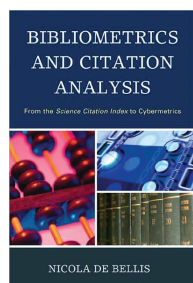


BOOKS

Bibliometrics and Citation Analysis: From the Science Citation Index to Cybermetrics. Nicola De Bellis. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2009, 415 pages, Kindle™ edition, \$39.



As stated in the preface, De Bellis intends to “make citation analysis a less unfriendly subject” and succeeds admirably, given its rather complex nature. The book provides a comprehensive introductory treatment of the history, theory, and application of citation analysis. Several chapters trace the historical foundations of bibliometrics, providing the reader with an informative overview of the origins and evolution of methods used for quantifying the immense body of knowledge in the sciences and related disciplines through citation analysis. Some historical examples include the impact factor being developed in the early 1960s by Garfield and Sher, a 1977 paper analyzing authors’ self-citation practices (which can be an “impact-reinforcing mechanism,” according to De Bellis), and Gregor Mendel’s experiments with pea plants in the mid-1800s. De Bellis uses Mendel as an example of how research that is ahead of its time can experience a delay in citation, not being cited by others in the first year or two of publication (as with most research) but rather many years later.

Chapter 6 deals with the evaluation of scientists based on citation analysis, particularly the impact factor. Potential limitations and useful applications of the impact factor are covered, as well as the peer-review process; ideally, the correlation between citation scores and independent appraisal by peers would be positive. Readers should remember that any journal’s impact factor must be used in context with other variables, never as a stand-alone measure of quality or importance to its field. In addition, a journal’s impact factor may be skewed if one of its articles is disproportionately cited compared to the rest; for example, the cancer statistics article published annually in *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* always is referenced heavily in many other articles.

De Bellis stresses the irreplaceable role of usage statistics kept by librarians—a journal’s usage will have greater bearing on the decision to purchase, renew, or cancel than its impact factor.

De Bellis does not cover Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) publications, but the book *Advancing Oncology Nursing Science* includes a table showing the most frequently cited articles authored by distinguished researchers from 1992–2008, based on an Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) citation report (Varricchio, 2009). A 1997 article for which 2006 Distinguished Researcher Lesley F. Degner was lead author was cited 372 times. In addition, the *Oncology Nursing Forum* (ONF) was accepted for inclusion in the ISI databases in 2004 and eventually had its first impact factor of 1.475 derived in 2007. In 2008, ONF’s impact factor increased to 2.207, ranking it third of 60 journals in the nursing category of the journal citation reports.

The final chapter covers cybermetrics, or the Web citation structure based on hyperlinks. De Bellis notes the inherent advantages of markup languages and the way they allow readers to move from a cited work to its full-text via electronic journals and databases. Google Scholar™ and Scopus™ are noted as examples of competitors to ISI products. Various ranking algorithms and systems are discussed for Web pages in general. A section on citations in e-journals and open archives draws attention to a fundamental problem; a selection criterion for sources used in the book was “free online availability,” but obviously any true examination of publishing metrics should not be restricted to sources that are available freely, considering the massive number of electronic publications only available to paid subscribers.

Another problem endemic to the Web is the “instability” or failure of cited URLs to remain retrievable over time. Many studies have confirmed—and continue to confirm—that a high percentage of Web citations eventually become unavailable. Some studies are specific to the accuracy of Web citations in the nursing literature (Oermann, Nordstrom, Ineson, & Wilmes, 2008).

Because De Bellis’s book does not cover the nursing discipline, briefly recounting some publications that address topics of interest to ONS members or the oncology nursing community within this review

seemed warranted. An encyclopedic entry by D’Auria (2006) provides a general overview of bibliometrics in the context of nursing literature. Several articles published in 2009 apply a bibliometric analysis to various nursing-, health-, and oncology-related subjects (Anderson, Keenan, & Jones, 2009; Bankson, 2009; Choi, Fuller, & Thomas, 2009). In addition, most articles in the June 2009 issue of *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* are devoted to citation analysis, including an exploration of the ISI Journal Citation Reports (Bensman & Leydesdorff, 2009) and an examination of participation in professional conferences or workshops as a committee or session chair or member, invited speaker, or award winner (Jeong, Lee, & Kim, 2009).

This text was reviewed using the Kindle™ (Amazon.com, Inc.). Simply figuring out the best way to hold it without accidentally pushing the Next Page or Previous Page buttons on both sides of the device proved surprisingly problematic, as did quickly jumping to a particular page via the index or the keyword searching function. However, having the ability to search for a particular term was appreciated. Overall, e-book readers have advantages, such as being able to store and transport many books at a time and download content immediately. That said, e-book readers remain inferior to print books purely from a reading standpoint—print pages are preferable to an electronic screen, as is holding an entire book rather than just a very small portion (i.e., only that which is viewable on the screen). In addition, print books can be loaned to others, but one may be more reluctant to loan an entire Kindle. Finally, the well-publicized incident of Amazon remotely deleting books from customers’ Kindles and other restrictive aspects of the Kindle license agreement and terms of use have been reported.

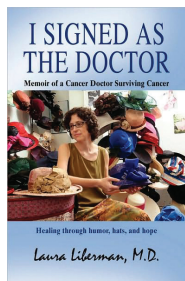
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I Signed as the Doctor: Memoir of a Cancer Doctor Surviving Cancer. Laura Liberman. Bangor, ME: Booklocker Inc., 2009, softcover, 232 pages, \$15.



This creative, inspiring, humorous, and realistic insight into the cancer journey is a gift for patients and professionals alike. For patients, Liberman portrays how to “live with cancer” by thriving, not

just surviving, under formidable physical and emotional challenges. For oncology doctors, nurses, social workers, and other members of the interdisciplinary team, Liberman teaches invaluable lessons.

Liberman is an eminent radiologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Liberman had worked at the esteemed cancer center for 17 years prior to diagnosis, and she received treatment in her work setting. Now post-treatment and undergoing maintenance therapy, Liberman continues to work at the center with new insights, exclaiming, “Cancer has given me that!”

Liberman’s symptoms included numbness and heaviness in her left arm with loss of dexterity, impeding her skillful work. Her final diagnosis would cause even the most experienced professionals to pause for breath: aggressive and widely disseminated lymphoma of the

lymph nodes, bone marrow, spinal cord, and central nervous system, with a 50% chance of remission. Liberman openly and honestly invites readers into her heart and soul as she attempts to process a changed life and unknown future. Statements in the first chapter instantly draw readers into Liberman’s world: “I must have thought being a doctor, wearing that white coat, confers immunity—like cancer is something that happens to other people, and couldn’t possibly happen to me.” She adds, “When they brought me the consent form . . . I signed the wrong part—I signed as the doctor, because that’s where I always sign,” thus providing the title of the book.

Liberman uses e-mail correspondence to share her journey, with the majority written to Jen, a dear friend whom she calls her “gentle reader.” This format makes the book very accessible to patients who may find informative texts on cancer intimidating and complex. Each e-mail begins with the subject category, which emphasize the daily trials and tribulations that Liberman faced. Subjects range from truly serious (e.g., “Telling the Kids”) to lighthearted (e.g., “Oh Me Omay”). Each subject relays a lesson on topics that include the distressing impact of integrating the cancer experience into the reality of the patient’s own psyche, family life, relationships, and occupation across the continuum. Other e-mails involve reframing the positive in life by changing priorities, celebrating life because “it’s not all about the cancer,” and using humor as a vehicle for healing and self-reflection.

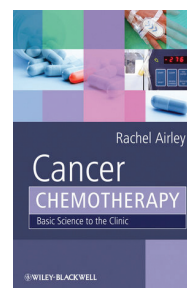
The chapter subheadings also share a message, such as “Hats and Silver Linings: Look at This as an Opportunity to Get New Hats.” On the cover, Liberman poses in a New York hat studio, showing the distinctive, individual, and colorful hats she could choose from prior to chemotherapy-induced alopecia. Throughout the book, Liberman reminds readers to celebrate life’s gifts and special activities, stressing these points by describing the particular hat she wears for treasured events, such as her husband’s birthday or attending the theater with her young daughter. The book pulls at the heartstrings—

Liberman does not hesitate to describe her fears, anxieties, and post-treatment depression and transition. Most importantly, Liberman discusses the silver linings of her cancer journey: advocating for pain management, the joys of “special readers” and “guardian angels” who join family and friends to offer support and encouragement, and the celebration of life itself.

Nancy Jo Bush, RN, MN, MA, AOCN®, is an oncology nurse practitioner and assistant clinical professor and lecturer in the School of Nursing at the University of California in Los Angeles.

NEW RELEASES

Cancer Chemotherapy: Basic Science to the Clinic. Rachel Airley. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, 2009, 342 pages, \$50.



Cancer Chemotherapy is a clear and accessible introduction to the scientific and clinical aspects of the creation, development, and administration of drugs and drug regimens used in the treatment of

cancer. The text enables students to gain an understanding of the pathologic, physiologic, and molecular processes that govern malignancy while introducing the roles of health professionals and scientists in the research and treatment of cancer. The book consolidates all essential information necessary for a full understanding of cancer chemotherapy, providing informative and up-to-date coverage of the subject aimed at undergraduate-level readership.

Featured descriptions of books and other media in New Releases are provided by publishers to alert readers to recent or forthcoming resources only and have not been reviewed independently for the *Oncology Nursing Forum*. Associate Editor Gerald Bennett, PhD, APRN, FAAN, can be reached at pubONF@ons.org, with copy to editor at ONFEditor@ons.org.

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