

Extending Reportage towards a Humanities Bibliometrics

By

Usha Kiran Barla

Assistant Professor, School of Humanities, Arka Jain University, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand,
India usha.kiran@arkajainuniversity.ac.in

Dr. Sam Raj Nesamony

Assistant Professor, Centre for Language and Communication, SGT University, Gurugram,
Haryana, India samraj_clc@sgtuniversity.org

Smt. Poonam Gupta

Director Administration, Department of Management, Sanskriti University, Mathura, Uttar
Pradesh, India poonamgupta@sanskriti.edu.in

Sanjay Nautiyal

Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand University,
Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India pc.bcom@dbuu.ac.in

Abstract

The potential of employing bibliometric metrics to evaluate study in the humanities are discussed in this article. A survey of previous efforts to create bibliometric techniques for researching the humanities reveals that organizational, epistemological, and research practices variations in research areas should all be taken into account. In many humanistic fields, the reliance on coworkers, interdisciplinary, as well as the rural character of research is highlighted as elements that affect the use of bibliometric techniques. A few especially interesting methods are discussed, as well as the potential of creating a Bibliometrics for the humanities. Furthermore, while constructing performance measures, the intellectual qualities of particular fields should be addressed, and the significance of involving humanities experts in the procedure is emphasized. Bibliometrics may be useful in future studies to examine the broader effect of humanities research, and citation evaluation could help us better understand how these disciplines are organized and developed.

Keywords: Bibliometrics, History, Humanities, Language, Literature.

Introduction

The scholars argue in this article that humanities bibliographic research is ultimately maturing. It seems that the study is gradually moving away from comprehensive analysis as well as toward novel domain of review which pursues to recognize the humanities in their own expressions, concentrating on particular areas other than a broad diverse group of castigations bundled according to tag of the humanities. This new research model eliminates the common, but sometimes problematic, division between the humanities and scientific sciences, and also the common practice of representing the humanities as well as social sciences as the supplementary which is not suitable in the bibliographic paradigm (Sula, 2012).

Resourcefulness to progress bibliometric techniques which are subtle to the association of humanities study areas have resulted from the increased emphasis on the real features of disciplines. The usage of alternate databases including Google Scholar, as well as the recent study of the possibilities offered by the new Books Citation Index (BSI) are examples of such efforts. Exploration of regional databases, references in research grants, book reviews, and inclusion in library collections are all examples of these efforts. The potential that altmetrics provide for the humanities has recently been explored.

The incorporation of many various kinds of methods and materials, as well as the widening of quality standards, seem to be promising. This chapter, on the other hand, focuses on the goal and structure of research rather than techniques, resources, or coverage. As a result, when addressing the application of bibliometrics on study areas included under the title 'humanities' researchers contend that saturation is not the sole, and perhaps not even the most significant issue (Hammarfelt, 2016).

The researchers begin by describing the history of humanities bibliometric study. Researchers do not pretend that their summary, which is based in part of dissertation, is a comprehensive assessment of prior research; rather, they outline some of the most important results on the subject. Following this brief introduction, they address current efforts to create bibliometric techniques that are compatible with humanities research practices. The next part introduces theoretical ideas for connecting research area structure to publication as well as citation trends. The structure of study in the humanities as well as its consequences for bibliometric measurements are then explained using these ideas. Finally, researchers consider the feasibility of developing a bibliometrics system for the humanities to provide some recommendations for future study (Hammarfelt, 2017).

The research of all the methods humans attempt to record and comprehend human experience is referred to as the humanities. Students understand how to think imaginatively and critically, reason, as well as ask questions through studying philosophy, literature, linguistics, art, and history. Such abilities enable pupils to acquire fresh perspectives on the human experience, expanding their understanding of the world. Students are taught about other cultures' beliefs, what goes into creating a piece of art, and how history is created via Humanities work (Schmidt, 2016). Humanities coursework aids students in comprehending the world in which we live in and equips them with the skills to envision the future. Figure 1 illustrates the basic components of humanities.

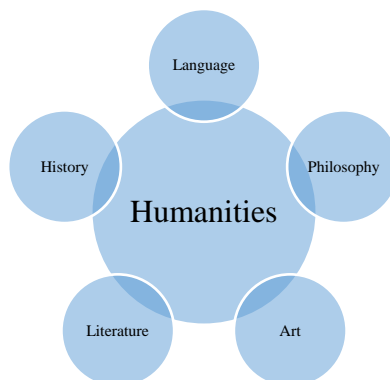


Figure 1: Illustrates the basic components of humanities. Students understand how to think imaginatively and critically, reason, as well as ask questions through studying philosophy, literature, linguistics, art, and history.

The Humanities

Institutional and epistemological factors determine the classification of study areas as social science or humanities, which is further influenced by the research organization in local or country-wide. The list of subjects classified in humanities varies depending on the situation and country. Genealogy, history, literature, archaeology, languages, arts, philosophy, history of arts, theology and religion are registered by the well-established organizations. On the other hand, the Humanities Resources Center (HRC) has eleven areas.

No definitive list of disciplines in the humanities could be provided due to the fuzzy borders of the humanities as well as the ever academic environment. Art, literature, language, literary studies, music, and spiritual studies are a core of disciplines that appear on all 'lists'. These are the same disciplines that are covered throughout this article. The humanities are diverse subjects set, with significant distinctions between journal-based areas like literary studies as well as religious studies. Instead of more journal-oriented subjects like linguistics and literature, the findings reached in this chapter apply to the latter. Researchers take the indulgence of referring to the subject of inquiry as 'the humanities' which is consistent with the bulk of prior study on the subject. Simultaneously, they are aware of and address the issues that such a methodology implies. Figure 2 illustrates the significance of humanities (Tripathi, Kumar, & Babbar, 2018).

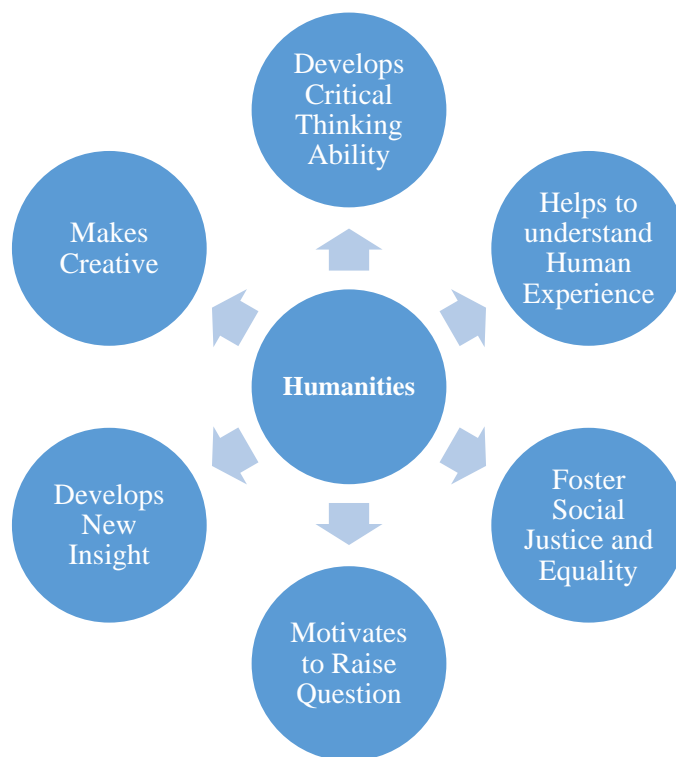


Figure 2: Illustrates the disciplines of humanities. No definitive list of disciplines in the humanities could be provided due to the fuzzy borders of the humanities as well as the ever academic environment.

Humanities Bibliometric:

Historically, bibliometric study in the humanities have mostly focused on the lack of inclusion of humanities researchers' publications in existing citation databases. Diverse publishing channels, the significance of 'local' languages, and the broad audience of research have all been cited in the relevant literature as explanations for the lack of coverage. The

diverse audiences of study are a frequently stated feature of humanities study. A fundamental distinction is often drawn between publications aimed at other scholars and writings aimed at a general readership. [Nederhof and Satta \(2006\)](#) divides the audiences into three categories: international academics, regional or national or academics, as well as non-scholarly public. [Hicks \(2004\)](#), proposed additional frequently used classification in which he divides journal articles, novels, national, as well as non-scholarly literature into four categories. Her categorization system, which she devised to characterize academic writing mostly in social sciences, is already being applied to the humanities. The major distinction between these two methods to identifying publishing outlets and the diverse research population would have been that Nederhof concentrates on the intended audience, while Hicks concentrates on kinds of literatures. By concentrating on readers instead of publishing outlets, academics allow a debate that highlights the purpose and goals of the humanities. Nederhof's three types now have the benefit of not being precisely delineated, thus a publication could possibly target each three. Hicks categories, on the other hand, advocate for the separation of academic as well as non-scholarly writings. It's also unclear how these categories are related; a book targeted at a national as well as broad audience might potentially be classed as a book, a national publication, and a non-scholarly publication all at the same period ([Ardanuy, Urbano, & Quintana, 2009](#)).

Patterns of Publication:

The function of the monograph is of particular importance in the debate over publishing methods in the humanities. The monograph addresses all three groups more effectively than a journal article, and it is particularly effective in reaching non-scholarly readers. Publications aimed at a general readership are essential, and monographs may be viewed as an attempt to reach both an academic and a general audience. Researchers in the humanities, on the other hand, prefer to publish their findings in journals and books. According to [Kyvik's \(2003\)](#) research of Norwegian humanities academics publishing habits, pieces in books or journals are the most frequent output. In the social sciences and humanities, articles or chapters within books are also common, and there has been a modest rise in international as well as co-authored publications. The publication trends in the humanities and social sciences in Flanders (Belgium) were recently investigated, and it was shown that journal publication is rising mostly in social sciences while declining in the humanities. An overall rise in the output of publications, particularly in English-language publications, was also seen, although no significant shift toward journal publishing was observed. A recent analysis of publishing trends at Uppsala University's Faculty of Arts showed similar findings, with a rise in the number of foreign publications.

Sources Citation:

Scholars in the humanities primarily write journal articles as well as book chapters but reference monographs, according to a broad generalization. In many areas, the overlap among citing and cited texts is minimal, and it is frequently stated that humanities researchers utilize older literature in addition to primary sources. Nevertheless, there are significant variations in the citation of sources throughout the humanities, only with proportion of book as well as edited book references alternating from 88 percent in religious conviction to just 49 percent in dialectology as shown in Figure 3.

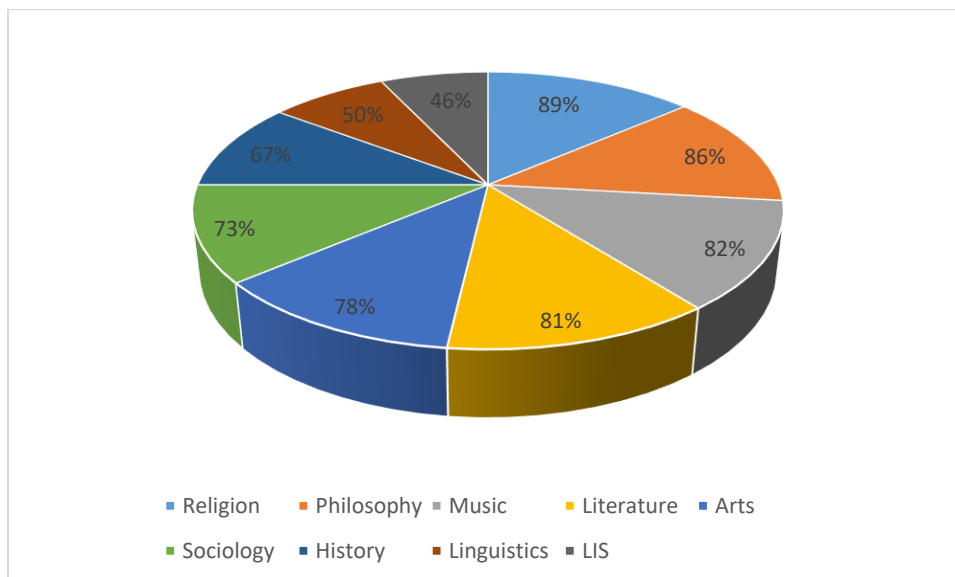


Figure 3: In chosen areas of the humanities and social sciences, the percentage of referenced journals and articles (data from 1995 to 2005). The overlap among citing and cited texts is minimal, and it is frequently stated that humanities researchers utilize older literature in addition to primary sources.

The previous results presented in Figure 3 indicate that religion, philosophy, as well as literature are book-based fields, while history and linguistics rely heavily on journals. In social scientific disciplines like sociology or Library and Information Science (LIS) books are often referenced, according to the overview. As a result, the issue of relying only on journal article citations isn't limited to humanities study. The degree to which humanities disciplines are adopting natural scientific reference methods has been a point of contention. Researchers in terms of journal publishing, contrasted the engineering, humanities, social sciences as well as natural sciences.

Era of Cited Sources:

Because English is the lingua franca in the scientific sciences, source language is seldom a problem. In the humanities, however, the situation differs because many fields mostly in humanities and social sciences It's got a lot of regional or national flavor to it. Philosophy, anthropology, and political science are examples of areas where this is particularly true. Archive databases that primarily index papers in English do not properly cover these disciplines, which is a significant problem when utilizing well-known databases like Web of Science as well as Scopus to do humanities research. Non-English sources often are utilized in literary studies. English-language sources see a little effect, since just 15% of referred sources in German literature are all in English, while only 9% of sources cited in Old French seem to be in English. Although English-language resources are more often referenced in Swedish literary theory, sources in Swedish, German, as well as French are also frequently cited. As a consequence, empirical work must rely on non-English sources, like various research in other nations (Linmans, 2010).

Humanities scholars depend on a broad variety of historical sources. The necessity to remain current with previous research is less evident as the quest for literature is related to the antiquity of the sources used in study. As a consequence, establishing a research horizon will be challenging, and bibliometric studies will require extensive time periods. Reduced Index: A humanism metabolism means that the academic must absorb all that has come before, age it in

the repository of knowledge, and then pour fresh wise words on the very same topics, as illustrated by Price (1976) using an analogy of digestion. Even though the analogy of digestion is illuminating, this categorization ignores the variety of study in the humanities. Furthermore, Price missed the fact that many humanities materials are primary sources, which significantly raises the average age of the sources.

The monograph is the most frequently referred type of publication in the humanities, the age bracket of the reference division is comprehensive, and languages apart from English show an significant part in numerous arenas, according to bibliometric research. Many people agree on these qualities, however there are a few issues that have yet to be addressed. One issue is whether humanities academics publishing habits are conforming to the rules that govern the scientific sciences. A few studies indicate this, whereas others stress the consistency of referenced and published information. It is unclear how the growing significance of 'research outputs' across academic disciplines will affect publishing practices in the humanities. Implementing publication-based performance metrics, on the other hand, would certainly draw attention to this problem.

The Bibliometric Consequences of Intellectual Organization of Research Fields

In the next part, researchers explain how disciplinary perspectives may be used to understand publishing practices and citation patterns, where the usage of references is determined by how a study area is structured. Whitley (2000) as well as Becher and Trowler (2001) proposed characterizations of study areas in the humanities, which are briefly examined and linked to publishing patterns and reference practices. However, the enormous differences across study areas and subfields included under the humanities umbrella must be noted that the generalizations made here are mainly applicable to literary studies as well as associated book-based fields.

Countryside Research Fields:

According to Whitley's description, the majority of humanities disciplines are fragmented adhocracies. Since research under dispersed adhocracies is both personalized and poorly organized, and expertise is limited, these areas are cognitively diverse as well as heterogenic. The absence of a permanent configuration is the most prominent feature of these sectors as duties are not specialized coordination is poor, and when it does exist, it is dependent on personal relationships. Specific subjects and distinct methodological methods create subgroups. Audiences vary, as do the techniques used. There is a lot of debate over which subjects to study and how to approach these issues, and the absence of standards found it challenging to settle conflicts.

The distinction between rural as well as urban fields is another important characteristic for understanding the structure of study areas. The difference between rural as well as urban refers to a discipline's or research area's density, as if various scholars are employed on the similar issue; a study range is considered as city, on the other hand a fewer congested area is termed as countryside. In an urban field of research, there is fierce rivalry for jobs and resources, while in rural areas, there are less battles for resources and recognition (Archambault & Vignola Gagné, 2004).

Citation Patterns and Referencing Practices:

Researchers suggest that the intellectual qualities of the study area help to understand reference practices and citation patterns. A less well-defined subject with no central core is strongly impacted by other study areas, making reference practices more multidisciplinary. The

amount of researchers working on a certain subject also influences citation patterns: In an urban area, keeping up with 'research front' and citing current literature is critical, while in rural sectors, the antiquity of sources is less essential. This is also related to the speed with which information is disseminated in an urban setting as opposed to a rural one as illustrated in Table 1.

The audience is another factor that affects referencing methods. Scholars may select a reference style which caters to both an academic as well as a general audience in areas where a non-academic audience is essential. The reference is indeed an example that appeals to both scientific and general readers. The usage of references is also influenced by the degree of interdependence between academics and the notion of originality. Citing colleagues is essential in areas where researchers rely on one another for recognition and incentives, while reference serves different functions in fields where uniqueness is highly prized (Hellqvist, 2010).

Table 1: Humanities characteristics and their impact on publishing and citation trends. In an urban area, keeping up with 'research front' and citing current literature is critical, while in rural sectors, the antiquity of sources is less essential.

S. No	Referencing Practices	Publication Patterns	Field Characteristics
1	Interdisciplinary references common	Various Publication channels; importance of public audience	Low dependence on colleagues
2	Citations gather slowly number of possible citation' is low	The pace of publication is slow	Rural Organization

As a result, there are two major features that affect reference practice and citation traditions in the humanities: minimal reliance on peers and the field's rural structure. The diverse audience, rural organization, and minimal reliance on coworkers are all connected. Individual researchers may discover readers beyond their own area thanks to a broad audience, and academics are less reliant on peer recognition as a result. Because many areas in the humanities have high task uncertainty and minimal reliance on peers, each scholar has a considerable deal of flexibility in pursuing a distinct research profile, resulting in scholars being dispersed over many distinct subjects with little contact between them. As a result, humanities researchers have a lot of options when it comes to choosing subjects, publishing channels, and who to reference, but It restricts their ability to get citation awards. Thus, citation numbers in the humanities are becoming less useful as a gauge of influence since article coverage in citation repositories is limited. This is not the most significant factor. Studies have shown that citation-based methods are less effective in the humanities because of its intellectual and social framework.

Discussion

Bibliometrics may be useful in future efforts to examine the broader effect of humanities research, and citation evaluation could help us better understand how these disciplines are organized and developed. The use of citations to non-source objects, the introduction of new databases as well as services, and the use of altmetrics metrics all seem promising, but they are far from universally applicable. This chapter identifies these and other

new methods for researching the humanities, and one claim stated is that bibliometric humanities research has grown more sensitive to the academic heritage of humanistic scholarship. Still, more work needs to be done to evaluate the humanities, and researchers have identified a few areas where future research might be especially fruitful.

First, researchers believe it is past time to focus on more specific and limited fields of study. In the scientific sciences, defining fields and delineating 'subfields' is simpler, which may be one rationale for adopting a wide and comprehensive term when researching the humanities. Another rationale for choosing 'the humanities' as the subject of study might be the extensive interdisciplinary citation. However, I believe that concentrating more on particular areas and specializations would lead to a better knowledge of humanities publishing and citation trends. Researchers also believe that creating new and more approachable bibliometric tools and techniques will encourage humanist academics to use bibliometric methods more often. Another area of study is altmetrics techniques that are in touch with the structure of the humanities. Attempts to quantify social impact outside of academics in a systematic manner are encouraging. With such standards, not just humanities study could be evaluated, but the entire societal impact might be assessed as well. Research into sources including such non-English linguistic books and journals, which were not addressed by conventional bibliometric methods, is another fascinating field. A recent phenomenon, altmetrics have yet to be proven in terms of evaluating quality or effect. This goal of include many sources and measuring impact in multiple ways augur well for attempts to create criteria for the humanities, nevertheless.

Finally, the intersection between metric culture and humanities research is certainly essential to investigate. Natural scientists have long relied on impact factors, thus researchers there often compute their own H-indexes. However, humanities academics are less familiar with bibliometric techniques and many are concerned about biased rankings and evaluations as well as considering them alien to humanistic research. As a result, a critical issue is how the humanities structure and character will react to further measurement and evaluation efforts. Not just for the bibliometric society, and also for the sustainability of humanities research, the solution to this issue is crucial.

Conclusions

Conventional bibliometric techniques have been roundly criticized by the bibliometric society for their use in the humanities. Citation analysis is less useful in these fields, especially when utilizing journals indexed in reference databases. Humanities coverage in databases like Web of Science and Scopus is inadequate for assessment and does not reflect humanities research, as shown by many studies. All academic publications are included in research assessment methods, like the one employed in Norway. The articles are then awarded scores based on the publishing channel and the journal or publishers 'quality level'. The concept of what constitutes a scholarly publication, on the other hand, is still up for dispute. In the humanities, peer-reviewed publication papers accepted for publication in highly respected non-scholarly journals, chapter sections in editions put together by well-known scholars, or manuscripts published by famed non-scholarly book publishers can all be considered significant outputs, but there is no consensus on what constitutes an important research result, and general-audience papers are commonly highly rated. As a consequence, our view on the humanities as well as their overall role in society determines which publications should be valued when assessing research.

The lengthy time period required to measure the effect of research is a recurring issue in assessing the humanities. The lifetime of a publication, and also the distribution of references to it over time, must be considered. Even though humanities studies may be useful in two decades, fifty years, or even a century from now, research durability is seldom assessed as part of research evaluation actions. As a consequence, this essay devotes a substantial part of its research to this subject. Humanities, like cultural heritage preservation as well as translation, may be essential for future generations, although they are undetectable from the limited perspective of scientific evaluation.

References

- Archambault, É., & Vignola Gagné, É. V. (2004). The Use of bibliometrics in the social sciences and humanities. Science Metrix Final Report. http://www.science-metrix.com/pdf/SM_2004_008_SSHRC_Bibliometrics_Social_Science.pdf
- Ardanuy, J., Urbano, C., & Quintana, L. (2009). A citation analysis of Catalan literary studies (1974–2003): Towards a bibliometrics of humanities studies in minority languages. *Scientometrics*, 81(2), 347-366. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-008-2143-3>
- Becher, T., & Trowler, P. (2001). *Academic tribes and territories: Intellectual enquiry and the cultures of disciplines*. SRHE. Open University Press.
- Hammarfelt, B. (2016). Beyond coverage: Toward a bibliometrics for the humanities. In *Research assessment in the humanities* (pp. 115-131). Springer, Cham. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/81792706.pdf>
- Hammarfelt, B. (2017). Four claims on research assessment and metric use in the humanities. *Bulletin of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 43(5), 33-38. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bul2.2017.1720430508>
- Hellqvist, B. (2010). Referencing in the humanities and its implications for citation analysis. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 61(2), 310-318. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.21256>
- Hicks, D. (2004). The four literatures of social science. In *Handbook of quantitative science and technology research* (pp. 473-496). Springer, Dordrecht. https://doi.org/10.1007/1-4020-2755-9_22
- Kyvik, S. (2003). Changing trends in publishing behaviour among university faculty, 1980-2000. *Scientometrics*, 58(1), 35-48. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1025475423482>
- Linmans, A. (2010). Why with bibliometrics the humanities does not need to be the weakest link: Indicators for research evaluation based on citations, library holdings, and productivity measures. *Scientometrics*, 83(2), 337-354. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-009-0088-9>
- Nederhof, M.-J., & Satta, G. (2006). Probabilistic parsing strategies. *Journal of the ACM (JACM)*, 53(3), 406-436. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1147954.1147959>
- Price, D. d. S. (1976). A general theory of bibliometric and other cumulative advantage processes. *Journal of the American society for Information science*, 27(5), 292-306. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.4630270505>
- Schmidt, N. (2016). East African Social Sciences and Humanities Publishing: A Handmade Bibliometrics Approach. In *International Conference on Science and Technology Indicators, 2016: Peripheries, Frontiers and Beyond* (pp. 951-956). Editorial Universitat Politècnica de València. <https://doi.org/10.4995/STI2016.2016.4543>
- Sula, C. A. (2012). Visualizing social connections in the humanities: Beyond bibliometrics. *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 38(4), 31-35. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bult.2012.1720380409>

- Tripathi, M., Kumar, S., & Babbar, P. (2018). Bibliometrics of social science and humanities research in India. *Current Science*, 114(11), 2240-2247. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26495789>
- Whitley, R. (2000). The institutional structuring of innovation strategies: business systems, firm types and patterns of technical change in different market economies. *Organization Studies*, 21(5), 855-886. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0170840600215002>