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Research Trends Editorial Board

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Celebrating the legacy of de Solla Price

The relevance of Derek de Solla Price's work may have taken a long time to be fully recognized, but 25 years after his death he is far from forgotten. Dr. Eugene Garfield looks back at his legacy.



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How de Solla Price influenced my work

When Professor Leo Egghe met Derek de Solla Price in 1981, he had little idea of the influence he would have on his informetrics career. Here, Egghe recalls how de Solla Price's universal philosophy on the science of science has inspired his thinking.



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De Solla Price and the evolution of scientometrics

Has scientometrics changed over the last two-and-a-half decades? And would de Solla Price have enjoyed the changes? Professor Wolfgang Glänzel answers our questions.



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Journals as retention mechanisms of scientific growth

Professor Loet Leydesdorff has spent the last 20 years developing an idea first posed by Derek de Solla Price in 1961. He asks whether the aggregated citation relations among journals can be used to study clusters of journals as representations of the intellectual organization of the sciences.



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The invisible college: working within the Pricean tradition

It is almost impossible to explain how Derek de Solla Price has influenced her work, says Professor Katherine McCain, since her entire career has been within the Pricean tradition. She discusses what this means to her.



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Why "The citation cycle" is my favorite de Solla Price paper

Dr. Henk Moed's research over the past 25 years strongly builds upon the pioneering work of Derek de Solla Price. Here, Moed discusses his favorite de Solla Price paper.



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Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose: de Solla Price's legacy and the changing face of scientometrics

Derek de Solla Price has always been a major source of inspiration for Professor Anthony van Raan. He looks back at the development of the science of science since the 1960s.

Welcome to a special issue of Research Trends, which marks the 25th anniversary of the death of Derek de Solla Price. Many consider de Solla Price to be the father of scientometrics, and his work, carried out from the 1960s until his death in 1983, remains a source of inspiration.

Today, de Solla Price's legacy lives on in the biannual award of a medal in his honor, presented by the International Society for Scientometrics and Informetrics for outstanding contributions to quantitative studies of science.

In an exclusive introduction, Eugene Garfield puts his friend and peer's work in context; while six medal winners recall their memories of de Solla Price and describe the influence his work has had on their own.

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

Kind regards,
The Research Trends Editorial Board

Did you know?

Little science, big idea

When Derek de Solla Price's famous book, *Little Science, Big Science*, was first published in 1963, it marked a turning point in the development of the science of science. In this short book, de Solla Price developed the statistical basis of such concepts as Big Science and the invisible college, and introduced the enduring observations that "80 to 90 percent of all the scientists that have ever lived are alive now" and that "80 to 90 percent of all scientific work achieved" has been carried out within living memory. An excellent overview of its enduring impact has been recently published (1, 2).

The 1986 edition, *Little Science, Big Science ... and Beyond*, comprises the first four chapters of the first edition and a further nine chapters reprinting some of de Solla Price's seminal journal articles and book chapters. Both editions continue to be heavily cited, with 60 citations from the journal literature in 2007 alone (according to Scopus). Out of print for many years, copies of the second edition from online booksellers now fetch up to US\$200.

References:

- (1) Furner, J. (2003) "Little Book, Big Book: Before and after *Little Science, Big Science*: A review article, Part I", *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, Vol. 35, No. 2, pp. 115-125.
(2) Furner, J. (2003) "Little Book, Big Book: Before and after *Little Science, Big Science*: A review article, Part II", *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, Vol. 35, No. 3, pp. 189-201.