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EDITORIAL IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

WOLFGANG GLÄNZEL

ECOOM, Faculty of Economics & Business, KU Leuven, Belgium

Today, the 76th number of the ISSI Newsletter, the fourth issue of volume 19 has come out. I had the honour and privilege to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of this e-zine from the very beginning in 2005. In this function, I have written many editorials in which I reported on administrative issues, important society affairs, sometimes on glorious and sad occasions. During this time I enjoyed collaborating with Balázs Schlemmer and Sarah Heffer without whom the Newsletter could never be achieved in its present form. I am deeply grateful for their tireless commitment and their immense work. Last not least, my special thanks are due to Ronald Rousseau, who contributed with almost 30 pieces to the newsletter and proved one of the true pillars of this e-zine. Finally, I would also like to thank 198 additional authors for publishing in the Newsletter; and of course to all readers for following us with devotion and patience.

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During the 19 years of its existence many things have changed in the Newsletter – and many things haven't... Up: Front pages of the first and the latest issues of the Newsletter. Below: the Editor-in-Chief in the beginning and nowadays (photos taken at conferences in New Delhi and Mexico City). (Photos: courtesy of © Zsuzsanna Glänzel)

To keep it short, I have several other commitments that occupy most of my time. Leaving the position of the EiC of the Newsletter, would allow me to meet these commitments and even new challenges more conveniently. At the same time, I also understood that there may be more contemporary, faster and more efficient media for communication, such as blog posts and news items on websites. Therefore, I decided to step down even though with a heavy heart but I sincerely hope that the ISSI Newsletter in this or a similar edition could be continued and maintained. So let us look ahead to new horizons and new

challenges, and let me close my last editorial with the words from the famous and touching poem by Hermann Hesse.

*Es muß das Herz bei jedem Lebensrufe
Bereit zum Abschied sein und Neubeginne...*
(Hermann Hesse: Stufen, 1941)

*Our heart must be prepared at every call of life,
to bid farewell and start anew...*
(Hermann Hesse: Stages, 1941*)

* Translation by Susanne Fiessler © 2020. Accessed at <https://lyricstranslate.com/en/stufen-stages.html>

WINNER OF THE 2023 EUGENE GARFIELD DOCTORAL DISSERTATION SCHOLARSHIP – PATRICIA ALONSO-ÁLVAREZ



STEFANIE HAUSTEIN

School of Information Studies,
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In conjunction with its 19th International Conference held on 2-5 July 2023, the International Society for Scientometrics and Informetrics (ISSI) solicited nominations for the Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship. The purpose of the scholarship is to foster research in informetrics, including bibliometrics, scientometrics, webmetrics and altmetrics by encouraging and assisting doctoral students in the field with their dissertation research.

We were very pleased to receive no less than 11 nominations for this year's award. Nominees submitted their doctoral research proposals, papers submitted to the ISSI conference, and CVs. The nominees have pro-

duced high quality and visionary work and selecting an award winner among them was not easy. Each committee member reviewed all nominations, excluding those for which they had a conflict of interest. Results were then compiled, and the committee arrived at a final consensus after a thorough discussion.

We are happy to announce that Patricia Alonso-Álvarez from the University of Carlos III University of Madrid in Spain is the winner of the 2023 Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship.

In addition, two other nominees stood out and receive honourable mention: Tianji Jiang from UCLA (USA) and Alex J. Yang from Nanjing University (China).



Patricia Alonso-Álvarez

At ISSI'2023, Patricia Alonso-Álvarez presented her paper on 'On regional knowledge systems and the limitations of mainstream academic databases.' This forms part of her dissertation work on identifying epistemic injustices in scientific production, which uses the African academic publication system as a case study. The thesis project addresses the representation, content, and use of science from peripheral regions, relying on international and regional academic databases to contribute to a pluralistic view of global science.

Upon being notified about the award, Patricia Alonso-Álvarez stated: "I would like to thank the award committee for their recognition, the ISSI for the effort to sup-

port the work of early career researchers, and the Eugene Garfield Foundation for its generosity. It is an honor to receive this award. It reassures me about the importance of inclusion and diversity studies in science, which I'm sure will lead to a more representative, open, and fairer scientific system. It also encourages me to continue this path and contribute to this fascinating and relevant topic. I would also like to share the award with my supervisors, Elías Sanz Casado and Nees van Eck, for their trust and guidance, and my colleagues at the LEMI research group for their support."

Details about the application process, selection criteria and award are available here [<https://www.issi-society.org/awards/eugene-garfield-doctoral-dissertation-scholarship-2023/>]. The scholarship award consists of a 3,000 EUR grant to support participation of the winner in the ISSI'2023 conference. The next Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship will be awarded at ISSI'2025, with calls announced on the ISSI web site in spring 2025.

The committee for the 2023 Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship consisted of an ISSI Board member and three scholars:

- ▶ Andrea Scharnhorst
DANS, KNAW, The Netherlands
- ▶ Stefanie Haustein
University of Ottawa, Canada
(ISSI Board member)
- ▶ Elías Sanz Casado
Carlos III University of Madrid, Spain
- ▶ Birger Larsen
Aalborg University, Denmark (Chair)

We thank all nominees for submitting their work for assessment, and congratulate them on the high quality of their work, which bodes well for the new generation of ISSI researchers and scholars!

28th NORDIC WORKSHOP ON BIBLIOMETRICS & RESEARCH POLICY IN GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN



**JAKARIA
RAHMAN**

Chalmers
University of
Technology,
Sweden



**MARCO
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Sweden



**CECILIA
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Chalmers
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Technology,
Sweden

The Department of Communication and Learning in Science at Chalmers University of Technology hosted the 28th Nordic Workshop on Bibliometrics and Research Policy (NWB2023) from October 11 to 13, 2023, in Gothenburg, Sweden. This marked the first time that Gothenburg hosted the workshop. NWB2023 received an impressive total of 64 abstract submissions, the highest number in NWB's 28-year history. The peer reviewers accepted 66% of the submissions. This remarkable turnout includes 27 oral and 15 poster presentations, authored by 104 individuals. The workshop was attended by 119 participants from 19 countries.

The Book of Abstracts of the NWB2023 is available in two convenient formats: Flipbook and PDF (<https://nwb2023.lib.chalmers.se/>

[book-of-abstracts](#)). The Book of Abstracts, presentation slides and posters are open access. Readers can easily navigate the corresponding abstracts, presentation slides, and posters from the program page (<https://nwb2023.lib.chalmers.se/program>) too. Tweets about the presentations and posters are available on X platform (<https://twitter.com/nwb2023>). The photos are available on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/nordicworkshop2023>).

PRE-WORKSHOPS

There were four pre-workshops. The first pre-workshop was presented by Nick Godwin (Elsevier, UK) and Ju Chen (Elsevier, the Netherlands) on 'Impact Beyond Aca-

Photo courtesy of the © Department of Communication and Learning in Science (CLS), Chalmers University of Technology



NWB 2023 Group Photo

demia'. They discussed how the SciVal tool provides a wide range of indicators and insights that, combined with peer review and expert knowledge, provide a broader view of research and its impact. The second pre-workshop was led by Ivar Ternsell Torgersen (Sikt – Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research) and Gustaf Nelhans (University of Borås, Sweden). They proposed the establishment of a Nordic Network for Advanced Bibliometrics that will promote the development and application of innovative bibliometric techniques among researchers and practitioners in the Nordic countries. The third pre-workshop was presented by Ross W. K. Potter (Clarivate, UK) on 'Rankings and the Future of Research Assessment'. He discussed the power of using various datasets and sources to capture the multi-faceted nature of the university and how these novel impact indicators might be used in a ranking exercise. The final pre-workshop was contributed by Tim C. E. Engels and Raf Guns (University of Antwerp, Belgium). They shared 20 years of performance-based research funding (PRFs) in Flanders, Belgium. Their discussion covered observations regarding the gradual changes in Flemish PRFs since 2003, the possible effects of these PRFs (including on support offices at universities), and the feasibility in terms of the complexity of data collection, curation, transparency, and validation.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

The oral presentations covered eight session themes. These themes encompassed a wide array of topics. The 'Research evaluation' session showcased papers that investigated the interconnections among metrics, the quality of research, and the research process. It included a cross-national comparison of co-authorship practices in Social Sciences and Humanities, the development of a new institution-level performance framework, and an assessment of the research competitiveness of Nordic countries.



Session at Palmstedtsalen. | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers University of Technology



Session at Scania Sale | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers University of Technology

The session on 'Patent analysis and research funding' centered on utilizing patent analysis for foresight, insights, and assessments of methods and approaches. It explored how universities expedite the application of knowledge in technological development for patenting, examined organizations funding Nordic research, and discussed bibliographic coupling as a 'sleeping beauty' based on an original similarity measure.

The 'Research Integration and policy citation' session shed light on the pivotal

role of scientific literature in shaping policies within Swedish governmental reports. It explored how Nordic scientific publications influence policies by drawing from regional scientific knowledge. The session also included a comprehensive analysis of the actors, timelines, locations, and motivations that underpin the dynamic interplay within the research-policy ecosystem.

The 'Information retrieval and bibliometric analysis' session addressed the persistent gaps in our knowledge regarding



Information Desk & Program book | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers University of Technology



Lunch | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers UT



Lunch | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers UT

the expansive realm of scholarly journals. It emphasized the importance of collective efforts to enhance our comprehension of scholarly landscapes across disciplines and shed light on the repercussions faced by authors engaging in misconduct.

The session 'Scholarly publishing and peer review' scrutinized challenges and opportunities in the peer review process, aiming to optimize the supply to meet the increasing demand; and highlighting the

significance of trade publications in effectively disseminating research outcomes.

The 'Multilingual scientific discourse and citation practices' session discussed a comparative study, scrutinizing both publication and Wikipedia data to reveal trends and perspectives on the Circular Economy. It assessed the diversity of scientific discourse across twenty-one multilingual Wikipedias, utilizing citation analysis to gauge the richness and variety of discus-

sions. The session also introduced a field affinity metric, applicable to each combination of citing and cited fields, showcasing its utility in measuring the level of interdisciplinarity within the references of any given publication.

The session 'Research mobility and international collaboration' navigated the intricate intersections of geographic orientation, geopolitical influences, and researcher mobility within the realm of social sciences and humanities. Shifting focus to global collaboration patterns, the session explored the impact of geopolitical influences on science and its repercussions for the Nordic countries. It also discussed geographic orientation, questioning their global prominence. The session offered an exploration into the factors shaping the movement of scholars in Nordic countries and the international scientific community.

The 'Open Science' session explored inventive strategies aimed at reshaping research and researcher assessment through the collaborative development of an open science ecosystem. The session also discussed publication trends based on income levels within the DOAJ, offering insights into the dynamic landscape of open-access publishing. Additionally, it presented the citation advantage within the context of scholarly publishing at higher education institutions, illuminating the influence of open access on academic citation practices.

POSTER SESSION

Furthermore, 15 posters were presented during the poster session. The session kicked off with the traditional Poster Minute Madness, where each presenter had one minute to showcase their poster. Following the Poster Minute Madness, the posters were displayed in the open hall. The lively Poster Minute Madness was hosted by Birger Larsen (Aalborg University, Denmark), who added a musical touch (!) with his famous horn.

The posters 'The SDGs and publications of University of Helsinki: Tracking contributions responsibly?' by Petri Turunen, Tuula Huuskonen and Terhi Sandgren (Helsinki University Library, Finland), and 'Collecting author affiliation data for Flemish non-Web of Science SSH publications: Process, results and lessons learned' by Peter Aspeslagh (University of Antwerp, Belgium), jointly won the Best Poster Award based on participants' votes.

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

The workshop had three keynote speakers. The first speaker, Dr. Vincent A. Traag from Leiden University, focused on the challenges of causality in open science. Traag highlighted the increasing importance of Open Science in research methodologies and academic practices. In his talk, he pointed out the complexity of determining causal effects and the need to consider causality when interpreting indicators and discussing policies for open data. In particular, Traag distinguished between the impact of Open Science and the effect of openness on impact. In this regard, he explained that increasing access to open data does not necessarily result in more replicable research. Using simulation data, he concluded that while open data make research reproducible, methodological rigor—a key element in the peer assessment of new scientific knowledge—ultimately makes research even more reproducible.

The second keynote speaker, Professor Michael Thelwall from the University of Sheffield, discussed 'Estimating expert review quality scores for journal articles with bibliometrics and artificial intelligence.' Thelwall presented his recent research that delved into the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in estimating the quality of journal articles, benchmarked against the assessment conducted for the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 by humans. His team's approach involved testing



Panel Discussion | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers University of Technology



Keynote speaker Vincent A. Traag | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers University of Technology



Keynote Speaker Michael Thelwall | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers University of Technology

several machine learning algorithms to predict article quality scores. Despite achieving moderate accuracy, the results indicated that AI is not yet reliable enough to replace human expert reviews in academic evaluations. The study's findings showed that a high score given by the REF reviewers to individual journal articles did not always correlate with a corresponding high impact factor of the journal. Nevertheless, scientific research that had received higher scores was more likely to have been published in journals with higher impact factor.

The third keynote speaker, Professor Cassidy Sugimoto—Tom and Marie Patton School Chair in the School of Public Policy

at Georgia Institute of Technology and former president of The International Society for Scientometrics and Informetrics—discussed the increasingly global nature of science and the importance of exchanging knowledge, resources, and researchers across borders. She used bibliometric data to explore the scientific output of different nations, their development trajectories, and the impact of scientific mobility, global funding, and collaboration on national science portfolios. This last keynote speech also addressed challenges that hinder promoting a fair global science system—including the dominance of English as a single lingua franca, gender inequalities, isolation-



Welcome reception | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers University of Technology



Coffee break | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers University of Technology

ism, and the exploitation of lower-income countries for data collection with little or no involvement from local scientists and no benefit for the local community. The epistemic consequences of these issues, such as systemic biases in prioritizing research topics, were also emphasized. However, science diplomacy, collective infrastructure, and science observatories backed by scientometric research were presented as promising mitigations to these issues.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Furthermore, a panel discussion on 'Responsible Research Assessment – With or Without the Nordic Bibliometric Indicator' took place. The panel comprised experts in research assessment and bibliometrics from five Nordic countries: Marianne Gauffriau (IT University of Copenhagen) from Denmark, Laura Niemi (University of Turku) from Finland, Baldvin Zarióh (University of Iceland) from Iceland, Gunnar Sivertsen (NIFU – Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research, and Education) from Norway, and Björn Hammarfelt (University of Borås) from Sweden. Janne Pölönen (Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, Finland) moderated the panel discussion. The panel addressed three questions from both the national and institutional perspectives:

- ▶ i) What are the most important recent changes in the use of the Nordic bibliometric indicator in your country or institution?
- ▶ ii) What have been the main concerns about the uses of the indicator concerning the RRA agenda and the CoARA Agreement?
- ▶ iii) What is the role of journal evaluation (by citation metrics or experts) in addressing predatory, questionable, deceptive, and low-quality publishing practices?

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

We believe that during a conference, the socialization among the participants plays a significant role in fostering networking opportunities, building meaningful connections, and enhancing the overall collaborative atmosphere. Early arrivers at the conference were offered lunch and an opportunity to interact with other participants even before the workshop started. We also had longer lunch breaks during day two and three, and kept the duration of coffee breaks to 30-minutes to give ample time for networking.

On the first evening, a welcome reception took place at the Chalmers Conference Center. The workshop gala dinner was hosted at Universeum, the National Science Centre of Sweden, known for its role as a social actor in sustainable development. Attendees had the opportunity to explore its famous aquarium and surrounding areas before being treated to a delightful three-course candlelight dinner.

PUBLICATION TO JOURNAL

The editorial board of the journal 'Information Research (ISSN: 1368-1613)' has expressed interest in publishing full papers corresponding to the accepted abstracts from both the oral and poster presentations of NWB2023. Interested authors need to submit their papers by mid-January 2024 to ensure inclusion in the March 2024 issue. They have to mention NWB2023 in the cover letter when submitting their manuscript to the journal.

SPONSORSHIP

NWB2023 was generously sponsored by the Department of Communication and Learning in Science at Chalmers University of Technology, Elsevier, Clarivate, SFIS (the Swedish Association of Information Specialists) and Letterstedtska föreningen.



Workshop gala dinner | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers University of Technology



Workshop gala dinner | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers University of Technology



Workshop gala dinner | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers University of Technology



Workshop gala dinner | Photo courtesy of © CLS, Chalmers University of Technology

In adherence to the workshop's tradition, no registration fee was required for participants. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors for their invaluable support, making it possible for attendees to participate without financial barriers.

EPILOGUE

NWB2024 is scheduled to take place in Reykjavik, Iceland, during November 2024.

The workshop will be jointly hosted by the University of Iceland and the National and University Library of Iceland. Further details for NWB2024 will be announced by the organizers at a later date.

Thank you to all presenters, participants, session chairs, keynote speakers, peer-reviewers, NWB steering group, volunteers and sponsors who made NWB2023 such a great experience. We would also like to thank the editor of ISSI e-Newsletter for spreading the call and news about NWB2023.



The next host of the workshop series: Reykjavik, Iceland | Photo courtesy of © Balázs Schlemmer

METRICS LITERACY SPECIAL SESSION AT STI2023



**MADDIE
HARE¹**



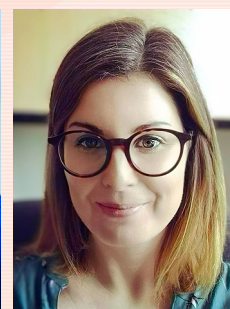
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WOODS²**



**CAREY
MING-LI CHEN³**



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The Metrics Literacies project aims to reduce the misuse of metrics and adverse effects by improving the understanding and use of scholarly metrics across academia via educational videos. It seeks to do this by supporting researchers and research administrators in developing metrics literacies—an integrated set of competencies, dispositions and knowledge that empowers individuals to recognize, interpret, critically assess and effectively and ethically use scholarly metrics. The project brings together an interdisciplinary team of bibliometricians, science communicators, media producers, and education technology schol-

ars. Leveraging subject expertise of research evaluators and technical expertise of film producers, Youtubers and podcasters, the project team is producing different types of educational videos on the h-index and testing their efficiency and effectiveness against text in a randomized controlled trial.

At the 27th International Conference on Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (STI) which took place at the end of September 2023 in Leiden, team members organized a special session to introduce the 'Metrics Literacies' concept to the bibliometric community. The hybrid special session, which was facilitated by Stefanie Haustein,

Isabelle Dorsch, Carey Ming-Li Chen, and Maddie Hare in Leiden, and by Heather Woods online, had participants actively engage in design thinking exercises – the first time such a format was offered at STI.

A total of 31 conference participants attended the hands-on session and were invited to actively engage in the community-driven development and discussion of metrics education. The goal was to empower the bibliometric community to take ownership of metrics education. Improving metrics literacies with the goal of reducing the misuse of bibliometric indicators is in line with current transitions towards a healthier academic culture, including the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) initiative.

Using design thinking, participants were encouraged to consider user perspectives to empathize and understand users of bibliometric indicators to more effectively identify problems encountered by individuals in the current metrics system. Participants were asked to organize in small groups of people with similar backgrounds and roles such as bibliometrics researchers, analysts, research administrators, librarians or policy makers. The homogeneity of groups was important for developing personas that reflect group members' experiences in the context of metrics education

and improving how bibliometrics are used. Forming nine groups, participants developed user personas and worked through design thinking exercises that included defining the problem with “How Might We” statements and creating empathy and journey maps in templates provided on FigJam. Figure 1 depicts an example of an empathy map for the persona Maryam Hashemi, which was developed by the metrics literacies research team at the [ScholCommLab](#) and served as an example for participants.

The personas developed during the STI session included two professors who do bibliometric research, two librarians, a head of an international relations office, a head of talent support, a university rector, a vice president research and a data and software startup owner. For example, a team of librarians developed a persona named Marie-Cecile, a research support librarian from France, currently living in Canada. Marie-Cecile faces a conflict of loyalties when she encounters a researcher crafting a competitive grant proposal who wishes to use the h-index as a quantitative indicator of their strength as a researcher. Marie-Cecile feels torn between assisting them to meet administrative policies and provide much needed research support, and staying true to her feelings about metrics wisdom. Learning that the researcher

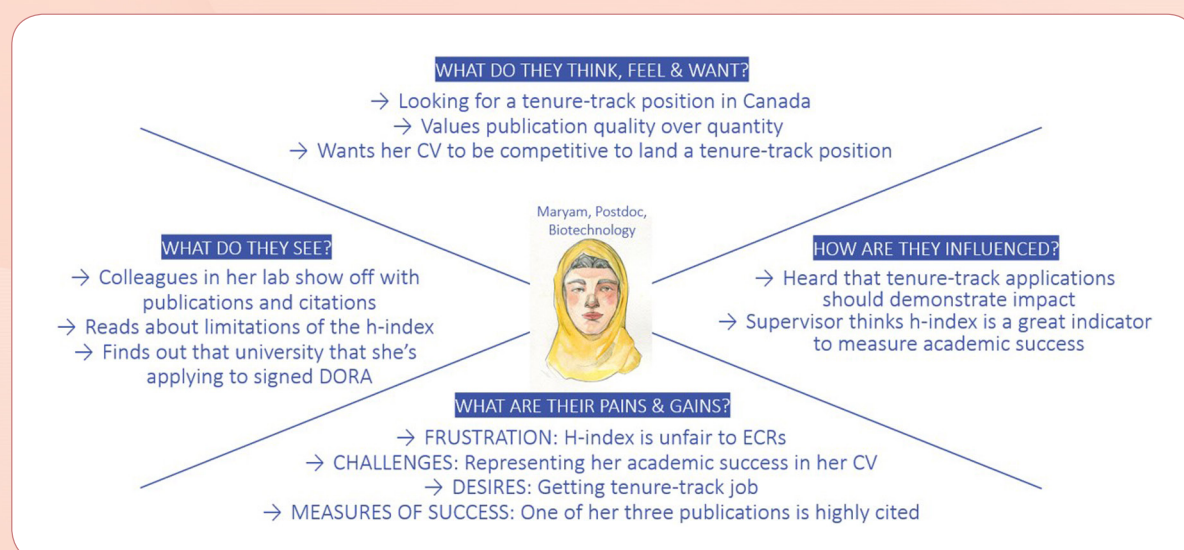


Figure 1. Example empathy map for persona Maryam Hashemi (Copyright: CC-BY [Haustein, Woods, Hare, Dorsch & Chen, 2023](#))



Figure 2. Groups working on the empathy map design exercise (Photo courtesy of © Isabelle Dorsch).

will have to return to their home country if they do not secure funding, Marie-Cecile points them to an online resource to help calculate their h-index but does not personally provide that information. Marie-Cecile feels conflicted after the experience; she does not feel that her advice satisfied the researcher but she does not agree with the use of the h-index in grant applications.

Possibilities for challenging the current state of metrics use were brought to life by a group of policymakers, who crafted the persona Anna, a PhD student in History who wants to become Head of Research Services and is tasked by her supervisor with screening university faculty for 'Researcher of the Year'. Though her university has signed DORA, when reviewing candidates, Anna notices only senior white men from STEM on the list of potential recipients provided to her by her management; only three women are eligible for the prize as a result of the indicators used to compile the list. As head of talent support, Anna contacts her network of colleagues and makes another list. Despite not being an expert on metrics, she supplements indicators to the first list, which mainly rely

on the h-index, including qualitative measures. Anna provides this list to senior management, proud of her efforts, but wary of backlash. Anna's journey is an excellent example provided by special session participants of how the actions of individuals can provide meaningful intervention to the status quo of scholarly metrics.

One group's "How Might We" statement, asked "How might we help (re-)define what being a successful researcher means to us?". The user persona, Björn Björnsson, a 40-year-old Swedish Associate Professor at Uppsala University is a former physicist-turned-bibliometrician. As described by the group of bibliometric researchers who envisioned him, Björn bears the responsibility of educating the next generation of bibliometricians requiring a redefinition in his own mind of his role as a researcher. While on the track to tenure, Björn wants to position himself as a progressive researcher who acts as a role model for his PhD students. Though overwhelmed by contradicting sources, a scarcity of education materials, and differing opinions, Björn implements improvements step-by-step, such as a seminar for his stu-



Figure 3. Bibliometric analysts discuss their user persona Vanessa, Head of an International Relations Office. Their group asked: “How might we convey the complexity of bibliometric data while still providing something useful for decision making?” (Photo courtesy of © Isabelle Dorsch)



Figure 4. A group of bibliometrics researchers created the user persona, Björn Björnsson, a Swedish Associate Professor at Uppsala University redefining his role as a researcher, along with his use of metrics. (Photo courtesy of © Isabelle Dorsch)

dents on metrics and assessment reform. Ultimately, he is invigorated by his efforts, and feels more assured because he is not alone with his experiences and problems.

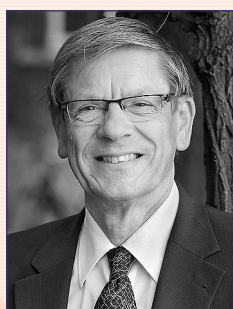
At the end of the 90-minute session, a debrief was held in which participants were invited to share key takeaways from their experience creating a user persona and working through design thinking tasks. One participant stated that they very much enjoyed developing the user persona and that it helped them to reflect on their own

feelings about the services they provide and the work they do as a librarian. The sharing period generated fruitful discussions which revolved around various themes including the tensions at play between the requirements of one’s job, personal beliefs and making change by contending with the current reality of metrics use.

The material used to facilitate the session as well as all other outputs of the metrics literacies research project are available at <https://zenodo.org/communities/metricsliteracies>.

PROMOTING RESEARCH INTEGRITY –

THE JOURNAL OF DATA AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (JDIS), AND ITS ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



**RONALD
ROUSSEAU**
co-main editor of
JDIS



**LIYING
YANG**
co-main editor of
JDIS



**ZHESI
SHEN**
vice-editor of
JDIS

The English language, Chinese Journal of Data and Information Science (JDIS), covered by Scopus and the WoS (emerging sources), habitually organizes an annual symposium. These symposia provide an ideal platform for fostering connections with colleagues and institutes beyond the realm of JDIS.

After a gap caused by COVID-19, the 4th Annual Data Driven Knowledge Discovery symposium has been organized on December 14-15, 2023, in the South Chinese city of Zhuhai. Given the journal's recent focus on research integrity, and recognizing the significance of this hot topic, it was chosen as the central theme for this year's symposium.

Additionally, owing to JDIS' interest in complex systems, a partnership was established with the Beijing Normal University of Zhuhai, center for complex systems.

PROMOTING RESEARCH INTEGRITY

In recent times, the emergence of entities offering pre-made publications for sale has become a serious concern. Individuals (whom I hesitate to label as scientists) can, for a fee, become listed as authors of scientific papers. These companies, com-



monly referred to as paper mills, have even managed to infiltrate prestigious journals, sometimes resorting to bribing editors (Joelving, 2024). Some perpetrators have been apprehended, leading to the retraction of thousands of papers (Van Noorden, 2023). The retraction of published papers is undoubtedly displeasing to publishers, as it signifies an acknowledgment that the contents of the retracted publications are nonexistent. It is, moreover, an admission by the editor and publisher that they erred in accepting and publishing the material. While mistakes are inevitable and, though inconvenient, serve as a testament to the self-correcting nature of science when authors admit to their errors, the issue lies in retractions due to fraudulent activities.

For these reasons, JDIS and its collaborating partners decided to center the JDIS symposium under the motto: "Promoting Research Integrity: Directions, Tools, and Approaches." This proved to be a commendable initiative, drawing the attendance of representatives from major

international publishers, including Wiley, Taylor & Francis, Springer Nature, Sage Publications, Elsevier, Frontiers, IOP Publishing, PLoS, IMR Press, Wolters-Kluwer, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and other research and publication-related organizations such as COPE, Crossref, China Educational Import & Export Corporation (CEPIEC), the China Hospital Research Integrity Alliance, and the Charlsworth Group. Their participation, along with that of several Chinese universities and hospitals, underscored the symposium's significance in addressing the critical issue of scientific integrity.

TALKS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

On December 14, the symposium commenced with welcome speeches from Xiwen Liu, director of the National Science Library (NSL), CAS, Zengru Di, director of the International Academic Center of Com-



plex Systems, Beijing Normal University, and Liying Yang, co-main editor of JDIS.

Most speakers explained the measures implemented by their organizations to detect fraudulent submissions or other ethical violations and to promote research integrity (Alam & Wilson, 2023). Others delved into the role played by open science, how to handle retractions, misconduct in funding systems (Tang, 2022), and the concerning reputation of Chinese hospitals in terms of the number of retractions (Candal-Pedreira et al., 2022).

In addition to presentations, the symposium featured panel discussions related to global perspectives on research integrity and

open research, as well as discussions on artificial intelligence-generated content (AIGC).

A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

In response to the escalating issue of fraudulent behavior and paper mills, the symposium organizers proposed a significant step. During the Zhuhai symposium, a memorandum of understanding was signed, symbolizing JDIS' and the National Science Library of CAS' commitment to supporting global initiatives promoting research integrity and combating fraud and paper



mills. Representatives from major publishers, present at the symposium, joined hands by signing the memorandum, emphasizing the collaborative effort required to safeguard the integrity of scientific research.

REFERENCES

- Alam, S., & Wilson, L. (2023). Perspectives from a publishing ethics and research integrity team for required improvements. *Journal of Data and Information Science*, 8(3), 1-14.
- Candal-Pedreira, C., J.S., Ruano-Ravina, A., Egilman, D.S., Fernández, E., & Pérez-Ríos, M. (2022). Retracted papers originating from paper mills: cross sectional study. *BMJ*, 379:e071517

We draw the readers' attention to the fact that United2Act has recently released their Consensus Statement outlining five key areas of action against the impact of paper mills on the integrity of academic research and publishing, see <https://publicationethics.org/about/press/paper-mills>.

- Joelving, F. (2024). Paper trail. *Science*, 383(6680), 252-255.
- Tang, L. (2022). A role for funders in fostering China's research integrity. *Science*, 375(6584), 979-981.
- Van Noorden, R. (2023). How big is science's fake-paper problem? *Nature*, 623, 466-467.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INTEGRITY REFERENCE GROUP

**JDIS 4th ANNUAL DATA-DRIVEN KNOWLEDGE
DISCOVERY SYMPOSIUM**

**PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INTEGRITY:
SITUATION, DATA, TOOLS AND PRACTICE**

ZHUHAI, CHINA – 15 DECEMBER 2023

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences National Science Library, is entered into this 15th of December 2023 between the undersigned organisations and their representatives (the Parties).

The international scholarly research community is promoting wider understanding of, and improvements in, research integrity in the face of increasing instances of academic misconduct. Through this MOU, the National Science Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences is seeking to support these global efforts by organising an international research integrity reference group.

This group would promote meaningful communication and knowledge sharing around research integrity between related stakeholders in China and the international research community, such as universities, funders, publishers, think tanks and government policy makers. Contributions to promoting research integrity internationally could include:

- ▶ Aligning definitions, best practices and communication channels to develop globally standardised approaches to implementing research integrity measures
- ▶ Organising or supporting activities such as events, research reports

and meetings between Chinese and international research integrity stakeholders

- ▶ Generating research to support clearer understanding and adoption of research integrity best practices, programs and initiatives in China and internationally
- ▶ Developing recommendations that could be used by policy makers to support and expand research integrity within and across regions

This reference group will be open to representatives from universities and research institutes, funders, publishers, think tanks. By signing the MOU, signatories will be expressing their willingness to support a future international reference group, which may include providing staff and resources

(as determined by each signatory in its full discretion) to further define and carry out the objectives listed above.

This MOU is not intended to create any contractually binding and enforceable obligations on the part of its signatories and in particular signatories shall not be required to provide any resources, bear any costs or take any specific action in relation to the abovementioned initiative unless they have expressly agreed to do so in writing.

The term of this MOU is three (3) years from the date of the last signing. Any party may terminate the MOU at any time by giving written notice to the sponsor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this MOU shall be executed by the Parties through a duly authorised representative and shall be effective as of this 15 December 2023