Festschriften in the information sciences, with special attention to Eugene Garfield’s festschrift “The Web of Knowledge”

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K. U. Leuven

A festschrift is a book, usually edited by some colleagues, to honour an academic. It contains contributions by colleagues and (former) students. In this paper we give special attention to “The Web of Knowledge”, a festschrift edited by Blaise Cronin and Helen Atkins, in honour of Eugene Garfield’s seventy-fifth birthday. We study its contents and citation history. Also ISSI’s festschrift series, honouring Tibor Braun, Olle Persson, Peter Ingwersen and Manfred Bonitz is discussed. It is observed that generally contributions to festschriften are not highly cited, yet it is not true that they are virtually uncited. In particular, “The Web of Knowledge” is cited on the same level as the better journals in library and information science.

Keywords: Festschriften, Information Science Eugene Garfield Festschrift, web of Science

1. Genres in non-fiction books - festschriften

The Finnish Association of Non-fiction Writers (http://www.suomentietokirjailijat.fi/en/) provides a list of genres in non-fiction books. They make a distinction between the main genres of research literature, reference works, manuals, educational materials, opinion books, general non-fiction books and children’s non-fiction books. Among many types of research
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literature we find festschrifts, besides monographs, doctoral dissertations, article collections, conference proceedings, scientific journals and several more.

1.1. What is a festschrift?

According to Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/festschrift) a festschrift can be described as follows. It is a book honouring a respected person, especially an academic, and presented during his or her lifetime. The term, borrowed from German, could be translated as celebration publication or celebratory (piece of) writing. A festschrift contains original contributions by the honoured academic’s close colleagues, often including his or her former (doctoral) students. It is typically published on the occasion of the honouree’s retirement, sixtieth or sixty-fifth birthday, or other notable career anniversary. The essays usually relate in some way to, or reflect upon, the honouree’s contributions to his/her scholarly field, but can also include other original research. Many festschrifts also feature a tabula gratulatoria, an extended list of academic colleagues and friends who send their best wishes to the honouree. It is usually considered an honour to be designated to prepare such a collection. Besides by the term festschrift such edited collections are often titled something like Liber Amicorum (a book by friends), Essays in Honour of... or Essays Presented to...

It seems festschrifts are more popular in Europe than in America. This may have something to do with the origin of the word itself, but also with the fact that, in general, Europe has a longer academic tradition. Beyond the North-Atlantic countries, festschrifts are certainly more popular in India than in China, where one prefers to honour the dead in a Gedenkschrift.

2. Garfield’s festschrift

2.1. Contents

In the year 2000 Blaise Cronin and Helen B. Atkins edited a festschrift on the occasion of Eugene Garfield’s seventy-fifth birthday (Cronin & Atkins, 2000 [2]). It was published by Information Today (Medford, NJ) for the American Society for Information Science as part of the ASIS Monograph Series. It contains 565+xxv pages, 27 contributions (including the introduction by Cronin and Atkins), written by 37 authors and 964 proper references (+ a large number of endnotes). It is subdivided into five parts, plus an introduction. The first part, Historical Perspectives, contains four contributions, written by A. Thackray, D.C. Brock, J. Lederberg, P. Wouters and R.M. Hayes. These contributions focus on the early part of Garfield’s career and the origin of the Science Citation Index. The second part, The Scientific Literature, contains five contributions, written by J. Meadows, S. Cole, C.L. Borgman, P. Vinkler and T. Cawkell. These essays cover the growth of scientific knowledge and the role played by the journal literature, scholarly communication in general, citations and their visualization. The third part on International Issues, is completely written by non-North American colleagues: M. Bordons, I. Gómez, S. Arunachalam, J.M. Russell, T. Braun, W. Glänzel and A. Schubert, writing all together four contributions. They
discuss collaboration, publication indicators in general and the coverage of the Science Citation Index (with special attention to the coverage of publishers, where they find a strong Matthew Effect for productive publishers). The fourth part deals with Evaluative Bibliometrics and contains the largest number of contributions (8). These were written by J.R. Cole, A.F.J. van Raan, A.M. Diamond Jr., F. Narin, K.S. Hamilton, D. Olivastro, G. Lewison, P. Ingwersen, B. Larsen, I. Wormell, M. E. D. Koenig, M. Westermann-Cicio and C. Oppenheim. They discuss the impact of scientific work, the development of indicators for research evaluation, programme evaluation and scientific excellence (the last evil, according to van Raan). As a next step economic implications, firm performance and patent analysis are studied from a bibliometric perspective. Finally, in the last part, R.K. Merton, H. Small, H.D. White, L.L. Hargens, E. Davenport and B. Cronin link citation analysis and Social Network Analysis. They add a sociological touch to this festschrift, covering topics such as trust, the reward system of science, co-citation paths, reference networks and reasons to cite. In particular, I would like to mention White’s introduction of the idea of ego-centred citation analysis.

2.2. Reviews

Garfield’s festschrift has not gone unnoticed in our field (and beyond). As such several reviews have been written, the most visible one being Ziman’s in Nature. Table 1 provides a short (and necessarily incomplete) list of such reviews. Note that Learned Publishing published two independent reviews. The one on Amazon is a web review by a volunteer. As an aside I would like to mention that most of these reviews have remained uncited. Only Ziman’s has been cited once.

3. A citation analysis of Garfield’s festschrift

It is sometimes said that festschrifts just serve to publish otherwise unpublishable or at least difficult-to-publish papers (Tulving, 2007 [10]). Whatever the truth of this opinion in general, we will check if the contributions in this highly visible festschrift are cited in the same way as journal publications in our field.

A search in the Web of Science (WoS) SO = “WEB OF KNOWLEDGE - A FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOR OF EUGENE GARFIELD” yields all contributions but with only a few citations. This however is an error in the database. Searching for SO=“ASIST Monograph Series” AND PY=2000 yields all contributions twice, once with the full title of the festschrift and once without the full title, twice with the same number of citations as in the first search. Yet, this does not end the confusion. Remarkably, a Cited Reference Search results in the same citations but moreover, many more with WEB KNOWLEDGE FESTSC as source (and some citations are found under FESTSCHRIFT HONOR and even other variants). We have added all citations we have found (correcting obvious errors): the first number in the third column of Table 2 is the number of citations as found by Advanced Search, while the second one is the additional number of citations found by a Cited Reference Search (if there is a third number it comes from still another way of written the cited source item). Clearly, all
these problems mean that we are not 100% sure that the total number of citations we show is exact, but this is a common phenomenon in citation analysis. Of the 27 contributions one is uncited up till now, at least in the WoS. Yet, six are cited at least 30 times. These are shown in Table 2. All citation data are shown in the appendix (Table 5). Remarkably, the festschrift as whole has been cited 38 times. Moreover one citation has Garfield as author of the festschrift and one even has “Gurfield” as its author. Data were collected on September 12, 2011 (the article submitted for the Seventh International Conference on Webometrics, Informetrics and Scientometrics (WIS) & Twelfth COLLNET Meeting in Istanbul (Rousseau, 2011[8]) reported on data collected on June 26, 2011. Between that date and now Thomson Reuters changed the interface of the Web of Knowledge).

For all the authors mentioned in Table 2 their contribution to this festschrift is their most cited article of the year 2000. The average number of citations (of all contributions) is 13.89 with s.d. = 13.45. Yet, as is always the case in our field, citations are heavily skewed (see Table 5). The first two sections, Historical Perspectives and The Scientific Literature receive on average fewer citations than the other three sections. Is this average number of citations high or low in the field of Information and Library Science? To have an idea we calculated the average number of citations for some journals (restricting calculations to articles, reviews and proceedings papers) over the period [2000 – September 2011]. Results are shown in Table 3. Clearly this festschrift performed (in terms of received citations) on

### Table 1
Journals and authors of reviews of Garfield’s festschrift

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Science</td>
<td>A. Ratnakar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Library</td>
<td>M.B. Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Journal of Information</td>
<td>D. Bawden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>M. Piqueras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Microbiology</td>
<td>J. Duffy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues in Science and Technology</td>
<td>R. Rousseau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarianship</td>
<td>A. Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Organization</td>
<td>M.J.L. Huertas &amp;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E. Jimenez-Contreras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learned Publishing</td>
<td>R. Fraser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learned Publishing</td>
<td>M. Mabe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library &amp; Information Science Research</td>
<td>E. Aversa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Quarterly</td>
<td>K. McCain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature</td>
<td>J. Ziman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Information Review</td>
<td>M.Y. Keary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amazon</td>
<td>R.D. Steele</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. ISSI’s festschrift series

Stimulated by its editor Wolfgang Glänzel the ISSI Newsletter occasionally publishes festschrifts as extra editions. Since 2007, when the first such special volume has been published, festschrifts celebrating Tibor Braun, Olle Persson, Peter Ingwersen and Manfred Bonitz have seen the light (see Table 4).

The contributions in these festschrifts are rarely cited, but have not gone unnoticed either. Moreover the last two were published quite recently so one does not expect them to be cited. A short overview:

4.1. Braun’s

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Table 2
Most-cited contributions in Garfield’s festschrift

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th># citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bordons &amp; Gómez</td>
<td>Collaboration networks in science</td>
<td>2+39=41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>van Raan</td>
<td>The Pandora’s box of citation analysis: measuring scientific excellence – the last evil?</td>
<td>14+24=38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oppenheim</td>
<td>Do patent citations count?</td>
<td>14+22+2=38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davenport &amp; Cronin</td>
<td>The citation network as a prototype for representing trust in virtual environments</td>
<td>21+16=37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.R.Cole</td>
<td>A short history of the use of citations as a measure of the impact of scientific and scholarly work</td>
<td>4+27=31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>Toward ego-centred citation analysis</td>
<td>10+19+2=31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3
Average number of citations for some selected journals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Average number of citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientometrics (first quartile)</td>
<td>21.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Documentation (first quartile)</td>
<td>14.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Information Science (first quartile)</td>
<td>10.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libri (fourth quartile)</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science (fourth quartile)</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festschrift</td>
<td>13.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

the same level as journals belonging to the first quartile according to their 2002 impact factor.
This festschrift contains 11 articles and 8 short communications. Quentin Burrell’s Should the h-index be discounted? received already 7 citations in the WoS, while also Van Raan’s article received one citation.

4.2. Persson’s

The first contribution in this festschrift is a manual of how to use Ole Persson’s Bibexcel. It has been cited already six times. Also the “Carlos III” contribution by Isabel Iribarren-Maestro, María Luisa Lascurain-Sánchez & Elias Sanz-Casado about The Use of Bibliometric Techniques in Evaluating Social Sciences and Humanities received two citations, and Howard D. White’s Pennants for Strindberg and Persson received one. My own contribution about the most-cited editorials received no citation yet.

4.3. Ingwersen’s

Although this is a recent publication I found already four citations in the WoS. Two to Marianne Lykke and Anna Gjerluf Eslau’s Using thesauri in enterprise settings: indexing or query expansion, one to Peter Willett’s contribution and one to my own on co-occurrences.

As expected we did not yet find any citation to the articles included in Bonitz’ festschrift.

5. A personal recollection: my old professor H.D.L. Vervliet

Only in 1983 library and information education on university level in Flanders began. One of the founding fathers and the first dean of the postgraduate Library School was Prof. H.D. L. Vervliet. For more than 15 years Vervliet was the editor of ABHB, Annual bibliography of the history of the printed book and libraries and an international expert himself on old printing types (Vervliet, 1968 [12]) (cited 24 times in the WoS). As head of the UIA library, he became also a pioneer in library automation and machine-readable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Honouree</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Editorial board</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Tibor Braun</td>
<td>The multidimensional world of Tibor Braun</td>
<td>W. Glänzel, A. Schubert, B. Schlemmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Olle Persson</td>
<td>Celebrating scholarly communication studies</td>
<td>F. Åström, R. Danell, B. Larsen, J.W. Schneider, B. Schlemmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Peter Ingwersen</td>
<td>The janus faced scholar</td>
<td>B. Larsen, J.W. Schneider, F. Åström, B. Schlemmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Manfred Bonitz</td>
<td>The two behavioural principles of Manfred Bonitz</td>
<td>W. Glänzel, B. Schlemmer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
catalogues. Moreover, as part of his duties he became interested in bibliometric techniques (Vervliet, 1976[13]). In 1988 he retired and on that occasion a Dutch language Liber Amicorum was presented to him (van Borm & Simons, 1988 [11]). As one of his former students (in 1983 I started my LIS education in the first group of students) I was asked to contribute. My contribution (one of my first articles in the field), written in collaboration with one of the students Jan Dierick, dealt with the synchronous journal impact factor, showing that 3- and 4-year impact factors are on average larger than the standard 2-year one. This result was obtained based on a random selection of 107 journals from the JCR. We also found that there was no significant difference between the 2-year impact factor and the 5-year one (Dierick & Rousseau, 1988[4]). In view of later developments (Campanario, 2010[1]; Leydesdorff, 2009[5]; Rousseau, 2009[7]) we were really ahead of our times! Yet, at that time we used a standard z-test which we later rejected as being inappropriate for impact factor data (Rousseau, 2009 [7]). In this recent study we concluded that generally – but certainly not always - the 5-year impact factor is larger than the 2-year one. This was confirmed by Campanario (2011 [1]) who found that in about one quarter of the cases the 5-year impact factor is smaller than the classical 2-year one. Let me further mention that also after his retirement Vervliet kept active and I had the honour to collaborate with him on two occasions (Degroote et al., 1991 [3]; Rousseau & Vervliet, 1990[9]).

5.1. Other festschrifts

In this section I mention a few other festschrifts in the field of Information Science. I selected those of which the honouree is known to me (and a few other ones) and ranked them according to date. Surprisingly: I found many Indian festschrifts on the Internet, mostly for colleagues I had never heard of. This fact seems to confirm that editing such festschrifts is rather common in India.


I would like to end this list with two special ones, namely one for library education in an Australian University:

*Education for Library and Information Services: A festschrift to Celebrate Thirty Years of Library Education at Charles Sturt University (2006).*

and a festschrift for a university library:

*New trends in international librarianship: S.R. Ranganathan festschrift to mark the platinum jubilee of the Madras University Library (1984).*

6. Conclusion
Festschrifts in the information sciences, with special attention to Eugene Garfield’s festschrift

Festschrifts are a special genre of scientific books. They are a way of honouring colleagues and as such also in the information sciences many festschrifts have been published. In this contribution we discussed Eugene Garfield’s festschrift “The Web of Knowledge”. It was shown that this particular festschrift has been cited on the same level as the better journals in the field. We further paid some attention to ISSI’s festschrift Series and finally, I showed that it is not difficult to find many examples of festschrifts in our field, not only celebrating persons but even libraries and library education. I ended my review of Garfield’s festschrift (Rousseau, 2001 [6]) by the statement “I am convinced that the book and its articles will become citation classics”. This has not (yet) happened, but “The Web of Knowledge” surely is a classic within the genre of festschrifts in library and information science.

Table 5
Citations to contributions in Garfield’s festschrift

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections and authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Number of received citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Cronin &amp; H.B. Atkins</td>
<td>The scholar’s spoor</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Historical perspectives</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Thackray &amp; D.C. Brock</td>
<td>Eugene Garfield: history, scientific information and chemical endeavor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Lederberg</td>
<td>How the Science Citation Index got started</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Wouters</td>
<td>Garfield as alchemist</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.M. Hayes</td>
<td>Assessing the value of a database company</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The scientific literature</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Meadows</td>
<td>The growth of journal literature: a historical perspective</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Cole</td>
<td>The role of journals in the growth of scientific knowledge</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.L. Borgman</td>
<td>Scholarly communication and bibliometrics revisited</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Vinkler</td>
<td>Publication velocity, publication growth and impact factor: an empirical model</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Cawkell</td>
<td>Visualizing citation connections</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International issues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Bordons &amp; I. Gómez</td>
<td>Collaboration networks in science</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Arunachalam</td>
<td>International collaboration in science: the case of India and China</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authors</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
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<tr>
<td>J.M. Russell</td>
<td>Publication indicators in Latin America revisited</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. Braun, W. Glänzel &amp; A. Schubert</td>
<td>How balanced is the Science Citation Index’s journal coverage? A preliminary overview of macro-level statistical data</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluative bibliometrics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.R. Cole</td>
<td>A short history of the use of citations as a measure of the impact of scientific and scholarly work</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>A.F.J. van Raan</td>
<td>The Pandora’s box of citation analysis: measuring scientific excellence – the last evil?</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. M. Diamond, Jr.</td>
<td>The complementarity of scientometrics and economics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Narin, K.S. Hamilton &amp; D. Olivastro</td>
<td>The development of science indicators in the United states</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. Lewison</td>
<td>Citations as a means to evaluate biomedical research</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Ingwersen, B. Larsen &amp; I. Wormell</td>
<td>Applying diachronic citation analysis to research program evaluations</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.E.D. Koenig &amp; M. Westermann-Cicio</td>
<td>Scientometrics, cybermetrics, and firm performance</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Oppenheim</td>
<td>Do patent citations count?</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social network analysis</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>R.K. Merton</td>
<td>On the Garfield input to the sociology of science: a retrospective collage</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>H. Small</td>
<td>Charting pathways through science: exploring Garfield’s vision of a unified index to science</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>H.D. White</td>
<td>Toward ego-centered citation analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>L.L. Hargens</td>
<td>Graphing micro-regions in the Web of knowledge: a comparative reference-network analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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Appendix

References


