

The Status of Production and Publication of Social Science Books :A Scientometrics Method

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Abstract

With reference to the quantitative amount of publications, social sciences in Iran is accused of negligence and not being coordinated with the rapid rate of production and publication of science. The main issue of the present essay is to determine to what extent this accusation is concerned with social science in Iran considering unbiased objective data.

Considering the literature of sociology of science, on the one hand publication enriches resources of different capitals, and on the other hand it is an instrument for competitive struggle in the world of science and confirming scientific competence. This process is a part of awarding system in scientific communities and an instrument between scientists for scientific interaction, and it introduces the norm of social orientation.

The most important, the quantity and quality of scientific publications show the development of science in every branch or field of human sciences. Due to the fact that science is a live organism, and "life of science" has many similarities to the natural life, the theory of "ecology of science" can offer underlying concepts and metaphors to researchers in order to describe the development of science.

By use of this approach and the "scientometrics" method, this paper seeks to distinguish evolutions in production of science in the field of social sciences in the 2000-2010 decade.

The findings of this study show the main model of production of science in the field of social sciences in our country has been "production of books". In the last decade, 80 per cent of science production belongs to human sciences, and 14.9 percent to social sciences. Regarding the amount of science production, social sciences takes the third place after literature and religion. It indicates the "principle of diversity" in ecology of science that means the production process and ecology of social sciences is based on the pattern of book not the ISI articles. However, this pattern is different in some fields such as chemistry. The results show in the decade under study, the quantitative development of social sciences production accompanies with the quantitative development of other sciences. It demonstrates the "co-evolution" phenomenon in ecology of science.

Other findings show the current situation and the evolution trend of this decade, considering the variables of translation or authorship, from Tehran or other cities, male or female, first print or reprint of social sciences, and other quantitative indexes of publication like circulation, pages, and etc.

Key concepts: social sciences in Iran, scientometrics, ecology of science, science production, production and publication of books, social aspects of science production.