

REVIEW OF BOOKS-1: “Éléments de statistique et de mathématique de l’information: Infométrie, bibliométrie, médiométrie”

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Lafouge, T.; Le Coadic, Y.F.; Michel, Ch. (2002). *Éléments de statistique et de mathématique de l’information: Infométrie, bibliométrie, médiométrie, scientométrie, muséométrie, webométrie: cours avec exemples et exercices corrigés*. Villeurbanne: Presses de l’Enssib, École supérieure des sciences de l’information et bibliothèques.

In May 2002, ENSSIB published the book “*Éléments de statistique et de mathématique de l’information: Infométrie, bibliométrie, médiométrie*” from the authors Thierry Lafouge, Yves-François Le Coadic and Christine Michel. The book focuses on different sectors of traditional and electronic information (libraries, documentation centers, museums, media, files, Internet). Good management of products, systems and information services requires the use of a wide range of methods and management tools adapted to the cultural, educational, scientific, technical and industrial contexts. That includes methods of analysis of informational needs, community services, uses and users of this information (surveys, entertainment, etc.) tools for piloting and evaluation (measurement of audiences, the barometer of satisfaction, surveys, etc.) instruments for measuring performance (indicators of use, cost, integrated controls, etc.).

According to the authors, the systematic character of the information analysis is provided by the scientific nature of the procedure: the measure. "There is no science or technology without precise measurements." Later we read: "(...) showing a regular basis, i.e. a constant quantitative relation, is the spirit that is all around quantitative people”.

Information science is translated to mathematic language to enjoy the status of science. Its concepts and laws are bound by formal relations. The measure is the accounting of the elements of the cardinal scale (quantity). The statistical value obtained by a variable is an estimate of the true value of that variable.

The result of the application of analytical tools reveal the existence, in the domain of information, of distributions, measurable reports, and regularities that can only be updated with the use of statistics and mathematics, giving birth to bibliometrics, scientometrics, informetrics, mediometrics, museometrics and webmetrics.

This book describes the applications of the main statistical methods (one-, two-, multi-dimensional and probabilistic) and the main mathematical tools (sets, functions, equations and joint) used in the study of these distributions and the regularities that are found in informational processes (websites accesses, counting books, visits to museums, etc.).

Numerous examples illustrate the text and each chapter ends with a set of exercises with the respective corrections, discussing the practical and theoretical developments presented in the first half.

This work is aimed at students of information science (in the areas of libraries, documentation centers, archives, museums and departments responsible for watch) but also to IT students and science of communication students (in the fields of journalism, business communication and advertising). It is, ultimately, a statistical and mathematical indispensable guide for all professionals in the fields of information.