

Report of 16th International Conference on Webometrics, Informetrics and Scientometrics (WIS) & 21st COLLNET Meeting

10 to 12 November 2022, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

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Introduction

The 16th International Conference on Webometrics, Informetrics, and Scientometrics (WIS) and the 21st COLLNET Meeting, 2022 which was scheduled to be held from 10 to 12 November 2022 at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand was organized after a two-year break, due to the Corona restrictions, by COLLNET in association with the Society for Library Professionals (SLP) and Asian Chapter, Special Libraries Association (SLA) and

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Figure 1: Inaugural session at the conference auditorium at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand for the professional growth of the library and Information Science professionals.

The broad focus of the conference was on collaboration and communication in science and technology; scientometric research on Covid19; techniques for collaboration studies; informatics law and distributions; mathematical models of communication and collaboration; quantitative analysis of s&t innovations; evaluation indicators; collaboration in science and technology from both quantitative and qualitative points of view; bibliographic control bibliometric research data analysis and data mining; technology & innovations in libraries and their impact on measurement on learning, research and users technology transfer and innovation in library management through metrics.

The aim of the conference was therefore to contribute to evidence-based knowledge on scientific research and practices, which in turn can contribute to institutional, regional, national and international policy-making in the field of research and innovation.

This event was part of the successful COLLNET conference series (www.collnet.de). Previous COLLNET conferences were held in Berlin (Germany) in 2000, New Delhi (India) in 2001, Sydney (Australia) in 2001, Beijing (China) in 2003, Roorkee (India) in 2004, Stockholm (Sweden) in 2005, Nancy (France) in 2006, New Delhi (India) in 2007, Berlin (Germany) in 2008, Dalian (China) in 2009, Mysore (India) in 2010, Istanbul (Turkey) in 2011, Seoul (South Korea) in 2012, Tartu (Estonia) in 2013, Ilmenau (Germany) in 2014, Delhi (India) in 2015, Nancy (France) in 2016, Kent (UK) in 2017, Macau 2018 and Dalian (China) 2019.

International Conference and COLLNET Meeting in 2022

The field of scientometrics is facing new challenges that need to be addressed to ensure its continued relevance and accuracy. With the exponential growth of scientific publications and the increasing availability of digital data sources, scientometrics has the challenge of dealing with Big Data. This requires new methods and tools for collecting, storing, and analyzing large volumes of data, as well as new ways of visualizing and interpreting the results. The traditional scientometric indicators, such as journal



Figure 2: Dr. Bernd Markscheffel giving his keynote speech

impact factor and citation counts, are facing increasing criticism for their limitations in accurately measuring scientific impact and quality. As a result, there is a growing interest in alternative metrics, such as altmetrics, which aim to provide a more comprehensive and nuanced view of scientific impact by taking into account a wider range of online activities and outputs. And not to be left unmentioned, scientific research is becoming increasingly interdisciplinary, making it more difficult to accurately capture and analyze the impact of scientific output in a single discipline. This requires the development of new methods and indicators that are capable of capturing interdisciplinary interactions and collaborations. Another important issue that scientometrics research must address is the importance of protecting sensitive personal and institutional information. The collection and analysis of scientific data for scientometric analysis often involves sensitive personal data, which necessitates the inclusion of privacy and security considerations. These requirements must be covered by technological concepts in order to enable a meaningful analysis. COLLNET 2022 met these challenges and provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the phenomena of collaboration in science, its impact on productivity, innovation, and benefits and outcomes for individuals, institutions, and economies worldwide, and the new research challenges facing scientometric research.

The inaugural session of the conference was addressed by Dr. Debal C. Kar, Librarian, Galgotias University, India, and the welcome address was delivered by the esteemed guest Dr. Amorn Petsom, Director, Office of Academic Resources, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, and Keynote addresses were delivered by eminent speakers, namely Dr. Bernd Markscheffel, Technische Universität Ilmenau, Germany. Mr. Veera Rogpojanarat, Member of the National Committee for Culture, Thailand and Former Minister of Culture, Thailand. After the keynote address, the proceedings of the conference were released by all the dignitaries, and Catherine Lovely-Welch, President, Special Library Association (SLA), University Librarian; Bishop's University, Canada addressed the gathering.

Conference proceedings was released by the eminent speakers on the desk. The session ended with a vote of thanks given by Dr. P.K. Jain, Organising Secretary and Librarian Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi, India.



Figure 3: Release of the Proceedings

Sixty Eight papers were accepted and published in the conference proceedings and presented in hybrid mode. The papers were presented in 10 technical sessions which were scheduled in two parallel sessions. The conference was scheduled in physical and online mode in various technical sessions which were presided over by various learned professionals who moderated the sessions during the presentations.



Figure 4: Conference atmosphere

Delicious food was served during the conference and dinner was arranged at the cruise where all the participants enjoyed.

At this conference, researchers and presenters have presented papers on Scientometric, Bibliographic, Informatics, Professional Skills, Institutional Repository, Digital Innovation, and Implementation etc. The participants made few suggestions and raised some queries which were resolved by the presenters or authors of the respective papers.

Awards were also distributed during the conference. Dr. Debal Kar was given Lifetime Achievement Award 2022. COLLNET Best Scientist Award was given to Dr. Bernd Markscheffel and Mr N K Wadhwa. Best University Librarian Award was given to Dr. Rajesh Singh. Ms. Rabiab Sangchantr was awarded by COLLNET Best Information Professional Award.



Figure 5: Award ceremony

A highly emotional part of the closing ceremony was the presentation and release of the festschrift on the occasion of the 75th birthday of COLLNET's founder, Prof. Hildrun Kretschmer, who was unfortunately unable to attend for health reasons. Dr. Ramesh Kundra, also one of the founding members, joined us live from Phoenix and described in very personal words the outstanding contribution of Prof. Kretschmer in the formation and development of COLLNET and the COLLNET conference series. He presented the main contents of the festschrift, which, in addition to a collection of the central articles on collaboration research by Prof. Kretschmer, also contains numerous contributions by the most important scientists in the field of Scientometrics (R. Rosseau, W. Glänzel, L. Egghe, G. Lewison, W. Markusova, M. Zitt, M. Meyer, and many others) as an appreciation of Prof. Kretschmer's rich contribution in the field of collaboration research.



Figure 6: Release of the Festschrift in Honour of Prof. Hildrun Kretschmer

December 2022, Volume 16#2 issue of "COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management" was also released during the Conference.



Figure 7: Release of COLLNET Journal Issue



Figure 8: Closing ceremony - Group photograph

A visit was arranged to National Library of Thailand and National Bank of Thailand Library on 12 November 2022 for all the participants and speakers etc.

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International conference and COLLNET meeting in 2023.

The next event of this conference series will be the 17th International Conference on Webometrics, Informetrics and Scientometrics (WIS) & 22nd COLLNET Meeting which will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from December 8-10, 2023, organized by East West University with Dr. Dilara Begum heading the organizing committee.

COLLNET 2023 will provide another excellent opportunity for librarians, information professionals, researchers and practitioners to exchange and discuss experiences, ideas, research results, meet and network on all aspects of Webometrics, Informetrics and Scientometrics.

We are looking forward to welcoming as many members of the COLLNET community as possible at this event in Dhaka. For more details please contact collnet2023@gmail.com or visit <http://www.slp.org.in/collnet2023>.