Preface

The 10th International Conference on Scientometrics and Informetrics was held in Stockholm (Sweden) in July 2005. The Conference was organised under the auspices of the International Society of Scientometrics and Informetrics (ISSI), and was co-chaired by Umeå University, and Borås University College, Sweden. The meeting was hosted by the Karolinska Institute. The previous nine events in this series of biannual international conferences on Scientometrics and Informetrics have been held in Belgium (1987), Canada (1989), India (1991), Germany (1993), USA (1995), Israel (1997), Mexico (1999), Australia (2001) and China (2003).

The conference attracted about 190 scientists representing 33 countries from all five continents. Almost 80 talks covering all sub-disciplines of our field were delivered. The editors of this special issue for the journal *Scientometrics* have decided to select twenty papers, that is, about one quarter of all presented contributions, for publication in this dedicated issue. Most of these articles are extended versions of those presented at the conference, reflecting comments given during the conference and another round of peer reviews.

The topics of the papers comprise six important sub-disciplines in topical informetric/scientometric research. These topics include theoretical, methodological informetric issues (BURRELL, SCHNEIDER, LIANG & ROUSSEAU), webometrics and the interaction of electronic communication with scientific productivity (BJÖRNEBORN, VAUGHAN & YOU, KOUSHA & THELWALL, BARJAK), issues of structural scientometrics such as the mapping of science at different levels (SMALL, PERSSON, KLAVANS & BOYACK, BÖRNER ET AL., VAN DEN BESSELAAR & HEIMERIKS), collaboration in science (YOSHIKANE ET AL., LARIVIÈRE ET AL.), indicator development and the evaluation of research at different levels of aggregation (BASU, VINKLER, BORNEMANN & DANIEL), the exploration of the coverage of bibliographic databases for evaluative purposes (ARCHAMBAULT ET AL., GLÄNZEL ET AL.) and policy-relevant questions of the linkage between science and technology (MEYER).

During the closing ceremony, the Conference Committee transferred the official organisational duties to the organisers of the next ISSI Conference to be held in Madrid (Spain) in summer 2007.

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