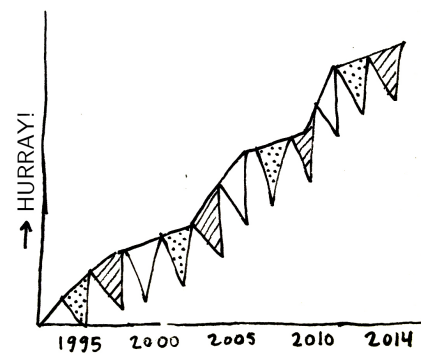


FOUR JOURNALISTS, AN ILLUSTRATOR AND AN EDITOR HAVE THREE HOURS TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY ARE AND WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THEM. WITH YOUR INFORMATION AND A HAND CRANKED STENCILING MACHINE THEY PRODUCE A PAPER WITH THE REAL NEWS: THE DAILY ISSUE.



PARTY GRAPH

25 YEARS AGO

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 "In the 1950's Eugene Garfield, a university librarian, started systematically collecting citations, and gradually building on a citation index. He manually cut out citations in journals, storing the pieces of paper in alphabetical order. Every year, an update was published in a book. This system was hard to query and only suitable for small case studies.

In the 1960's and 70's, the money in universities was divided among faculties according to the amount of students. The large influx of students in areas like linguistics took money away from the natural sciences. The expectation of Leiden University was this would not necessarily result in good research. They wanted a new way to distribute the funds. The citation index seemed like a logical choice. By now, the citation index is available digitally, and easily accesible. CWTS has been doing large scale research for 25 years now."

Ton van Raan is the founder of CWTS. In the early 1980's, he took up the challenge and developed algoritms to search the database and correct for errors. This resulted in useful data, and in 1989, CWTS

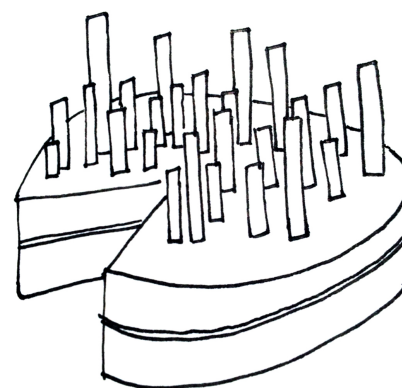
was founded.

CWTS found ways to normalise data for differences in citation behaviour between disciplines. Social scientists cite less and publish in books rather than journals, which are not always in the database. In technical sciences, conferences and proceedings are most important. For philosophy, the citation system is useless. Philosophers usually cite those with whom they disagree. So a bad article can give a person many citations.

The number of citations is associated with the quality of the research, a notion that is often disputed. CWTS compares their data with opinions of peers. They find a high correlation when the research is considered mediocre, but peers are never very eager to describe research as excellent, even though the citation data does suggest it is. And bad research hardly exists anymore, according to van Raan.

A couple of years ago, van Raan retired as director of CWTS. He follows the developments in scientometrics closely. He does not seem too worried about disadvantages of the use of the citation index as a measure for quality. The high correlation with peer opini-

ons give him trust that scientometrics is a solid system for evaluation quality, and it offers many interesting insights.



ANNIVERSARY PIE CHART WITH 25 BARS.

25 YEARS TO GO

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 Sarah de Rijcke is fascinated by the effect of measurements on society. Not only scientists, but also managers, politicians and policy makers make use of the results of scientometric research. By combining bibliometrics and interviews, de Rijcke searches for effects of the measurement in policy as well as in the behaviour of scientists. The image we get from the media, that because of scientometrics, scientists are under constant pressure to raise their H-index, turns out to be too one-sided. In reality the pressure to publish turns out to differ

between institutes and between disciplines of science, and depends on factors like job security and competition within the institute.

When asked what the CWTS might look like in 25 years, and whether she thinks it still exists, de Rijcke laughs, thinks deeply and says she does think it will still exist, but it will be different. Maybe there will be mergers with other institutions, but in some form the CWTS will still be there. In recent years, there have been important steps in broadening the scope of the institute. Some diverse expertise has been added to the team, and it will be a goal to keep up the quality and the diversity in the future. The team now exists of people with a background in psychology, sociology of science, biomedics, econometrics, sociology, physics, statistics and information sciences. This is a good step towards meeting the challenge of bridging the traditionally quantitative data with qualitative methods, in order to continue to be able to say something about the impact of the data on society.

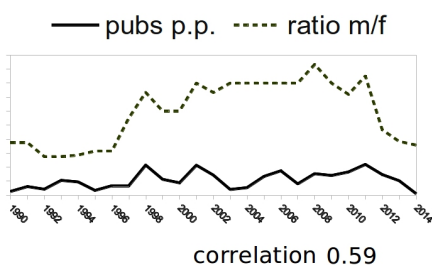
Scientometrics is a regulatory science. The results are used by policy makers, and it is a task of CWTS to be present at the right moments to explain the data and its meaning. The interaction with politicians is important, and already CWTS provides training for policy makers in the interpretation of data. De Rijcke sees this as a growing task of CWTS.

Diversification is an important ingredient for a successful future. De Rijcke hopes this diversification of expertises and methods, as well

as the balancing of the gender mix will continue.

Contemplating the future, de Rijcke will be interested to see what the relatively young field of altmetrics will look like in 25 years. In the changing world of science, scientometrics will have to be very flexible, to keep up with, and ideally anticipate, changes in publication methods.

25 years of CWTS in publications



WHERE WERE YOU, 25 YEARS AGO?

"In 1989, I went to the 2nd class of high school. Being 13 years old, I did not care too much about the world. I was occupied with myself. Nonetheless, I dreamed of becoming a surgeon, obviously not a dream that came true. But well, that's life." - Inge van de Weijden

"I was 17 years old and I wanted to contribute something good to the world. In what way? I didn't know. I remember that my generation was very pessimistic about our own chances, but very positive about the future of the globe. Nowadays this is exactly the other way round." - Gaston Heimeriks

"I lived in Ghent, with my parents. A happy family it was. As a 12 years old girl, I was playing with Barbies and I dreamed of myself as Tina Turner. Later, I have been on stage several times, but that's history and it will stay history forever." - Mrs. Debacker

"I was 37 and a colleague of Loet Leijdesdorff. My future was uncertain, only short term jobs were available. At this moment I am my own boss. I think my 37-year-old version would be pretty surprised about that." - Ad Prins

"Let me think... In 1989 I just started primary school in Coolah. I just dreamed of a pair of skates for Christmas. And I wanted a pony, of course. For a career, I thought I could be a ballet dancer. It didn't really work out." - Gemma Derrick.

CWTS-AGE AWARENESS FACTS

Research shows that 1/5 of the respondents (n=5) is off by five years, when asked about the age of the CWTS. This group firmly insist it's age to be merely 20 years.

But with a dashing 60% knowing the CWTS this year celebrates its 25th birthday there is no need to be alarmed.

However, there is still room for improvement: 20% states the age of the CWTS to be 4 to 5 days.

THE DAILY QUOTE

"I claim no specific knowledge."
inspired by Peter Dahler-Larsen

COLOPHON

The Daily Issue is produced and printed on the spot. This edition was brought to you by Harmen Zijp, Diana Wildschut, Oscar Kocken, Claud Biemans and Maaïke Haneveld with the illustrations of Danibal.

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