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EDITORIAL

■ The role of our society in the organisation of the international conferences on scientometrics and informetrics

It has been a great pleasure for me, as newly elected president of the society, to meet so many colleagues at the 11th ISSI conference in Madrid. Yet, for those among you who unfortunately were not able to make it to Spain, this issue contains a short report on everything that happened. Twenty years ago, in 1987, Leo Egghe's brainchild was born, and today we are still going strong: stronger than ever I may say.

I take this opportunity to elaborate on a question raised by some colleagues wanting to organise an international conference on scientometrics and informetrics. I have been asked sometimes about the role of ISSI, given that the society does not provide money for the organization of such conferences.

Indeed, ISSI does not provide conference organizers with material help. Yet, it does provide another type of support. ISSI provides a framework, a structure so that conferences on informetrics are not scattered efforts, but form a regular series of related events. Moreover, ISSI acts as a watchdog. It ensures the overall quality of this series of conferences. Most importantly, for what concerns local organizers, ISSI offers them a vote of confidence when its board ac-

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cepts a proposal for organizing a future event. Last June Isabel Gómez and her team, organizers of the 11th ISSI conference in Madrid, have amply shown that they deserved this vote of confidence. On behalf of the board and of myself I thank them for their efforts and congratulate them on the results.

Now the vote of confidence has been given to Abel Packer and his Brazilian team for 2009 and to Dennis Ocholla and his South African group for 2011 (to be confirmed in 2009). Expectations are high!

Ronald Rousseau
President of ISSI

11TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR SCIENTOMETRICS AND INFORMETRICS

MADRID, SPAIN, JUNE 25-27, 2007

Isabel Gómez,
María Bordons,
Isidro F. Aguillo

(CINDOC-CSIC)

The Spanish Scientific Research Council (CSIC) hosted the 11th ISSI Conference that took place in Madrid last June (25-27) in the CSIC central campus. The conference halls of three research institutes, together with the Residencia de Estudiantes and its gardens, were open to colleagues from all over the world interested in Scientometrics and Informetrics. The CINDOC groups on bibliometrics and cibermetrics, with a long tradition attending previous ISSI Conferences, were in charge of organizing the 2007 Conference.

The geographical position of Spain, the wonderful weather in June and the Madrid amenities attracted a large number of delegates, one hundred more than in the previous ISSI meeting in 2005. This is very relevant as many face to face encounters were possible, especially for newcomers. The physical restraints were minimal, being the major one the impossibility of having all the posters together; so unfortunately each one was on show only one day.

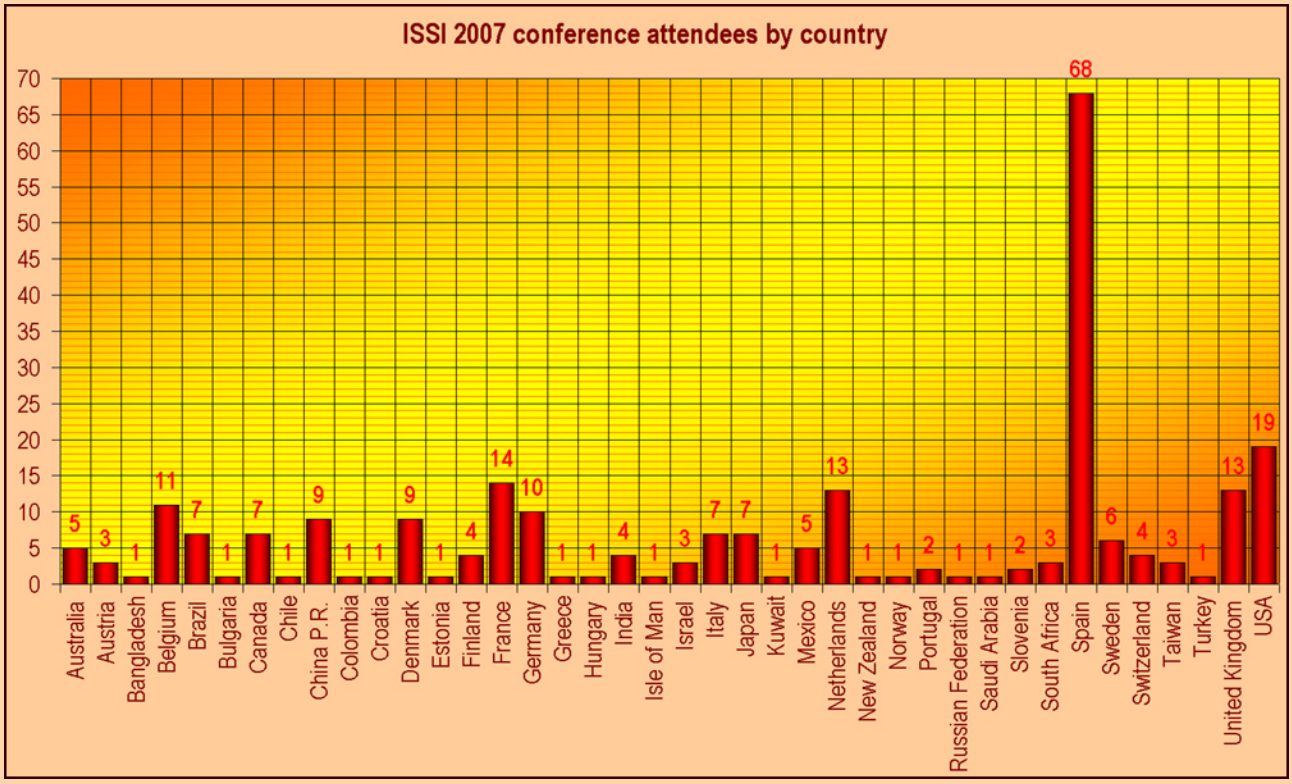
The acceptance rate was guided by quality over all other reasons. Henk Moed as Programme Chair was responsible for the process of selecting the oral presentations and organising them into

different thematic sessions, as well as inviting the keynote speakers of the opening session. Ed Noyons was in charge of the poster sessions. Around 60 specialists of the International Scientific Committee participated in the peer review process. As a whole, about one third of the proposals were rejected, and the final programme consisted of 92 oral presentations and 77 posters.

The topics were surprisingly well delimited, so most of the sessions were homogeneous enough to avoid "migration" to parallel sessions. The plenary session was brilliant. A special mention is due to Stevan Harnad, who masterly presented his invited talk on Open Access and who was available during the full event. As invited speakers we also had Eugene Garfield from Thomson-ISI and Ruediger Klein from the ESF. The quality of the presentations in the scientific sessions was in general good, with some weaknesses: not every final version submitted was as good as expected from the abstracts, but the general feeling is that the quality is improving year after year. Nevertheless, according to several attendees, the few presentations on patents and webometrics were somewhat disappointing. Good news for those not attending the Conference is that the Proceedings (two thick volumes) cover all the material presented, including even the keynotes.

The pre- and post-conference sessions were very interesting. The Doctoral Forum, organised for the second time by Rickard Danell and Birger Larsen, allowed young researchers to present their preliminary results in a small room to high-level scholars who commented from their experience. The two Post-conference Workshops, under the responsibility of Peter Ingwersen, were well organised and the quality of their papers was comparable to the main event. They focused on the use of CV for evaluation purposes and on Information Visualization.

One of the main objectives for the organizers was to contribute to the integration of the Spanish scientometrician community and that was a success, as 68 colleagues (including some students who helped in the organisation), came from Spain (27% of the total!). A total of 40 countries were represented including several first



ones. Ten scientists received some kind of financial support to attend the Conference, following the tradition established for ISSI Conferences.

During the social event -dinner in the beautiful city of Toledo (not Ohio but the original one)- the Awards Ceremony took place. The Derek de Solla Price Medal 2007 of the journal Scientometrics went to Kate McCain (again Drexel University), whereas the Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship 2007 was granted to Sonia Maria Ramos de Vasconcelos from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

Many people were involved in making this event possible. We want to warmly thank our own organization CSIC and our Institute CINDOC (particularly its manager) for their help and continuous support; the EyC enterprise who carried the administrative load and made everything run smoothly; our sponsors from Spain and abroad for their financial aid; and of course the participants in the event for their interesting contributions and fruitful discussions.

As Conference Chairs, we were very happy to receive you all in Madrid, and we hope to meet again in the next ISSI2009 in Brazil.

A FEW MOMENTS OF THE ISSI 2007 CONFERENCE

(Photos by Wolfgang & Zsuzsanna Glänzel and Birger Larsen)

INTRODUCING THE DEREK DE SOLLA PRICE AWARDEE OF 2007

– interview by Balázs Schlemmer –

The awarding ceremony of the Derek de Solla Price Memorial Medal has become an essential part of the programme of ISSI conferences since the foundation of the Society in 1993. The Price Medal was conceived and launched by Tibor Braun, founder and Editor-in-Chief of the international journal Scientometrics, and is periodically awarded by the journal to scientists with outstanding contributions to the fields of quantitative studies of science. This year's awardee is KATHERINE W. McCAIN (College of Information Science and Technology, Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA). In accordance with the tradition, prof. dr. McCain received her Medal during the conference dinner of the ISSI 2007 conference in Madrid, Spain. Congratulations to the award-winner!

KATHERINE W. McCAIN

■ At the beginning of your scientific career you obtained a BS degree in zoology. A few years later, still in zoology and marine biology, an MS degree followed. And then, "all of a sudden", you defended your PhD dissertation in information science. How did it all begin? How did you drift from scrutinizing Schizoporella unicornis under the microscope to the investigation of longitudinal cocited author mapping?

Well, as I commented in my thanks, it was a bit convoluted. As a marine biologist and natural historian, I'd been exposed to the importance of taxonomy and systematics (scientific classification) in understanding the organisms I was studying and also to the history of science and biology/evolutionary theory in particular. So I was pre-adapted to be an information scientist who studies the life sciences. Not long after I completed my MS degree, my husband joined the Economics Department faculty of the City College of New York and I taught as an adjunct in the Biology Department at Staten Island Community College. In 1976, after two years in NYC, we moved to Philadelphia, where my husband was on the faculty of the Economics Department of Temple University. Within a few weeks of our settling in, the Temple University Library advertised for a paraprofessional (Bibliographic Assistant) to run the library in the Biology Department, and I took the job.

In 1977, the science librarian, Jim Bobick, attended a presentation at the Medical Library Association conference discussing how citation analysis could be used in collection development decisions. So he

* You can learn more about the award and award winners on the ISSI website: http://www.issi-society.info/price.html

assigned a research project to each of the departmental library BAs (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics) - to do a citation analysis of the use of journals and other materials by our patrons. When I had completed my data gathering, I organized the results as what I came to know a bit later as a "Bradford distribution" and thought that was interesting. Jim was an adjunct in what was then the School of Library & Information Science at Drexel and said that we should show our results to Belver Griffith. So we did, and the next thing I knew, in Fall 1980, I was in the PhD program. (The article reporting our results was published in JASIS in 1981.)

Belver taught a research seminar for doctoral students and assigned each of us to do some kind of research project of our own choosing. I had been attracted to the cool graphics of cocitation mapping and Howard White (my advisor) and Belver had just published their ACA paper in JASIS (on information scientists). After some consultation with my husband, I decided to try to map Macroeconomics and was fortunate to publish the results in Scientometrics in 1983. I continued this work for my dissertation, adding Drosophila Genetics and splitting the study of each into two successive time periods. I also realized that it would be good to find out how macroeconomists and fly geneticists thought about their fields, so I supplemented the bibliometric study with a combination of interviews and card sorting. I interviewed a number of macroeconomists and fly geneticists in the Boston-NY-Philadelphia area. The results were my dissertation and several articles.

■ **Just out of curiosity, what were your basic findings about this tiny little colonial animals named Schizoporella unicornis?**

It was a basic descriptive natural history study – geographic distribution, anatomy, etc. This species seems to have been introduced several times in the Pacific NW – probably as a fouling organism – from Japan.

Schizoporella unicornis (aka Single-Horn Bryozoan).
Photo: © 2005, courtesy of Derek Holzapfel (http://www.nature diver.com).
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(Fouling organisms settle and grow on the hulls of boats, anything that floats in the water, tires hanging off of docks, etc.) If I had continued this as a dissertation, I probably would have worked with the (then) new techniques of gel electrophoresis to study genetic variation in the various locations.

■ **Back to information science: what was your most important publication? (Not necessarily the one with the highest citation impact, but the one, which you are the most proud of, that is, your personal favourite just because of the topic, the shrewd methodology, the complexity of the research, etc.)**

That's really hard to say. A mother loves all her children equally. But I think I'm still proudest of the research that combines bibliometric (co-citation) and knowledge elicitation (card sorting) methods as a way of validating the maps. I've done this twice formally – in my dissertation and in a more recent Scientometrics paper on software engineering. I don't think anyone had previously applied KE methods in direct comparison to co-citation mapping.

■ **Have you ever had a very surprising research result which was completely against your preliminary expectations?**

Perhaps the complete disconnect between information science and medical informatics that Ted Morris and I found when we did a co-cited journal mapping of medical informatics. But that wasn't nearly as surprising to the MI folk as it was to us information scientists. Even now, a number of years later, there seem to be shared interests that don't show up in the literature.

■ **Which one do you rather prefer: teaching or research? Do you happen to have a memorable story from the classroom?**

I love teaching, but I'd have to give a slight edge to research. That's what keeps me going.

My most memorable classroom story has nothing to do with bibliometrics or scientometrics, however. I used to teach a course called Serial Literature which looked at collection development, management, etc. of all kinds of serials (primarily print in those days).

The class had several field trips including one to ISI (just down the street) and one to the local bindery. In preparation for the bindery trip, the company would send me their videotape showing how journals were bound. One year I ran the videotape in class and discovered that it was not "how journals were bound" but an in-company video of the annual trip to Florida. Most of the video consisted of middle aged people in bathing suits standing up in boats and drinking various alcoholic beverages. Needless to say, that was memorable for me and the students – and the bindery which was sufficiently chagrined to give us lunch that year when we came for our field trip.

■ Let's take a closer look at the scientist behind science. How do your colleagues and/or students characterize you? And how do you refine the picture?

Wow – that's difficult. You should probably ask them. If I had to guess, I think my colleagues think I'm bright, eclectic, collaborative, reliable, and very high verbal. My students probably think I'm bright, eclectic, very high verbal and pretty intimidating until they get to know me (it's partly the courses I teach). I take my teaching and research very seriously but try to keep things light as well.

■ 5 books, 5 CDs and 5 movies you would take to a desert island with you...

Books: Stephen J. Gould's "The Structure of Evolutionary Theory," the latest edition of the one-volume Columbia Encyclopedia, Tolstoy's "War and Peace" (I'd actually have time to read it), Whittaker's "Island Biogeography," and Darwin's "The Voyage of the Beagle."

CDs: Any edition of these Mozart operas: The Magic Flute, Don Giovanni, The Marriage of Figaro; Ella Fitzgerald & Joe Pass "Easy Living;" Blossom Dearie [Diva series]

Movies: The Godfather 1&2, Citizen Kane, The Maltese Falcon, Casablanca, Branaugh's version of Henry the Fifth.

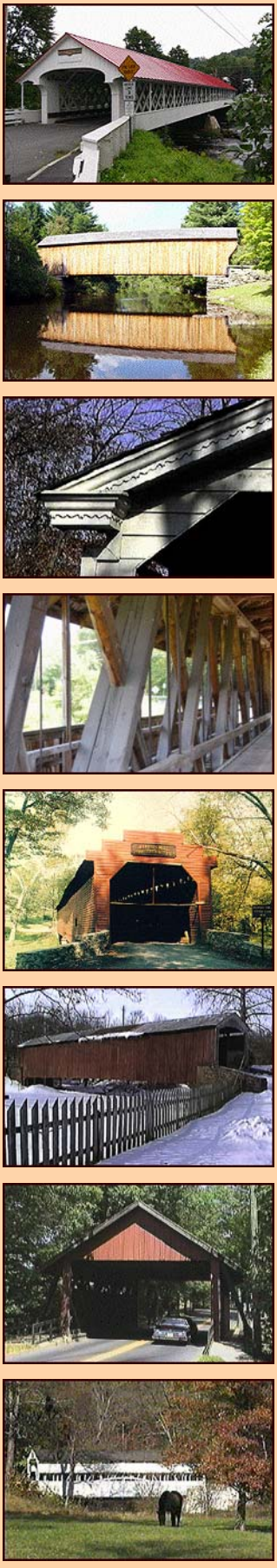
■ I have seen on your website that one of your hobbies is to locate and photograph covered bridges. To be honest, it seemed to be a very strange leisure time activity at first sight, but when I started to watch the photos and read the texts around them, I realised that these bridges are lovely, indeed. Nevertheless, "collecting" covered bridges remains quite a unique hobby. Where did the idea come from? And what's to be known about covered bridges in a nutshell?

Well-it comes from the interests my husband and I share in (1) driving around the countryside and (2) industrial archaeology (we also chase old canal systems and old highways based on pre-1930 road guides). It fits in well with bird watching and wildflower/dragonfly & butterfly photography as well.

In this country, covered bridges were built from the late 1700s through the 1920s or 30s (and a few are being newly built today, in addition to older ones being renovated or rebuilt after arson fires, floods, etc.). I'm interested in the engineering aspects, the (sometimes but not always) picturesque settings, and the fun of discovering new places I haven't been. The bridges are covered in order to protect the structural elements – the trusses and I'm interested in truss design. Pennsylvania has the most covered bridges of any state and Park County, Indiana has the most of any individual county. There are a number of state and local organizations devoted to preserving this part of our architectural and technological heritage and you can get brochures that will list bridges and illustrate driving tours to visit them efficiently.

■ Could you mention a few of your most memorable conference (or other job-related) stories?

The most memorable conference experience was clearly the Madrid ISSI meeting where I was thrilled to receive the Price Medal and to hear Howard White, my thesis advisor and colleague, say such nice things about me. My



Covered bridges.
Photos: © Dr. Roger A. McCain
(http://william-king.www.drexel.edu/top/bridge)
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Awarding ceremony at the ISSI 2007 conference in Madrid. Kate McCain (awardee), Isabel Gómez (conference organizer), Wolfgang Glänzel (ISSI secretary-treasurer) and Howard D. White (previous Price-awardee).

favorite conference session that I organized was probably the ASIST conference in the mid-1980s where I managed to get Belver Griffith, Patrick Wilson, and Yale Braunstein on a panel discussing issues in information and intellectual property. I was a new assistant professor then and, while Belver was just down the hall, the other two were really big names at Berkeley and I didn't know them at all. The attendance was remarkable, given that it was on the last morning of the conference. And then there was the one time I actually met Derek Price – Belver organized an informal conference at Drexel with Derek Price, Michael Moravcsik, Henry Small, possibly Gene Garfield, and Susan Crawford. It was really overwhelming for a doctoral student to be in the same room with all of these people who were writing what I was reading!

■ **What was the most embarrassing situation during your professional career? And the funniest?**

Embarassing? In terms of research, I've made a few faux pas in press-characterizing "spin glass" *[Wikipedia: "a disordered material exhibiting high magnetic frustration" – remark of the editor]* as a kind of glass (Diana Hicks caught that one) and misspelling oeuvre in my 1984 JASIS article (can I blame the copy editor for not fixing it?). I don't recall being embarrassed in person (I've probably blocked that out). In teaching, the most embarrassing experience was the first term I taught science reference. I forgot the day and time of the class and someone had to come find me. Luckily I was in my office.

Funny? I don't know if it qualifies, but I once submitted a paper to what I thought was a marine sciences library conference and discovered, when I arrived, that it was a conference of fisheries researchers with one session devoted to information resources. It was kind of neat, actually, because I got to hang out again with folks who wore blue jeans and had fish counters on their belts. I ended up publishing my presentation as a paper in the society journal.

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THE 12TH NORDIC WORKSHOP ON BIBLIOMETRICS AND RESEARCH POLICY IN COPENHAGEN

by Birger Larsen, Lennart Björneborn and Peter Ingwersen

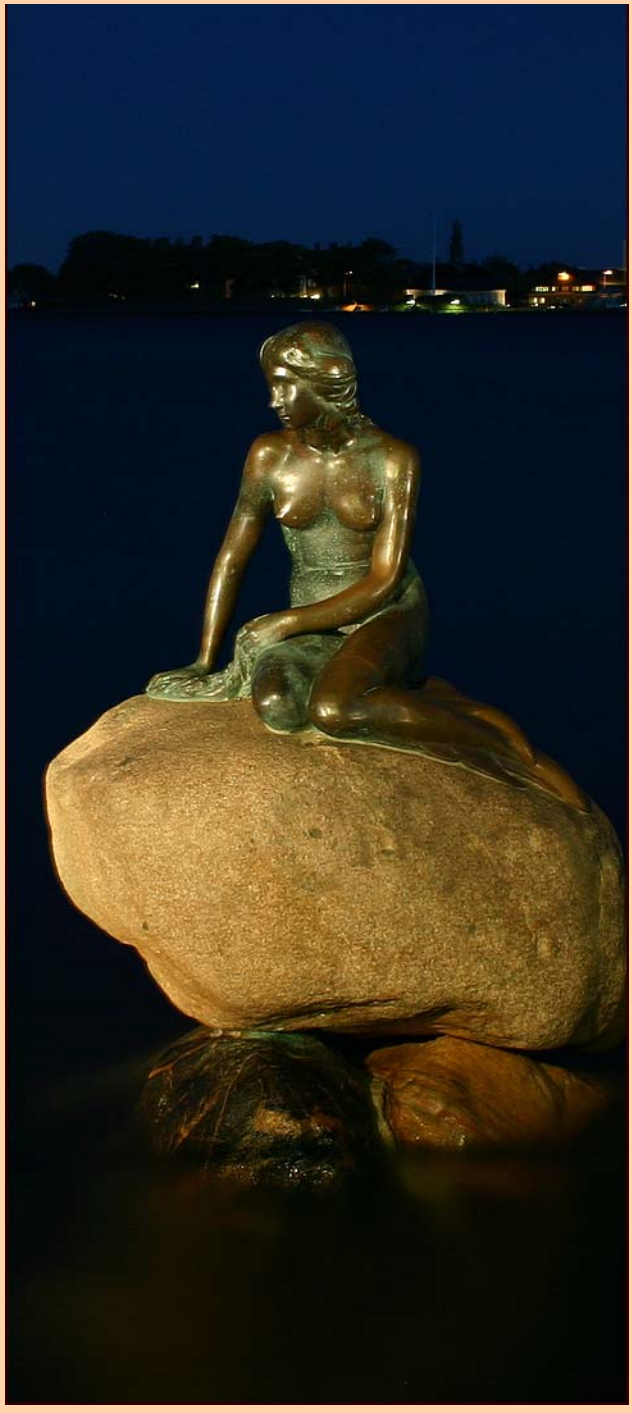
Bibliometric researchers in the Nordic countries have arranged annual workshops since 1996 alternating between Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The 2007 workshop was held September 13-14 at the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Copenhagen.

The purpose of the Nordic workshops is to present recent bibliometric research in the Nordic countries and to create better linkages between the bibliometric research groups and their PhD students. Traditionally, there is no workshop fee and the workshop language is English and open to participants from any nation. Following a discussion at the 2006 workshop dinner efforts were made to recruit a wider range of participants both locally and internationally. As a result the Call for Presentations was circulated on the main bibliometric and professionally relevant mailing lists and in the ISSI Newsletter. The call was well received and we had the pleasure of hosting one of the largest Nordic workshops to date with 17 accepted presentations and more than 40 registered participants (full program: http://www.db.dk/nbw2007). Among them were researchers as far away as from Australia, Canada, USA, Belgium and the UK. The increase in the interest for bibliometric methods as research policy tools was mirrored by a larger than usual attendance from a wide range of non-presenting participants with relations to university administration, particularly from Sweden and Denmark.

The Nordic workshops are traditionally of an informal and interactive nature, often with plenty of feedback given to presenters both after, and occasionally during, presentations. No papers are published, but the majority of the presentations slides can be seen at the workshop homepage. The scope of the Nordic workshops is

intentionally open and allows for preliminary ideas to be presented and discussed. Examples of presentations that generated much debate was Peder Olesen Larsen's study of counting errors in published publication and citation analyses, Balázs Schlemmer's study of *Patterns and Characteristics of Highly Citedness in Europe,* and Dag W. Aksnes' thought-provoking study *Does Self-citation Pay?* Dr. Gunnar Sivertsen from NIFU STEP in Norway was the keynote speaker. He presented an analysis of data from the Norwegian national system for allocation research funding in a study of *Publication patterns in complete bibliographic data (all scientific journals and books) at all Norwegian universities*. This interesting study is one the first to be based on such comprehensive data and showed several interesting patterns. A natural debate arose on the use of these data for allocation of research funding, especially the weights given to different types of publications. An interesting result is that the Medical and Humanities faculties of Oslo University receive the same amount of funding from the model.

A particular tradition is that the workshop dinner is taken, to the extent that this is possible, at an island or near water, e.g., on a boat (Oulu 2000), by a river (Turku/Åbo 2004) or at the key side (Oslo 2006). Naturally situated on an island Copenhagen provided a wide range of possibilities. The choice fell on *Hansen's Old Family Garden* serving traditional Danish "smørrebrød" (open sandwiches with a variety of toppings) accompanied by the equally traditional selections of beer and snaps. Thus having had the dinner on water and by water in several variants leaves the option of taking it *under* water. Perhaps this



© Photos of the article: Balázs Schlemmer. More Workshop (and other) photos will be available here soon: http://perswww.kuleuven.be/~u0041516/nordic/

can be fulfilled by next year's venue: Tampere in Finland, which beautifully situated between two large lakes. Going to Tampere for the first time, the 2008 workshop will be arranged by the TASTI Unit for Science, Technology and Innovation Studies and will take place sometime in September 2008. Dates will be decided soon and be posted at http://www.db.dk/nbw2007, and there will a Call for Presentations in this newsletter. Once again participants from any nation are welcome to present their work at the workshop.Finally, we would like to thank the Research Program on *Knowledge Organisation and Information Interaction & Behaviour* at the Royal School for providing facilities and support to the workshop.

CHA-CHA-CHA IN INFORMETRICS

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On 23 July 2007 Daniel E. Koshland Jr., former editor-in-chief of the journal *Science*, passed away. As many other passionate scientists he had been scientifically active until his death. Indeed, volume 317 of Science published a posthumous essay in which Koshland formulated the cha-cha-cha theory of scientific discovery (Koshland, 2007). In this article he proposes to subdivide scientific discoveries into three categories: charge, challenge and chance, hence the name the cha-cha-cha theory.

A discovery belongs to the Charge category if the problem is obvious (for example: cure cancer), but the way to solve it is not clear at all. The discoverer is he or she who sees what everyone else has seen and thinks what no one else has thought before. A typical example, provided by Koshland, is Newtons discovery and explanation of gravity.

A discovery falls into the Challenge category if it is the response to an accumulation of facts or concepts that were unexplained. Often these facts were brought to the open by individuals referred to as uncoverers by Koshland. An example is Einsteins theory of special relativity. Solutions to important challenges may lead to paradigm shifts.

Finally, a discovery may fall into the Chance category. Such discoveries are, however, not

pure luck but *favour the prepared mind*. A well-known discovery belonging to this category is Flemings discovery of penicillin.

Koshland stresses the fact that often the discoverer needs not one but a number of original discoveries until the discovery is complete. He further writes that the cha-cha-cha theory is not only applicable to big discoveries but also to small everyday findings. This encourages us to see if we can apply the cha-cha-cha theory to some findings in informetrics (including scientometrics). We consider the application of an existing theory, concept or tool to a new situation as a charge discovery, as it means taking a (small) step that no one else has taken before. Our field is an applied field, hence for this reason most of our fields discoveries will fall into the Charge group. If someone just collects data and tries to find out which statistical distribution fits best, I consider this a Chance discovery, in particular if the resulting distribution turns out to be interesting and is confirmed later.

Some examples of discoveries in the information sciences and their cha-cha-cha category.

Problem: **information retrieval across scientific disciplines**
Discovery: Science Citation Index
Discoverer: Eugene Garfield
Category: charge (as the idea of a citation index existed already)

Problem: **evaluation of the scientific standing of countries, universities and research groups**
Discovery: SCI and JCR
Discoverers: Eugene Garfield (chance; as he had a retrieval tool in mind)
CWTS (Leiden: van Raan and Moed); Braun and his team at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Martin & Irvine (SPRU, University of Sussex)
Category: charge

Problem: **evaluation of journals without the use of (subjective) peer review**
Discovery: the journal impact factor
Discoverers: Garfield and Sher (2001), but based on ideas by others; see (Archambault et al., 2007)
Category: charge

Problem: **finding a simple way for the evaluation of an individual scientist**
Discovery: the h-index
Discoverer: Jorge Hirsch
Category: charge

Problem: **incorporating teaching and activities for the broad public in the evaluation of scientists (besides research)**
Discovery: apply DEA (data envelopment analysis)
Discoverer: Zeger Degraeve and his team (Degraeve et al., 1996)
Category: charge

Problem: **finding a regularity in the scattering of scientific knowledge about a topic**
Discovery: Bradfords law of scattering
Discoverer: Bradford
Category: chance (because he was actually searching for a way to compile a complete bibliography)

Problem: **proving the mathematical equivalence of the bibliometric laws**
Discovery: a mathematical proof
Discoverer: Egghe (based on partial work and suggestions of others, such as Fairthorne, Yablonski and Bookstein)
Category: challenge

Problem: **explanation of Lotka s law**
Discovery: success-breeds-success
Discoverer: Derek J. de Solla Price (based on Simons work)
Category: charge (as it was an application of Simons work)

Problem: **inadequacy of the SCI for local (non-Western) purposes**
Discovery: Chinese citation indexes
Discoverer: Team of the Documentation and Information Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (DICCAS)
Category: charge

Problem: a representation of relations between scientific authors
Discovery: author co-citation analysis
Discoverers: Griffith and White
Category: charge

Problem: mapping journal-journal citation relations
Discovery: a method to perform this mapping, using data from the JCR
Discoverer: Leydesdorff (1986)
Category: charge

Problem: finding a classification of science designed for evaluation purposes
Discovery: A classification, presented on pp. 359-360 of (Glänzel & Schubert, 2003)
Discoverers: Glänzel and Schubert
Category: charge

Encouraged by Koshlands words that his classification can also be applied to small everyday discoveries, I add one of my own.

Problem: structure of inlinks on the Web
Discovery: it follows a power law (= Lotkas law)
Discoverer: Rousseau (small sample); Michalis, Petros and Christos Faloutsos brothers (large scale)
Category: chance (Rousseau); charge (or chance?) (Faloutsos)

Many more examples can be given (bibliographic coupling, co-citation analysis, web impact factor, different visualization techniques). Clearly, any article contains a small discovery and, hence, can be described in this way. This leads to the problem of making a distinction between Discoveries (with capital D), discoveries, and small everyday discoveries. The examples provided in my contribution certainly contain instances of each level. Moreover, some of these discoveries can perhaps better be described as developments (maybe a fourth category?), such as the Science Citation Index. We hope that the reader will be encouraged to apply, expand, correct or refine these examples and the cha-cha-cha theory in general. In view of the examples I provided, it seems that a refinement of the Charge category could be a first step.

■ Acknowledgement.
I thank Raf Guns (UA, IBW) and Leo Egghe (Hasselt University) for helpful comments on an earlier draft.

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LACK OF CONSEQUENCE IN ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF UNIVERSITIES' NAMES RUINS THEIR SCIENTIFIC REPUTATION

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Abstract

The scientific papers from Warsaw University of Technology appear in the Thomson Institute database under over 20 different English names. "Warsaw University of Technology", which is the most commonly used English name, covers only a half of the total scientific output of the university. Thus the position of Warsaw University of Technology in scientific rankings is lower than that of an university with similar scientific output, but which has consequently used one English name. Similar problems are faced by other scientific institutions in non-English-speaking countries.

1. Introduction

Universities from English-speaking countries are the leaders in scientific rankings. Their names do not have to be translated into English, and always the same name of certain university is used in the scientific databases. Universities from English-speaking countries took the top 18 ranks and the top 13 ranks in the the Shanghai Ranking (2006) and in The Times Higher Education Supplement Ranking (2006), respectively.

The scientific databases which are used to prepare the scientific rankings are language-biased, that is, non-English-language journals are severely underrepresented. This problem is well-recognized in the literature (e.g., Togia & Tsigilis, 2006; Aleixandre-Benavent et al., 2007). Obviously, overrepresentation of English-language journals and underrepresentation of non-English-language journals favor the scientists and scientific institutions from English-speaking countries in the scientific rankings. This is an intrinsic property of scientific databases, and individuals or institutions in non-English-language countries cannot do anything about that. On the other hand the scientific institutions in non-English-language countries might have improved their positions in the rankings by having used always the same English translations of their names.

One of the reasons of weak position of scientific institutions in non-English-language countries in the scientific rankings is that the scientific output of given institution is split between many English names which may appear to be separate institutions. Additionally the institutions' names in their original languages are used sometimes. With sufficient knowledge about different names used by certain institution, the scientific papers produced by that institution could be merged into one file, but the authors of the rankings do not possess such knowledge. Then, only the papers with the most popular institution's English name contribute to the institution's reputation and the rest of its scientific output is lost.

The institutions' names which appear in scientific databases do not necessarily coincide with those originally used in the publications.

For example between 2004 and 2007 the present author published 18 papers with an affiliation "Lublin University of Technology". In Thomson Scientific database, only 6 of these papers were assigned to "Lublin Univ Technol", and 12 other papers were assigned to "Tech Univ Lublin". Then the authors from non-English-language countries and their universities have a limited control upon the affiliations, which appear in the databases. However, multiple English translations are chiefly due to the universities' policy.

2. Case study

Table 1 illustrates the history of preferences of the authorities of Warsaw University of Technology (Polish name Politechnika Warszawska) as to the English translation of the university's name. More than 20 different names used in Thomson database substantially contribute to the scientific output of Warsaw University of Technology. Seven most popular names are analyzed in Table 1. The other common names were (number of papers in Thomson Scientific in brackets): Polytech Univ Warszawa (100), Tech Univ Warszawa (67), Politech Warszawska (85), Politech Warszawskiej (48), Politech Warsaw (37). The last 3 names are different abbreviations of Polish name. The most frequently used English translation in certain year is indicated by boldface in Table 1.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
sum	5153	1802	803	769	574	435	148	9574
1972		**14**	3	1		3	9	27
1973		**59**	14	2		16	16	106
1974		**52**	16	22		16	19	117
1975		**92**	55	19		12	29	161
1976		**65**	22	13		33	1	119
1977	1	19	3	20		**132**	16	190
1978		26	1	29		**170**	7	232
1979		**161**	2	37		7		204
1980		**143**	1	47			4	192
1981		**136**	1	58			8	198
1982		**124**	2	52			6	183
1983		**124**	1	50	23		3	200
1984	2	46	1	82	**98**		13	241
1985	1	57	1	**93**	83		3	238
1986	9	44		**73**	62		6	193
1987	44	55	1	**66**	56		4	224
1988	**63**	39	20	57	49	2		229
1989	25	46	**100**	29	25	7		225
1990	3	38	**198**		2	16		241
1991	5	43	**200**	1	5	14		255
1992	17	23	**192**	1	1	6		234
1993	**207**	23	8	2	2			242
1994	**242**	34			3			279
1995	**253**	81			9			343
1996	**248**	40			10		1	299
1997	**241**	45		1	7			293
1998	**294**	21						315
1999	**302**	25	1			1		328
2000	**315**	16		1				332
2001	**359**	20			23			402
2002	**350**	13			15		3	381
2003	**417**	24		1	21			461
2004	**490**	17		1	45			552
2005	**538**	17			17			572
2006	**567**	17			13			597
2007	**160**	3		1	5			169

Table 1. The number of papers indexed by Thomson Scientific (accessed July 1 2007) by affiliation and by publication year: 1 Warsaw Univ Technol, 2 Tech Univ Warsaw, 3 Warsaw Polytech Inst, 4 Warsaw Tech Univ, 5 Warsaw Univ Sci & Technol, 6 Polytech Inst Warsaw, 7 Polytech Univ Warsaw, 8 logical sum 1-7.

"Tech Univ Warsaw" was the English name preferred over the period 1972-1976, although four other names indicated in Table 1 have substantial contributions. Apparently the University authorities did not pay much attention to the English name used in the papers published at that time. The English name "Polytech Inst Warsaw", which prevailed in 1977 and in 1978 seems to be a result of the first University's effort to enforce use a common name, and indeed 70 % of papers published at that time had the recommended affiliation. In 1979 "Tech Univ Warsaw" became the official English translation, and 70 % of papers published over the period 1979-1983 had the recommended affiliation. The period 1984-1988 witnessed a complete anarchy – the preferences changed from one year to another and the difference in the number of papers between the most frequently used and the second-most frequently used affiliation was by less than 20 %. In 1989 "Warsaw Polytech Inst" was introduced as a new official name. 80 % of papers published over the period 1990-1992 had the new affiliation. The present English name was introduced in 1993. Nowadays, 95 % of scientific papers from Warsaw University of Technology have the officially preferred affiliation. Provided the University's authorities do not change the official name in the future, the present affiliation has a chance to stay high in the scientific rankings. Nevertheless, Warsaw University of Technology would have doubled its publication record by having used the same English name all the time.

3. Discussion

Use of multiple English names by one university is typical in non-English-speaking countries. A new official English name might have appeared to be more attractive than the old one at a time when the name was changed. Perhaps the awareness that a policy of renaming the university again and again ruins its scientific reputation is not common. For example "Med

Univ Warsaw" is the present official English name of an university, which previously used a name "Med Acad Warsaw", but in contrast with Warsaw University of Technology, the new name has been used in scientific publications for shorter time (since 2000) and less consequently. This is why the total output under the old name "Med Acad Warsaw" still prevails. The medical and technical universities in smaller cities of Poland underwent analogous changes in their official English names as their counterparts in Warsaw, with a similar effect. This is why their scientific outputs under their present official English names are only small fractions of their actual outputs.

Fortunately for them the universities in English-speaking countries do not face such a problem.

4. Conclusion

The scientific output of a typical scientific institution in non-English speaking country under its present official English name is only a small fraction of its actual output. In scientific rankings based on mechanical comparison of scientific output (under certain institution's name), the institutions which consequently use the same English name are favored over those, whose official English name was changed again and again.

5. References

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