readers about its accessibility in due time.

The 44 contributors of the album cover the wide spectrum of Tibor's family, friends and colleagues; this latter both from the scientometric and the chemical area.

What could give a better foretaste than the foreword (together, of course, a forepicture).

*If we believe in Chinese wisdom (and why shouldn't we?), one picture is worth ten thousand words. Consequently, this album is worth about Shakespeare's Complete or twice Marx's Capital or Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings. As Paul Martin Lester, a communication expert of the California State University, Fullerton interprets this proverb [<http://commfaculty.fullerton.edu/lester/writings/letters.html>]: „With have reasserted their position as an but at the cost of not recognizing the as vital in communication. With the words and pictures live in harmony to understand the meaning of any*

*What we attempted while editing this harmony. Each participant has gratulatory words and harmonizing how much this aim has been reached, whether pictorial and verbal pages acted in synergy or remained in languid cohabitation. The usual pointer is reiterated: if you find the result satisfying, it is the merit of the contributors, if not, it is the failure of the editors.*

*Here we stand or here we fall.*



*digital hegemony, visual messages important communication medium, combination of words and pictures correct interpretation of the proverb, as they are both used equally in order work that uses them both.”*

*ing this album was exactly to reach been asked to contribute with con-*

*András Schubert & András Braun, Editors*

# JOURNAL OF SCIENTOMETRIC RESEARCH



**SUJIT BHATTACHARYA**  
Editor-in-Chief

In close collaboration with SciBiolMed.Org and EManuscript Services a new journal in the field Scientometrics has been established. This journal will encourage both empirical and theoretical contributions that advance scientometric research and will also reach out to scholars of Science and Technology Studies (STS), sociology, economics and any other field who use scientometric data as the 'object of investigation' or apply scientometric analysis in policy or innovation studies.

The journal thus seeks to publish articles in all the different domains of scientometrics including patent studies (technometrics) and web-based studies (webometrics).

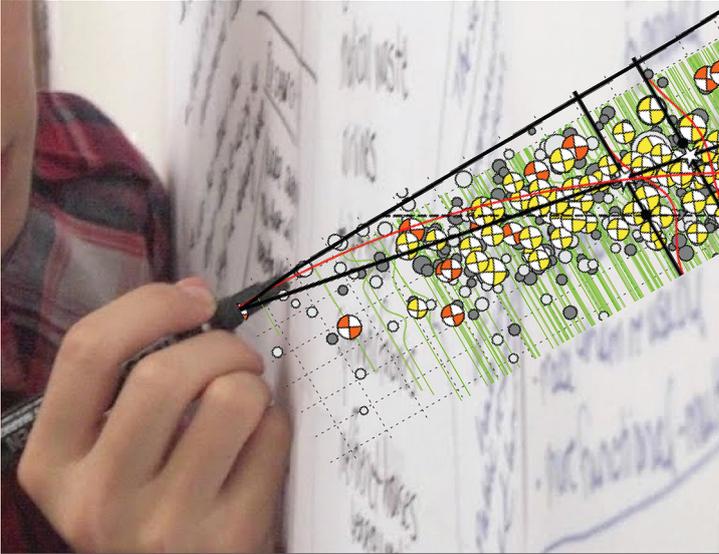
It will particularly welcome articles that address intersection of quantitative and quali-

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tative approaches like development of hybrid indicators, supplementing research evaluation with qualitative methods, linking funding to performance indicators. The journal will thus strive to provide a platform of exchange between scholars in different research traditions like STS, Innovation and Sociology.

It is an internationally targeted official publication of SciBiolMed. The journal will publish full length research articles, short communications, review papers, letters to editors, commentaries, perspectives and book reviews online in an open access format. This means that submitted manuscripts, once

accepted and approved, will become online available with a DOI. Articles are then freely accessible in Abstract View and PDF.

Interested users will be able to subscribe to RSS feeds for latest information and alerts of this journal.

The first issue of the journal is scheduled to be available in July 2012 and will contain invited papers on a broad range of topics.

Guidelines for authors can be found on the journal's website: <http://www.jscires.org/instruction-authors>

To make this new journal a great success it can count on the support of a network of international scholars

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# ISSI MEMBER RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Dr. Yuxian Liu (Tongji University, Shanghai, China) obtained the 2011 Emerald/EFMD Outstanding Doctoral Research Award in the category Information Science. She received this award for her doctoral dissertation entitled “The diffusion of scientific ideas in time and indicators for the description of this process”, which she wrote as a doctoral student of the University of Ant-

werp (Belgium). ISSI president Ronald Rousseau was her thesis advisor.

Commenting on this occasion she wrote “Obtaining this award reminds me of my learning experience: when I was a teenager I announced to the world that I wanted to study abroad and obtain a doctoral degree. It seems magic that my dream of obtaining a doctoral degree abroad came true thirty years after I announced it, at a time when it seemed an impossibility”.

Yuxian Liu’s work has been published (or is accepted for publication) in the journals *Scientometrics*, *Journal of Informetrics*, *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, *Journal of Documentation and Information Processing & Management*. In 2009 she wrote a short note on the h-index in the ISSI Newsletter. She also gave an oral presentation at the 11<sup>th</sup> ISSI Conference in Madrid (2007). Although this older research dealt with the h-index she moved on trying to use citation analysis as a means of tracing the development of scientific ideas.

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/research/awards/odra.htm>



# 17<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INDICATORS (STI)

5-8 SEPTEMBER, 2012  
MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

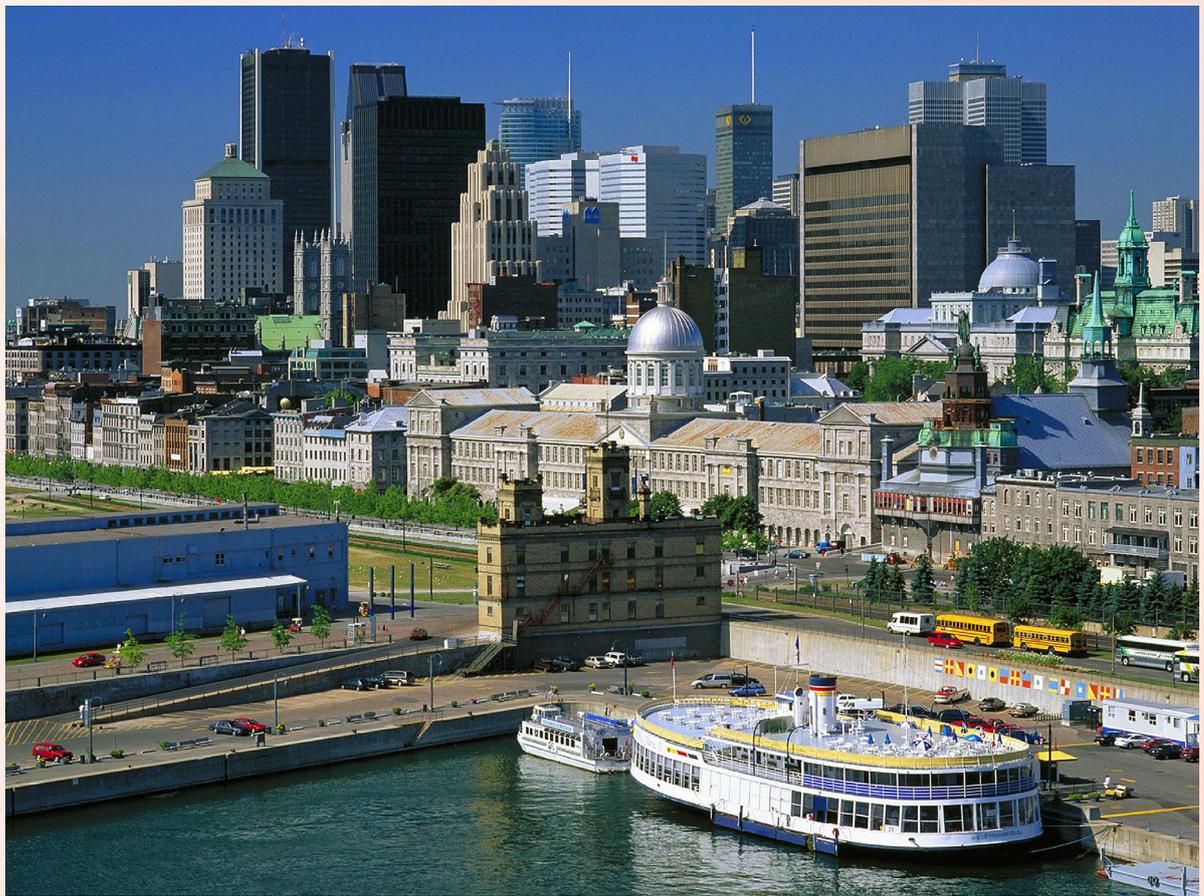
## FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS

In part due to a growing global trend in evidence-based decision-making, the use of S&T indicators for the evaluation of research—not to mention for research planning and policy—is increasing in nearly every country. New indicators and databases continue to emerge and a growing number of scholars hailing from a wide range of disciplines have joined the ranks of the S&T indicators community.

The STI conference has become the main yearly venue for the S&T indicators community of practitioners, researchers and

users. The International Conference on Science and Technology Indicators, informally known as the “Leiden Conference”, was traditionally held every other year. In 2010, it merged with the conference series organised by ENID (European Network of Indicator Designers), which was held in the alternate years. The resulting STI conference series will continue presenting high-quality scholarly work while also providing a venue for networking and the promotion of cooperation between researchers, international organisations and other S&T indicator users.





Held for the first time outside Europe, the 2012 STI conference is jointly organised by Science-Metrix and the Observatoire des sciences et des technologies (OST) and will be held at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). The 2012 edition will be organised around the three following themes:

- ▶ Theoretical, historical, practical and social aspects of S&T indicator development and use
- ▶ Methodological aspects in the use of S&T indicators and the production of statistics
- ▶ Use of S&T indicators in R&D management and S&T strategy development and evaluation

The 17<sup>th</sup> STI conference will be preceded by the 2<sup>th</sup> Global TechMining Conference <http://www.gtmconference.org/>. Participants to the STI conference are encouraged to attend both conferences.

The working language of the conference will be English.

Please note that in contrast to previous STI conferences, researchers and practi-

tioners are asked to submit full papers (from 6 to 12 pages). The selected papers will be made available in open access on the STI conference website.

**KEY DATES:**

Deadline for submission of full papers or research in progress papers	March 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2012
Notification of acceptance of papers	April 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2012
Deadline for posters submission	May 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2012
Notification of acceptance of posters	May 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2012

Further information will progressively be made available on the conference website:

<http://2012.sticonference.org/>

Email: [info \[at\] 2012.sticonference.org](mailto:info@2012.sticonference.org)

Chairs: Eric Archambault,

Yves Gingras,

Vincent Larivière

Honorary President: Francis Narin

# INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE STUDY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY “PROF. GILBERTO SOTOLONGO AGUILAR”

18-20 APRIL, 2012  
HAVANA, CUBA



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The VI edition of this highly successful seminar will be held in Havana, Cuba, from April 18 – 20, this year under the auspices of the biennial Cuban Conference on Information (INFO2012) organized by the Cuban Institute for Scientific and Technological Information (IDICT) and the Cuban Ministry for Science, Technol-

ogy and the Environment. The idea for the Seminar was originally put forward during the 7<sup>th</sup> ISSI meeting in Colima, México, in 1999 which led to its foundation in 2002 to provide a Spanish-speaking forum for the identification of regional institutions and research interests in the field, as well as a space for discussion and cooperation be-

tween the different researchers and actors that participate in this crucial area of work.

The instigators of the Seminar were Gilberto Sotolongo and Maria Victoria Guzman of Cuba, and César Macías-Chapula and Jane Russell of Mexico but it was Gilberto's idea to hold it as part of Cuba's INFO Conferences of which it has now become a permanent feature. Following the premature death of Gilberto in 2003 and in whose honour subsequent editions of the Seminar have been named, his place was aptly taken by Isidro Aguillo of Spain as the fourth member of the coordinating committee.

With the passing years the geographical mix and thematic scope of the Seminar have broadened encompassing colleagues from Spain and other countries into what was originally envisaged as a Latin American forum, and including new research areas such as data mining. The Seminar programme includes both oral and poster presentations, all submissions undergo a process of peer review by three experts



Photo: © Balázs Schlemmer

in the field. Select papers have been published in the *Revista Española de Documentación Científica*. Keynote speakers have become an integral part of the Seminar, beginning in 2008 with Wolfgang Glänzel. This year we will be welcoming back Wolfgang with Anna María Prat of Chile as our second guest speaker. The increasing importance of the Seminar as



Photo: © Balázs Schlemmer

Photo courtesy of Jane M. Russell



an integral part of the INFO Conferences can be appreciated by the time allotted to the Seminar by the Conference organisers and by a mounting number of presentations. In 2002 activities were limited to one day, with 15 oral presentations and an opening speaker, this year the Seminar comprises two days of oral presentations totalling 26, plus one morning for viewing and discussion of 25 posters.

Considered for presentation are research studies, review papers and case studies completed or in progress, related to the quantitative and/or qualitative studies of science and technology. Bibliometric, Scientometric, Informetric, Patentometric, and Webometric studies are of particular relevance, without discounting the importance of qualitative analytical methods and approaches.

Relevant topics for the VI seminar include: Scientific communication models; Patterns of communication, collaboration, information flows in S & T, migration; Literature dynamics; Indicators to support decision making in science pol-

icy; Visualization and organization of information for bibliometrics, scientometrics and webmetrics/cybermetrics; Theoretical aspects of the qualitative and quantitative study of science and technology; Analysis, design and application of software; Data and text mining techniques in indicator construction.

In 2012 almost 60 papers were received and reviewed, many in collaboration, of which 38 were from Cuba and 19 from countries such as Mexico, Uruguay, Belgium/Hungary, Austria/France. Unfortunately, the world economic crisis has limited the participation this year of colleagues from Spain and Argentina who have made significant contributions to the Seminar in previous years.



Photo: © Balázs Schlemmer

Additional information on the seminar and the papers presented in previous editions can be found at <http://www.dynamics.unam.edu/alci/>, the homepage of the Iberoamerican Collaborative Network on Science and Technology (COLCYTI).

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