

Title	On the Use of the Grants-in-Aid Classification System to Analyze the Department Level Scientific Publications of a University
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Description	一般講演要旨

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On the Use of the Grants-in-Aid Classification System to Analyze the Department Level Scientific Publications of a University 科研費分野分類を用いた大学の部局別研究論文業績の分析について

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Abstract

This study explores the utility of the KAKEN-L3 schema, based on the Grants-in-Aid disciplinary classification available in InCites™ analytical tool since 2015, using a subset of 13,519 core journal articles and reviews published during 2009-2013 by a comprehensive Japanese research university. A qualitative comparison of the findings using the new scheme with those derived from several others (ESI 22 fields, WoS 251 categories, OECD Frascati 38 fields) and SCOPUS (27 areas, ASJC 333 categories) using partial datasets for selected department has been also given. The KAKEN-L3 schema provides new insights into the disciplinary contributions, particularly by discriminating the fundamental versus applied research as well as cross-disciplinary research of the university. Its use results in comparatively large number of documents per disciplinary category, leading to large differences in interpretation depending on the mode of counting (whole and fractional). This fact requires due consideration while using the data for benchmarking/evaluation purposes.

Keywords: Bibliometry; KAKEN schema; Cross-disciplinarity; Web of Science; Scopus

1. Introduction

Grants-in-Aid or the KAKENHI - the largest competitive funding program in Japan accounting for more than 50% of all competitive funding by the government, support the research at universities and research institutions across Japan covering all fields from the humanities to the social sciences and natural sciences, and aim at creative, pioneering scientific research from basic to applied fields (MEXT, 2017). Until FY2017, submissions to KAKENHI were made in 321 fields subdivided into 432 screening divisions organized hierarchically into 4 levels. National Institution of Informatics (NII) and Thomson Reuters jointly developed the KAKEN (the KAKENHI awards articles database (<https://kaken.nii.ac.jp/en/>)) to Web of Science (WoS) category-to-category mapping system (Web of Science, 2017) using a bottom up approach of matching the KAKEN and the WoS core collection journal articles. The KAKEN Schema, with KAKEN-L2 10 categories and KAKEN-L3 66 categories (2007 version), is available in InCites™ since 2015. In the latter, single WoS Category can be assigned multiple KAKEN categories, and vice versa.

In order to exploit the benefits offered by the new KAKEN-L3 schema, this study analyses a representative set of peer-reviewed publications from a university for the whole university and its departments, dedicated to science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine.

2. Publications Data and Methods of Analysis

This study uses a subset of 13,519 articles & reviews, published by researchers of a comprehensive and research-intensive university during 2009-2013, indexed in both WoS and SCOPUS databases. The subset was previously assigned to the department(s) (research unit(s) such as graduate school, research institute/center etc.), and disciplines using ESI 22 fields, OECD Frascati scheme and SCOPUS 27 subject area, and studied for the mutual relationships (Gautam 2015, 2016). It is newly analysed using KAKEN-L3 categories for university-level disciplinary profile, department level disciplinary profiles, and comparison with profiles obtained using other broader (such as ESI22, Scopus 27 and OECD Frascati) and newly derived

finer (WoS 251 and SCOPUS 333) disciplinary schemas. Document-level KAKEN-L3 schema and WoS 251 categories assignments and aggregation of bibliometric data involved the use of InCites™ Benchmarking module accessed on April 16, 2017. Document to article assignments for the SCOPUS SAC and ASJC categories used the Elsevier’s Scopus Source List (2016).

3. Results of Disciplinary Analysis

3.1. Frequency analysis for KAKEN-L3 schema

Simple frequency analysis of the 13,519 documents in terms of KAKEN- L3 schema for 44 categories, related to areas other than the social sciences, arts and humanities (in which the publications recorded in WoS and Scopus are too few), and yielding documents exceeding ca. 0.1% of the total are shown in Fig. 1.

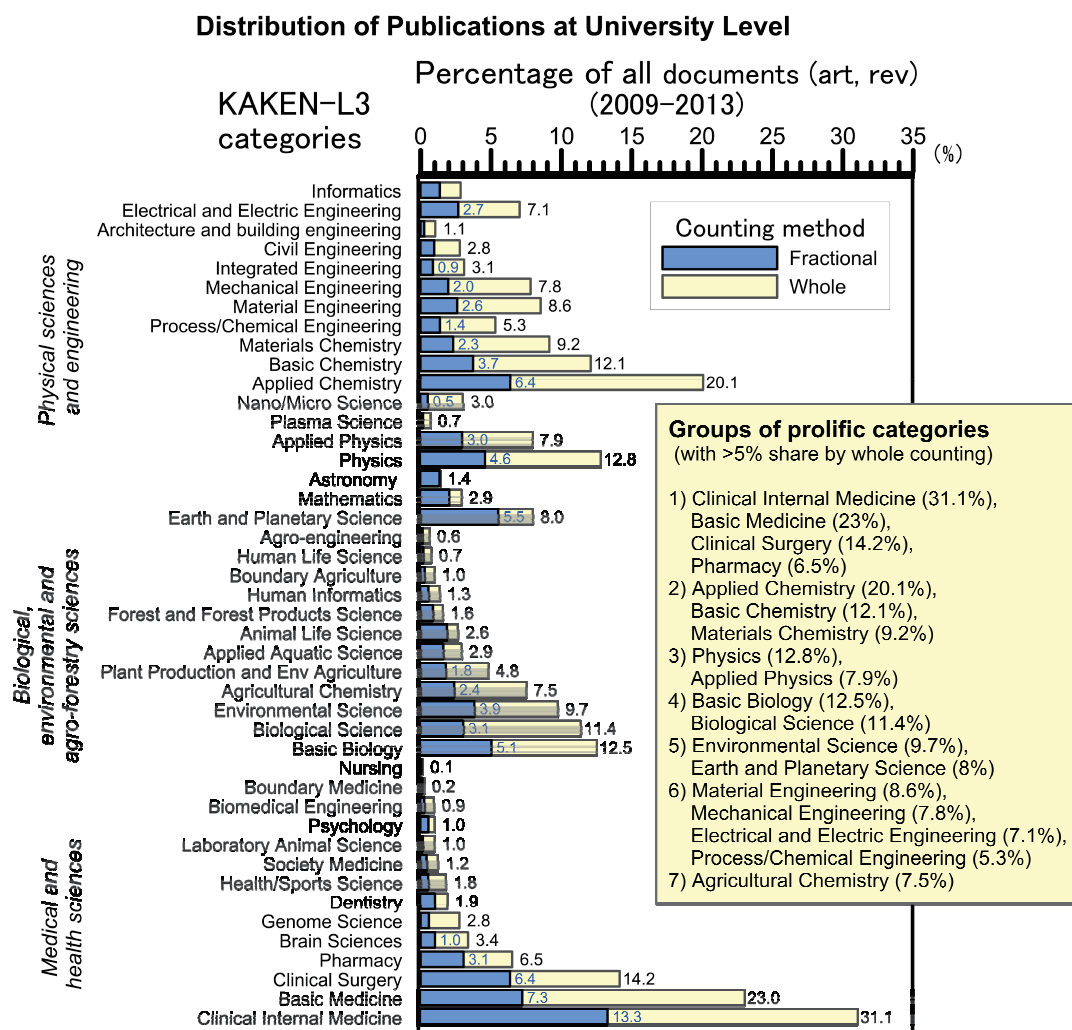


Figure 1. Whole & fractional counting percent shares of publications by KAKEN-L3 category related to natural sciences, engineering and medicine, and the prolific categories with affinity of >5% documents by whole counting.

Setting a threshold for prolific categories at 5% by whole counting, the dataset can be interpreted for category-wise strengths under 7 areas listed in the box (Fig. 1). Within the prolific groups, the order of publication volume is generally preserved also in fractional counting mode, except that ‘Earth and Planetary Science’ becomes more prolific than the ‘Environmental Science’ in the 5th group. The percentage value for a particular category obtained by whole counting is 3 times higher, in average, than that obtained by fractional counting, and thus it reflects only a partial affinity of the documents to that category. In contrast, the fractional counting may underestimate the actual contribution of certain categories.

3.2. Department-discipline relationships and their visualization

The number of documents assigned to each KAKEN-L3 category was determined at the level of 23 departments producing at least 10 documents for further analysis. The percentage share of publications in each discipline was calculated for each department to obtain a contingency table of publication counts with row (disciplines) and column (departments) and analysed to reveal the following clusters.

Dpt 1: AGR (agriculture); FISH (fisheries); FLSC (field-based sciences)

Dpt 2: EES (environmental sciences); ILTS (low-T earth & environmental studies), MUSE (geo-biosciences)

Dpt 3: CRIS (creative transdisciplinary sciences); SCI (natural sciences)

Dpt 4: CRC (catalytic chemistry); GCSE (chemical sciences & engineering); ENGG (engineering); RIES (electronic science)

Dpt 5: GIST (information science & technology); RCIQE (quantum electronics)

Dpt 6: CIIS (isotope science); HLTS (health sciences); IGM (genetic medicine); MEDH (medicine); LFSC (life sciences); PHARM (pharmacology & pharmacy), DENT (dentistry)

Dpt 7: RCZC (zoonotic infections); VETM (veterinary medicine)

Identical hierarchical clustering for the KAKEN-L3 categories as variables identified 7 clusters that were used with Dpt 1-7 to determine the relative positions of the variables (departments and disciplines) in the stacked bar diagram for better visualization of their relationships (Fig. 2).

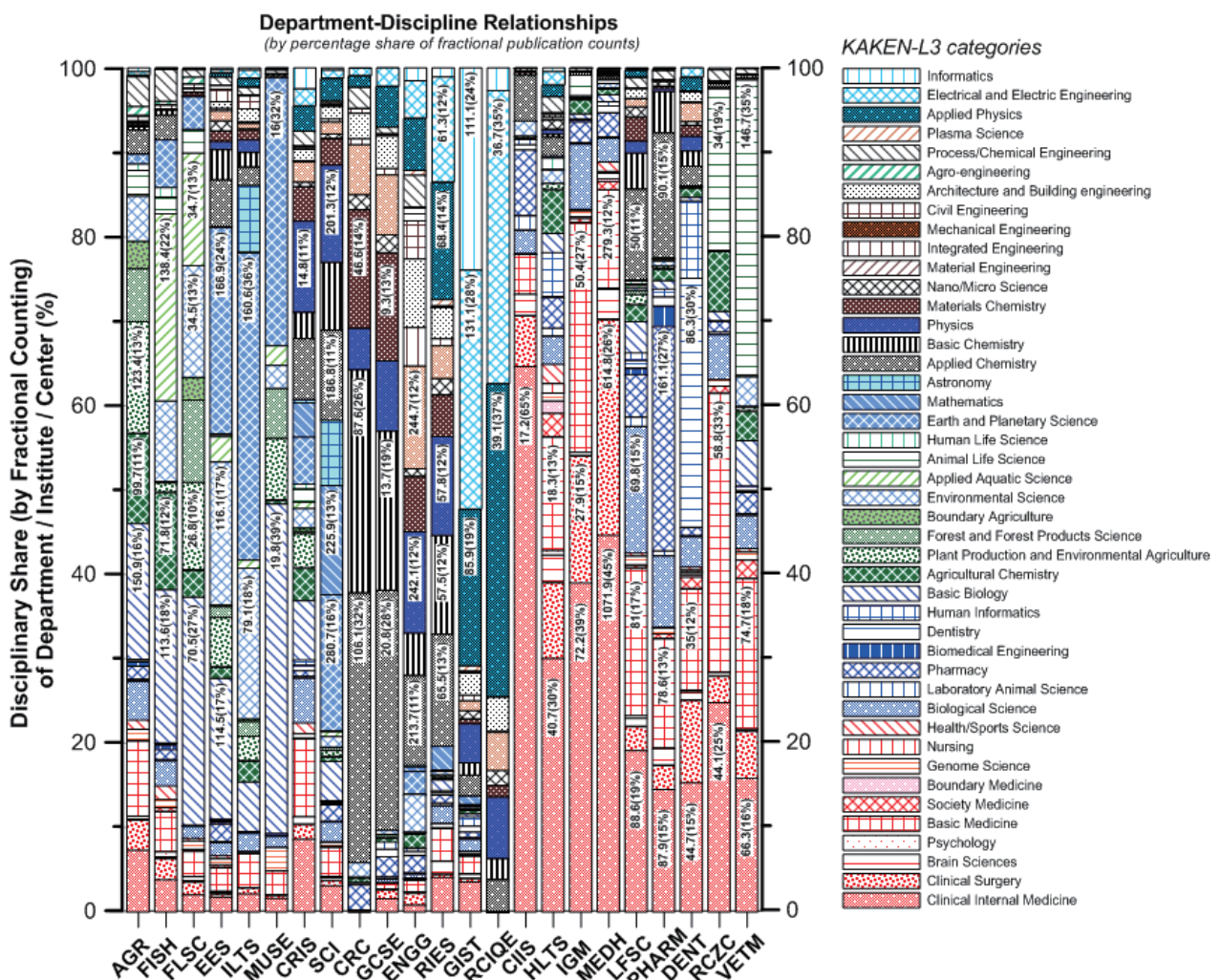


Figure 2. Stacked bars plot for visualization of department-discipline relationships.

3.3. Comparative analysis of disciplinary assignments by various schemas at department level

Different disciplinary profiles have been compiled for ENGG department as one of the largest document producers and promoters of cross-disciplinary research (Fig. 3). Four different disciplinary profiles and simple disciplinary correlations using whole counts are considered.

Due to the differences in the assignment modes (e.g., single discipline based on journal for ESI 22 but multiple disciplines for the others), varying numbers of disciplines (22 to 66) and therefore the scale of aggregation represented by each of them dependent of the schema, and the subjective nature of assignments and differing definitions of the disciplines even with identical names, straightforward comparison of the profiles is difficult. Nevertheless, joint considerations of these results from various schemas, even the visual assessment, provide insights on the overall nature of research at the level of different entities.

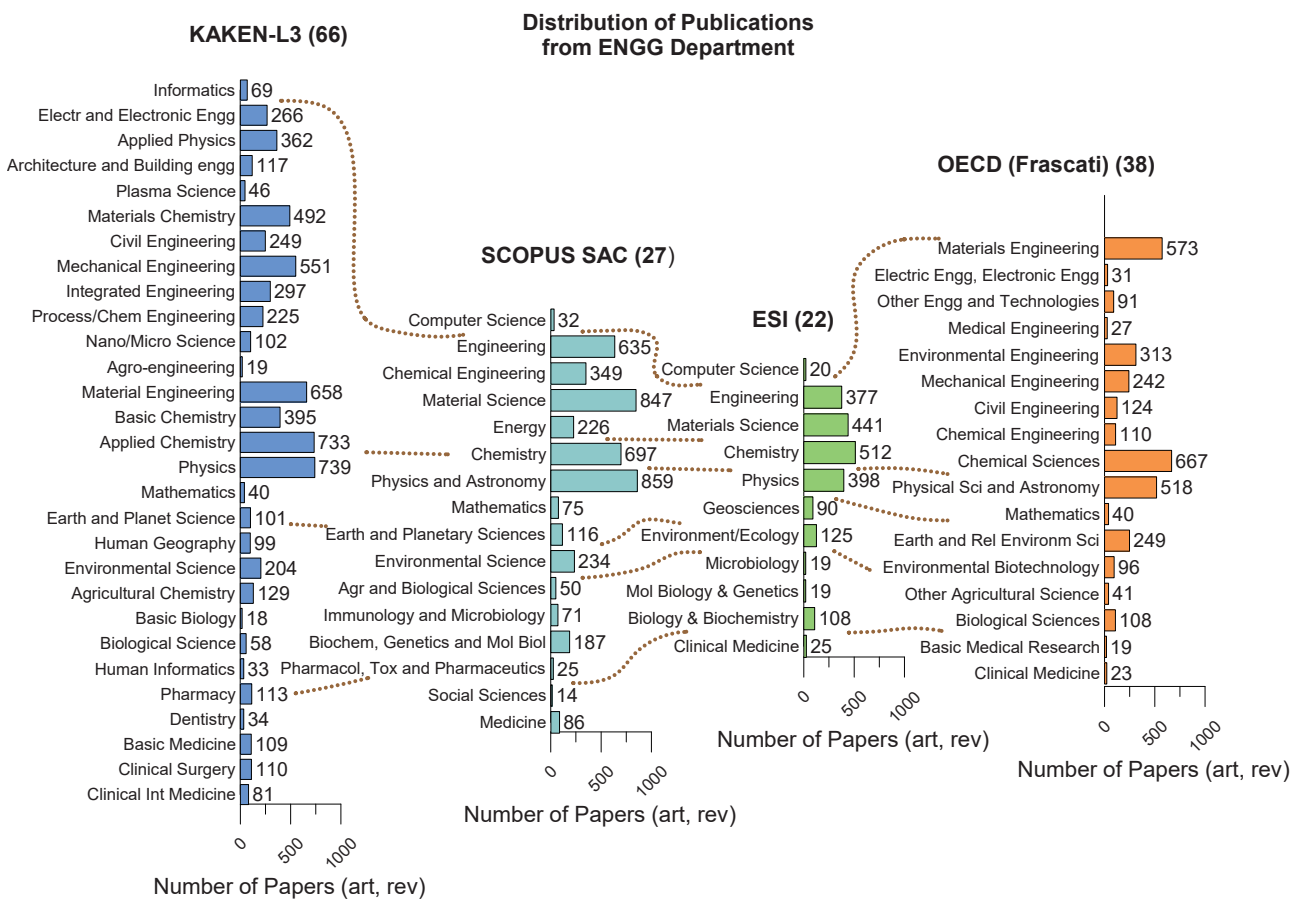


Figure 3. Compilation of four different disciplinary profiles for the same department (ENGG) using the number of documents (in brackets) obtained by whole counting method. The disciplines (fields/subject areas or categories) shown have a minimum of 0.1% of the total (13,519) documents. The dotted lines separate broadly similar sectors comprising several disciplines in each scheme.

Mathematics is the discipline with exactly the same name in all 4 schemas (Fig. 4). It is absent in the ESI schema that assigns “only one discipline to one document based on journal” implying that ENGG researchers do not submit articles to purely mathematical journals. In contrast, the number of documents for mathematics in OECD (Frascati) and KAKEN-L3 is same (40), while it is nearly double (75) in the SCOPUS 27 schema owing to multiple disciplinary assignments such that documents related to mathematical theme as a part of cross-disciplinary research are captured by these schemas. Concerning categories related to materials science, ESI has the lowest number (441), OECD (Frascati) has 573 (in the Material Engineering category) but higher numbers characterize SCOPUS 27 (847) and KAKEN-L3 (658 in Material Chemistry, 492 in Material Engineering) schemas. Physics, chemistry and many engineering disciplines are comparatively more differentiated (e.g., into basic, applied etc.) in KAKEN-L3. When viewed several categories together,

KAKEN-L3 assignments are higher than in OECD (Frascati), SCOPUS, and ESI schemas. An anomalous feature seems to be the presence of clearly high number of documents in medical and health sciences categories (e.g., Clinical Internal Medicine, Clinical Surgery, Basic Medicine, Pharmacy) in KAKEN-L3 than in other schemas.

Although the number of documents in each disciplinary category seems logical, the number of disciplines/categories assigned to each document is very high. This is true for both the university and department as well. This reasoning is related to the average values, but in reality, several fields are more prolific than others, and their behavior may have unexpected effect on the whole dataset.

A strong feature of the KAKEN-L3 schema seems to be its ability to detect the presence of clearly defined applied fields such as applied physics, applied chemistry, applied aquatic science that are very useful in understanding their links to the departments particularly in the case of the university considered.

3.4. Comparative analysis using several schemes

The present subset of documents has been tested for additional disciplinary profiles analysis using two popular finer-scale schemas: WoS 251 and SCOPUS 333. The scale (the number of disciplines and scope of each of them) and definition (subjective nature) mentioned earlier becomes more pronounced while comparing the results from 6 different schemas. Any comparative assessment spanning across these schemas is going to be largely descriptive justified only if such analysis has immediate practical relevance. At this point, therefore, only a general analysis based on the results for the university and a single department, i.e. ENGG is presented in Fig. 4.

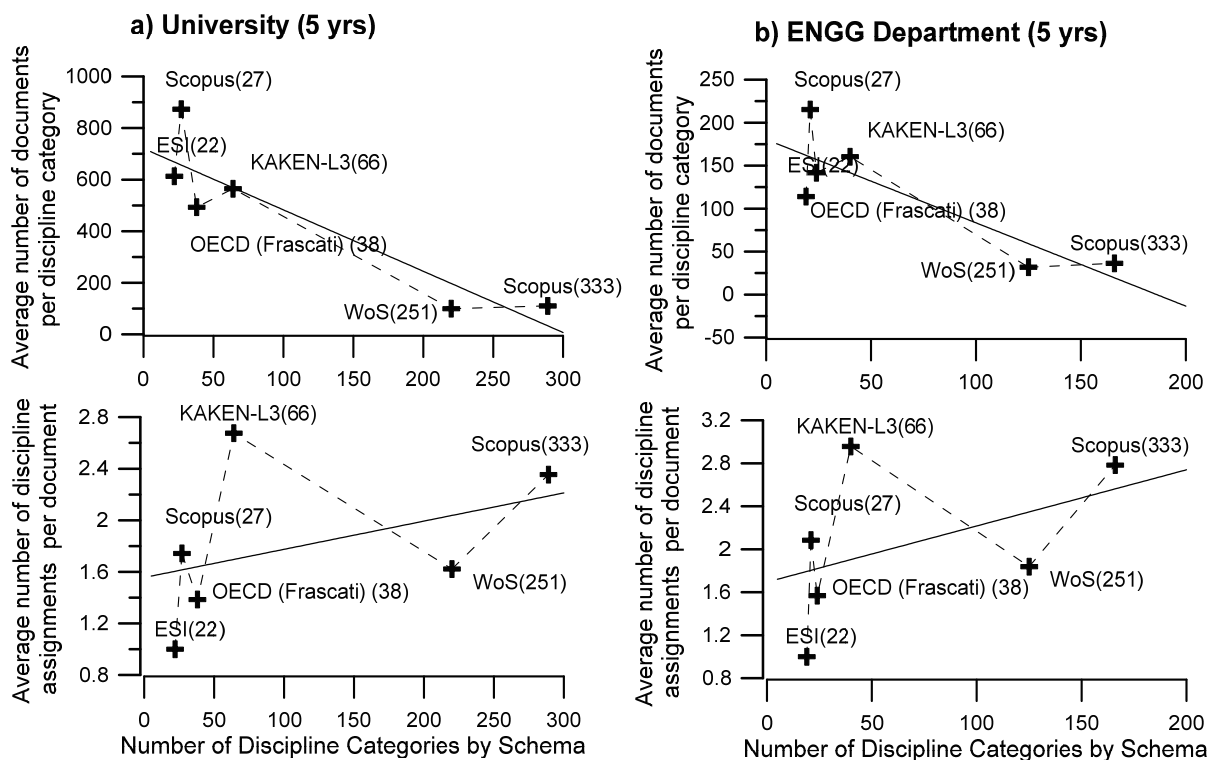


Figure 4. Comparison of six different disciplinary schemas for the differences in the disciplinary assignments at university (left) and the ENGG department (right) levels. The vertical axes are the average number of discipline assignments per document (lower plots) and the average number of documents per discipline category (upper plots). The position of the schema along the horizontal axes is determined by the number of actual categories assigned to the university (left plots) and ENGG department (right plots). The solid lines are the linear fits showing the average tendencies obtained by line-fitting. The large deviation from the average tendency towards the higher number of disciplinary assignments per document in the KAKEN-L3 schema is noteworthy.

4. Concluding Remarks

Addition of functionality of the KAKEN-L3 schema for discipline-level bibliometric analysis in the InCites™ (formerly owned by Thomson Reuters but now by Clarivate Analytics) analytical tool is an important milestone. Because of the long history of usage of the Grants-in-Aid fields for screening the research grant proposals and building the research themes and large scale projects, whose contributions serve as the foundation for creating new research units (such as laboratories, research centers and cross-disciplinary departments), the research output of various research entities at the Japanese universities and institutions can naturally be better measured and interpreted with the KAKEN-L3 schema, and this study actually explored just that with real data. The new schema is capable to better differentiate the applied sciences from the fundamental ones and their relationship with the departments. However, the possibility of overestimation of the research volume based on the whole counting compared to the other schemas at the level of research entity involving a lower degree of aggregation across disciplines should be taken into account. Likewise, owing to the comparatively large average number of disciplinary categories per document, the possibility of false positives (i.e., disciplinary assignments not related to the actual content of the scientific publication) are possible but the extent to which this applies needs further investigation (Bartol et al., 2016; Glänzel, W. & Schubert, 2003). Finally, it is hoped that the NII and Clarivate Analytics™ will consider revisions and further expansion of the existing KAKEN schema to align it with the FY2018 reform of the KAKENHI screening system that envisages 11 broad sections, 64 medium-sized sections, and 300+ basic sections (see: http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-grantsinaid/03_keikaku/data/h30/review_section_table.pdf).

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