ISSI 2017, Wuhan, 17-20 September 2017

Workshop
Reproducible Scientometrics Research: Open Data, Code, and Education

Reproducibility in Scientometrics through Quality Assurance

Sybille Hinze
hinze@dzhw.eu

DZHW.
Motivation

Once upon a time...

- Pre 2008:
  - Increasing interest in and demand for sciento-/bibliometrics
  - Germany – sciento-/bibliometrics in Germany rather fragmented, small units with insufficient capacities
  - Internationally - efficient organizations with in-house facilities specializing in sciento-/bibliometrics were set up
- 2008: Four organizations joint forces and – with support from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research – and founded the CCB
- 2014: Three new members joint the CCB
- 2018: Opening up of data infrastructure to grantees of the BMBF funding initiative “Quantitative Science Studies”
Mission

- Creation, development and curation of a quality assured data infrastructure for bibliometric applications
  - Based on WoS und Scopus data (customized)
  - Data infrastructure centrally hosted at FIZ Karlsruhe, designed and optimized for bibliometric applications
    - Consisting of raw data and “bibliometric” data
    - Standardized test and approval protocol
    - Annual “freeze”, old versions archived
- Enrichment of the data and the infrastructure – with contribution by all partners
  - Cleaning of journal names and country names
  - German address disambiguation incl. historization
  - Matching algorithms
  - Indicator pre-calculation
  - Field classification
  - Shared procedures
  - FA disambiguation
  - Publisher disambiguation
  - Open Access ID
Mission

- Research and development
  - Development of appropriate methods and indicators and contribution to the theory of bibliometrics and critical reflection of its application
    - Coverage of datasets
    - Adequacy of methods
    - Reliability of indicators
    - Interpretation of indicators
    - Influence of errors and distortions

Results feed back into further enriching the data infrastructure
Education and training

- Master course curriculum «Science Studies» at Humboldt University Berlin
- PhD training e.g. newly set up research group on «reflexive bibliometrics»

Beyond Germany...
- European Summer School of Scientometrics (esss)
  - Annual event since 2010 in cooperation with Vienna University, the Catholic University Leuven, and, since 2017 the University of Granada (since 2017)
    - providing training on theoretical foundations, data retrieval and handling, indicator construction
    - Target groups: research management; science policy decision makers; researchers; information specialists, librarians
Summary

- Our approach to ensure Reproducibility
  - Organizational
  - Distribution of labour
  - Collaborative approach with shared responsibilities and accountability e.g. institutionalized approval procedures
  - (Openeness)
  - Transparency
  - Standardization
  - Stability of data sources
  - Regular feedback options
  - Reflexivity
  - Knowledge sharing
Summary

- What threats to the reliability of scientific knowledge in scientometrics exist & why bother?
  - Insufficient theoretical foundation
  - Un-reflected number crunching
  - Acceptance or lack thereof as result of the above

- Should we be more concerned about exact or conceptual reproducibility? (Why?)
  - Not an either or question but, both dimensions are highly relevant

- Through what measures can these threats be addressed?
  - Organizational
  - Procedural
  - Education
  - Empirical and theoretical foundation