

Use of bibliometrics in China

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Based on Chinese domestic and international publications in bibliometrics, the speech first reviews development of bibliometrics in China. Bibliometrics started to appear in China in the end of the 70th last century with very few publications dispersed among domestic journals. After three periods of development, especially since 2005, China's domestic publications have increased explosively. It took around twenty years after bibliometrics' appearance in China that international publications started to reveal a few Chinese addresses. China's international visibility grows steadily, taking around 10% of publications in selected international journals since 2008.

Education in bibliometrics in China started relatively early. Starting from 1983, bibliometrics had become a required course for undergraduate students. Wuhan University first enrolled graduate students and later on doctoral students in the direction of bibliometrics and informetrics. Nowadays, Wuhan University is one of China's important base producing researchers and teachers in bibliometrics and informetrics. Zhejiang University and Nanjing University, Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China, and Chinese Academy of Sciences are also famous in research and education in bibliometrics. In 1992, bibliometrics gained its official subject status by being officially listed as the third-level subject on the national Classification and Codes of Disciplines (GB/T 13745 -92). Professional organization in bibliometrics and informetrics was established in 1991.

Bibliometrics relies heavily on citation index databases. As a huge country with over 4,000 S&T journals and another 2,000 for social sciences and humanities, it is critical to establish such databases for Chinese journals. There are two important citation indexing databases for science and technology, which are Chinese S&T Papers and Citation Database (CSTPCD) and Chinese Science Citation Database (CSCD). The CSTPCD was established in 1987 and the CSCD was in 1989. For journals in the social sciences and humanities, there is Chinese Socioscience Citation Index (CSSCI) which was established in 1997.

The above incidents signal that infrastructure for development of bibliometrics in China has been established, and this is well reflected by the rapid growth of domestic publications since 1990. China's international visibility also grows steadily with heavy dependence on international collaboration.

In summary, bibliometrics started to emerge in China much later than its emergence in international community. International collaboration plays critical role

for China's progress in this field. Bibliometrics does play a role in applying government funded projects, but it is not a decisive factor. Government funding agencies are cautious in applying quantitative metrics in evaluating project proposals.