

Bibliometrics in Academic Libraries as an emergent trend: Experiences in South America

submission of a *Poster* to the GTM 2014 Leiden conference

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Poster Abstract

The large and ongoing increase in volume and in complexity of knowledge points out challenges and opportunities requiring new attitudes and organizational techniques. Certain authors indicate how science librarians are evolving as ‘science informationists’, pushing them to a closer collaboration with researchers to enhance their research by helping them to assess its impact, and manage sources, records and data (Pollock, 2012). At the same time some sources are predicting that traditional Academy libraries roles will be the next services to be strongly disrupted by the Internet based new knowledge access paradigm models (Gibbons, 2013).

Among the emergent trends to evolve and adapt to the new situation are the evolution of the library services mix (Corrall & Kennan, 2013). The literature (Åström & Hansson, 2013a, 2013b; Gumpenberger; Wieland & Gorraiz, 2012; Gadd, 2011) and the experience of the authors’ shows and confirms a combination of initiatives oriented to value added student and researcher support services including reporting and training services. Also has been considered a more active role in the elaboration of bibliometric indicators for his own academic institution.

The poster presents the profile of this global trend and of some recent local initiatives, targets and first results inside this trend gathered with a survey. Three University Libraries cases in South America are presented, one in Brazil, Universidade de São Paulo, USP and two in Colombia, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, UNAL, Medellín and Universidad Santo Tomás, Bucaramanga. Among the first results of these initiatives a growth in the use of electronic information and in the volume of records downloaded after training programs or the engagement of researchers with librarians in the development of technology state of the art reports.

Finally the consequences of this trend for the evolution of Bibliometrics and Tech Mining are also commented.

Keywords

Academic libraries, Bibliometrics, Tech Mining, Research evaluation, Role of libraries/librarianship

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