A Bibliometric Analysis

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Introduction
One way to understand formal appraisal information flows is to examine the bibliometric patterns of appraisal literature. Citations and acknowledgements have the effect of being a social gesture from them we can determine that the citing author wishes to connect publicly to the cited author or acknowledged person regardless of the intent of the connection (negative or positive citation). By tracking the number of times a particular author is cited (or gestured towards) it is possible to determine social presence within a limited domain. This poster reports the results and method of a bibliometric analysis of appraisal literature published in American Archivist and Archivaria from 1994 – 2009. It draws on the methodology of a prior study from 1977 – 1994 thus enabling longitudinal comparison. The study is novel in its expansion of citation analysis to include social gestures that are not citations.

Method
The manual analysis of citations, non-traditional references, and acknowledgements was conducted on archival appraisal articles and tracked via an Access database.

• Inclusion criteria: (appraiser* OR select* OR “documentation strategy” OR “documentation plan*” OR “collecting”) must appear at least two times in the abstract, title, first paragraph or last paragraph


• Kinds of Social Gestures: Traditional Citation. Non-traditional reference to work, Acknowledgement

• Database elements: people (citer and cited), works (citer and cited), kind of gesture, publishers, institutions (as authors and employers)

Fast Facts
• 76 articles analyzed
• 2703 references (traditional and non-traditional) to 2538 different works
• 484 acknowledgements to 340 different people or organizations.
• Average of 36 articles cited within each analyzed article

Findings
Comparison to Gilliland-Swetland’s 1994 data allows the observation of longevity of expertise, career trajectories, the significance of currency to appraisal thought and practice, and the transformation from author to cultural referent. It is expected that some authors will receive recognition during and immediately after their periods of greatest activity. The data shows this, but it also exposes that some appraisal scholars have continuing influence and/or career longevity. The two most recognized scholars in this study by far were Terry Cook and Richard Cox, both of whom were highly recognized in the Gilliland-Swetland study.

Rank Acknowledgement Citation/Reference Combined
1 Cook, T. Cook, T. Cook, T.
2 Samuels, H. Cox, R. Cox, R.
3 Schellenberg, T. Beaman, D. Beaman, D.
4 Cox, R. Duranti, L. Duranti, L.
5 Duranti, L. Lamb, W. Eastwood, T.
6 Eastwood, T. Samuels, H.

The data also reveals that citation and acknowledgement patterns are not the same. In addition, there seems to be gender difference between citation and acknowledgment patterns that bears further investigation.

Conclusion
As a discipline with an applied practice component it is necessary to understand the social fabric of the field through both person-to-person connections (i.e. acknowledgements) as well as more formal means. Expanded bibliometric analysis is an efficient and unobtrusive means of exposing these relationships.

References

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