

Editorial

Sujit Bhattacharya

CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies, New Delhi, India

I welcome you to the volume 3, issue 1 of the “Journal of Scientometric Research” (www.jscires.org). Hope you will find this issue useful and interesting. This issue contains five research articles, one perspective paper, and one research note. Brief highlights of each article are provided below.

Igami *et al.* provide an interesting approach to capture the value of a doctoral thesis. It attributes value of a doctoral thesis in terms of the articles it produces. The study applies coword analysis method to discern journal articles that were produced by an author as an outcome of their doctoral research. The important questions that the study answers are: What is the level of doctoral researcher productivity in terms of the articles published during the thesis elaboration process and the subsequent years? Can a co-occurrence-based automatic method express the authors’ opinions about the relationship between their published articles and the thesis? What percentage of the articles is truly related to the thesis? The robustness of their method is demonstrated by undertaking the survey of the authors of doctoral thesis in the studied sample. The research provides a novel objective measure of value judgment of a doctoral research that has its own norms for establishing value. Also their method helps to discern the knowledge links between apparently disparate documents. The article is novel in its approach, and in a way highlights the need of further research in this area assuming the limited attention given to this valuable mode of research communication in the scientometric research.

*Address for correspondence:
E-mail: editor@jscires.org

Access this article online

Quick Response Code:	
	Website: www.jscires.org
	DOI: 10.4103/2320-0057.143655

Panagiotakes and Bersimis propose a new scientific relevance index and demonstrate its usefulness in rating the most relevant scientists among a set of individuals in a specific theme. The authors argue that this index may be a useful tool for academic selection as it has various advantages over the other available indexes such as its unbiasedness, ease of interpretability, applicability to a broad range of scientific fields, and use of weights. It will be of interest to see how scholars interpret this new index.

The Bradford’s law has been a major influence in library research and its management. Girap and Bhanumurthy again demonstrate the usefulness of scientometric research in organising the collection of a specialized library devoted to nuclear science and technology and allied fields. The study identifies areas that have strong linkages with core domain of the parent institute but are not well represented in the library collection. The study is important as it shows that identifying a collection obeying the Bradford’s law is not an end in itself. It is the translation that makes the Bradford’s law an important tool for enriching a library.

Samile *et al.* examine publication productivity of the Brazilian agricultural science through articles indexed in web-of-science (WoS). The expansion of national journals in WoS is seen as a major influencing factor in increasing publication productivity. A detailed analysis of the top 50 journals in which the Brazilian agricultural researchers publish prolifically reveals various interesting insights. The authors cite a very novel program undertaken by the Brazilian government to encourage editing and publication of journals and they see this as an important driver behind the successful expansion of journals from home country in WoS. Assessment as undertaken in this study is important for evaluating performance of the national research system, and combined with the other evaluation method provides key inputs to policy makers for decision making.

In a complex system, mutual information measures the information common to the variables involved. In more than two dimensions, it indicates the level of synergy between variables and the level of self-organization, and how centrally coordinated the system is. Mutual information has a lower and an upper bound that vary according to the system's configuration. Keeping the above in context, Megnibeto analyses the complex system of triple helix of university-industry-government relationships from the information theory point of view. The article will contribute to the current discourse on triple-helix and is especially important as the information theory perspective is sparsely represented in the contemporary debate in this theme.

How a paper is selected in a journal? Is it purely on academic merit (peer review process) or other extraneous factors drive the selection process? Is it possible to reveal these extraneous factors? These are among some of the puzzling questions that every researcher would like to know but would prefer not to undertake the research themselves in this direction. Preference of not undertaking this type of research can be due to varied reasons such as plausibly motivated by the challenge posed in undertaking this type of research or being cited as one who has disturbed the established ideal equilibrium between the authors and journals. The perspective paper by Levy *et al.* is thus a very important contribution, a bold examination of some aspects of this issue. They examine whether and to what extent a paper published in a journal is directly/indirectly influenced by editors and editorial board members of that journal. The authors undertake a very elaborate exercise; citation patterns of 337 journal editors in a total of 35 top disciplinary journals, spanning 40 years from 1967 to 2007 was explored to provide the date set for their examination. The study reveals the disturbing influence of editorial board members and other related aspects. The authors rightly argue that the problem cannot be placed in a localized context. They posit some measures which they argue can remove to

some extent this type of bias, that is, editorial influence in paper publication.

Tracing the history of a research field always reveals efforts of a few individuals who had undertaken tireless efforts to develop the research community. Their own research papers are only a part of their overall contribution. This can similarly be said about Eugene Garfield's role in developing the scientometric research community. Examining his published research contributions shows the rich repository of his research and also how it transcends various fields of research. One key source of identifying his work is through the "Essays of an Information Scientist," which is published in 15 volumes. Sen's research note is an outcome of a very comprehensive scientometric investigation of first five volumes of this essay. This article informs the research community, particularly the young scholars in information science/bibliometrics, librarians, etc., about the high relevance of Garfield's work. The article also calls for revisiting these works by contemporary scholars/researchers.

Happy Reading!

I am happy to welcome Dr. Kumar Avinash Bharati as the assistant editor of this journal. He has undertaken extensive research in biology and has applied scientometric methods in many of his research work. I am sure his joining the editorial team will strengthen the journal further. Dr Divya Shrivastava has played an influential role as one of the editors of this journal. We are sad that due to other commitments, she is not able to continue further as the editor of this journal.

I am overwhelmed by the support you have given to this journal and am sure you will continue doing so. I look forward to your contributions in the future issues of this journal.

How to cite this article: Bhattacharya S. Editorial. J Sci Res 2014;3:1-2.