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bibliometrics, *n.*

Pronunciation: /,bɪblɪəʊ'mɛtrɪks/

Etymology: < BIBLIO- *comb. form* + *-metrics*, as in *econometrics*, etc.: see METRIC *n.*¹ 3.

With *sing.* concord. The branch of library science concerned with the application of mathematical and statistical analysis to bibliography; the statistical analysis of books, articles, or other publications.

- 1969 A. PRITCHARD in *Jrnl. Documentation* **25** 349 The present writer has never found the term *statistical bibliography* at all satisfactory... M. G. Kendall..suggested that the name of the subject be changed... It is suggested that a better name..is *bibliometrics*, i.e. the application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other media of communication. An intensive search of the literature has failed to reveal any previous use of this term and an approach to the OED again failed to find that the term had been used before.
- 1972 *Jrnl. Amer. Soc. Information Sci.* **23** 313/1 *Bibliometrics* is quantitative analysis of gross bibliographical units such as books, journal articles, and the like... Brooks..recommends one method of bibliometric analysis for use in 'reducing the quantitative untidiness of scientific documentation, information systems and library services'.
- 1978 NICHOLAS & RITCHIE (*title*) Literature and *bibliometrics*.
- 1988 *Daily Tel.* 5 July 19/6 'Bibliometrics'..in plain English seems to be simply the weighing and measuring of the constant avalanche of papers, books, journals and other academic publications.

DERIVATIVES

biblio'metric *adj.*

- 1969 R. A. FAIRTHORNE in *Jrnl. Documentation* **25** 319 (*heading*) Empirical hyperbolic distributions..for *bibliometric* description and prediction.
- 1972 B. L. MAURSTAD (*title of Ph.D. thesis, Case Western Reserve Univ.*) Concerning structural properties in the literature of the art historian—a *bibliometric* study.
- 1976 *Survey* Spring 73 Some works contain indicators computed in the USSR. Most of them could largely be described in terms of *bibliometric* aspects of library science.
- 1989 *Times* 26 Aug. 4/3 The use of 'bibliometric' methods to assess academics' performance—by measuring the number of times a person's work is cited by others—has caused much controversy in the United States.

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