

SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION  
OF THE 1999 DEREK DE SOLLA PRICE AWARD TO  
DRS. WOLFGANG GLÄNZEL AND HENK MOED AT THE  
ISSI CONFERENCE HELD AT COLIMA, MEXICO

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(Received July 8, 1999)

It gives me great pleasure to bestow the Derek de Solla Price Award on two friends of old in the scientometrics community at this meeting of the International Society for Scientometrics and Informatics in Mexico. The occasion is special. It is not only special for Wolfgang Glänzel and Henk Moed, the two laureates. It is also special for me. Because of my retirement this is the last time I am appearing in public in the science and technology community. Please allow me at this exit a few minutes to describe my entrance into this visible college. It is not totally unrelated to today's event.

It happened in 1970. I worked as a guest associate with the National Science Foundation in Washington on leave from FOM, the physics division of the Netherlands' Research Council ZWO. We were in need of policy tools to face the new situation with level budgets. I hoped to learn in the US, how they dealt with the problem of choice. A US colleague told me about a certain Derek Price, Avalon professor at Yale. 'He had done interesting historical work and he knew a lot about the structure of the science system.' I called Derek and asked if I could come to visit? He said, he was sorry, but he was too busy. After some discussion, he gave in. He would make himself free for one hour. I went to Yale and was admitted to his sanctum. While letting me in at about 4.00 p.m., he excused himself, that he would have to leave within half an hour. Anyhow, we started talking and talking and I did not leave until 11.30! It was the beginning of a lifelong friendship. I consider that conversation as the starting point for me. It may even have been the occasion where the term 'science of science and technology' was coined.

We discussed, among other things, the need for an association of like-minded people, which later led to the foundation of the 4S and the first conference in San Francisco one or two years later. At the conference already the germ of the schism between the philosophers, historians and sociologists on one hand and the 'metricians' on the other was noticeable. In the formation of the 4S also our mutual understanding of the need of incorporation of 'technology' in the object of studies had gone down.

No need to tell you that Derek Price believed that for a good understanding of science and technology and of the S&T-community all schools are necessary. With the Derek de Solla Price Award, created by Tibor Braun, we memorize only one side of Derek's legacy.\*

Today we honor two typical representatives of the metric school. I should be more precise: two representatives of the bibliometric school. The field of S of S&T became so diverse that it contains many specialties. On the horizon I already see again a new one rising: 'bit-, or byteometrics'. Perhaps something for Henk or Wolfgang to step into? A change in midlife is considered healthy.

Wolfgang Glänzel is the third winner of the De Solla Price Award coming from ISSRU, of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest. So it is certainly also a token of recognition for Professor Tibor Braun's work and the way he organized and inspired his group in Budapest. It is also an honor for ISSI, the society responsible for these conferences, which he serves as secretary-treasurer.

Wolfgang's work in bibliometric research is broad, as well as focused. It is broad because it covers many sub-fields in quantitative studies of science: national field-specific science indicators, ageing of scientific publications, characteristics of highly cited articles, co-authorship relations, patterns of scientific collaboration, classification of publications, classification of journals, and bibliographic coupling, the 'inverse little brother' of co-citation analysis.

It is at the same time focused, as Wolfgang is a mathematician, and in particular a statistician. So he loves stochastic models of citation processes and characteristics of skewed citation distributions. This is precisely the topic he addressed in his work to obtain a PhD at the university of Leiden under the supervision of Tony van Raan.

Wolfgang was born in Frankfurt an der Oder, near the Polish border, in former East-Germany in 1955. He went, 18 years old, to Budapest for a study in mathematics. With the exception of about one year, he stayed in Budapest and became a staff member of Tibor Braun's Information Science and Scientometric Research Unit (ISSRU), a department of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

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\* A beautiful concise description of the emergence of bibliometrics was recently given by Paul Wouters in his doctoral dissertation: 'The Citation Culture' Univ. of Amsterdam March 1999.

He is an extraordinarily active researcher: about 100 publications are now on his CV. Very clearly his motto is: a bibliometrician should be bibliometrically visible himself, in the first place.

But he is not only scientifically active. He has founded a bibliometric research association (RASCI). And thus Wolfgang, who is always emphasizing the importance of basic research, also shows that the daily combination of basic research with application is, as in most fields of science, a very fruitful combination. As head of STW, the engineering and applied science division of NWO, I approve of this very much. In this context we have to mention Wolfgang's recent work for the Second European Science and Technology Indicators Report.

It is rather difficult to highlight the personal side of a person, who prefers to keep that out of his professional life. As a matter of fact, that is a characteristic which Wolfgang and Henk Moed have in common at such extent that they could be identical twins. One could ponder whether Van Raan who granted them both their doctor's degree, has some secrets of which we do not know.

The diverse European cultures differ in the use of the pronoun. The Anglo Saxon 'you' is in other cultures split in two (or more), like for example tu and vous in French, Du and Sie in German and jij and u in Dutch. This is also the case in Hungarian. To complicate things, the different cultures do not use the intimate form equally in given situations. Wolfgang's reservedness did not permit him in 20 years to use the intimate variation in his dealings with Tibor Braun, although Tibor tried to persuade him of doing so on many occasions. The two most characteristic human traits you can describe him with are seriousness and honesty. The highest degree of dedication characterizes everything he does, be it on the private or on the professional side. We see these traits deepen at the age he has reached now. May we say, he is consolidating professionally and economically? He moved out of the hectic agglomeration of the capital to an idyllic village in a fine valley, 25 km from Budapest. The landscape there is attractive, the air is clean and he enjoys a house with a garden. So he is closer to his beloved nature than he can read his favorite classic authors on the terrace of his house and listen to pre-Bach music at the full performance of his hi-fi music center. Eventually, we imagine he contemplates the joys of his Sunday ride in his new classy car, an elegant Lancia. Other people begin fooling around with cars at the age of 18!

Wolfgang is a modest man, entirely devoted to his work and absolutely not a man to push himself forward in conference and professional society cliques and similar circles. So we are glad he was willing to be here and to receive this well deserved award.

Henk Moed is the second prizewinner coming from the Centre for Science and Technology Studies, CWTS, at the University of Leiden. As in Wolfgang's case, there is clear evidence that also in the field of quantitative studies of sciences we observe the coming into existence of schools, of centers of excellence, a token of emancipation and maturing of bibliometric research.

Henk has contributed very much and still contributes actively to the process of making quantitative studies of science, and in particular bibliometrics, into a well-respected specialty. Together with Tony van Raan, Henk was one of the first pioneers in the application of bibliometric methods at the 'micro-level', i.e., the ground-floor of science, the research group. Because of the statistically low aggregation levels, here the raw bibliometric data, mainly provided by the *Science Citation Index* of the Institute for Scientific Information, are put on the rack. This is really the domain where a database like the SCI is challenged to its last digit. Perhaps nobody in the world knows the ISI databases better than Henk Moed. Because of this focus on the research group level, the bibliometric work of Henk, and in fact of the entire CWTS, has a very close link to non-bibliometric methods such as peer review. This work can be characterized as a linking of the typical SCI-based domain of output and impact data, with the domain of institutional and organizational data, such as names and other characteristics of research staff as input, peer review data for correlations, and, very important, infrastructure data of organizations in order to unify and 'hierarchize' the addresses of research groups. Without this linkage between the SCI-world and the world of the real institutions, no bibliometric analysis of research performance is possible at the very level where research really is conducted. It is of course not a coincidence that the Leiden PhD work of Henk was about validity and applicability of research performance indicators. That PhD work took place in the time when online data-collection was a central facility. Henk developed the art of online bibliometrics to an astonishing level.

Henk's special attention is devoted to the role of scientific journals, particularly the assessment of the journals' status by novel types of impact factors. This work has even been published in one of the most outstanding journals, *Nature*.

Another *Nature* publication from his pen became a legend. In the time of the Gulf War Henk published with his CWTS colleagues Robert Braam and Renger de Bruin an article on the scientific collaboration of western countries with Iraq and other middle-eastern countries. The paper was called: "Bibliometric lines in the sand".

In his recent work Henk is again expanding the linkage between purely bibliometric indicators and other types of indicators, particularly to study the influence of changes in research funding on scientific performance. Again this work was reported in *Nature*.

Needless to say that Henk Moed is also an internationally renowned personality in the field of quantitative studies of science. And like Wolfgang: modest, open-minded, and not a card-holding member of any particular clique or circle. This is precisely what we need to advance a field of science in order to give it its respectful place in the whole of our scientific endeavour.

In his personal contacts Henk is a kind and helpful person. Many groups working for themselves, come to the CWTS for help or advice every now and then. Henk is like a consultant and an advisor to them all. But unlike those other doctors in the medical profession, he helps, he gives his time, but he never sends them a bill. We appreciate him immensely and we owe him.

Henk, congratulations for this well deserved honor.

Gratefully I acknowledge the help of Tony van Raan and Tibor Braun in assembling this paper.