Knowl. Org. 47(2020)No.1
Letters to the Editor

93

5.53	*A*	**KO: general and historical issues**	
13.21	*AD*		Discipline and adjacent disciplines
1.68	*AR*		Biographical articles
5.35	*C*	**Core concepts in KO**	
5.46	*CC*		Theoretical concepts
4.16	*CS*		Specific document types, genres and media
3.29	*K*	**Knowledge organization systems (KOS)**	
4.98	*KA*		KOS general issues
5.21	*KD*		KOS kinds
1.87	*KG*		Specific KOSs, general/universal
2.85	*KL*		Specific KOSs, domain/specific
2.90	*KN*		KO in specific domains
2.87	*KS*		Standards and formats for representing data
4.83	*P*	**Knowledge organizing processes (KOP)**	
2.48	*R*	**Methods, approaches and philosophies**	
2.09	*T*	**KO in different contexts and applications**	

Table 2.

the average values for all broad categories do not differ very much. The low value for general KOSs can be explained by the fact that entries for the most renowned systems (*DDC*, UDC, *BC2* ...) are still in preparation or (in the case of *Colon Classification*) have lacked a counter until recently so are not included in this survey.

Claudio Gnoli and Edoardo Manelli
Library Service, University of Pavia
Via Ferrata 1, 27100 Pavia, Italy
<claudio.gnoli@unipv.it>
<emanel@alice.it>

Reference

Dextre Clarke, Stella. 2017. "Babel, Babble and Info-speak: Could an Encyclopedia Help?". *Catalogue and Index* 188: 59-60.

Letter to the Editor

Databases should Keep Pace with the Needs of scientific Exploration: "Nationality" should be added to scientific Research Databases

The rapid development of science and technology has shortened the distances among people from different countries and regions. Many people study or work abroad rather than in their home countries. According to Decoding Global Talent 2018 (https://on.bcg.com/2tB3qy7), 57% of respondents expressed willingness to work abroad. Working abroad has become a global trend. At the same time, research on countries or regions has always been a hot topic. A large number of results can be obtained when searching for a country, a region, developing country, or developed country in Google Scholar. The question arises: How do we consider the impact of those who work abroad on related research?

It is difficult to assess the specific impact of talents on national development and social progress. Even the most intuitive literature analysis work is also facing difficulties. A great deal of literature analysis is based on *Science Citation Index* and *Social Sciences Citation Index* in the *Web of Science* database. However, it should be noted that the "Count-

94

Knowl. Org. 47(2020)No.1
Letters to the Editor

ries/Regions Search" in the *Web of Science* database refers to the countries in which the authors work. There is no relevant nationality information in the *Web of Science* database. Nationality information is crucial to the rigor and accuracy of relevant research. Do researchers manually collect nationalities of so many unfamiliar people one by one? It sounds impractical and absurd.

Faced with such a problem, it is particularly necessary to add nationality information to the scientific research database, and it can bring the following benefits for future research:

1. Save time for relevant research staff.
2. Manual processing in a study is often difficult to verify. If there are nationality-related items in the database, reviewers or readers can easily and accurately verify the findings when they have doubts.
3. The number of highly skilled talents working abroad and their institutions in any field can be accurately and quickly obtained. That is to say, it can help us track specific data about talents flow in any field of any country. The accurate data on the changes in people working abroad will be easily obtained. The information about talent flow obtained in such a way is certainly more accurate and helpful than the sample interview. What's more, the cost of research will be reduced compared to the troublesome interview survey. And surveys like Decoding Global Talent 2018 will be easier and more convincing, and perhaps the findings will be more valuable than existing research.
4. When there is enough data about nationality in the future, it enables us to carry out some interesting research, for example, comparing the number of achievements, research directions, and other valuable aspects between native and foreign talents in any field of any country. In addition, a series of studies can be carried out and compared with existing studies to better understand social problems and promote global progress.

Therefore, I suggest that databases like *Web of Science* should include nationality-related items. It is not my opinion to determine the author's nationality one by one for those articles that have been published. I do not want to bring trouble to the staff of databases and publishers. Rather, I suggest that the newly published studies contain "nationality" from a certain time in the future. And 3 years, 5 years or 10 years later, there will be enough samples for scholars to carry out a series of studies.

Finally, it must be noted that not just the *Web of Science* database that needs to be improved and not just the "nationality" problem that needs to be solved. I hope to attract more innovative databases or other scientific research tools through the "nationality" problem. With the progress of the times, if the indicators in the database remain unchanged, they may not be able to keep up with the needs of scientific exploration. A little change today maybe provides valuable contributions for future research. Why don't we do that?

Guangyue Wei
Xidian University
Xian, China
<wei_guangyue@163.com>

References

Strack, Rainer, Mike Booker, Orsolya Kovács-Ondrejkovic, Pierre Antebi and David Welch. 2018. "Decoding Global Talent 2018" (blog). Atlanta; Boston: Boston Consulting Group. https://on.bcg.com/2tB3qy7.