Changing landscape of journals in social sciences and humanities in Poland

The lessons from Polish science policy

Zagreb, 5th of April 2018
Emanuel Kulczycki
2. Polish Journal Ranking as the key instrument of evaluation.
3. The landscape of scholarly journals in Poland.
4. How has journal evaluation changed Polish journals in social sciences and humanities?
5. Toward a new model of evaluation.
1. Evaluation of Scientific Institutions in Poland
The context and the scale of evaluation exercise

- **38** million citizens
- **430** higher education institutions
- **110,000** scholars
- **3,000** scientific journals

Poland

Warsaw
The History of Polish Research Evaluation

Poland started the evaluation of scientific institutions

Parametric model and journal evaluation

Polish Journal Ranking (Version 1 – old)

Polish Journal Ranking (Version 2 – new)
Polish Journal Ranking as the key instrument of evaluation
# the 2016 Polish Journal Ranking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List (part)</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Number of Journals</th>
<th>What journals are indexed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A list</strong></td>
<td>15–50</td>
<td>11,271</td>
<td>Journals indexed in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B list</strong></td>
<td>1–15</td>
<td>2,209</td>
<td>Polish Journals without an Impact Factor and not indexed in the European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C list</strong></td>
<td>10–25</td>
<td>4,111</td>
<td>Journals indexed in the European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Three dimensions of evaluation (The B list)

- **Formal Evaluation**
  - 10 parameters
  - for instance:
    - Percentage of authors from foreign countries
    - Publishing without postponements greater than 6 months

- **Bibliometric Evaluation**
  - 2 indicators
  - Predicted Impact Factor (PIF)
  - Scimago Impact Factor (SIF)

- **Expert-based Evaluation**
  - Recommendations by the Committees of the Polish Academy of Sciences
Journals from Social Sciences: 50 points (max)
if indexed in the Journal Citation Reports (very high Impact Factor in the subject category)

Journals from Humanities: 25 points (max)
if indexed in the ERIH and many citations in Scopus
2. Landscape of scholarly journals in social sciences and humanities in Poland
over 3,000 Polish scientific journals in all fields of science

Web of Science**
257

Scopus**
356

Polish Journal Ranking***
2476

* ~10% of those journals is from social sciences and humanities
** ~20% of those journals is from social sciences and humanities
*** ~60% of those journals is from social sciences and humanities
Landscape of Polish scientific journals

Social sciences and humanities
Active Polish scientific journals in 2017

Number of Journals

Year of journal founding (1st year of publishing)
Editorial standards of Polish Journals: situation at December 2017

Share of journals

A number of points on the Polish Journal Ranking

- ORCID
- DOI
- Anti-plagiarism system
- Journal management and publishing system
Percentage of peer reviewed publications in English, local language(s) and other languages in the social sciences and humanities in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage of Publications in English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>61.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>63.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flanders (Belgium)</td>
<td>78.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>45.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DOI: 10.1007/s11192-018-2711-0
4.

How has journal evaluation changed Polish journals in social sciences and humanities
It is easier to establish a new journal than publish a good paper

From 2012 to 2015, nearly 600 Polish journals were added to the Polish Journal Rankings.
Science policy’s goal: Internationalization

What is the actual effect of science policy oriented on internationalization?

- % of authors from foreign countries
- % of reviewers from foreign countries
- % of articles published in the so-called congress languages, i.e. English, German, French, Spanish, Russian, and Italian
- % of members of the editorial advisory board from foreign countries

Journals submitted information for the last two years in each edition.
In all groups of sciences, the primary effect of science policy has been a change in the **composition of editorial advisory boards**. It was the easiest way to play the game.

Journals from all sciences increased % of reviewers from foreign countries.

% of authors and % articles in the congress languages did not change significantly in the analyzed period.
5.

Toward a new model of evaluation
We need a bibliometrics indicator (not formal criteria) to assess journals from all fields.

Journals from the humanities need to be able achieve the highest number of points.

A part of local Polish journals need funding to improve their editorial practices.
Evolution of the Polish Journal Ranking

Old model
Three lists

The A list
15–50 points
Journals indexed in the Journal Citation Reports

The B list
1–15 points
Polish journals without the Impact Factor

The C list
10–25 points
Journals indexed in the ERIH.

New model
One list

Journals indexed in SCOPUS (SNIP)

+ Journals indexed in WoS and not in Scopus

+ up to 250 local Polish journals mostly from SSH

Extra funding (grant program)
6. Lessons from the Polish case
Lessons

- Each country has its own starting point (e.g. the share of publications in English) and the evaluation criteria must be fitted to it.

- Web of Science is not appropriate for the evaluation of SSH journals.

- If a bibliometric indicator is needed, SNIP is one of the best options for the SSH.

- Using formal criteria does not allow to achieve science policy goals.

- Local SSH journals need stable funding (for years!) to improve their editorial practices.

- Expert-based assessment (made by the members of the Polish Academy of Sciences' committees) was a total failure.
Recommendations for policy makers

- A system of journal evaluation should acknowledge two types of journals in the SSH:
  - those that are actually prestigious and internationally oriented or might become such;
  - those that are actually locally oriented and have implemented the highest standards of editorial practices.

- A system of journal evaluation should encourage small journals (e.g. from a single faculty or region) to consolidate.

- A system of evaluation can promote good practices (establishing journal websites) but – most often – it promotes playing the game. Thus, criteria have to be clear, well-matched, and systematically revised.
Presented results were based mostly on below publications:


Thank you

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