

Foreword

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The first issue of *Scientometrics* actually appeared in 1978. Now we are celebrating its 50th volume. In those intervening twenty years, *Scientometrics* has published some 1,500 articles and communications.

In these two decades we have witnessed enormous changes in the world of scholarship and in the field of quantitative studies. Unfortunately, many of the pioneers whose names graced the pages of this journal are no longer with us. Not the least of these was Derek John de Solla Price whom we regularly honor with the Derek Price Medal. But we have also lost giants like V.V. Nalimov, who has coined the term “scientometrics”, G. M. Dobrov, our ever energetic colleague from Kiev who was a victim of Chernobyl, Aurel Avramescu of Roumania, Michael Moravcsik and others.

Space and time do not allow me to provide an account of the most-cited papers published by this journal but among them would surely be the work of Henry Small on clustering, S. D. Haitun on scientometric distributions, Narin’s speculation on technology becoming science, and the work of András Schubert, Wolfgang Glänzel, and Tibor Braun on relative indicators. Perhaps the most-cited work was their omnibus volume 16 which provided an inventory of 2,600 journals in 196 countries which has been cited more than 100 times.

An interesting indicator of a journal’s influence is the frequency of citation (impact), outside of its own narrow invisible college. The recent *Journal Citation Reports* indicates a clear relationship between scientometrics and information science journals.

While *Scientometrics*, like most other journals cites itself quite frequently, it is regularly quoted by the leading journals in information science (look at Journal Performance Indicators).

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Recently the journal was acquired by Kluwer of Dordrecht, The Netherlands, and I have been informed of its hope to expand the distribution and influence of this journal even further. While our journal has made an outstanding record in the past, there is always room for improvement. Readers are encouraged to send ideas in this respect to the Editorial Office. F. Robbert Van Berckelaer (e-mail: fr.vanberckelaer@wkap.nl) the in-house publishing Editor informs me that very shortly the journal will soon be available electronically, which should help to disseminate its content even further. We can all look to the day when the entire 50 volume archive will be available on the internet for the worldwide informetrics community. Certainly, this journal has played a key role in the expansion of the scientometrics community, including the ISSI and SIG-Metrics of ASIS&T.