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Research Trends Editorial Board

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The value of bibliometric measures



Assessing the Shanghai rankings

The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), popularly known as the 'Shanghai Rankings', is one of the most cited university rankings in the world. We look at its evaluation criteria and how it is perceived by the academic community.

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Australia: new government, new research opportunities

A new Australian government is already making an impact on research funding policies. Research Trends talks to Professor Alan Johnson AM about recent policy changes, as well as longer-term funding trends.

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Focus on China: the trajectory of Chinese research

Chinese article output has increased 18% per annum over the last 10 years, and the share of global articles with at least one Chinese author grew from 3% in 1997 to almost 13% in 2006. What is driving this growth and what effect is it having on the global research landscape?

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Social sciences literature in citation databases

Social scientists have traditionally published more often in monographs than journals, when compared to fundamental and applied science researchers. However, the last 40 years have seen a continuing trend towards publication in journals, resulting in more citation information for the social sciences being indexed in citation databases. Professor Charles Oppenheim assesses the databases with social sciences coverage.

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Why did you cite...?



In this section, we ask authors what motivated them to cite certain references. This issue we talk to authors who cited Nobel Prize winners and ask whether winning the Nobel Prize has a positive effect on a scientist's citation inflow.

Welcome to issue 4 of Research Trends. The focus of this issue is very much on Australasia. With a new Labor government in place since December 2007, Australia was expecting changes in research funding policy and procedure. The government is now beginning to announce these changes and the impact they will have.

In China, article output has increased 18% per annum over the last 10 years. We examine what is driving this growth and the effect it is having on the global research landscape. We also look at the Shanghai Rankings, a university ranking initiative of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University. How is the ranking perceived by the academic community? And how do its evaluation criteria differ from the Times Higher Education Supplement's World University Rankings?

If you would like to comment on any of the topics covered, please use our **feedback** facility.

Kind regards,

The Research Trends Editorial Board

Did you know?

New paper measures return on investment in libraries

Academic libraries are under growing pressure to demonstrate their value to their institutions. The question increasingly being asked is: for every dollar invested in the library, how many dollars does the university receive in return?

A case study conducted in 2007 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) by Judy Luther, President of Information Strategies at UIUC, set out to answer this question. The results were published in a Library Connect white paper in 2008. Rather than measuring time or resources saved, the approach taken by most cost/benefit studies, this study focused on grant income generated by faculty using library resources.

While significant work is being done in research evaluation, no existing models for calculating a return on investment in academic libraries were found. A model for the university environment was thus developed, inspired by an article by Roger Strouse of Outsell, Inc. (1). The results, which are very much a first step, showed that for every dollar invested in the UIUC library in 2006, \$4.38 was generated in grant income for the university in return. The full paper can be found [here](#).

Reference:

(1) Strouse, R. [2003] "Demonstrating value and return on investment: the ongoing imperative," *Information Outlook*, Issue 3, pp. 14-19.