

Review

Informetrics at the beginning of the 21st century—A review

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Abstract

This paper reviews developments in informetrics between 2000 and 2006. At the beginning of the 21st century we witness considerable growth in webometrics, mapping and visualization and open access. A new topic is comparison between citation databases, as a result of the introduction of two new citation databases Scopus and Google Scholar. There is renewed interest in indicators as a result of the introduction of the *h*-index. Traditional topics like citation analysis and informetric theory also continue to develop. The impact factor debate, especially outside the informetric literature continues to thrive. Ranked lists (of journal, highly cited papers or of educational institutions) are of great public interest.

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Keywords: Informetrics; Bibliometrics; Scientometrics; Webometrics

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1. Introduction

This paper reviews recent developments in informetrics. [Wilson’s \(1999\)](#) excellent review article in ARIST covers the topic until the end of the 20th century and [Thelwall, Vaughan, and Björneborn \(2005\)](#) provide an even more recent review of the sub-topic, webometrics.

We adopt [Tague-Sutcliffe’s \(1992, p. 1\)](#) definition: “Informetrics is the study of the quantitative aspects of information in any form, not just records or bibliographies, and in any social group, not just scientists”. [Egghe \(2005a, p. 1311\)](#) uses the informetrics “as the broad term comprising all the—metrics studies related to information science, including bibliometrics (bibliographies, libraries, . . .), scientometrics (science policy, citation analysis, research evaluation, . . .), webometrics (metrics of the web, the Internet or other social networks such as citation or collaboration networks), . . .”.

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