

## **"A map is not the territory"**

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### Abstract

This presentation raises some fundamental questions on bibliometric research with an interdisciplinary approach. The perspective is that of a European humanities scholar and librarian as a member of a mathematical research project. With the Web of Science data and the free data set Open Alex, we have two extensive data sets at our disposal, which we can now analyze in their entirety with the appropriate computing capacities. Citation graphs can be constructed and used for bibliometric analyses as well as for research purposes. Large-Language Models promise unprecedented possibilities for automatized full-text analytics. The available data represents scientific knowledge across centuries and disciplines. However, how can scientific output be systematized and bundled? A look at history shows that systems of knowledge organization are never neutral. This bias applies to both man-made (library classifications) and machine-generated clusters. In addition, gaps in the databases and different publication cultures in the various academic disciplines pose significant challenges for an interdisciplinary approach. To paraphrase the Polish-American semiotician Alfred Korzybski: 'A map is not the territory,' a model is a model, but not the territory. Nevertheless, nobody will doubt the usefulness of a map. Therefore, what criteria do we use to judge the usefulness of models, and do old evaluation criteria such as precision and recall still play a role here?