The Evaluation of Research by Scientometrics Indicators. Péter Vinkler. Oxford: Chandos Publishing, 2010. 336 p. £ 49.50

Nicolás Robinson-Garcia, Library Studies Department, University of Granada.

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Professor Vinkler presents in this book a fine attempt to contribute to set standards that "should be followed by all researchers, editors and editorial board members of journals devoted partly or fully to scientometrics or bibliometrics" (p. 7). A useful and recommendable contribution for those interested in understanding the basics on which research evaluation is based, paying special attention to the different types of indicators. Structured on a very personal and particular viewpoint, it compiles main indicators and principles, describing this discipline as one that "covers different areas and aspects of all sciences" (p. 4). This interdisciplinary nature explains the false assumption of certain groups of researchers that think that scientometrics needs of no previous study and training and can be mastered through practice.

Péter Vinkler is a well-reputed researcher on the field, winning the Derek John de Solla Price Medal in 2009, the most prestigious prize on scientometrics, for his valuable contribution on the development of indicators and methodologies for research assessment at different levels of aggregation. An individualist who has developed his own career practically by himself, always single-authoring his publications, Péter Vinkler directed the Scientific Publication Data bank of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences until 2009. He has a background on Chemistry and has developed parallel research paths, one on structural investigation of organic compounds, and the other on the development of bibliometric indicators for evaluative purposes.

This book is not the first attempt for setting the theoretical pillars of a discipline accused for being excessively dependent on techniques from other specialties and on lacking of a paradigm or theories on which to support its results and conclusions. Main and essential manuals on Scientometrics are Moed (2005), van Raan (1988), and Glänzel, Moed and Schmoch (2004) which are considered as standards in the field of Scientometrics. However, Vinkler's monograph is more of a descriptive and noncommittal series of definitions of techniques, methods and indicators. With a failed intention to be understandable by all publics it is highly recommended for those involved in the scientific editorials business, PhD students in Library Studies and academic librarians. Also its personal view of the field is portrayed in the book, naming indicators and phenomena in misleading ways such as Garfield Factor (for Impact Factor) or the Invitation Paradox (for the Mathew Effect). All changes reasoned and clarified but nevertheless, unnecessary.

Despite his particular views on the discipline and its portentous language, too technical for the purposes he aims at; it is nevertheless a significant book as it displays a variety of techniques for different purposes and from different viewpoints. For instance, it is especially interesting

the chapter on reference motivations or the deep analysis on the H-Index and its variants. Unlike the other manuals mentioned above, the techniques and methods described are not necessarily relevant from an applied point of view, but more for understanding the nature and development of scientific information and scientific communication.

All in all, this book is an interesting and needed contribution authored by one of the most prestigious researchers on Scientometrics of the last decades, especially advisable for those who are beginning to make their way into this discipline, but not easily persuaded as to apply techniques without fully understanding them. A monograph that can benefit greatly PhD students and academic librarians along with other contributions made by other eminent researchers in order to make their own mind and have a critical view on Scientometrics when applied to research evaluation.