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A Report

Eighth National Conference of Institute of Scientometrics on “Scholarly Communication and Scientometrics”

The Eighth National Conference of Institute of Scientometrics (IOS) on “Scholarly Communication and Scientometrics” was organized by Advance Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC), Navi Mumbai during 22-23 November 2019.

The two day national conference and a one day pre-conference workshop on ‘Academic Integrity in Research: Tools and Techniques’ had a participation of over 105 delegates including a keynote speaker, invited speakers, experts, industry partners and delegates.

The conference was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Prof. P.S. Vasudev Rao, Hon’ Vice Chancellor, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai. The other dignitaries were Prof. Rajesh Dixit, Director, CCE, Prof. S.L. Sangam, Former Professor, DLIS, Karnataka University and Founder, IOS and Dr. Satish Munnolli, Organizing Secretary, IOS-2019 and Librarian, ACTREC.

Dr. Satish Munnolli gave an overview and genesis of conference theme ‘Scholarly Communication and Scientometrics’. Prof. S.L. Sangam briefed about IOS and its activities. Prof. Rajesh Dixit in his welcome address mentioned that too much information is causing problem for researchers in selecting and using the right kind of information. He stressed on the need for techniques in filtering information. Secondly, he pointed out that, there is a need to train young researchers’ in writing papers and rendering the authorship in papers for producing quality research output.

Prof. Vasudev Rao gave a historical account of scholarly communication and scientometrics and cautioned that too much reliance on citations is bad for the growth of scientific output. Further, he emphasized on a research to find out alternative models to assess the scholarly outcome. He along with other dignitaries released the conference proceedings volume.

Prof. Kannan Moudagalay, Professor, Chemical Engineering Department and Coordinator, National Virtual Library of India (NVLI), IIT Bombay, delivered a keynote address on ‘Public libraries to centers of learning through social media engineering’. In his address, he emphasized on public libraries as centers of learning and enlightened about tutorials in regional and foreign languages developed on NPTEL to educate learners from India and other developing countries. He gave a detailed account of National Virtual Library of India (NVLI) and its objectives related to digitizing and providing access to material on culture of India by making museums, archives and public libraries as partners of the programme. He also mentioned about KOHA training programmes for librarians offered through NVLI and development of directory of public libraries in India. He further said that under the aegis of National Mission of Libraries, the NVLI wishes to partner with public libraries in training their staff in the use of library software such as KOHA and DSpace.

The first session, on day one was chaired by Dr. S.K. Savanur, Former faculty, DLIS, Joshi-Bedekar College, Thane, and by Dr. Satish Kanamadi, Librarian, Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai. The session had two invited talks and five papers were presented by the delegates. Dr. G. Mahesh, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-NISCAIR, New Delhi presented an invited talk on ‘India in the changing landscape of scholarly communication’. He discussed journals historical perspective, changing scenario of journal publications in different forms such as open access journals, data journals, video journals, wiki journals, overlay journals, mirror journals, etc. Highlight of his talk was on impact of Indian open access journals, particularly NISCAIR journals and pointed out that, citations to articles published in these journals have not increased and at the same time revenues have dropped. Also he touched the topics such as, piracy websites, research tools and their adoptability among Indian researchers, alternative metrics, research data management, plagiarism, retractions and the Plan S.

Dr. Medha Joshi, NCG-TMC, Mumbai presented her invited talk on 'Scholarly communications in medical sciences: Trends and challenges'. She began with the serials crisis of the 1990s and gave an overview of scholarly communication in medical sciences from print to digital era resulting in peer reviewed journals, informal means of communication such as blog posts, social media and channels to distribute supplementary data such as pathology slides, presentations, videos, raw data etc. She highlighted the importance of research data linking, verification and visualization. She also discussed about journals with only special content such as cases, videos and systematic reviews. Dr. Joshi also pointed out the increasing role of social networking sites in medical scholarly communications.

Paper presentations started with Dr. Saroja, who presented a paper on 'Innovative strategies of library and information centres in the changing scholarly communication landscape'. She elaborated earlier system and new models of scholarly communication, changes in the process of peer review and subscription models. She also mentioned about transformative agreements involving read and publish agreement between publishers and libraries.

Dr. S.K. Savanur gave an invited talk on 'Scientometrics and readability'. He discussed about reader and author side readability in terms of language, accuracy, external intervention, training, grammar, etc. and the link between readability and scientometrics. Dr. A. Reddy presented a paper on 'Research collaboration and networks in scholarly communications', wherein he discussed about collaborations amongst authors, reasons and types of collaborations and emphasized the role of Scholarly Communication Networks (SCNs) such as ResearchGate. Dr. S.M. Pujar, invited speaker presented a paper on 'Google Scholar citations'. He highlighted the Google Scholar citations, coverage, advantages, retrieval of citation information and other research metrics using 'Publish and Perish', the free online tool.

Mr. Ganesh Surwase presented a paper on 'Publications and citation trends of scholarly journal 'Nature'', and discussed about citation pattern of the journal and compared the citations trend between closed and open access journals.

The second session was chaired Dr. B.S. Kademani, Formerly Scientific Officer 'G', BARC, Mumbai. The session had one invited talk and two paper presentations. Dr. Satish Kanamadi in his invited talk presented on 'Research impact, assessment and innovation'. He elaborated on collaborative learning, accreditation, MOOCs and research and highlighted research impact in terms of academic, economic and societal benefits. Dr. Kanamadi covered the role of assessment agencies such as QS, Times Higher Education, Leiden rankings, NIRF etc. He mentioned that, research and citations contribute 50% weightage while ranking of universities by these assessment agencies.

Ms. Mugdha Raul presented a paper on 'Scholarly communication tools'. She briefed about a few online tools and their help in enhancing the impact of scholarly communication and shared new publishing models such as image banks and online visual journals. She also emphasized the role of LIS professionals in educating about these sources and tools to enhance the research. Mr. Rangarajan presented a paper on 'Scientometric analysis – Institutional research output'. He discussed about citation databases, research metrics and IGCARs publications citation analysis in terms of authorship, subjects, journals, collaborations, h-index, etc. for a period of ten years - 2009-2018.

The third session of the day was chaired by Dr. Medha Joshi. The session had two invited talks and two paper presentations. Dr. Murari Tapaswi, OSD, Goa University, Goa in his invited talk elaborated on 'Author collaboration and citations: A case study of Indian authors'. He discussed about ranking of Goa University by Indian and international rating agencies such as QS, Times Higher Education, etc. He further elaborated on the research collaboration of Goa University with other organizations and countries by analyzing publications of the university. He informed that offering incentives enabled the increase in number of publications in Scopus indexed journals.

Dr. B.S. Kademani presented a paper on 'Scientometric portraits of scientists'. He elaborated on research communications and raised several questions like why scientists should do research? Why to evaluate the research? What is the purpose behind such evaluation etc.? Further he discussed on the importance of evaluation for policy makers and funding agencies to assess the productivity of individuals or institutes or countries. He further shared several studies conducted at BARC on various institutions, countries, noble laureates and

emphasized that individuals are the sources of ideas, hence, preferred studies of individual scientists, which is popularly known as 'Scientometric portrait'.

Mr. Nilesh Hande's paper on 'A webometrics study of websites of universities: A study with specific reference to the Maharashtra State' focused an overview of webometrics and discussed about ranking of universities in the state of Maharashtra. Ms. Rupali Kumbhar presented a paper on 'ICT components in MLIS curriculum in universities of Karnataka State'.

The second day of conference began with Prof. S.L. Sangam chairing a session that had two invited talks and four paper presentations. Prof. P.V. Konnur, Former Professor, DLIS, Rani Chennamma University, Belagavi and Head, LIS Academy, Bangalore spoke on 'Impediments in Indian research'. He discussed about transformation of research from the past to present and its impact on society, academics and economy. He compared the publications output of India with other countries. He said that the strength of India lies in young manpower and demography dividend, but deficient skills resultant poor employability of graduates is a great challenge for India.

Mr. N.V. Sathyanarayana, Chairman and Managing Director, Informatics Publishing Ltd., Bangalore presented his views on 'Open access: Global scenario and local challenges'. In his talk, he discussed about the types of open access models and path of its progress, growth and controversies. He further shared his thoughts on the OA movement, its prevalence and persuasiveness. He emphasized that free to reuse is an issue in line with Budapest OA declaration. He mentioned that greater part of open access is still controlled by the publishers and at present most of the publishers are allowing green OA in the form of self-archiving by authors. The models such as ResearchGate and Plan S may disrupt open access model, which may shift from consumption to supply, he opined. Mr. Satyanarayana gave an overview of India's research growth story, the lack of scholarly journals and publishing industry in India. He concluded his talk by emphasizing on a need of perceptual change among stake holders regarding open access.

In the paper presentations, Ms. Swapnali Patil presented about 'Tools for discovery of open access articles: A Study'. She discussed about challenges of information explosion, aggregation of search engines, complex search procedure using tools like Open DOAR and the role of discovery tools like Google Scholar button, Lazy Scholar, Kopernio and Unpaywall in effective retrieval of full text of papers.

Ms. Shweta Pathak presented her paper on 'Massive Open Online Courses: Their impact on education and LIS profession'. Ms. Garima Gujral's presentation was on 'Emergence of OA scientific publications in IIT Bombay: A Scientometric study towards realizing Plan S'. Ms. Sunita Pujar presented a paper on 'Plan S: An Opportunity or challenge to open access' where she elaborated Plan S and its implications for researchers, publishers, disciplines and the global south.

The technical session five was chaired by Dr. P.V. Konnur. The session had three invited talks and one paper presentation. Dr. S.L. Sangam presented his talk on 'Scientometric approach to agricultural literature with GDP'. He elaborated the relation between number of publications and economic indicators (GDP). Dr. Sangam pointed out that global agricultural output shows greater correlation between economic indicators and publications and also elaborated on India's agricultural scholarly publications v/ economic indicators.

Dr. Praveen Gawali, Scientist, Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Navi Mumbai in his presentation on 'Scientometrics: Credit score challenges' gave a historical perspective of science and scientist's contributions towards growth of science and research. He mentioned that exponential growth of science happened between 1800 and 1950 resulting in multiple authorship patterns which complicated the process of identification. He elaborated on scientometric analysis concerned with identifying the dimensions of science and its applications in the assessment of published literature.

Mr. Shivaram Gowda, Technical Officer, CSIR-NAL, Bengaluru gave an invited talk on 'Do E-Resources usage metrics correlate with SCI publication growth'. He emphasized on how library metrics can help in measuring the success of library services, justifying the expenses, securing funds, ROI and evidence based data driven decision making. He presented a case study of VTU, Belagavi consortium study by detailing about a correlation found between download metrics and SCI publications.

Ms. Priyanka Bose presented a paper on 'Role of social network in scholarly research' where she discussed about usage of social networks in scholarly research, especially in social sciences.

The sixth session was chaired by Dr. S.M. Pujar, Chief Librarian, IGIDR, Mumbai. The session had two invited talks and four papers. Dr. S.K. Savanur gave a talk on 'Zipf's law in governance'. He elaborated on application of Zipf's law in the governance of different cities and states of India.

Dr. V.M. Bankapur, Associate Professor and Head, DLIS, Rani Chennamma University, Belagavi spoke on 'Obsolescence study of agricultural science literature.' He discussed about citation analysis of agricultural science literature with referenceto doctoral dissertations submitted to University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad to determine the obsolescence rate.

Among the paper presentations, Mr. Prakash Kumbar presented a paper on 'Scientometric dimension of research in chemistry'. He discussed about scientometric analysis of chemistry literature with specific reference to University of Mysore. Mr. E.R. Prakash spoke on 'Mega-collaborated publications and their influence on scientometric profiles of research institutions'.

Dr. S.B. Patil presented a paper on 'Quantitative analysis of doctoral research at Karnatak University, Dharwad'. Mr. Kavi Uppreti presented a paper on 'Bibliometric analysis and visualization of literature output on plagiarism'.

To recognize and encourage the contribution of young minds, best paper prizes were awarded to three paper presenters. The award included a certificate and cash prize. The first best paper award was given to Mr. E.R. Prakash and Mr. Ganesh Surwase for their paper 'Mega-collaborated publications and their influence on scientometric profiles of research institutions'. The second prize was given to Mr. Nilesh Hande for his paper 'Webometrics study of websites of universities: A study with specific reference to the Maharashtra State'; and the third prize was given to Ms. Rupali Kumbhar and Dr. P.G. Tadasad for their paper 'ICT components in MLISc curriculum in universities of Karnataka State'.

Prof. P.V. Konnur was the Chief Guest of the valedictory function which was presided by Prof. S.L. Sangam. Dr. S.M. Pujar, the Rapporteur General of the conference presented a detailed conference report. Dr. Satish Munnolli, Convener of the conference proposed the vote of thanks.

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