

Research Assessment in Social Sciences and Humanities

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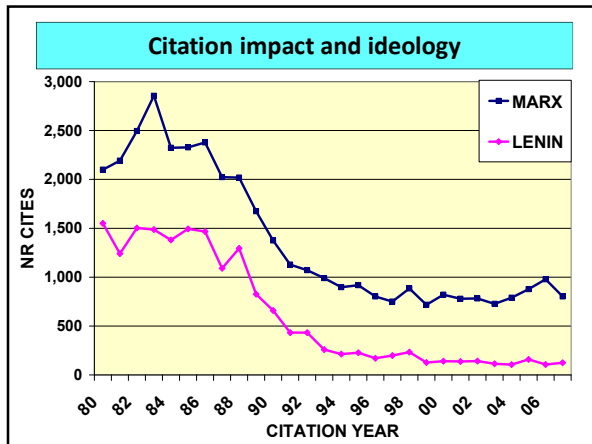
1. **General principles**
2. About Social Sciences and Humanities (**SSH**)
3. **Indicators** for SSH
4. **Databases** for SSH

1. General principles

Bibliometric research assessment is potentially a proper tool to strengthen **academic freedom**

It is dangerous using “**social benefit**” as an assessment criterion of basic research, as it can **not** be measured in a **politically neutral** way

Citation counts in social sciences and humanities may be influenced by **political** ideologies



Citations measure *impact* rather than quality or validity

One school of thought is *not* more valid than another *merely* because it has more proponents

The future of research assessment exercises lies in the intelligent *combination* of metrics and peer review

We need a *framework* to characterize and position bibliometric indicators, methods and products

The Multi-Dimensional Research Assessment Matrix

Expert Group on the Assessment of University-Based Research (AUBR, 2010)

Multi-dimensional Research Assessment Matrix (Part)				
Unit of assessment	Purpose	Output dimensions	Bibliometric indicators	Other indicators
Individual	Allocate resources	Research productivity	Publications	Peer review
Research group	Improve performance	Quality, scholarly impact	Journal citation impact	Patents, licences, spin offs
Department	Increase multi-discipl. research	Innovation and social benefit	Actual citation impact	Invitations for conferences
Institution	Increase regional engagement	Sustainability & Scale	Internat. co-authorship	External research income
Research field	Promotion, hiring	Research infrastruct.	citation 'prestige'	PhD completion rates

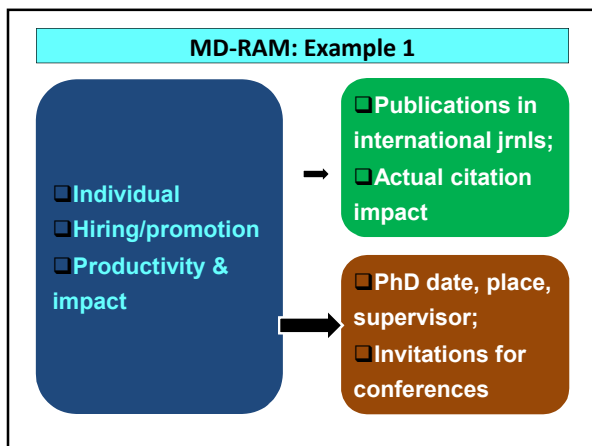
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Read column-wise

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Types of research outputs		
Impacts	Publication/text	Non-publication
Scientific-scholarly	Journal paper; book chapter; monograph	Research data file; video of experiment
Educational	Teaching course book; syllabus	Skilled researchers
Economic	Patent	Product; process; device; design; image; spin off
Cultural	Newspaper article	Interviews; events; performances; exhibits

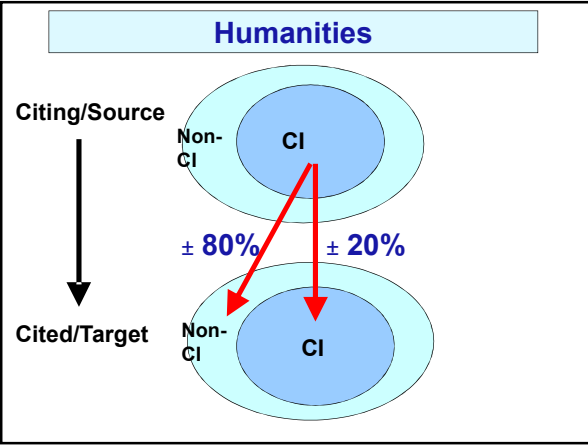
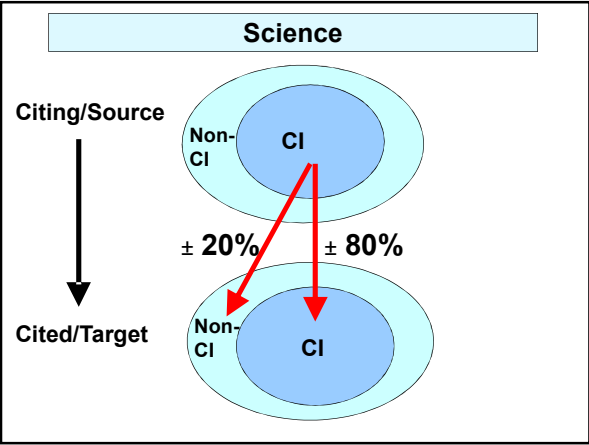
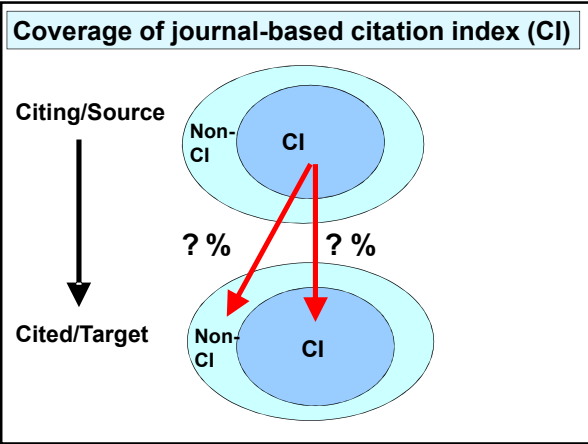
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2. About Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

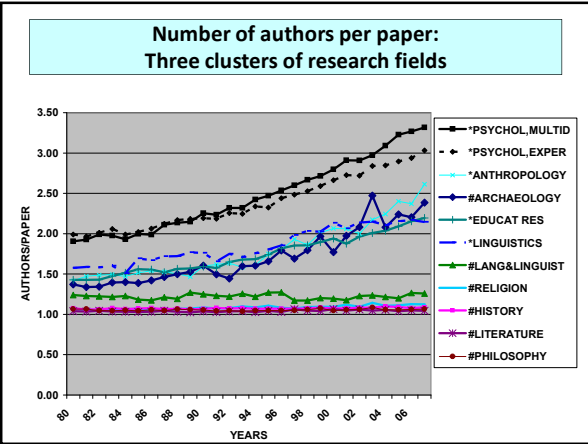
It does **not** make much sense making statements about characteristics of SSH **as a whole**

Large differences exist among subfields **within** SSH



CI coverage by field

Journals ↔ Books, proceedings			
EXCELLENT (>80%)	GOOD (60-80%)	FAIR (40-60%)	MODERATE (<40%)
Biochem & Mol Biol	Appl Phys & Chem	Mathematics	Other Soc Sci
Biol Sci – Humans	Biol Sci – Anim & Plants	Economics	Humanities & Arts
Chemistry	Psychol & Psychiat	Engineering	
Clin Medicine	Geosciences		
Phys & Astron	Soc Sci ~ Medicine		



An **appropriate** criterion of research quality in SSH:

The extent to which findings reach beyond a **purely local** viewpoint

..... and are exposed to a **wide** scholarly audience

The expertise and perceptions of **SSH scholars** should play an important role in indicator development

SSH scholars should develop more **quality** thresholds and markers

More **research** is needed into communication, publication & citation, and evaluation practices in SSH (a "science of SSH")

3. Indicators for SSH

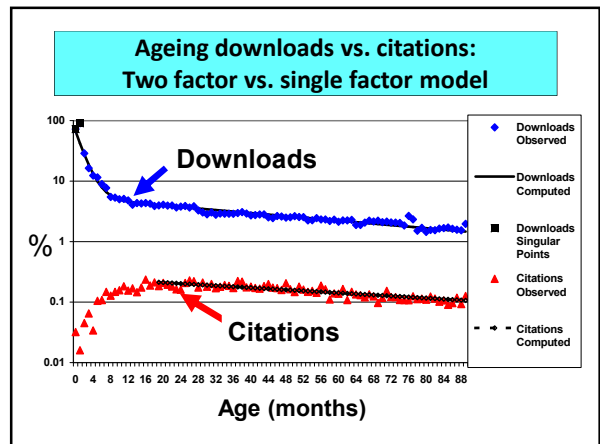
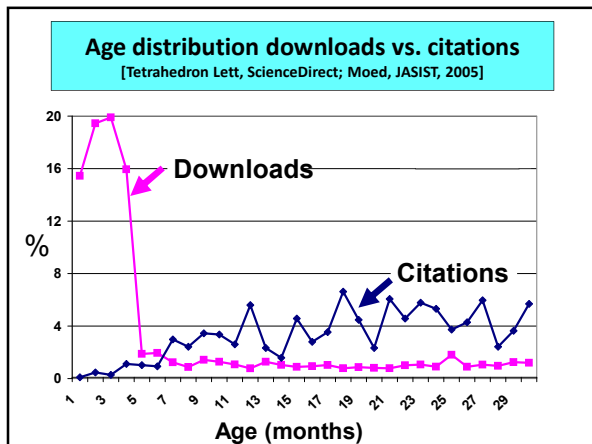
Three generations of bibliometric indicators

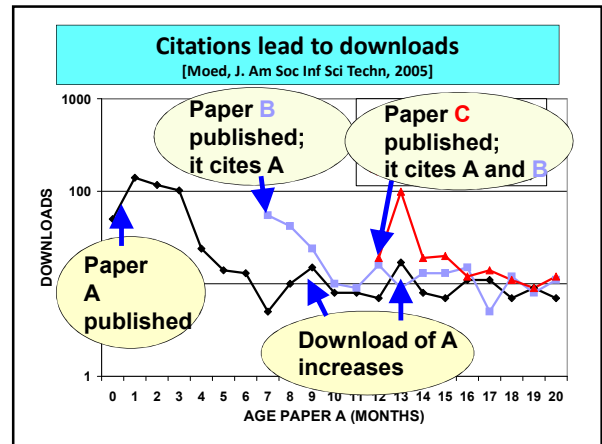
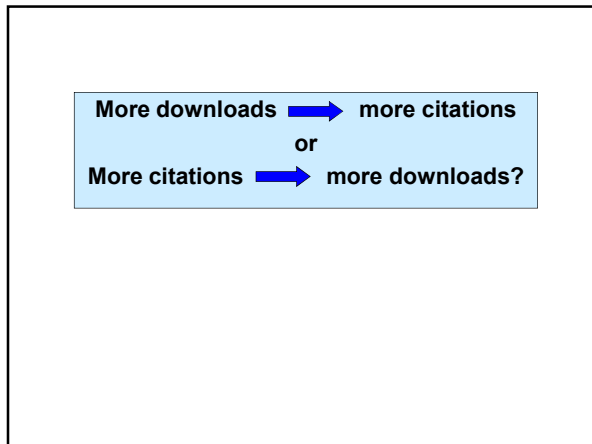
Three generations of citation-based indicators		
Generation	Indicators (Examples)	
1	Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ No. publications ❑ No. Citations ❑ Cites per paper (e.g., Jnl Impact Factor)
2	Normalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Relative Citation Rate ❑ No. publ. in top citation percentiles
3	Contextual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Entire citation network based (e.g., Eigenfactor, SJR, Jnl Prestige); ❑ Citation context based

Indicators are becoming more 'informative'	
Feature	Example
Put numbers in context	Field-normalized citation measures
"who" is citing	Citations weighted with "prestige" of citing source
"Distance" between citing and cited authors	Impact outside the own niche; multi-disciplinarity; bridging paradigms
"Why" is it cited	Classification of citation context in full text analysis
How often are papers downloaded and by whom?	Usage indicators based on full text downloads from publication archives

Usage indicators, based on downloads of articles in full text format

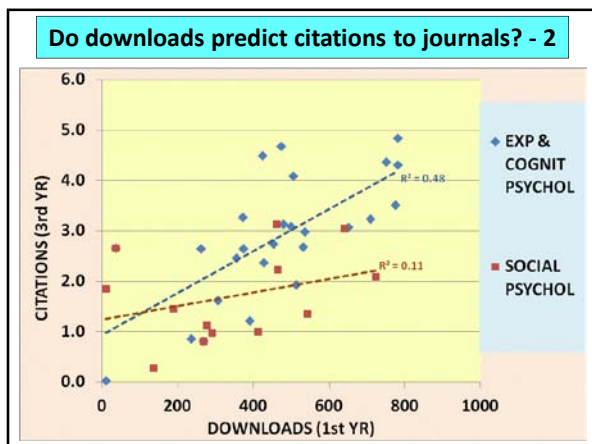
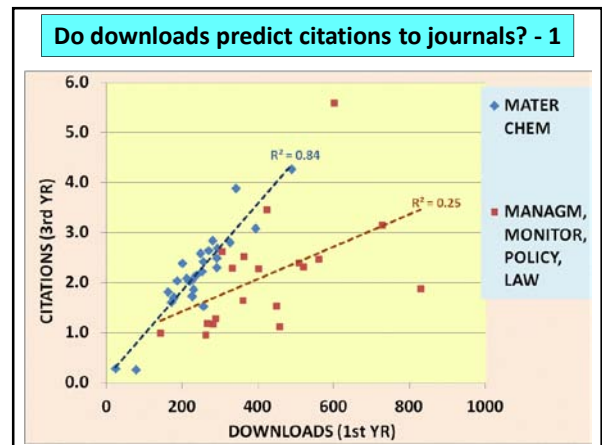
Analogy Model	
<u>Formal use</u>	<u>Informal use</u>
(Collections of) publishing authors	(Collections of) users
Citing a document	Downloading the full text of a document
Article	User session
Author's institutional affiliation	User's account name
Number of times cited	Number of times downloaded as full text





Downloads and citations relate to distinct phases in scientific information processing

.... but (many) more cases must be studied



Scientific migration / mobility

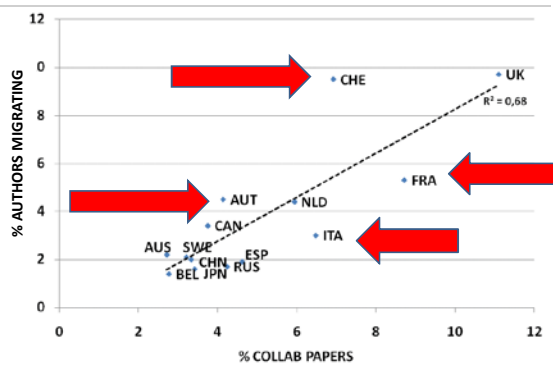
Types of scientific migration studies

Level	Aspect	Example
Group, institution	School formation	Where did the PhD students of prof. X or University Y go to?
Country	Brain circulation	Researchers migrating from one country to another
Subject field	Field switching; multi-disciplinarity	Authors moving from one subject field to another
Economic Sector	S&T Interface	E.g., researchers moving from academics to industry

Technical aspects (in Scopus)

1. Author-affiliation linking
2. Author profiling

"From-Country": Germany (USA not shown)



4. Databases for SSH

SSH in Scopus

- SSH is in Scopus the **largest** discipline in terms of number of titles covered.
- Scopus covers over **6,200 SSH titles**, ranging from 24 in musicology to 700 in education.
- Scopus covers **all ERIH "A"** and a large part of "B" titles.
- **Europe** is well represented.
- **23 %** of articles are **non-English**

A Scholarly Book Citation Index

At least three selection criteria can be applied:

- a) Include book **series**;
 - b) Include books from selected (major) **publishers**;
- Include most highly cited (**individual**) book **titles**

There are many types of "books".

**Thank you for your
attention!**