

Non-Bibliometric Aspects of Book Evaluation

N-BABE

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Why N-BABE

- Ending the SSH fallacy
 - Is SSH simply a means to disguise the non-funding of H?
- Books are not the primary defining characteristic of the SSH, but do represent a distinguishing feature
- Understanding
 - the nature of the output
 - As a lexicographer, I don't know what 'scientific' means
 - the notion of quality in books
 - the impact of books
 - the motivations of
 - the researcher
 - the publisher

A book by any other name

- The key issue
 - What is a book?

EINRESSH

Key issues

- STATUS OF DIFFERENT BOOK FORMATS
 - Proceedings
 - Edited volumes
 - Monographs
- STATUS OF PUBLISHERS
 - Peer review and selection process
 - Markets
 - Backlists

More issues

- **ROLE OF BOOK EDITORS**
 - Editors role in commissioned work
 - Acknowledgment of editorial work in PBF-systems
- **OPEN ACCESS**
 - How open access will affect publication patterns, the extent to which they can be beneficial and the extent that they add unnecessary or negative constraints
 - Whether an academic core of publications that should be in open access exists, which would include the case of publishing embargos on book chapters

The Academic Core

- Work essentially aimed at readers within a discipline or between close disciplines. Only these can be required Open Access in the context of funded research
 - Theses
 - Proceedings
 - Collected works
 - Reports
 - Technical or policy documents

The big issue

- FINANCING

- Who pays?
- Who gets royalties?
- Weight in national PBF-systems
- Institutional policies on printing fees
- Editorial policies on printing fees

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Valorising and not punishing

- APPRECIATION / IMPACT

- identifying the books that have made a real difference, either in terms of scientific or societal impact:

Measuring: Mixed data

- Other qualitative criteria as book reviews, prices
- Other quantitative criteria as sales, library holdings and borrowings
- Google scholar capture book citations, bearing in mind that
 - citations appear in many places, not all of them are tokens of scholarly impact
 - it is difficult to establish yardsticks: What should count as high, middle and low levels of citations. How to calculate the expected mean citation of a book published a specific year in a specific discipline by a specific author.
 - Time period: The book has a very long life, and interest could be rebound

Right now

- A series of talks to open discussion and define thematic groups
- Before the break
 - Jon Holm: Overview of publication pattern of SSH disciplines in Norway, what an emphasis on the role and distribution of scholarly books and book chapters
 - Jorge Mañana Rodríguez : Non-bibliometric aspects of SPI

Right now 2

- More papers
 - Ginevra Peruginelli: Law and books
 - Janne Pölönen et al. Finnish label for peer-reviewed publications?
- Some grey areas
 - Is peer review of books reliable ?
 - Will publishers comply with a label ?
 - Can we build a typology of book output?
 - Are doctoral theses books ?
 - Can we define an academic core for open access ?
- Establishing work groups

The way forward

- A transversal Special Interest Group on Non-Bibliometric Aspects of Book Evaluation
 - Aspects of quality appreciation WG1
 - Aspects of impact WG2
 - Knowing how we classify what we put in a database
- A first step to
 - An integrated SIG combining both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of book evaluation with impact studies on the place of SSH books within the sphere of academic and non-academic publishing.