

Paul Wouters

This presentation will discuss the potential of new forms of bibliometrics (the measurement of scholarly works and their bibliographic relations) and webometrics (the measurement of web products and their relations) in the emergence of new forms of open access monograph publishing in the humanities and social sciences. Traditionally, bibliometrics has focused on international peer reviewed journals. As a result, scholars in the humanities and social sciences who mainly write monographs and book chapters are only partly visible (if at all) in citation analysis and performance indicators. In some areas, this has even led to the discouragement of book writing; given the specific value of book-length arguments in the humanities and social sciences clearly an undesirable perverse effect. It is therefore urgent to anticipate as much as possible in what ways new forms of open access publishing models can be supported, and evaluated, by forms of metrics that are able to capture the specific features of OA monographs. The presentation will give an overview of existing methods of measuring books and their relationships, as well as of webometric methods that are currently available. The presentation will close with discussing the ways by which publishing houses and internet infrastructure providers can support the development of appropriate metrics.