

Editorial

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On behalf of the Board of the **Journal of Scientometric Research** ([//www://jscires.org/](http://www.jscires.org/)) and my co-editors, I am delighted to announce the publication of the inaugural issue of this journal. This journal comes from SciBiol-Med, a publishing house that has wide range of specialized science journals. This journal is also supported by Pharmacognosy Network Worldwide [PHCOG.NET]. This journal will be triennial publication i.e. three issues in a year (January–April, May–August, September–December) and will publish original full length research articles, short communications, review papers covering empirical and theoretical contributions that advance scientometrics research. The journal will encourage cross-fertilisation of research from other intellectual domains that relates to this area of research. To address this objective, the journal has introduced perspective, research note, and commentary sections. Research in progress section has been introduced for young scholars/researchers to showcase their work. Keeping in view the increasing use of electronic web resources, authors can submit webliography that brings together e-resources in a particular theme. Scientific correspondence, conference meeting/report, book/database review provides outreach to the scientific community. The content of the journal thus covers different domains of scientometrics and confluence of research fields that relates to this field in various ways.

The idea of this journal was borne through intense discussion over a period of time. The rationale behind bringing out a journal in Scientometrics in present times is largely different from the time when this field was developing — “The launching of Scientometrics is justified by

the lack of adequate forum for papers dealing with the quantitative aspects of the science and science policy’ (Scientometrics, ‘1978’ editorial). The field is maturing and scientometric based analysis increasingly find reflection in various country policy reports, decision making and debates. The evaluative bibliometrics is now part of scientific evaluation for promotion, project funding and other performance assessment. Evaluative bibliometrics has particularly given rise to many critical reflections which are contentious and provide no easy answers. The knowledge production process itself has changed with new academic divisions of labour and modes of production which challenges the traditional norms and arrangements. These new modes of knowledge production and involvement of diverse stakeholders make assessment and evaluation of knowledge based activities both novel and challenging. The scientometric research community itself has become more heterogeneous and has rich cross-fertilization of researchers from different disciplines. Scholars are coming from different countries with different research traditions, intellectual strengths and diversity. Increasingly one can find scientometric studies finding reflection in innovation studies, economics, and sociology. This journal intends to accommodate the changing new dimensions and scholarship, perspectives that challenges the established notions and allows for critical introspection of S&T processes. These were some of the driving factors/rationale for starting this journal.

The journal is structured in a manner that carries the tradition of research journals in this field as well as provides a platform of exchange between scholars in Scientometrics and related research fields like Science and Technology Studies (STS), Innovation Studies, and Sociology, etc. This journal in other words, intends to reach out to scholars of STS, Sociology, Economics and any other field who use scientometric data as the ‘Object of investigation’ or apply scientometric analysis in policy/innovation studies or science studies in general. To achieve this vision we have included novel sections in the journal and solicit contributions from researchers in them. These new modes of publishing outlets will be Perspective, Research

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Notes, Research-in-Progress and Webliography. Some of the above sections are visible in other research traditions say in STS journals but in the scientometric research domain we hope this novel approach will be a useful outlet for researchers in this field. These sections will inform current debates in this field, address intersection of quantitative and qualitative approaches, supplement research evaluation with qualitative methods, etc.

The inaugural issue brings together leading scholars and promising new scholars in the field of Scientometrics exhibiting different flavors of this field and applicability. The broad delineation of this issue can be categorised under conceptual paper, development of sophisticated tools and techniques, expanding the source data types/scope for analysis, assessment of national profile, research areas of socio-economic importance, information resource management, and

web resource. The '*issue highlights*' available in the journal provides a synoptic reflection of papers covered in this inaugural issue.

Thanks are due to many people who have helped in starting this new journal. The publisher has given us all support to bring out a highly professional journal. We are particularly grateful to the Board members who provided us with their valuable support and advice. We had written to leading scholars in this field who have assured us of their academic support. This issue is reflection of the support we have attracted from some of the leading scholars. The journey will be long and tedious and will be a learning experience for us. We will strive hard to bring out a valuable research journal that will advance this field, provide a forum for interdisciplinary perspective and critical reflections, and provide opportunity for young scholars to showcase their work.