

World Flash on Basic Research

SCIENTOMETRIC DATAFILES SUPPLEMENTARY INDICATORS ON 96 COUNTRIES 1981-1985

1. DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATION TYPES IN AN EXTENDED SOURCE SET

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In a recent special issue of *Scientometrics*,¹ a comprehensive set of indicators were published for 2649 journals and 96 countries. Based on the Science Citation Index (SCI) database of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI, Philadelphia, PA, USA), these indicators has been built on the basis of a carefully selected source publication set. The criteria of selection were explained in details in the methodological introduction to the "Datafiles". In short, publications of the types articles, letters, notes, and reviews were considered in 2649 journals, which were covered by SCI in all the five years under study ("fix journal set"). Publications were assigned to countries on a first author basis. By these criteria we intended to minimize the potential effects of various undesirable biasses and thereby to enhance objective cross-national comparisons.

¹SCHUBERT,A., GLÄNZEL,W., BRAUN,T., *Scientometric Datafiles. A Comprehensive Set of Indicators on 2649 Journals and 96 Countries in All Major Science Fields and Subfields. 1981-1985. Scientometrics*, 16(1-6) (1989) 3-478

What is, however, looks as an "undesirable bias" from the one side, that may be considered a specific characteristic feature from the other. It seems, therefore, instructive to supplement the original "Datafiles" by certain background informations on the "fine structure" of the indicators published there.

In the following pages, the distribution of publications by types is presented in the form of bar charts. (Partial information on this topic was published in a recent "Flash".²) Data of the same 96 countries are indicated as were included in the original "Datafiles". The 100 % mark in the charts corresponds to the number of publications in the selected source publication set (i.e., the publication count reported in Ref. 1). This section of the bar is subdivided into four parts representing articles, letters, notes, and reviews, respectively. The further stretch of the bar represents all publications covered by SCI and not included in the "Datafiles". This part is divided into three subsections:

Other types – first authored publications of the given country published in the fix journal set as items of publication types other than articles, letters, notes, or reviews. (The main bulk of this category are meeting abstracts; there are editorials, obituaries, book and software reviews among others in addition.)

Var. subset – first authored publications of the given country published in journals not covered in all five years of the 1981-1985 period. (All publication types.)

Coauthored – items where authors of the given country were coauthors but not first authors. (All journals, all publication types.)

The number at the end of the bar is the total number of publications in all of the above enumerated categories.

²BRAUN,T., GLÄNZEL,W., SCHUBERT,A., Some Data on the Distribution of Journal Publication Types in the Science Citation Index Database, *Scientometrics*, 15(5-6) (1989) 325-330





