Sustainability in global rankings: Making the invisible visible

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Two projects on invisible

1. ROBINba
   The role of books in non-bibliometric areas

2. Sustainability indicators for university ranking

ROBINba

The role of books in non-bibliometric areas

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Università di Macerata

Université de Bretagne-Sud

Project team

- Coordinator: Tiziana Lippiello, Università Ca' Foscari

  Other partners:
- Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia: Achille Giacometti, Antonella Basso, Marta Cardin
- Università di Macerata: Elena Di Giovanni, Francesco Orilia, Bianca Sulpasso
- Université de Bretagne- Sud/EvalHum: Geoffrey Williams, Ioana Galleron

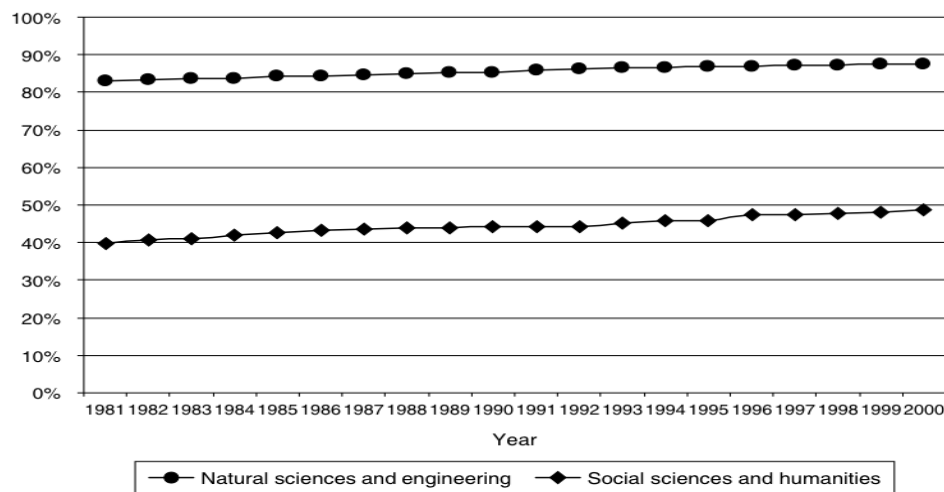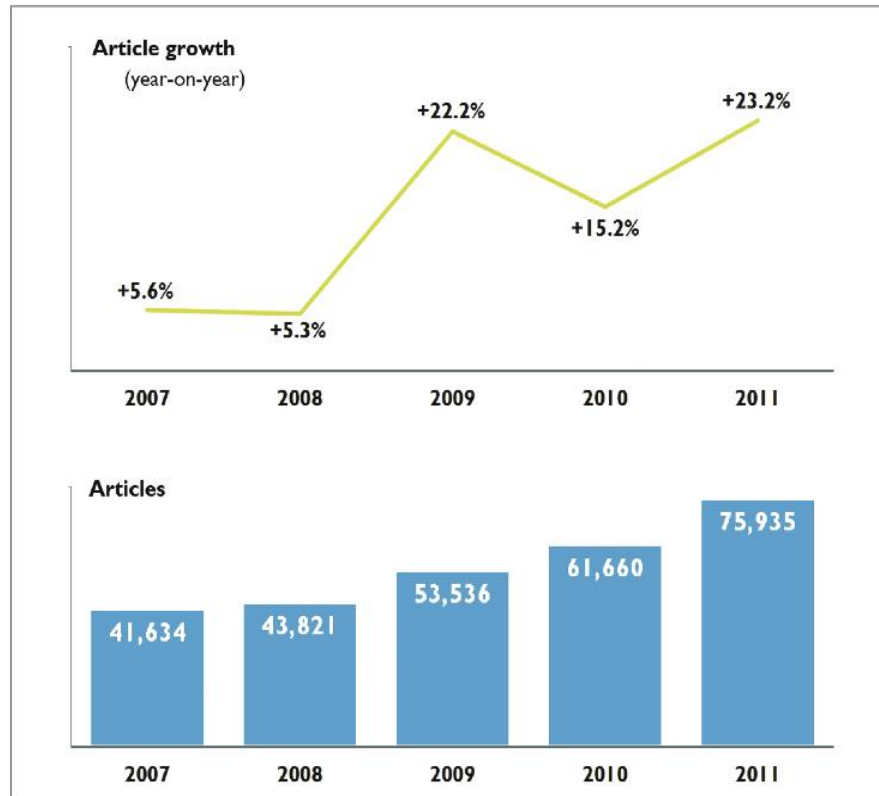# Research dissemination through journal articles in the SSH

FIG. 1. Share of references made to journal articles for natural sciences and engineering (NSE) and natural sciences and engineering (NSE), 1981–2000. The data are from the Science Citation Index (SCI), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), and Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI) databases, 1981–2000, Philadelphia, PA: Thomson ISI. Compiled with permission from Thomson ISI, by the Observatoire des Sciences et des Technologies, Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

	Natural sciences	Life sciences	Engineering sciences	Social sciences and humanities	Arts
Journal Article	X	X	X	X	X
Conference Proceedings			X		
Book chapters				X	
Monographs/Books				X	
Artefacts					X
Prototypes			X		

Changes are happening…

Figure 5: The growth percentage (green line, top) and the number (blue bars, below) of Humanities articles covered in Scopus per year in 2007–11 (30 November 2012). Source: Scopus.

Our project

- Although the major bibliometric databases have moved forward to include proceedings and books, the place of these published works in the evaluation process, whether quantitative or qualitative, remains far from clear.

- There is an urgent need to summarise current theoretical and practical stances across Europe and beyond, so as to delineate best practices as a basis for the evaluation and valorisation of Italian research output in non-bibliometric areas, with a special focus on books.

Our project

- This project sets out to gather information about:

1. book typologies in selected fields within the humanities and social sciences

2. book evaluation in the same fields

3. selected scholars' viewpoints on current evaluation practices.

Thorny issues
in n-b book evaluation

- Scanty, non-classified information about books

- Defining procedures for book evaluation is no easy task (time consuming)

- Anticipating effects of book evaluation within research fields is equally difficult

Our focus is on:

- Defining book typologies in selected fields within the SSH

- A number of EU and non-EU countries and book evaluation processes within them

- Questionnaires/interviews with scholars representing the various fields/countries

- Reflecting on best practices

Our final report

- Three sections
1. Overview of European initiatives using databases for research evaluation

2. Description of book typologies and book evaluation practices in selected research domains/selected countries

Our final report

3. Suggestions inspired by best practices, considerations of impact of possible research evaluation protocols on publishing habits

Methodology

- Bibliographic compilation

- Collecting and classifying info for selected research areas and countries

- Interviews and questionnaires
- Workshops

KICK-OFF MEETING

Venezia, January, 29 2015

Workshop

"*ROBINba: The role of BOOKS in non-bibliometric AREAS*"

-*New perspectives from Anvur* (Andrea Bonaccorsi)

-*Presentation of the project "ROBINba "* (Elena Di Giovanni)

KICK-OFF MEETING

Round Table " *The role of books in non bibliometric areas and their evaluation: suggestions and proposals*"

-European perspectives for monographs

-Books in Classical Studies

-Books in Philosophy

-Books and Catalogues in Art and Archeology

-Books in History

KICK-OFF MEETING

(continued)

-Monographs vs. Translations in Asian Studies

-Monographs vs. Translations in Western Languages, Literatures and Linguistics

-Monographs in Law Studies

-Management and Economics

Sustainability indicators for university ranking

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The role of university rankings

- Students and policy makers would like to have something easy to read and to interprete: "Who is number one?"

- Multidimensional rankings hinging on the crucial idea that "There is no number one" allow different universities to perform differently for different indicators.

The role of university rankings

- A third category of rankings have been devised to address specific aspects of university performance.

➢ Webometric measures the web visibility and impact of the university main websites

➢ Greenmetric addresses how the sostainability issues are dealt with in each university.

Sustainability in university

- Important universities have decided to take part in the big challenge of shaping the world for the future generations, implementing strategies and actions to protect the environment, spread human rights and promote sustainable development.

Sustainability in university

- Ranking systems must include sustainability as a metric to give a real picture of what a university is and what a university does.

- Moreover the introduction of sustainability indicators in global existing rankings can contribute to promote good practices.

Sustainability Indicators

- We are studying a set of measurable sustainability indicators that could also be usefully integrated in global university rankings that analyze the different aspects of the university performance.

Sustainability Indicators

- The indicators proposed intend to measure three different aspects of sustainability:

- environmental (or green) sustainability

- social sustainability

- relation with the local community.

A new model for Sustainability Indicators

- Sustainability issues cannot be considered in an aseptic way without referring to the environmental and social context.

- For this reason, the sustainability indicators that we propose are computed by taking into account not only the university achievements but also the situation of the surroundings (country, region…).

Environmental indicators

- Sustainability of the infrastructures: are they managed in a sustainable way?
- Waste production and management
- Water consumption
- Sustainable transportation (bycicles, public transportations)
- Environmental education
- Environmental consumption

Social sustainability Indicators

➢ We consider the following dimensions to develop a set of social sustainability indicators:

- provisions for basic needs of disabled people;

- actions that reduce social bias and promote equity;

- protection of labour rights and promotion of well-being and safe and secure environment for all employees.

Indicators for the relation with the local community

- We are interested in indicators that refer to actions in favor of external and internal stakeholders, such as students, the university human resources and the local community.

Indicators for the relation with the local community

- External research revenue that comes from regional sources such as industry or private.

- Research projects in cooperation with local organizations or industries.

- Students who did an internship in a company or organization located in the region.

Indicators for the relation with the local community

- The percentage of bachelor (and master) degree who found their first job in the region where the University is located in a reference period of 1, 3 and 5 years.

- Social and cultural initiatives for the local community.