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BERTRAM C. BROOKES AND JAN VLACHÝ WIN THE 1989 DEREK JOHN DE SOLLA PRICE AWARD

The Editorial and Advisory Board and the Publishers of *Scientometrics* are glad to announce that the 1989 Derek John de Solla Price medal has been jointly awarded to *Bertram C. Brookes* and *Jan Vlachý* for their distinguished contributions to quantitative studies of science.

Professor *Bertram C. Brookes* with Mrs *Alexandra Shaw* on the occasion of the awarding ceremony of February 9, 1990.

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COMMENTS ON BERTRAM C. BROOKES, RECIPIENT OF THE 1989 DEREK DE SOLLA PRICE AWARD

ALEXANDRA SHAW

The Library Goldsmiths' College, University of London, New Cross, London SE14 6NW, (UK)

On 9 February 1990, *B.C. Brookes* was presented with the Derek de Solla Price Medal for 1989 at a reception held at the British Library in London. The occasion was a party to celebrate his eightieth birthday, attended by colleagues and present and former students. A special issue of the *Journal of Information Science*, volume 16 number 1, 1990, containing essays dedicated to Professor Brookes, was also presented to him on that evening.

In 1966 *Brookes* became Reader in Information Studies in the School of Librarianship and Archives at University College London. He was initially offered the title of Reader in Information Science, but rejected this on the grounds that he could not perceive any science of information at the time. However, he immediately started work to help found the new science.[1] Drawing on his background in the presentation and communication of scientific and technical information, and in statistics, he began to look for the fundamental scientific laws of information. His students in those days (I was one) learned about statistics, including applications to the evaluation of information retrieval systems, to the Bradford distribution, and to the obsolescence of scientific literature.

Brookes's name is probably best known for his work on the Bradford distribution. His 1968 paper[2] is regarded as a 'classic', but is certainly not his last word on the subject. As a true scholar and scientist he has continued to develop his ideas, and the reader wanting the most up-to-date theories should refer to Brookes' papers published in the 1980s.[3-5] Brookes deals with the *science* in information science. He is concerned with the theories. Many others have taken up his ideas, and developed the use of quantitative methods in practical applications.

By 1972 *Brookes* was willing to acknowledge the emergence of information science as a science, and was teaching courses so named. He organised the First International Research Forum in Information Science (IRFIS) at University College London in 1975.[6] More recently he has been involved with the two Informetrics Conferences.[4,7]

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Brookes has long had an interest in the philosophy of science. This motivated his efforts towards the development of information science. His four papers on the foundations of information science published in 1980-81,[8-11] are becoming as well known as his works on the Bradford distribution and are surely classics of information science literature. In these he described information science as he then saw it – philosophical and quantitative aspects and areas for future development. His papers have been translated into several different languages, and *Brookes* himself has travelled widely, to present papers at meetings, and sometimes to teach.

Throughout his career, *Brookes* has combined his own research with teaching and with the supervision of research students. He is currently at the City University in London. His contribution to quantitative studies of science cannot be measured solely in terms of his own work. Former students acknowledge a debt to *Brookes* for his example and influence on their work, wether it be in research, teaching, or the practical management of information services or libraries.

Brookes has provided us with both philosophy and the tools for quantitative studies of science. However, this is a beginning – his researches, and those of others, many influenced by him, will continue to develop these areas.

I return to the birthday party in February. Bertie asked "why do this just because I am eighty". That was just the excuse. The real reason was that those at the party, the contributors to the essays, and many other colleagues, past and present students, as well as people who only know him through reading his papers, wanted to say "thank you" for his continuing contributions to, and influence on, the research and practice of information science.

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