Information Web

Janet Webster, OSU Libraries

Patricia Merrikin, FAO Libraries

Jean Collins, FAO Libraries

Exploit vs. Explore

➢ Fishing down the food web
- Increased exploitation destroys ecology.

➢ Fishing through the food web
- Increased exploitation increases complexity.

➢ Searching down the web
- Most accessible is exploited.

➢ Searching through the web
- Exploring leads to more information.

The Challenge

➢ Can greater exploitation of all layers of information support science and more informed management of natural resources?
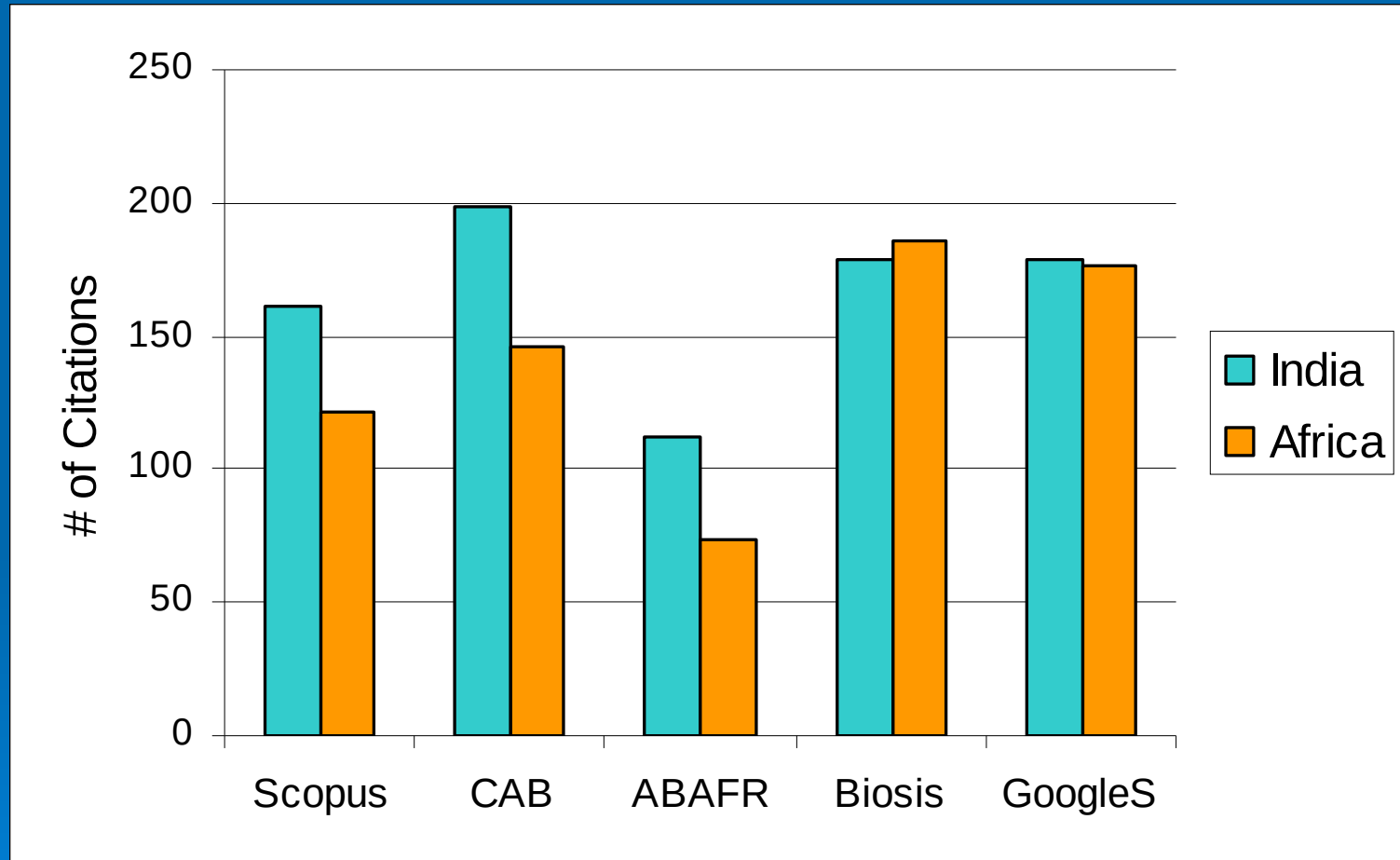
Our Approach

➢ What information is visible?

  • What tools find what information?

  • Who is writing it?

  • Where do they publish it?

➢ What information is accessible?

  • Is it electronic?
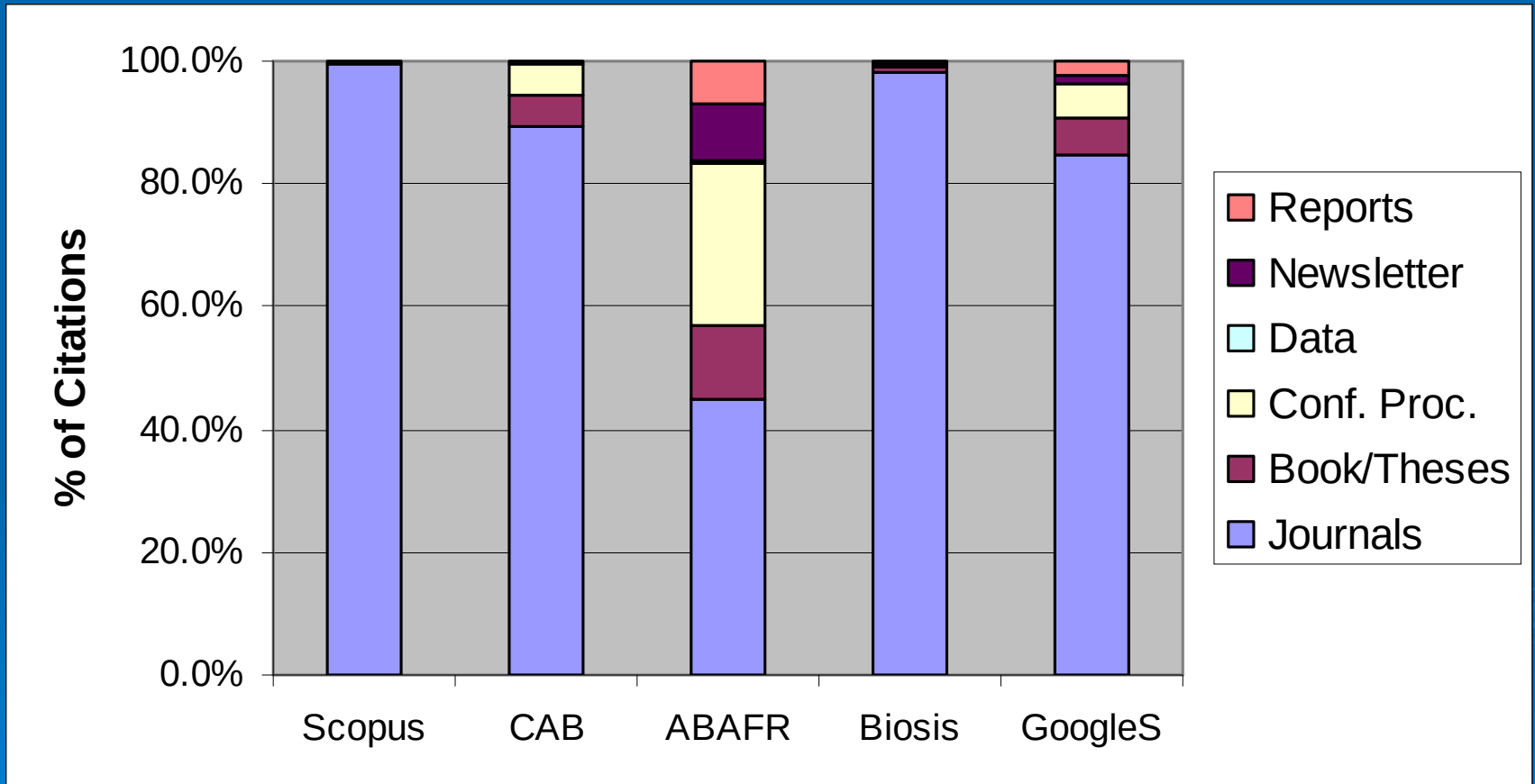
  • Is it publicly accessible?

The Searching Tools

➢ *Aquatic Biology, Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources (ABAFR)*

➢ *Biosis*

➢ *CAB*

➢ *GoogleScholar*

➢ *Scopus*

What tools find what information?

What does each tool find?

Patterns in the Visible

Location of 1st Author	India (subject)	Africa (subject)
Africa	0.3%	47.7%
Europe	8.7%	37.8%
India	83.9%	1.4%

Place of Publication	India (subject)	Africa (subject)
Africa	0.0%	18.5%
Europe	34.5%	64.1%
India	49.6%	1.7%

Another Pattern in the Visible

Affiliation of 1st Author		
	India (subject)	Africa (subject)
University	51.4%	64.9%
Research Institute	36.6%	24.9%

Increasing Visibility

➢ What remains invisible?

- Coverage of regional journals
- Discovery of local reports
- Harvesting of repositories

➢ What are the trends in authorship?

➢ Are there patterns in the subjects?

Increasing Accessibility
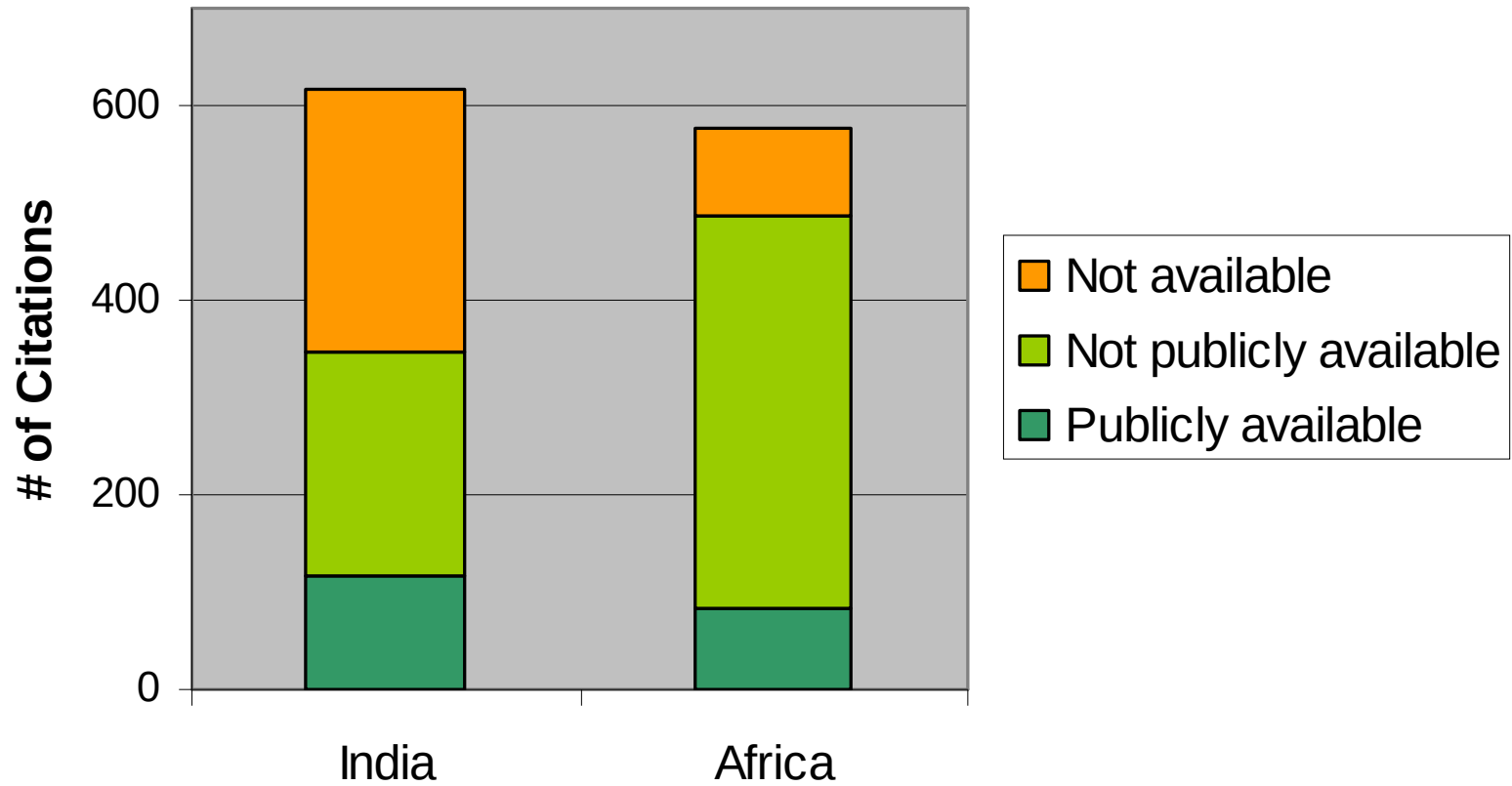
Searching Through the Web

- Increase visibility
  - Search through all the available tools
  - Promote tools that reveal more layers
- Increase accessibility
  - Encourage tools to link to the accessible
  - Identify authors and influence their attitudes about publishing & communication
  - Support use of digital repositories
- Increase complexity