

COLLNET 2025 : Advancing global collaboration in scientometrics and knowledge metrics :

Report of the 19th International Conference on Webometrics, Informetrics and Scientometrics (WIS) & 24th COLLNET Meeting, IEG Delhi

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The 19th International Conference on Webometrics, Informetrics and Scientometrics (WIS) & 24th COLLNET Meeting 2025 (COLLNET 2025) was held during 19–21 September 2025 at the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi. The three-days event brought together scholars, academicians, researchers, and practitioners to deliberate on contemporary developments, methodologies, and applications of metrics in the domains of research evaluation, knowledge dissemination, and institutional performance.

Inaugural Session

The Conference commenced with a welcome address by Professor Sabyasachi Kar, Director, IEG, who extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests, participants, and delegates. In his remarks, Professor Kar underscored the importance of research in the fields of scientometrics and informetrics, emphasizing their relevance in evaluating research output, measuring institutional impact, and contributing to informed policy making.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, Chairman of the IEG Board of Governors, (BoG) delivered the inaugural address. Dr. Patra highlighted the growing significance of data-driven methodologies and metrics in

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Picture 1
Opening Session

academia and policymaking. He emphasized the role of webometrics and scientometrics in fostering transparency, accountability, and competitiveness among research institutions, while also underlining their potential in guiding national policies in education, research, and economic development. In his remarks, Dr. Patra reflected on the role of information metrics in shaping evidence-based policymaking and underscored the need for interdisciplinary research to strengthen institutional competitiveness in a globalized knowledge economy with increasing convergence.



Picture 2
Inaugural Address by Dr. Patra

In his opening speech, General Chair Dr. Bernd Markscheffel traced the evolution of the COLLNET research network, which was founded in the year 2000 with the aim of nurturing global collaboration in the fields of scientometrics, informetrics and webometrics. He underlined India's pivotal role in shaping the direction of the network and international reach. Their contributions have been instrumental in establishing the foundation for the subsequent intellectual leadership and organisational momentum of this endeavour. By hosting a series of important conferences in New Delhi (2001, 2007, 2015), Roorkee (2004), and Mysore (2010), India contributed to the institutionalisation of the network and the development of novel scientometric methodologies. Furthermore, he observed India's significant representation in the COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management, published by TARU PUBLICATIONS, New Delhi, where Indian scholars have assumed prominent editorial roles and contributed over 30% of the global scientometric output. He remarked that the return of COLLNET to New Delhi in 2025 is seen as a symbol of India's emergence as a global hub for scientometric collaboration and innovation studies.



Picture 3

Opening Speech by Dr. Markscheffel

Keynote Address

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Ramesh C. Gaur, Professor and Dean at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Delhi. He highlighted critical issues in scientometrics and emphasized the growing significance of webometrics in evaluating academics and research impact in the digital age. Prof. Gaur also emphasised emerging trends and challenges in these fields, shedding light on how evolving metrics can better capture the dynamic nature of scholarly communication.

Another keynote address was presented by Prof. Ajay Pratap Singh, Director General of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata. He eloquently discussed the pivotal role of public libraries and the importance of developing robust metrics to assess their impact. Prof. Singh elaborated on the ongoing transformation of public libraries across the country, illustrating how they are increasingly supporting both the research community and the general public by providing access to valuable resources and fostering a culture of knowledge sharing. His address underscored the vital contribution of libraries in promoting education, literacy, and lifelong learning.

Release of Conference Proceedings

A three volume conference proceedings were released during the Inaugural session.



Picture 4

Release of the Proceedings

Panel Discussion

The conference witnessed the Panel discussions on key themes including:

- Emerging methodologies in scientometric and webometric research
- Research evaluation frameworks with Artificial Intelligence
- Informetrics in the context of digital scholarship and open science
- Policy implications of bibliometric studies for higher education and R&D ecosystems

Technical Sessions

Over 60 papers were presented in the technical sessions of the Conference by scholars and researchers highlighting the importance of Webometrics, Informetrics and Scientometrics including Artificial Intelligence, its use and impact on library and information science and its studies.

Participants engaged in vibrant discussions, sharing innovative approaches, case studies, and theoretical perspectives that enriched the dialogue on the future of metrics-driven research and evaluation. The sessions facilitated constructive exchange of ideas and enabled participants to share innovative research findings, theoretical perspectives, and practical experiences. The Conference witnessed the active participation of more than 150 delegates from academic institutions, research organizations, and professional bodies. The deliberations reinforced the significance of metrics-based research evaluation in strengthening institutional visibility, enhancing scholarly communication, and supporting evidence-based decision-making.



Picture 5

Technical Session Attendees

Valedictory Session

The three-day Conference concluded with a collective recognition of the pivotal role of webometrics, informetrics, and scientometrics in advancing research assessment practices and shaping Library and Information science education.

The Valedictory address was given by Prof K. P. Singh, Director, Gandhi Bhawan and Professor at Department of Library and information Science, University of Delhi, Delhi.



Picture 6

Valedictory Address by Dr. K. P. Singh

Honoring the legacy of Dr. Hildrun Kretschmer and initiated by Theo Kretschmer, Dr. P. K. Jain was presented with The Hildrun Kretschmer Award, in recognition of his outstanding dedication, lifelong contributions, and unwavering commitment to the COLLNET community. Dr. Jain was acknowledged as a distinguished scholar in Library and Information Science. Beyond his research achievements, he has been a central pillar of the COLLNET network for decades—devoting his vision, leadership, and personal commitment to its global growth. Through his organizational skills, he has helped bring COLLNET to life across continents, notably through the conferences in Delhi (2017, 2025) and Bangkok (2022), each bearing his hallmark of care and professionalism.



Picture 7

The Hildrun Kretschmer Award for Dr. P. K. Jain

On 21st September 2025, the final day of the conference participants were treated to a guided local tour of nearby attractions. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed exploring the vibrant local markets and popular tourist sites in Delhi, immersing themselves in the rich culture and heritage of the city. The visit provided a delightful opportunity for networking and relaxation, rounding off the conference on a memorable and engaging note.

As we conclude this year's inspiring COLLNET meeting, we look ahead with great excitement to the next chapter in our shared journey of collaboration and discovery. We are delighted to extend an invitation to all members of the COLLNET community, colleagues, and friends to attend the COLLNET 2026 Conference, which will be held during 1st-2nd October 2026 at Uva Wellassa University, Sri Lanka to continue the tradition of global partnership and scientific exchange that characterises COLLNET. It will explore new frontiers in scientometrics, informetrics and knowledge management, while fostering intercultural dialogue and international cooperation. We warmly encourage all researchers, practitioners and students to participate by submitting papers, joining discussions and sharing experiences to advance our collective understanding of science, innovation and collaboration. This event will provide a platform for exchange of ideas, nurturing of new friendships and continuation of our collaborative spirit.

We are very much thankful to IEG Director Prof Sabyasachi Kar for his full support to organise this Conference and affirming his commitment to fostering research excellence and to serve as a platform for academic dialogue and policy-relevant scholarship in the evolving field of information and knowledge metrics. We also thank IEG, (BoG) Chairman Dr Michael Debabrata Patra; ICSSR; Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation(RRRLF); CSIR and DRDO, who supported this Conference.