

Bibliometrics in the library, putting science into practice

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Summary

The library of Wageningen University and Research centre (Wageningen UR Library) has been involved in bibliometric analyses of various of the institution's research groups since 2004. In preparation for the external peer review of five major graduate schools in 2009 bibliometric analysis tools were implemented in the institution's repository: Wageningen Yield. This implementation facilitated and highly improved the calculation of advanced bibliometric indicators for any unit of Wageningen UR, i.e. institutions, departments, graduate schools, chair groups, projects, down to individual researchers.

The advanced bibliometric indicators computed for the data collected in Wageningen Yield follow Van Raan's methodology (1996) as closely as possible. The citation data are derived from Thomson Reuters Web of Science database, and the baseline values are extracted from the Thomson's Essential Science Indicators. The main difference with the methods of Van Raan (1996) is that we are not able to correct for self citations, another difference is the number of research fields for which we have access to baseline data. However, since we maintain an overview of the complete publication output of Wageningen UR, we are able to indicate the representativeness of our bibliometric analyses for the different groups. The essential part of our method is that the unique Web of Science publication identifiers are included in the metadata collected in the repository. This allows us to update citation data on a regular basis, and compute the bibliometric indicators any moment for any part of Wageningen UR.

Introduction of bibliometrics indicators in the repository has raised library and repository awareness amongst university faculty and staff considerably. The library has been consulted and asked for clarification of bibliometric analyses in the preparation of the external peer reviews on many occasions. The checking of publications lists has resulted in a considerable quality improvement and coverage of metadata collected in the repository. In the aftermath of the peer reviews the library has been asked to advise on the results of the bibliometric analyses, and assist groups in building a coherent publication strategy.

Earlier, the library used Web of Science as a tool for collection development on a small scale as well. The recent coupling of Web of Science identifiers with Wageningen Yield has enabled the library to link the reference lists from articles covered by Web of Science to the individual articles registered in Wageningen Yield, and study journal usage through cited references for chair groups, departments and institutes. These data complement faculty publishing information, and help to attribute

journal download statistics and journal collection costs to the right institutions within Wageningen UR in a more transparent way.

References

van Raan, A.F.J. (1996). *Scientometrics* 36 : 397-420.