

PAVING THE ROAD FOR SCIENTOMETRIC EXPERTISE IN EUROPE:

THE EUROPEAN SUMMER SCHOOL FOR SCIENTOMETRICS (ESSS)



1. IMPORTANCE OF BIBLIOMETRICS AND SCIENTOMETRICS:

Bibliometrics and scientometrics are beyond the shadow of a doubt important for many stakeholders.

Philosophers of science increasingly use scientometric procedures to analyse developments and trends in science and technology.

Scientists find themselves caught in the journal impact factor dominated “publish or perish” game, and librarians at least partly base their collection management decisions on bibliometric indicators.

In addition to the peer review system, bibliometrics and scientometrics are now heavily used for research assessment. Science and technology are strongly based on competitiveness and innovation. To survey and assess them, excellence clusters are required to highlight the leading position of

departments, universities or countries, to manage better investments and to transfer inventions into innovation. Emerging technologies have to be identified to ensure and increase international competitiveness.

Government offices, university directors and research funders need to decide which fields of research and institutions are to be supported or built up, and how research budget and grants are to be allocated. Such decisions are increasingly based on or at least influenced by bibliometrics and scientometrics.

2. LACK OF AVAILABLE SCIENTOMETRICS EXPERT KNOWLEDGE

Data handling, indicator construction and interpretation require competent expert knowledge, which is currently only avail-

able to a limited extent for all stakeholders in Central Europe (especially in German speaking countries) not the least due to lacking training opportunities.

This is probably most evident for research quality managers. A majority of them have never had any bibliometric or scientometric training at all, however, they manipulate and interpret data and use bibliometric databases and tools on a daily basis. Their taken decisions often have severe implications for individual researchers as well as for whole institutions.

3. THE FORMATION OF ESSS AS CONSEQUENT RESPONSE

Responding to the lack of a pertinent scientometrics education (especially in German speaking countries) and to the increasing demand (particularly of research quality managers), the University of Vienna (Austria), the Humboldt University of Berlin (Germany), the Institute for Research Information and Quality Assurance – iFQ - (Germany) and the Katholieke Universiteit

Leuven (Belgium) joined cooperatively to establish the European Summer School for Scientometrics (esss) in 2010.

4. ESSS MISSION

esss offers training covering major aspects of quantitative analysis of science and technology. Its courses are especially designed to cater for the needs of science policy makers, research quality managers, scientists, information specialists and librarians. ESSS is open to interested parties from all over Europe and beyond.

Attendees can expect a sound overview of state-of-the-art scientometric methods and the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the most commonly used data bases, to learn how to construct relevant indicators and how to interpret the data.

Theoretically imparted knowledge will be consolidated in hands-on trainings whenever suitable in order to guarantee a sustainable learning experience.

Participants will challenge themselves academically, gain crucial experience, ad-



Archway of the main building, University of Vienna / Photo: University of Vienna

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esss website: <http://www.scientometrics-school.eu/>

vance their careers and experience knowledge sharing and exchange of ideas with esss staff, lecturers and other participants.

esss has an international orientation using English as language of instruction, and its venue will rotate among the organizing institutions annually.

Cooperations with other institutions are welcome in order to bring esss to other stimulating and exciting locations all over Europe.

5. ESSS SCHEDULE 2010

The inauguration of ESSS will take place at Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany on June 16th, 2010.

The Humboldt-University is located right in the very centre of Berlin close to the city's most well-known places of interest. The famous Brandenburger Tor, the Reichstag, the chancellery and the Museumsinsel (Museum Island) are within walking distance.

The first ESSS course will take place in conjunction with this year's iFQ annual conference on research evaluation, which

will be held from June 14th-15th at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (WZB).

In 2010 a three-day programme (16-18 June) will be offered as a premium foretaste of what attendees can expect from 2011 onwards.

The first day of the ESSS, June 16th will feature keynotes and presentations by internationally recognised scientometrics experts. On day 2 and 3 we will present the first two interactive modules: module one will focus on journal impact measures and composite indicators while module two will be concerned with Hirsch-type indices.

On both days lectures introducing the theoretical background will be combined with practical exercises. The lectures will be delivered by experts from the three organizing institutions, and internationally recognised scientometricians will be invited as trainers to reinforce the lecturers.

6. ESSS SCHEDULE 2011 ONWARDS

In the following years the coursework will be extended to cover five modules. Each

module will be tailored to the needs of a predefined audience. Modules can then be attended independently from other modules to allow for maximum flexibility of esss participants.

esss will be integrated into the post-graduate course offerings of the University of Vienna and aims to award attendees with ECTS points for successfully completed course modules.

The University of Vienna will also be the host for esss in 2011.

7. ESSS ORGANIZATION

All organizing institutions are represented in the steering committee which will be responsible for the esss activities.

The esss steering committee members are

- ▶ Wolfgang Glänzel and Koenraad Debackere (K.U. Leuven),
- ▶ Stefan Hornbostel and Sybille Hinze (iFQ and Humboldt Universität zu Berlin),
- ▶ Juan Gorraiz and Christian Gumpenberger (University of Vienna).

The annual organization of esss will be coordinated by a local and alternating Programme Committee.

In 2010 the esss Steering Committee will also serve the Programme Committee's tasks.

8. ESSS WEBSITE

Please also visit our esss website at <http://www.scientometrics-school.eu>. Once registration is open further details will be communicated.



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The esss steering committee



We are looking forward to seeing you in Berlin!