



BOOK REVIEW

Introduction to Bibliometrics and Scientometrics
by Kailash C Garg. Ess Ess Publications, 2023; 262 pp; ISBN: 978-93-92594-16-8.

In *Introduction to Bibliometrics and Scientometrics*, Kailash Garg provides a basic and accessible account of bibliometrics and scientometrics, written primarily for the benefit of students and research scholars working in the area of Library and Information Science. It traces the evolution and growth of the discipline over the last seven decades, beginning with Eugene Garfield's seminal account on Citation Indices in *Science* in 1955 (<http://garfield.library.upenn.edu/essays/v6p468y1983.pdf>).

Garg is ideally placed to do this given his vast experience at the erstwhile CSIR-NISTADS (now CSIR-NISCPR) where he was in the forefront of research and continues to remain one of the most highly cited authors in this category from India.

The book comprises eleven chapters. Chapter One is of an introductory nature and traces the evolution of the discipline with a particular and welcome emphasis on the growth of the field in India. There is also a caveat on the limitations and potential misuses and misapplications if badly administered. Metric concepts are taken up in Chapter Two and an account of the data sources and aggregators of bibliometric data is given in Chapter Three. Chapter Four is the longest chapter and covers the entire gamut of bibliometric mapping, from Methods and Tools to Indicators, Techniques and even Illustrative Examples. Chapter Five surveys some interesting applications to productivity evaluation and gender profiling. Chapter Six is the shortest section and deals with the most discussed and contentious aspect of the field, namely the use and misuse of Impact Factor. Chapter Seven on citation analysis, covers what is now the standard approach to quantity and quality differentiation of the impact, influence, and visibility of various actors in research, from individuals to teams and institutions and countries,

and to journals. Chapter Eight focuses on the issue of collaboration, now that interdisciplinarity and trans-disciplinarity require large teams to work together seamlessly across fields and disciplines. At a more sophisticated level of understanding, network concepts are inevitable, and these concerns are covered in Chapter Nine. Chapter Ten deals with the growth and obsolescence of scientific literature. The last Chapter summarises the various classical empirical laws that govern the growth and dynamics of the field.

At the back of the book, we have a bibliography of Garg's own original contributions to the field and also the list of papers and books that have influenced the writing of the book. The book could have done with endnotes and an index, but these have been overlooked. It is written more in the style of a monograph than a textbook but there is no doubt that this would be a valuable acquisition for any academic library.

'Of the making of many books, there is no end', said the Biblical sage. Chapter Four, the meat of the book, is about the making of book indicators, and of the making of these, there is no end. Metrics based on publications and citations yield an infinite number of composite indicators, and Garg surveys most of the important ones, including some of very recent provenance. I found this the best part of the book. The theory of citations, which are now the principal measure of impact has a chapter to itself in Chapter Seven, and this, is stimulating as well.

I would not hesitate to recommend this to all libraries and to students, teachers, and scholars as well, if a more reasonably priced paperback or e-version is made available.

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