In the presentation we will discuss a number of issues related to the application of bibliometric analysis in research assessment contexts, particular when it comes to the evaluation of scholarly activity in the social sciences, the humanities, and law (SSH&L). The issues we will discuss relate to the language of publications and coverage issues, which play a role while discussing the application of bibliometrics in the assessment of research and scholarly activity in the SSH&L. From a wider international perspective, we will further focus on German research performance in the social sciences, humanities, and law, over a period of nearly 30 years how coverage issues and language of publication have influenced scholarly activity and the international visibility of research output in these domains when written in German.

A next topic we will discuss relates to the application of metrics based upon citation analysis. More specifically we will focus on different function references have in the field of historical research, and the consequences this difference has in the light of research assessment in that field when discussing classical bibliometric techniques. Finally, when there is some time left, we will discuss the problems of the two most often used bibliometric indicators, the Journal Impact Factor and h-index as indicators representative of a certain publication culture, and as such not applicable in SSH&L.

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