

esss 2012 – SCIENTOMETRIC EDUCATION AT KU LEUVEN



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According to the annual rotation idea the third esss (European Summer School for Scientometrics) was hosted by the Katholieke Universiteit (KU) Leuven from 1-7 July 2012 (1,2). It was again jointly organized by the University of Vienna (Austria), the Humboldt University (Germany), KU Leuven (Belgium) and iFQ (Institute for Research Information and Quality Assurance, Germany).

Like in precedent years, the whole week event was fully booked (50 seats) within only few days after registration opened. The esss conference part was attended by 80 persons (excluding organizers, speakers and several representatives from industry).

While last year's event (3) was six days including a free pre-programme, a conference, seminars, hands-on sessions and a workshop, this year's programme ran seven

days. The tutorial day as well as the conference took place in the J. van der Eecken Auditorium at the Faculty of Business and Economics, one of the many buildings KU Leuven. esss seminars and hands-on sessions were then all held at the IT Seminar Rooms of the Van Den Heuvelinstituut.

esss 2012 started officially with a tutorial day on 1 July, which was a bibliometric crash course for esss participants short on experience in the field. The attendees were familiarized with the main terms and concepts of bibliometrics by Wolfgang Glänzel (KU Leuven, Belgium).

His presentation was followed by Thomson Reuters and Elsevier database demonstrations.

Malgorzata Krasowska (Business Development Manager, Thomson Reuters) gave a lively and user-oriented introduction to "Naviga-



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tion, search and analysis features of the Web of Knowledge Platform”. Then Jan-Albert Majoor (Account Development Manager Elsevier S&T) provided his “SciVerse Scopus: introduction and walk through demonstration”.

esss 2012 was officially opened on 2 July by Koenraad Debackere, who emphasized the importance of bibliometrics and gave a warm welcome to the attendees of the two days esss conference.

Conference day 1 was dedicated to “Theoretical and Practical Aspects” of scientometrics. Nicola De Bellis as the first speaker talked about “The Philosophical Foundations of (Biblio/Sciento/Infor) Metrics” and clearly demonstrated that bibliometrics is certainly not strictly limited to evaluation purposes (Photo 1). Wolfgang Glänzel (KU Leuven, Belgium) and Stefan Hornbostel (iFQ, HU Berlin, Germany) followed providing a concise overview of the “History and Institutionalization of Scientometrics”. Sybille Hinze gave a brief introduction to “Scientometric indicators in use: an overview”. For the first time in the esss Wolfgang Glänzel talked about the “Mathematical Foundation of Scientometrics”, followed by the presentation of Bart Thijs about “The application of Network analysis in science studies: Common theoretical background for broad applications”.

Another novelty was “The Bibliometric Agora: Open discussion of controversial is-

ssues” (Photo 2), featuring Marc Luwel (Hercules Foundation, Belgium) and Wolfgang Glänzel in a lively, most interesting dispute, which was brilliantly moderated by Stefan Hornbostel. Valérie Thiel (SciVal Consultant, Elsevier) concluded conference day 1 with her presentation “The SciVal Suite - Helping Institutions to Establish, Evaluate and Execute Research Strategies”.

The overall topic of conference day 2 (3 July) was “Procedures and Indicators: State-of-the-Art”. Donald de B. Beaver (Williams College, USA) set the stage and introduced “The many faces of collaboration and teamwork in scientific research”.

Then Anthony van Raan (Leiden University, the Netherlands) talked about “Advanced bibliometric methods for evaluation of research groups, ranking and benchmarking of universities, and mapping of research related to socio-economic issue” in his usual entertaining way. Éric Archambault (Science-Metrix, Canada) presented “Journal-level classifications - current state of the art” followed by Michel Zitt (INRA, LERECO Lab, Research Department SAE2, France) who introduced “Meso-level retrieval: field delineation and hybrid methods”.

After the lunch break Henk Moed (Senior Scientific Advisor, Elsevier) spoke about “New developments in bibliometrics and research assessment” (Photo 3). Patricia Bren-



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nan (Director Product Strategy, Thomson Reuters) presented the new “Book Citation Index” and discussed its limitations.

After the coffee break Koenraad Debackere (Katholieke Universiteit (K.U.) Leuven) grabbed the audience’s attention by talking about “Scientometrics, Technometrics, Innovation: Policy Aspects”. The final presentation of conference day 2 was dedicated to the visualization trend in the discipline. Katy Börner (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), The Netherlands / Cyberinfrastructure for Network Science Center, Director, School of Library and Information

Science, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN) gave a detailed description of the science mapping and visualization tool SCI2 and informed about its wide range of functionalities, many of them just recently added.

Day four to seven were all about the true nature of a summer school: seminars, hands-on sessions, group work and presentations all taking place in one big computer room. Like last year a maximum of 50 people could participate (Photo 4).

4 July was dedicated to “Data sources, Cleaning & Impact Measures”. The day started with Matthias Winterhager (Bielefeld University,

Institute of Science and Technology Studies (IWT), Germany) who discussed the highly relevant topic of “Data cleaning and Processing”. After that Wolfgang Glänzel and Juan Gorraiz introduced alternative and complementary data sources for bibliometric purposes and discussed the various journal impact measures. The imparted theory was then consolidated in practical hands-on exercises in the afternoon.

The focus topics of 5 July were “Mapping Science” on the one hand and “Network Analysis” on the other. De Solla Price Medal winner Olle Persson (Sociology Department, Umeå universitet, Sweden) started the day with “Mapping Science (on the basis of Bibexcel Software)”. In the afternoon Bülent Özel (Department of Computer Science, Istanbul Bilgi University (IBU), Turkey) continued with presenting “Network Analysis with R”.

The workshop “Research Evaluation in Practice” was scheduled for 6 July. After an introduction for all by Wolfgang Glänzel, the participants were asked to work on specific tasks in small groups. Two topics were given (1. Bibliometric Research and Application, 2. Adolescent and maternal smoking). Like in the year before the participants had to determine the most important players, the most frequent journals and subject categories in the field and the topics within the field and their distribution. Furthermore they should determine basic indicators of citation impact and analyse the h-score. Then an international collaboration analysis should be performed and the most productive countries as well as the main partners identified. Finally publication activity and citation impact of the most productive countries in the field should be determined. The students were encouraged to also visualize the results using the mapping tools introduced in the preceding days.

Group work was individually supported by Wolfgang Glänzel, Sybille Hinze, Juan Gorraiz and Bart Thijs.

7 July was the final day of the *esss* course and intended as a Q & A session. The organizers were happy to answer many questions of the participants and officially closed the event shortly before lunchtime.

esss 2012 was again very successful with participants from 24 countries (Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States). The overall positive feedback is a clear signal to continue this international initiative, and the organizers are looking forward to next year’s event held at the Humboldt University Berlin in Germany in September. Further announcements will be made via *esss* website (www.scientometrics-school.eu) and via the *esss* mailing list (to register please send an informal email to office@scientometrics-school.eu).

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