Productivity ratings of institutions based on publication in Scientometrics, Informetrics, and Bibliometrics, 1981–2000

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The author surveyed a set of ten scholarly journals that publish the mainstream of papers in the field of Scientometrics, Informetrics, and Bibliometrics (SIB). The survey is limited only to the research articles published in the field for the two decades period 1981–2000. Each journal was examined issue by issue for the institutional affiliations of contributing authors. Institutional rankings for the total period and the two decade periods; 1981–1990 and 1991–2000 were determined by awarding credit to the authors’ institutions based on authorship. In the composite of ten journals, the University of Sheffield (England), the University of North Carolina (USA), the University of Leiden (Netherlands), the City University of London (England), the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (India), the University of Sussex (England), the University of Illinois (USA), the University of Michigan (USA), the Hungarian Academy of Sciences Library (Hungary), and Indiana University (USA) emerged as the ten most productive institutions for the period 1981–2000.

Introduction

Researchers in several disciplines have been interested in publication productivity as a means of assessing scholarly excellence of individual researchers within a field.1–5 Publication productivity as measured by the number of papers, has also been regarded as one of the main indicators of reputation of institutions in general6–9 and academic institutions in particular.10–11 To the present author’s knowledge, there is no report in the literature about the publication productivity of the research institutions conducting research in the field of Scientometrics, Informetrics, and Bibliometrics (SIB).

The present study aims at identifying those institutions contributing the most to the development of the field of SIB and building the research base by finding answers to the following specific questions:
1. What are the most productive institutions in the field of SIB as determined by institutional affiliations of authors writing in ten major journals over the last 20 years?

2. When the 20-year period is segmented into two 10-year periods, do the institutional rankings show stability?

3. What are the most productive institutions as determined by the institutional affiliation of authors in different sub-domains (topics) of SIB?

In this survey only the research articles published in the ten major journals have been considered (see Appendix A1 for the list of journal titles). Letters, short notes, reports, meeting abstracts, and reviews were not included.

Methodology

A title-word search through the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) and the Web of Science databases of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) was made to gather data on articles published in ten journals in the field of SIB in 1981 to 2000. In the search a set of twenty predetermined title-words or phrases characterizing different sub-domains of SIB were used (see Appendix A2 for the list of words/phrases that characterize the five sub-domains). The sub-domains broadly include (1) citation studies, (2) research performance analyses, (3) information retrieval, (4) science, technology and innovation studies, and (5) library management as described in an earlier work on mapping SIB.

A total of 50 institutions contributing 7 or more articles in the period 1981–2000 were included in the list of major institutions. For each article the institutional affiliations of contributing authors were noted. For the articles with n co-authors, each author’s institution assumed to get a credit for n−1 articles without regard to order of authorship and in case of a single author with two institutional affiliations, the article is credited to the institution where the research was carried out.

The institutional counts of articles presented in this work should be viewed as lower limits. Because a few articles dealing with some aspects of SIB and not containing the pre-specified title-words were not captured in the search. On the other hand, there are many other local or international journals, where researchers in SIB might have published their work.