

Group 6

Open access citation index

- What's wrong with the SCI?
- What are we going to do about it?

What's wrong with the SCI?

Because of its power it has some pernicious side effects:

- A relatively small group of people decides which journals are to be included. There are somewhere between 24.000 (Harnad) and 40.000 (Garfield) journals. 7.000 or 8.000 are included in SCI.
- Scientometrics: a beautiful quantitative result is being used extremely mechanically.

What are we going to do about it?

Start a working group

Define:

- Task
- How the group is going to operate

Discussion (1)

Topic: Scope of the material involved (extension)

Start with a subsection:

- By region (like China, which has its own tools)
- By subject (one or two disciplines)
- By category (dissertations, repositories)

Possibility: European dissertations in 2 disciplines?

How can we extend the coverage?

Discussion (2)

Topic: Measuring

What are we measuring: quality, impact?

There seem to be 2 agenda's :

- New measurement, better visibility
- Extension of SCI: “too ambitious, too complicated”

Discussion (3)

Questions raised:

- How to position our activities towards existing tools?
- Can measuring be automated?
- Can we restrict ourselves to “the essential part of science”?
- Who are the users: scientists or managers?
- Should we restrict ourselves to Open Access?

Diverging

Some want:

- An inventory and assessment of measurements that already exist
- A measure for those publication channels that are not in SCI
- To bring additional value to open archives and open access journals
- To bring additional value to the whole spectrum of scientific knowledge

Converging

The mission of the working group should be:

- How do we contribute to improving research by assisting, analyzing, evaluating research?
- Part of this:
 - Get a kind of feeling of the quality of open archives and open access journals
 - Project: collecting metadata about citations from all OAI compliant journals; compare results of open access journals with those of “toll journals”