

## The heterogeneous landscape of bibliometric indicators: Evaluating models for allocating resources at Swedish Universities

Björn Hammarfelt, Gustaf Nelhans & Pieta Eklund  
bjorn.hammarfelt@hb.se, gustaf.nelhans@hb.se & pieta.eklund@hb.se  
Swedish School of Library and Information Sciences, University of Borås

The use of bibliometric indicators on the individual and national level has gathered considerable interest in recent years, but the application of bibliometric models for allocating resources at the institutional level has so far been less studied. This paper focuses on the implementation of bibliometric measures for allotting resources at Swedish universities. Several models and indicators based on publications, citations and research grants are identified. Thereafter the design of performance based resource allocation at major universities is analyzed using a framework from the field of evaluation studies. The practical implementation, the given incentives and the possible consequences of models and indicators are scrutinized in order to provide a theoretically informed assessment of evaluation systems. It is evident that the need for evaluation but also its goals, possible consequences and costs are little discussed before these systems are implemented. Furthermore, it appears that allocation models are enforced as an effect of a general trend of a demand for evaluation across many types of activities and organizations rather than as a response to the actual needs of the university in question.