

impartial and preferably internationally agreed basis. However, it is difficult to establish ground-rules which would apply to all areas of research. Specialisation in research gives rise to special institutes, special journals and an elite who are protective towards their subject. There are no techniques which allow the value and quality of one branch of science to be compared with another. Nevertheless with the cutbacks in science budgets, priorities have to be assessed. While some see bibliometric techniques as promising, the most widely accepted process is that of peer review, where the few sit in judgement on the many. Funds available for scientific research are now limited and increasingly the question to be asked is whether or not one is getting "value for money". To what extent does the research contribute to national, social and economic performance? This report concludes that the evaluation of research, even basic research, is often carried out independently of the institutional structures, forms of organisation and management practices that provide the infrastructure of scientific research. There is a need to evaluate those processes and structures which are considered to deliver scientific knowledge, and then to carefully monitor the effects of any changes on subsequent research performance.

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1000 Lake Survey 1986 Norway, Norwegian Institute for Water Research, NIVA, P.O. Box 333, Blindern, N-0314 Oslo, Norway, 1987, 33 pp. + Appendix. 1987.

This is a useful and well illustrated report which summarises the results of a survey made in late 1986 and which was designed to determine the present chemical status of lakes in areas sensitive to acidic deposition throughout Norway, as well as to identify any changes which have taken place since 1974. At present about 70% of the lakes sampled in southern Norway have lost their bicarbonate buffering capacity because of SO₄ acidic deposition. It is important that the quality of the lake water be improved so that fish can survive and proliferate; this will be achieved in many of the lakes only if there is a reduction in the deposition of sulphur.

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Proceedings of the 2nd North Sea Seminar 86 in Rotterdam — The Status of the North Sea Environment. Reasons for Concern, Vols I and II, 1987.

Volume I, 54pp. This first volume was prepared before the seminar took place and consists of three papers whose objective is to provide background information and to introduce general aspects of the North Sea and its environ-