



# **Bibliometric and Performance Indicators in SSH**

**- the case of FCSH/NOVA -**

*Bibliometric Research Evaluation Study – Universidade Nova de Lisboa*

Universidade Nova de Lisboa

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# Outline

- **Bibliometrics in SSH – a paradigm shift**
- **Constraints for the SSH**
- **FCSH's strategy**
- **Challenges and new practices**

# A Paradigm Shift in SSH – old assumptions

## Common (and old) assumptions for evaluating science in SSH:

- (Double-blinded) peer review as a standard;
  - **Books and book chapters** are as important as journal articles;
  - Major journals edit **monograph series** for longer articles;
  - Major conferences edit **books** with selected papers;
  - Citation in any type of format signals impact;
  - Impact compared within areas and domains.
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- **BOOKS** are a major signal of academic achievement.
  - **CITATION** signals impact.

# A Paradigm Shift in SSH – new assumptions

## **New assumptions/concepts:**

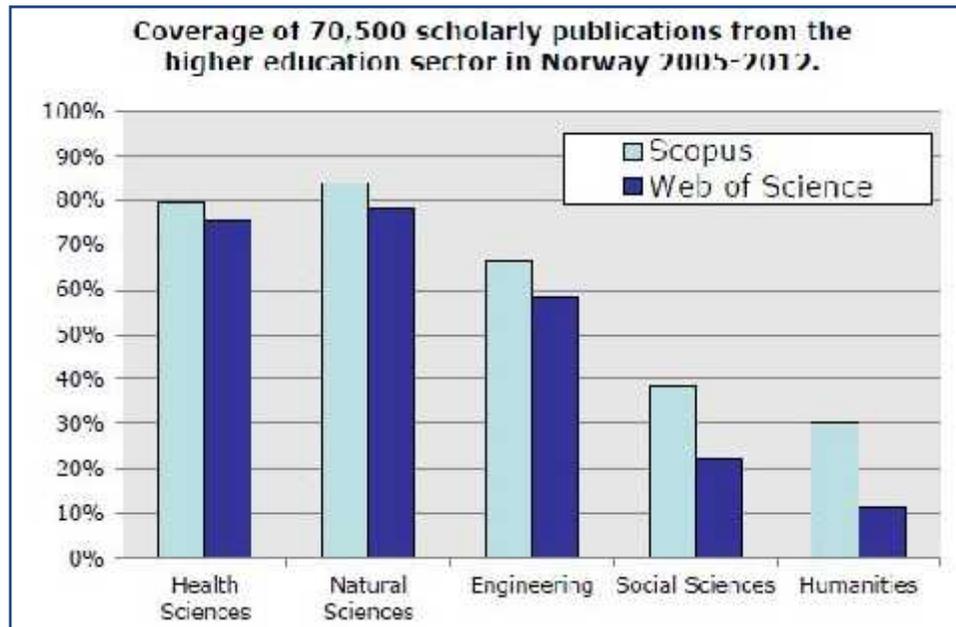
- Impact factors;
  - Journals with higher relevance than books or book chapters;
  - No clear place for “cultural” products;
  - Comparability across different areas.
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- **BOOKS** lost relevance.
  - **MARKERS OF IMPACT** suddenly changed.
  - **SSH** suddenly perceived as areas with little impact.

# Bibliometric constrains for SSH

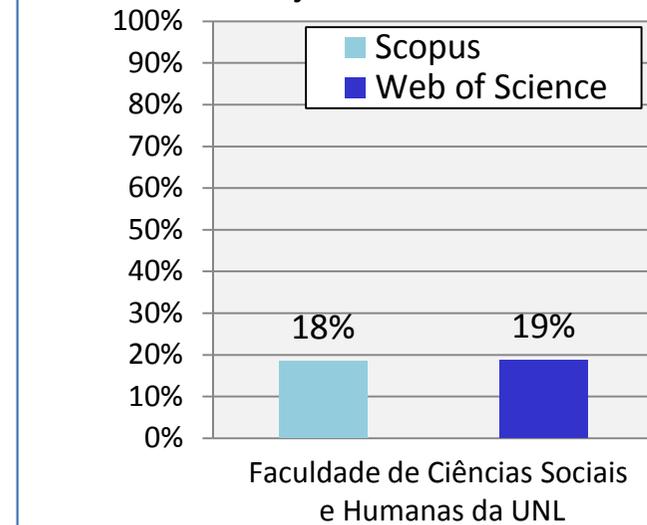
**Problems identified by several scientific councils and agents:**

- ***Scholarly publications***
  - (WoS/ Scopus) coverage
  - Publication cultures
  - Languages of publication
  - Impact assessment
  - Other evidence of academic recognition
- ***Societal publications***
  - Social use and relevance of publications
  - Cultural and societal impacts

# Limited coverage



Coverage of 1456 article, letter or reviews in peer-reviewed journal from 2011-2013

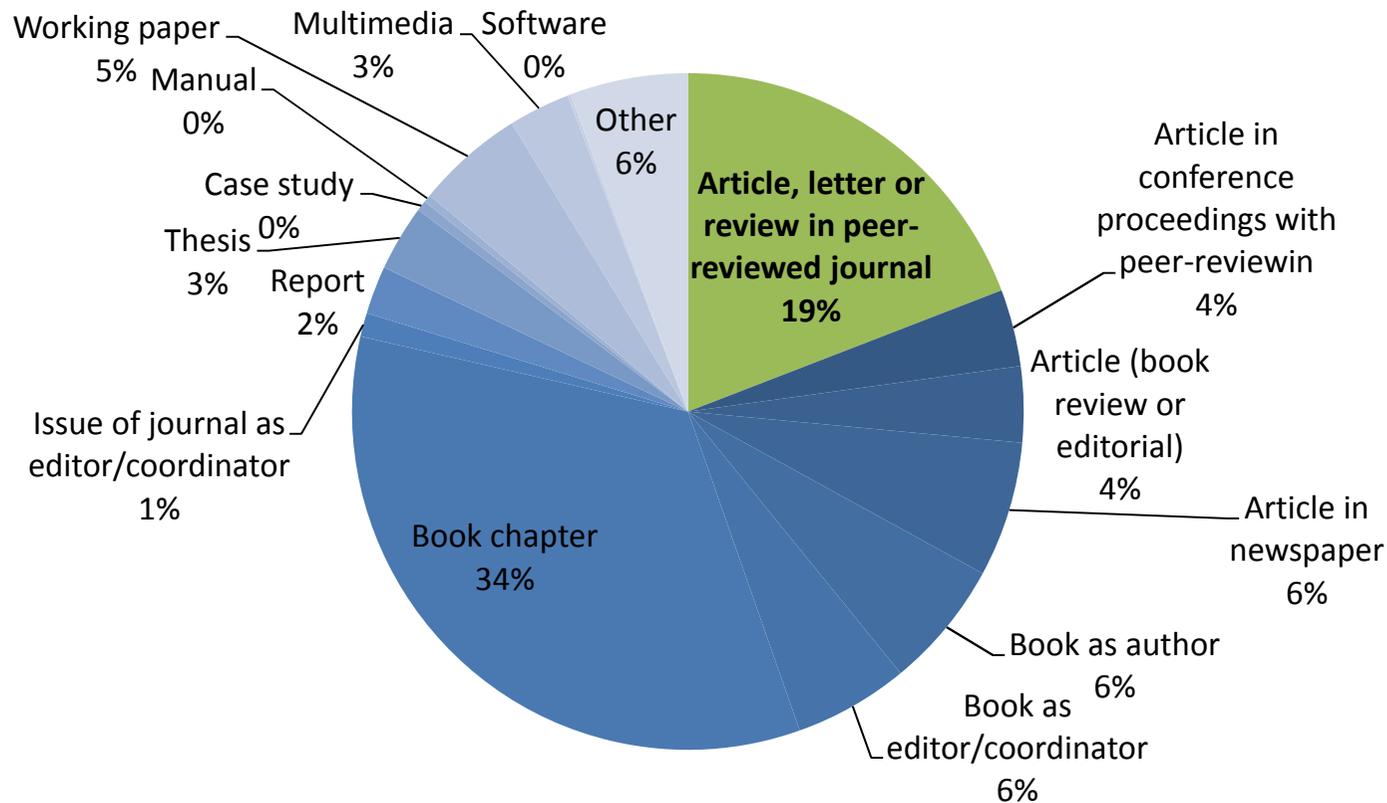


In Sivertsen, Gunnar. 2014. «A performance indicator based on complete data for the scientific publication output at research institutions». Presentation in *Performance Indicators for Science and Higher Education*, Lisbon, Portugal.  
[https://www.fct.pt/media/docs/11042014\\_GSivertsen.pdf](https://www.fct.pt/media/docs/11042014_GSivertsen.pdf)

Source: CONVERIS - UNL Research Information System

# Great diversity of types of publications

**Total 7596 publications in Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas  
from 2011-2013**



Source: CONVERIS - UNL Research Information System

# National context and language

- **There is a 20-25% bias in favour of English-language scientific output in the SSH**

*In Archambault, Éric., et. al. 2006.*

- **Research orientation:**
  - **Increasingly international**
  - **Focus on nacional/ local contexts**
    - SSH research deals with local and regional problems more often than other fields
    - SSH publications are more often written for local audiences
- **Defining the quality of academic research as what is interesting only from an international perspective is limited**

# The shortcoming of bibliometrics for SSH

## Internal coverage of FCSH's publication is 30%

- *Whenever the internal coverage drops beneath the 50% the outcome of the bibliometric analysis must be viewed with caution as the importance of Non-WoS material is then as high as or even higher than that of WoS material.*
- *To assess the impact of the publications of a unit, our general recommendation is to rely on a combination of the MNCS indicator and the PPTop 10% indicators.*
  - ***MNCS** - FCSH is cited well above average (+86%) and rising over time.*
  - ***pp<sup>top 10%</sup>** - Four units in the most frequently cited analysis (almost) constantly show a citation visibility above average. These are FCSH, ...*

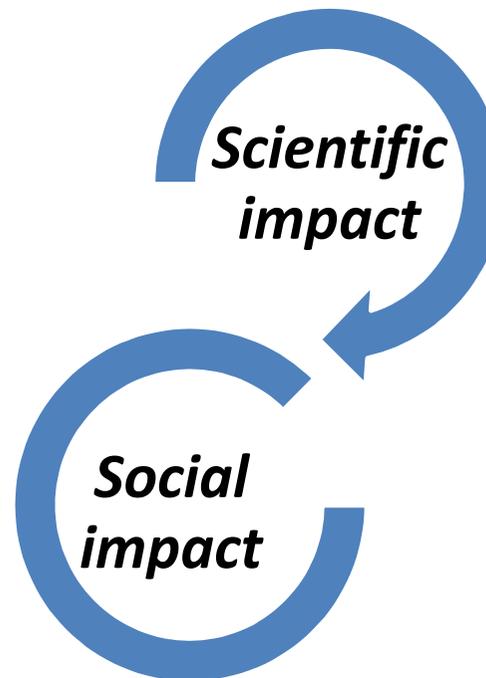
*In CWTS Report "Bibliometric Research Evaluation Study of the past performance of the NOVA (2006–2012/13)"*

# FCSH perspective

**Bibliometrics are one way used to measure the impact of the research, although the notion of impact is often difficult to measure**

*In Davidson, Patricia M., et. al. 2014.*

- **Other domain-specific research products** (e.g. patrimony collections, policy guidelines, education materials, cultural products, etc.)
- **Social indicators** (Transfers to society and economy, contribution to public debates and policy advices, media appearances, board memberships, etc.)



- **Scholarly publications** (journals, monographs, books, theses);
- **Indicators** (reviews, citations and recognition indicators such as prizes, third party funding, research collaborations, etc.)

# FCSH strategy

- **Bibliometrics as a standard tool in science policy and research evaluation and funding**

- Institutional stimulus to publish in

- WoS and Scopus :

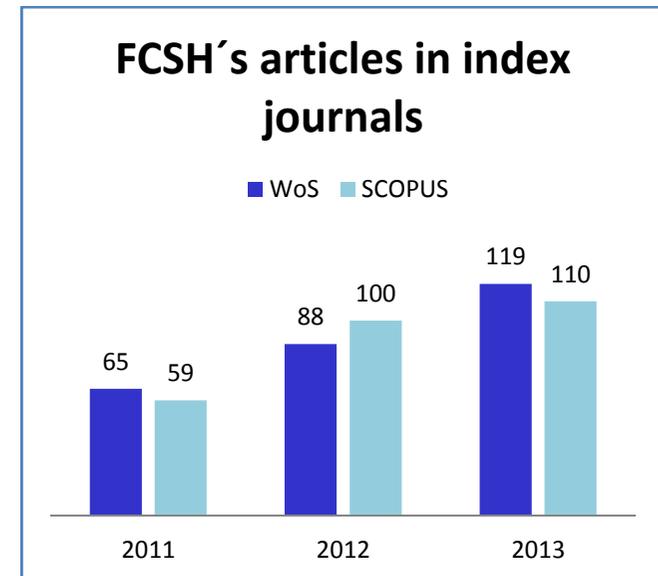
- Research units and individual prize based in WoS and Scopus pubs and international funding (4<sup>th</sup> edition in 2014)
- Exploratory funding for European projects applications, leading to international publications

- **But also...**

- Recognizing publications in national language

- Focus on societal impact

- Linking academic and societal outputs and indicators



# Addressing the challenges

## Challenges:

- Need for adequate tools for research assessment in SSH fields
  - Inclusion of SSH specific products
    - Which products? How to rank them? Which indicators?

## International practices and trends:

- Norwegian method
  - National research documentation system + All publications + different weights according to publication type and level of publication channel
  - NOVA innovative system – CONVERIS
- Other metrics (impact on the media – Altmetrics)
- Open access

## Need to debate on what is meant by 'research quality'

- *It is no longer enough to measure what we can – we need to measure what matters*