

The World Wide Web of Science: and Global Issues: Reconfiguring Access to Information

Ralph Schroeder, Alexandre Caldas,
Gustavo Mesch, William Dutton

Oxford Internet Institute, Oxford University,
UK

Ralph Schroeder@oii.ox.ac.uk

World Wide Web of Science Background

- Science in Society programme
- Lomborg and other World Priorities
- Edgerton: uses of technology (...and knowledge)
- Knowledge on the Web and the Internet: who accesses?
- A novel way to study access to knowledge

World Wide Web of Science Research Questions

- Main hypothesis: winner takes all
- Matthew effect (Merton)
- Natural versus Social Science (Nentwich)
- Method; triangulation
- Quality or quantity of online knowledge?
- 'Use' as hits and as online participation?
- Does the web and the internet reshape access to expertise?

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Research Questions and Approach

- Globalization?
- Democratization, reinforcement, or winner-takes-all?
- Webmetric analysis – size, connectivity, density, relation inbound and outbound
- Interviews and case studies: combination of online resources used, and evaluation of these

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Interviews 'Climate Change' and 'Internet and Society'

- Use of Google
- Known Researcher's sites
- Access via other sources (newspapers, journals)
- Use of combinations of resources
- Shift in search behaviour
- Interviewees unable to discern winner-take-all

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Webmetric analysis 'Climate Change' and 'Internet and Society'

- 150 URL's selected
- Power law outdegree connectivity
- Low value for density, some 'cliques'

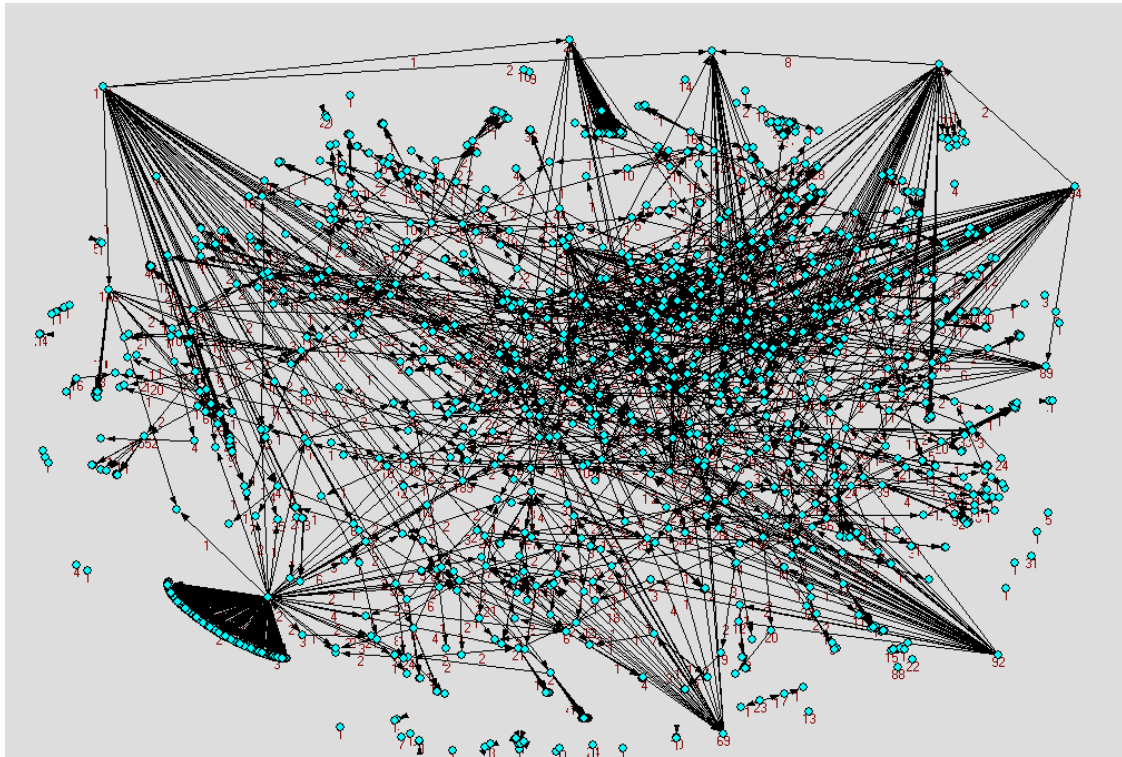
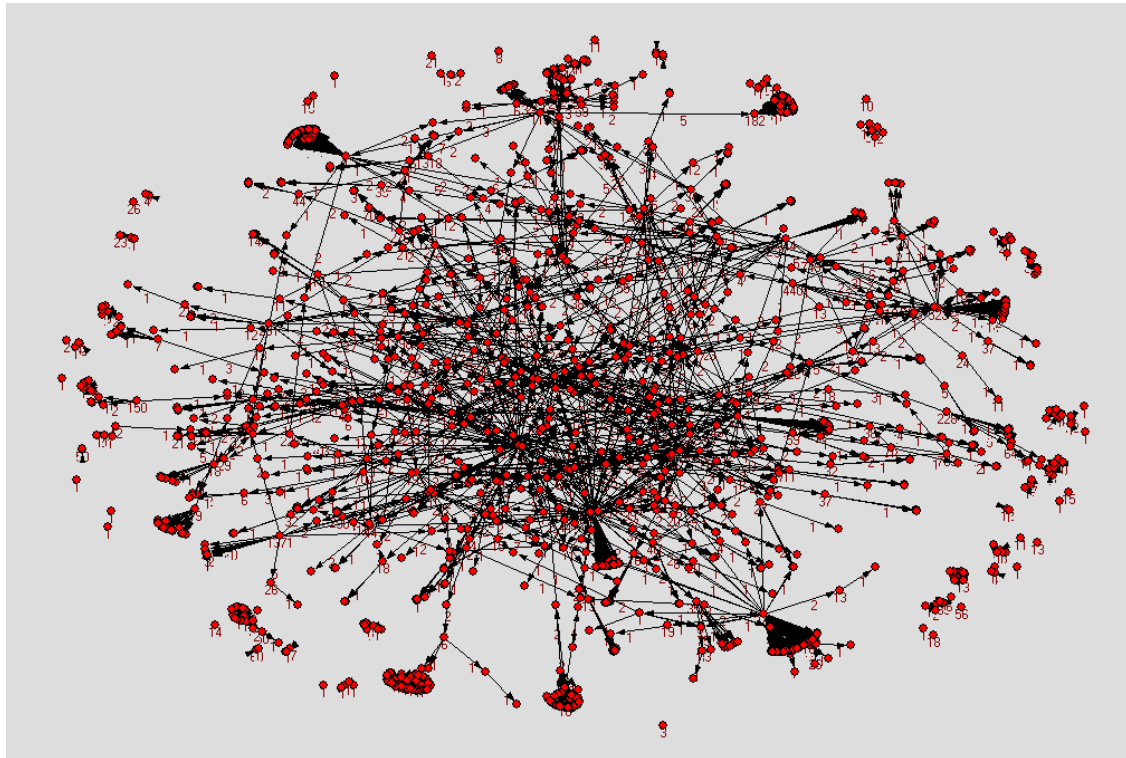
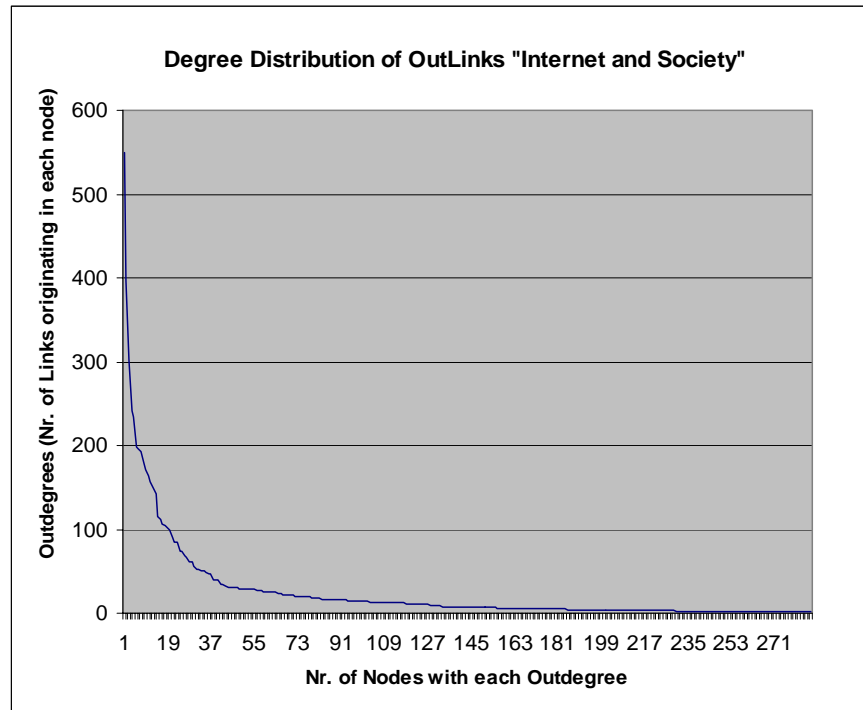


Figure 1. Web space graph of 150 URLs about 'Climate Change'



•Figure 2. Webmetric Results for “Internet and Society



• Figure 3. Outdegree Distribution for Internet and Society Network

WWWoS Future Research

Limited research so far, and support for all hypotheses, so...

- Webmetric analysis – how far can this take us?
- interviews, or expert panels?
- Google rankings?
- Other sources (usegroups,...)?
- future research