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COLLNET – A success story about worldwide collaboration in science and technology

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A SUCCESS STORY ABOUT WORLDWIDE COLLABORATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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For meanwhile almost 22 years, the worldwide research network COLLNET has been a community of scientists and practitioners that has set itself the goal of gaining fundamental insights for the organization of research and discussing their application in science and technology policy against the background of an interdisciplinary approach and under intercultural aspects.

On January 1, 2000, under the leadership of Hildrun Kretschmer (DEU), together with Liming Liang (CHN) and Ramesh Kundra (IND), the global interdisciplinary research network COLLNET was formally founded and was intended to establish and expand the so far bilateral cooperative relations between Germany and India and Germany and China in an international context. The thesis paper on the foundation of the research network has lost none of its timeliness and topicality. It still reads like a collection of recent problems in the processes of international cooperation.[1]

In particular, the application of bibliometric and scientometric survey approaches in close conjunction with related

Closing ceremony at COLLNET 2019 Dalian. Photo © WISE Lab.

fields such as social psychology, sociology, history of science and other disciplines in order to analyze and develop integrative approaches for the various forms of international and thus often intercultural cooperation is of immense importance for the design of these very processes even today.

The COLLNET community has developed continuously over the last two decades, its reflection in the scientific communities has grown increasingly. This is mainly due to the Collnet members themselves, who initially could be seen as a "who's who" of top scientists in scientometrics, but currently also cover many related fields of expertise, thus spreading the intention of COLLNET to related scientific areas such as Computer Science, Knowledge Organization or Artificial Intelligence. On the other hand, it is the commitment of the community members, who since the 1st COLLNET conference in 2000 in Berlin have been working with great continuity on the enlargement and acceptance of the COLLNET network, among others through the annual conferences, where the 19th COLLNET conference will take place in November this year at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

Besides the COLLNET nuclei in Hohen Neuendorf near Berlin, in New Delhi the NISTADS and meanwhile the WISE Lab in Da-

lian (CHN), especially the meetings in Nancy (FRA) organized by Prof. J.-C. Lamirel from the University Strassbourg and the meetings organized by WISE Lab of Dalian University of Technology (DUT) under the direction of Prof. Chen Yue are memorable. Unforgotten are the birthday celebration of Prof. Garfield in Dalian in 2009 where he was conferred "Honorary Professor" by DUT.

The COLLNET Journal on Scientometrics and Information Management (JSIM), established by Hildrun Kretschmer as Founding Editor, has made a not inconsiderable contribution to raising the public profile of the research achievements of the COLLNET community in its 16th year of publication.[2] The maiden issue of the journal was launched on the eve of the 8th COLLNET conference held in New Delhi during 6-9 March 2007. The journal has published a number of peer reviewed articles presented at COLLNET conferences held in different parts of the globe, besides publishing original articles submitted by scholars from various countries (India, Iran and China together contributed more than half, 57.3 %, of the total output)[3].

What we can observe today is that the future of science will be determined primarily by methods and tools that can effectively analyze the vast amounts of data

Hildrun Kretschmer (r) at the Best Paper Award ceremony at COLLNET 2019 Dalian. Photo © WISE Lab.

generated by the sharing of digital media in scientific communication, conversations, work processes, and social structures. These characteristics, subsumed under the term data-intensive science, change the nature of scientific work in the most sustainable way. And such an indication as the fact that scientific collaboration is increasingly embedded in a globally connected environment and the exponentially growth rate of scientific output is expressed above all by non-traditional, highly dynamic, interconnected assets such as data sets, software, ontologies, slides, videos, blog entries, are responsible for the manifold challenges for Scientometric research.[4] The COLLNET community has already met these challenges and provides with its conference series and the COLLNET journal an excellent opportunity to discuss the phenomena of collaboration in science, their impact on productivity, innovation, and benefits, and outcomes for individuals, institutions, and economies worldwide.

NOTES

1   Hildrun Kretschmer, Liming Liang, and Ramesh Kundra (2001). Foundation of a global interdisciplinary research network (COLLNET) with Berlin as the virtual center. *Scientometrics*, Vol. 52, No. 3 (2001) 531–537.

2   COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management, Taylor & Francis, https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/tsim20

3   Detailed information about bibliometric aspects of the CSJIM can be found in: K. C. Garg & Bebi (2021) COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics and information Management: A bibliometric study, COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management, 15:1, 47-61, DOI: 10.1080/09737766.2021.1920067

4   Bernd Markscheffel, Hildrun Kretschmer (2019) Collaboration – Impact on Productivity and Innovation. DOI: 10.22032/dbt.39296