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Research Trends Editorial Board

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The value of bibliometric measures



The RAE: measuring academic research

Higher education research assessment in the UK is changing. Carried out for over 20 years via a method known as the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), 2008 will be the last time the RAE takes place in its present form. What is it and why is it changing?

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Research trends



The effects of bibliometric indicators on research evaluation

Bibliometric investigators are becoming increasingly aware of the need to take the side-effects of bibliometric indicators into account when evaluating a scholar's publication and referencing practices. Dr. Henk Moed explains why.

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Country trends



UK universities climb in THES rankings

The 2007 THES-QS World University Rankings, published in November, identified 32 UK universities among the top 200 world universities. We look at the UK institution whose ranking increased the most between 2006 and 2007, and discuss this increase with its top-cited author.

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Expert opinion



What is the best way to assess academic research?

The Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) will be conducted in the United Kingdom for the last time this year. The results will determine funding for higher education institutions for the next five years. Bahram Bekhradnia, Director of think tank HEPI, discusses his views of the RAE and whether he thinks the proposed new Research Excellence Framework will result in better funding allocation.

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Why did you cite...?



In this section of Research Trends, we talk to the authors of top-cited articles. This issue, we select papers from the two UK universities that had the highest ranking increase in the 2007 THES-QS World University Rankings: Lancaster and Surrey. We ask the authors why they think they were cited and why those who cited them chose to do so.

Welcome to a new issue of Research Trends, the bi-monthly newsletter providing objective, up-to-the-minute insights into scientific trends based on bibliometric analysis. The United Kingdom is under the spotlight this issue. We take an in-depth look at the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), the principal method used in the UK to establish the quality of academic research for funding allocation. The RAE will take place in its present form for the last time this year. Why is it changing? What will replace it? How does research in the UK measure up internationally? Experts in the field answer these questions and more.

We welcome your **feedback** to any of the topics covered.

Kind regards,

The Research Trends Editorial Board

Did you know?

How to reserve your place in history

In 1900, Moses Gomberg established himself as the grandfather of organic radical chemistry by describing the highly reactive triphenylmethyl (trityl) radical. Gomberg ended his landmark paper on this topic by saying, "This work will be continued and I wish to reserve the field for myself" (1).

Happily, this circumscription was readily ignored by subsequent generations, and organic radicals are now used in the production of a wide variety of plastics and synthetic rubber. Advances in organic radical chemistry throughout the 20th century have been key to our understanding of oxidative processes in normal living cells and in diseases such as cancer. Gomberg died in 1947, but his 1900 paper on the trityl radical remains a cornerstone of the field and was cited almost 100 times in the last decade, and 14 times in 2007 alone (data from Scopus).

Reference:

(1) Gomberg, M. (1900) "An instance of trivalent carbon: Triphenylmethyl", *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, Vol. 22, No. 11, pp. 757-771.

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