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Abstract

Bibliometric evaluations of research outputs in the Social Sciences and Humanities are challenging due to limitations associated with Web of Science data; however background literature shows that scholars are interested in stimulating improvements. We give special attention to book reviews processed by Web of Science *History* and *Literature* journals, focusing on two types: Type I (i.e., reference to book only) and Type II (i.e., reference to book and other scholarly sources). Bibliometric data are collected and analyzed for a large set of reviews (1981-2009) to observe general publication patterns and patterns of citedness and co-citedness with books under review. Results show that reviews giving reference only to the book (Type I) are published more frequently, while reviews referencing the book and other works (Type II) are more likely to be cited. The referencing culture of the Humanities makes it difficult to understand patterns of co-citedness between books and review articles without further in-depth content analyses. Overall, citation counts to book reviews are typically low, but our data show that they are scholarly and do play a role in the scholarly communication system. In the disciplines of *History* and *Literature*, where book reviews are prominent, counting the number and type of reviews that a scholar produces throughout his/her is a positive step forward in research evaluations. We propose a new set of journal quality indicators for the purpose of monitoring their scholarly influence.

Introduction.

The purpose of this study is to examine the scholarly role of book reviews and to determine whether or not there are effective methods of including them in bibliometric research evaluations for the Humanities.

Figure 1 below, illustrates two types of book reviews. Review Type I differs from review Type II given that the first includes only a reference to the book that has been reviewed, while the second includes both the book and references to other scholarly sources.

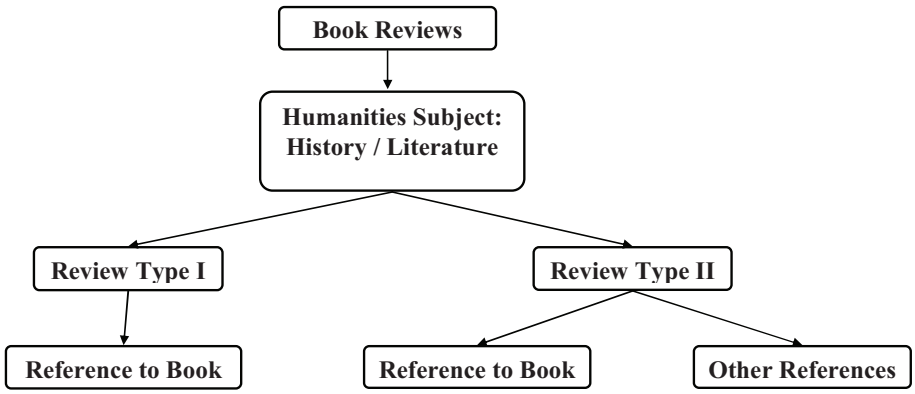

Figure 1. Types of book reviews categorized by references.

There are at least six different ways in which a book review as Type I or Type II may be cited in a journal article. Table 1 lists the citing options below. An author may cite the book review alone, or cite both the review and the book that was reviewed. An author might also cite the review and the book, including some other scholarly references acknowledged in a review.

Table 1. Options for citing a Type I or Type II book review in a journal article.

Types of book reviews	Options for citing a book review
1) Type I	Book Review only
2) Type I	Book Review + Book
3) Type II	Book Review only
4) Type II	Book Review + Book
5) Type II	Book Review + Other References
6) Type II	Book Review + Book + Other References

We are interested in how book reviewing has evolved within a Web of Science context for the database period of 1981 to 2009, and in the first part of our study, we present some general statistics pertaining to the Humanities fields that produce a significant number of book reviews per year. Next, we focus on two leading book reviewing fields – i.e., *History* and *Literature* – retrieve citations to the reviews published in these fields, and identify the reviews that were co-cited with the books. Using both the citation and co-citation data we will determine whether or not it is feasible to utilize book reviews in bibliometric research evaluations, and consider the development of a new indicator for measuring the influence that book reviews have on scholarly communication.

Background literature

Bibliometric evaluations of research outputs in the Social Sciences and Humanities are riddled with drawbacks, yet many scholars have been interested in stimulating improvements. Archambault and Gagné (2004) remind us that bibliometric analyses require large quantities of data and that the pace of theoretical development in the Social Sciences and Humanities can be slower than in the Natural Sciences: the "time required to accumulate citations makes analyses more difficult, particularly when the goal is to assist in decision making and policy setting" (p. 24). Humanities scholars often disseminate information using media other than journals; mainly books (Huang & Chang, 2008), and many contribute to localized outlets, including those directed to the non-scholarly public (Nederhoff, 2006).

Hicks and Wang (2009) as well as Moed et al. (2009) focus on the requirements for creating appropriate data infrastructures for the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH). Hicks and Wang (2009) suggest that it is perhaps best to rely on national research documentation systems, where "universities submit bibliometric records of their publications", thus taking responsibility for data quality, while "agencies then validate and standardize the data" (p. 18). Another recommendation is to persuade publishers to submit records to a "database of published scholarly books with records that include book author affiliation" (Hicks & Wang, 2009, p. 20). Moed et al. (2009) advocate the Web (e.g., Google Scholar) as a source of data for SSH metrics, emphasizing the role of open access and the development of institutional repositories. The authors also comment on the potential for combining a number of special bibliographies across Europe to create one comprehensive SSH database. Last but not least, due to the commercial nature of the Thomson Reuters' Web of Science and Elsevier's Scopus it is plausible to assume that both providers may be willing to expand their SSH coverage.

At present, collecting data from the Web of Science for Humanities evaluations is a challenge. Books are a predominant aspect of this literature and can only be identified with special filtering procedures applied to compiled reference lists (Lewison 2001; 2004). For evaluation purposes, researchers are either bypassing the Web of Science to explore the potential of Library Catalogs as tools for bibliometric analyses (Torres-Salinas & Moed, 2009) or they are turning to Google Books as a resource (Kousha & Thelwall, 2009). Book *reviews*, on the other hand, are processed by the Web of Science, and considerable space is devoted to them in scholarly journals.

Book reviews fit within the realm of scholarly communication because they involve scholarly producers and users, and they are disseminated through formal channels (Borgman, 1990). As a result, the practice of writing book reviews has often been scrutinized (Corada, 1998; J.W., Miranda, 1996). For instance, Glen (1978) suggests that reviews "are not as adequate

for evaluating books and authors as many people seem to think" and that reviewers are not consistently "dispassionate" enough to assess whether or not a newly published book measures up to standards (p. 254). This is due to motives "ranging from altruistic to selfish." Reviewers "may often refrain from publishing their private negative evaluations" or "publish evaluations that are honest but different from the evaluations they would have made" if they had not been asked to write the review in the first place (p. 255).

Glenn's (1978) argument may be made about any type of peer review in academia; thus if a scholar is asked to write a book review, it is his or her responsibility to eliminate personal biases, to ensure that it is a trustworthy piece of information, and to make it publicly accessible (Kling and McKim, 1999). Guidelines, like the Alberta Book Review Writing Guide (2010) can help the scholar to accomplish what is expected: "rather than a simple summary of a book's contents, a review is a critical essay. Its purpose is not to prove that you read the book... but to show that you can think critically about what you read." The role of an effective reviewer is to a) critique the author's writing style, b) evaluate the author's intent behind the book, c) determine if the author has presented his/her ideas logically and consistently, d) confirm the author's ability to contextualize the work or connect it to wider developments in the field, and e) examine critical 'silences' or source omissions that might weaken the book's content (Alberta Book Review Writing Guide, 2010).

Research pertaining to book reviews has focused less on their use in academic evaluations and more on their content and applicability for library selection processes (e.g., Blake, 1989; Furnham, 1986; Natowitz, 1997; Parker, 1989; Serebnick, 1992). Librarians use reviews for the development of book collections, but studies have shown that scholars consider them to be useful as well. Humanities/Arts and Social Science scholars read book reviews, normally between 1 and 10 per month (Spink et al., 1998), and value them more for teaching and research, than scholars in Science and Technology (Hartley, 2006). The list of features that most scholars value in a good review include the presentation of a straightforward overview of the book, a strong critique of the book's main argument, and a strong evaluation of the book's academic credibility (Hartley, 2006). In addition, many scholars – 60% in the Arts, 50% in the Social Sciences and 41% in the Sciences – seem to agree that the academic standing of book reviews would be enhanced "if institutions gave academic credit for writing [them]" (Hartley, 2006, p. 1201).

Early work by Diodato (1984) indicates that book reviews are rarely cited; hence citation studies have not been a priority in past years. Nicolaisen (2002a) has revived this subject, and found that books receiving positive or favorable reviews tend to be cited more often than those receiving neutral or negative comments from a reviewer. In the international literature of the Social Sciences (1997-2001), Nicolaisen (2002b) has also examined the share of book reviews containing additional references to works other than the book under review and found that reviews of this type have been growing rapidly (note: this work inspired the Type I and Type II classifications for this paper). A review with many references was characterized as trustworthy or more 'scholarly' because the book had been related to previous works in the field (Nicolasen, 2002b).

According to Hartley (2006) "few studies have been carried out to assess the impact of book reviews on scholarly fields" (p. 1194). The question of impact depends however on what is being measured. Lindholm-Romantschuk (1998) focused on the flow of information into or out of a discipline based on the proportion of book reviews that are published in the discipline's own journals that are reviews of books originating in other disciplines. The

following example is given: "if a review of an economics book appears in a history journal, it is counted as one unique of inflow from economics into the discipline of history" (p. 93). Lindholm-Romantschuk's (1998) input-output model has shown that books written in Sociology have the most impact on other disciplines since "more than two thirds of the book reviews are found externally." (p. 135). In this paper, we are also concerned with the impact of reviews. Our objective is to understand more clearly the possibilities and limitations associated with the influence that book reviews have within the scholarly communication system from a citation perspective, using data from the Web of Science Arts and Humanities Citation Index.

Book reviews in the Humanities: Descriptive statistics

Bibliometric research techniques using the Web of Science are normally applied to three different types of scientific communication in biomedicine and the natural sciences: 1) journal articles, 2) reviews, and 3) letters. Other document types, such as meeting abstracts, editorials, and book reviews are often excluded because they do not play a significant role in scientific communication across these domains. By comparison, the process of communicating knowledge in the Arts and Humanities is not typically formed by journal publications, but rather books or monographs: "monographs are like the main course of a meal, journal articles and other scholarly communication are like tapas" (Williams et al., 2009, p.76). This is reflected in part by the referencing pattern, shown in Figure 2, where a large percentage of the references given by authors publishing in Arts and Humanities journals are to documents that have not been processed by the Web of Science. Books are the most predominant within this set.

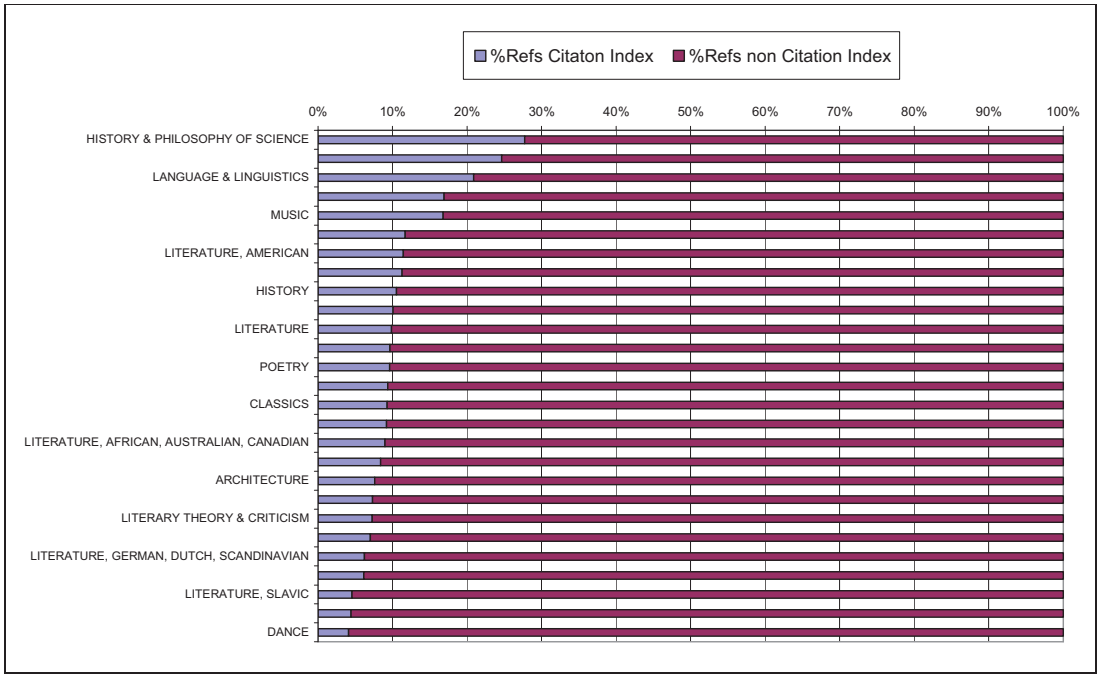

Figure 2. Share of references towards other WoS/AHCI publications and publications outside the WoS/AHCI. Journal Subject Categories (1990-2009).

The writing of a book review can have critical implications for the Humanities scholar: a well-written review can strongly reflect or even strongly disapprove of the quality or significance of a book. Those who publish a book will want it reviewed in the best possible light since it is likely to be a pre-requisite for both promotion and awarding of tenure (Cronin & La Barre, 2004; Williams, et al., 2008). Figure 3 below, shows that book reviews constitute a large portion of the documents housed in the Thomson Reuter's Arts and Humanities section of the Web of Science. There are in fact 15% more book reviews published than journal articles, and of interest are the journals that may actually 'specialize' in reviewing books.

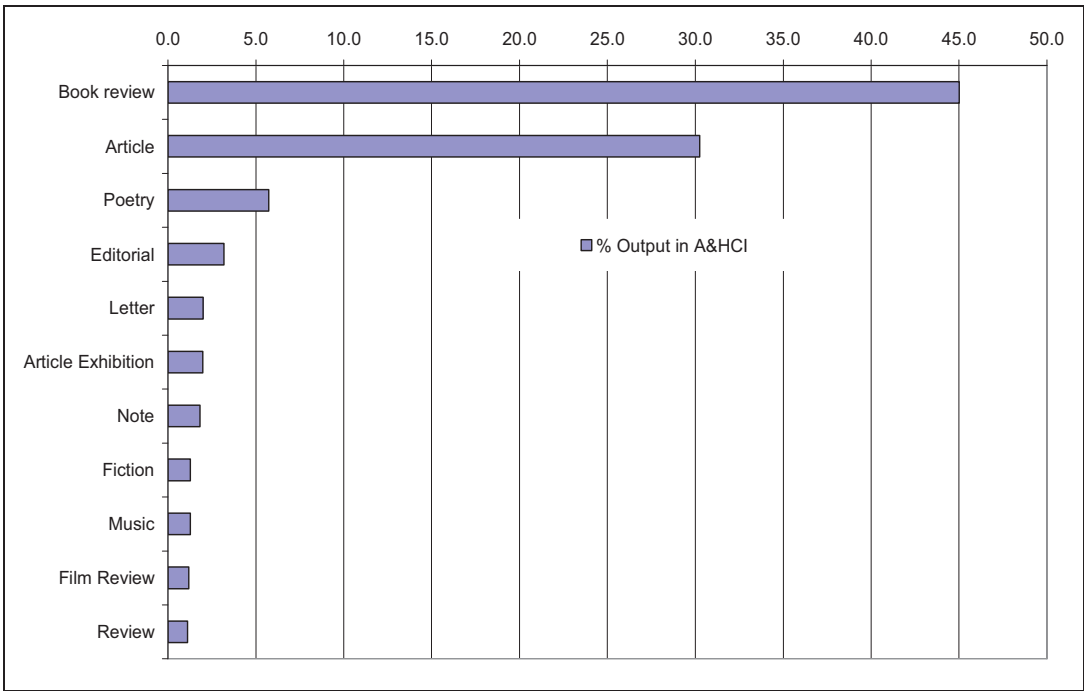

Figure 3. Percentage of document outputs: Arts & Humanities Citation Index (1981-2009).

The Humanities fields that publish the most book reviews in Web of Science journals include, in ranked order, *History, Literature, Humanities-Multidisciplinary*, *Philosophy*, and *Religion* (Figure 4). History's lead role is echoed in *Thinking about Reviews*, where Stowe (1991) stated earlier that due to "the increasing number of books published each year, the *Journal of American History*'s commitment to covering all significant new books...demands that we publish as many reviews per issue as we can" (p. 593). A trend analysis for the top reviewing fields (1981 to 2000) shows that there has indeed been a growth in the number of book reviews published in *History*. In the field of *Literature* we see a slight decline in reviews published after 1995, and in the three other disciplines, *Humanities Multidisciplinary*, *Philosophy*, and *Religion,* there has been a steady, but overall lower production of reviews (see Figure 5).

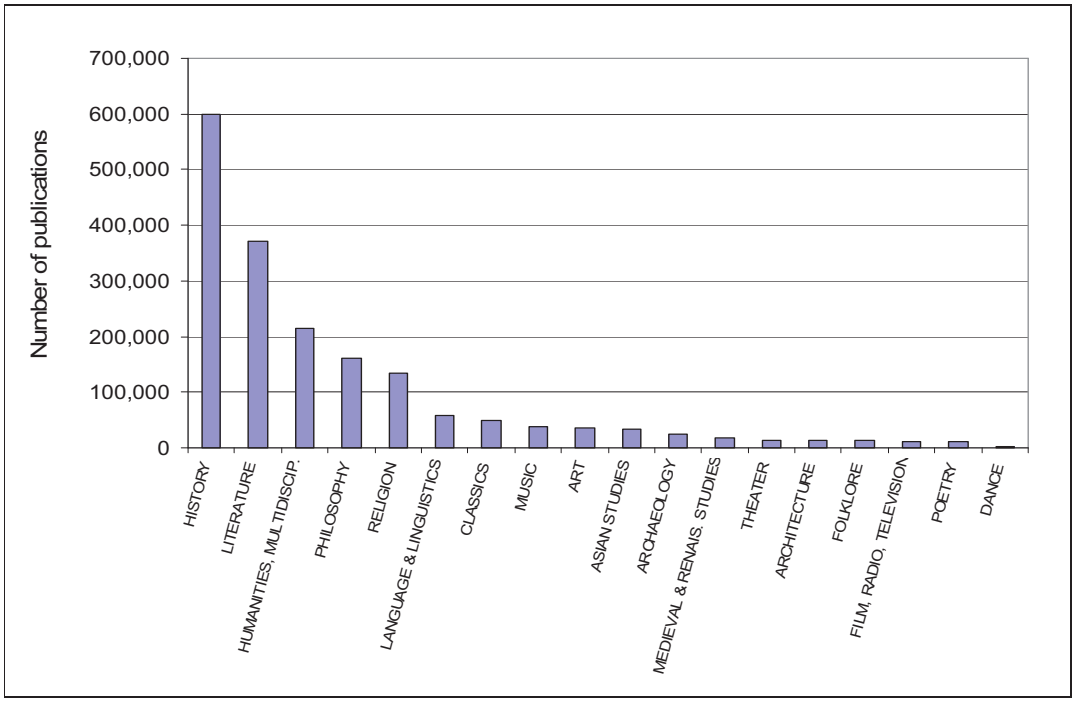

Figure 4. Top ranking Humanities disciplines with the most reviews (1981-2009).

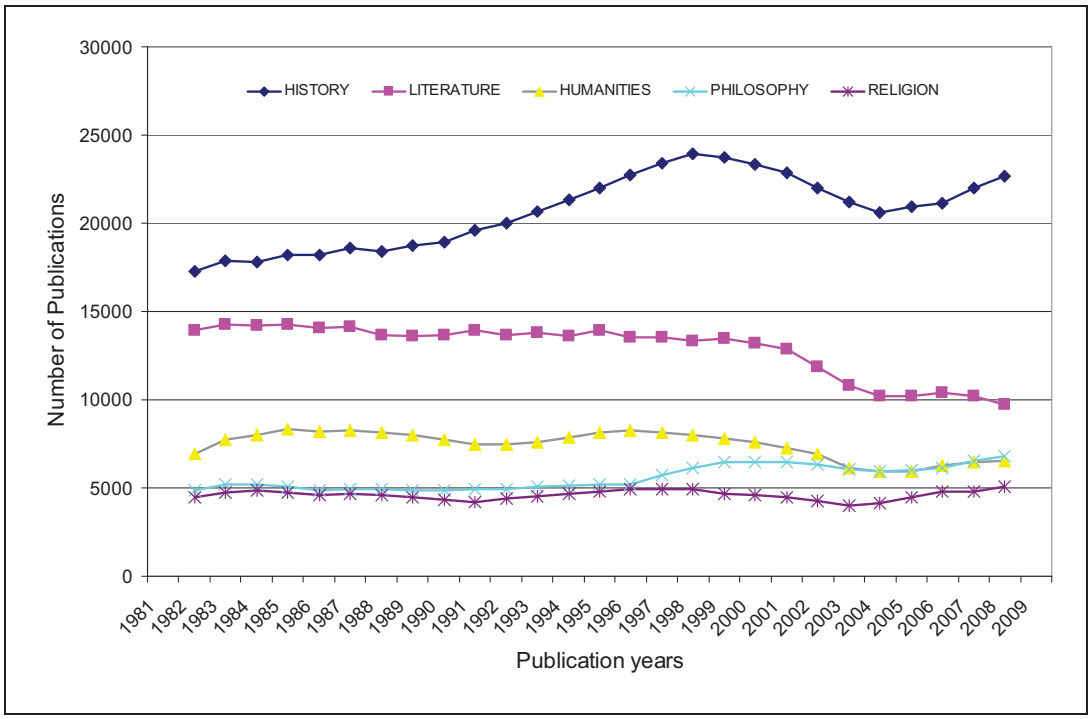

Figure 5. Trend analysis of top Humanities disciplines publishing the most book reviews (1981-2009).

Retrieving citation data from the Web of Science

The citation data used in this study focuses on the fields of *History* and *Literature* (1981-2009). We have selected two fields because they have published the most reviews in journals processed by the Web of Science, and because a workable dataset was required due to a lack of coverage related to books. Book reviews are indexed in the Web of Science as unique documents, but books are not, and this currently makes it difficult to determine co-citation rates between books and book reviews referenced by journal articles.[1] Another reason for selecting two fields relates to the probability of focusing on book reviews in a real evaluation context, and we suggest for now that it may be of most interest for Historians and Literary scholars.

The boundaries for the field of History are delineated by Web of Science journal subject categories, and include *History*, the *History of Social Sciences*, and the *History & Philosophy of Science*. Likewise we use the journal subject categories for the field of *Literature* (i.e., *Literary Theory & Criticism; Literary Reviews; Literature- African, Australian, Canadian, American, British Isles, German, Dutch, and Scandinavian; Literature-Romance, Slavic*). Below we list the steps taken to retrieve citation and co-citation data:

1. Collect book reviews written in *History* and *Literature* (1981-2009) and remove duplicates where the same review is assigned to more than one journal subject category.

2. For each book review (Type I and Type II) obtain a list of cited references.

3. Identify the book as it appears in the book review's reference list. With a Type I review the isolation procedure is straightforward: if there is only one reference, it is usually to the book under review. Type II reviews require the use of a complex selection algorithm in order to isolate the book from additional references.

4. Determine which book reviews have received citations, and for each year from 1981 to 2009, calculate the average number of Citations Per Publication (CPP) as the ratio between the total number of reviews published and the sum of the citations received in that year.

5. Amongst the reviews cited in journal articles, determine how many were co-cited with the reviewed book. Retrieving co-citation counts requires matching the book*'s author, publication date* and *title* appearing in the reference list of a citing journal article, with the same iteration of *author, publication date* and *title* appearing in the reference list of the review article (see Table 2)

[1] Currently Thomson ISI is improving its WoS coverage in the SSH by developing an index of books, but for the year 2011 it will include only those with a copyright date of 2003 to the present. At the time that this research was carried out, this index was not yet available.

Table 2. Perfect match for book and book review referenced in same citing journal article.

	Book Review			Citing Journal Article		
	Reference Units			Reference Units		
Book Title	/A	/D	/T	/A	/D	/T
Listening in Paris: A cultural history - Johnson, James H.	JOHNSON, JH	1995	LISTENING PARIS CULT	JOHNSON, JH	1995	LISTENING PARIS CULT

Results: Review types and their impact

The most visible document processed for the Web of Science Arts & Humanities Index is the book review (Figure 2, above); however, Table 3 below indicates that the total number of citations to book reviews in journal articles is quite low. From the period of 1981 to 2009, 2% of book reviews published in both *History* and *Literature* that referenced the book only (Type I) and were cited. Type II reviews, or those that give reference to the book and other scholarly sources, received slightly more citations: 8% in *History* and in *Literature* only 4%.

Table 3. Total number of Type I & Type II reviews and citations in *History* and *Literature*.[2]

	History 1981-2009			**Literature 1981-2009**		
Total Book Reviews	465,769			370,458		
	Total Count	**Total Cited**	**% Cited**	**Total Count**	**Total Cited**	**% Cited**
Type I Reviews	443,422	10,446	2.4%	341,845	6,282	1.8%
Type II Reviews	22,259	1,711	7.7%	28,482	1,129	4.0%

Figures 6 and 7 illustrate long-term book reviewing impacts in *History* and *Literature*, where impact is measured as Citations per Publication (CPP) and calculated by dividing the total number of book reviews published in a given year by the sum of citation counts that they received for that year. There is a slight time effect where book reviews processed for the Web of Science in 2008 and 2009 have not been published long enough to receive citations. Figure 6 indicates that *History* book reviews giving reference to both the book under review and other scholarly sources (Type II) received more Citations per Publication (CPP) than Type I (i.e., references only the book), and dramatically so, but for the field of *Literature* the CPP values for the two Types barely differ, with Type II showing only a slightly greater impact from 1991 and 2001 (see Figure 7). During this ten-year period the number of Type II book reviews published in *Literature* declined, thus leading to a similar drop in average citation rates.

[2] In History 88 book reviews and in Literature 131 book reviews could not be assigned a type due to a lack of references.

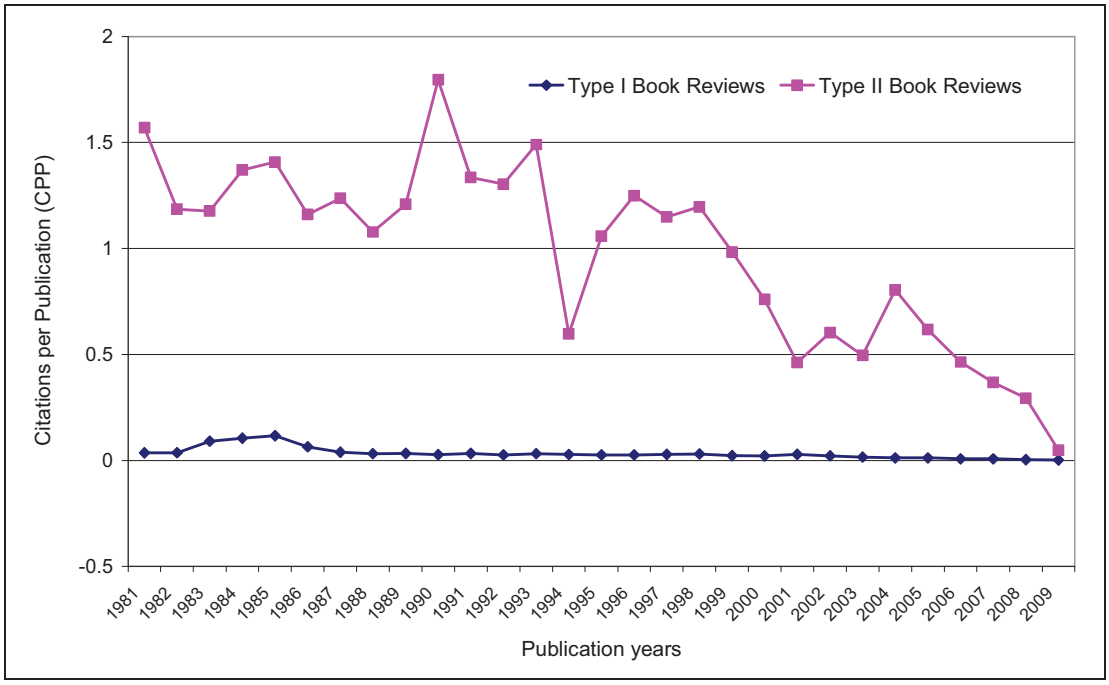

Figure 6. Publication years of *History* book reviews and CPP (1981-2009).

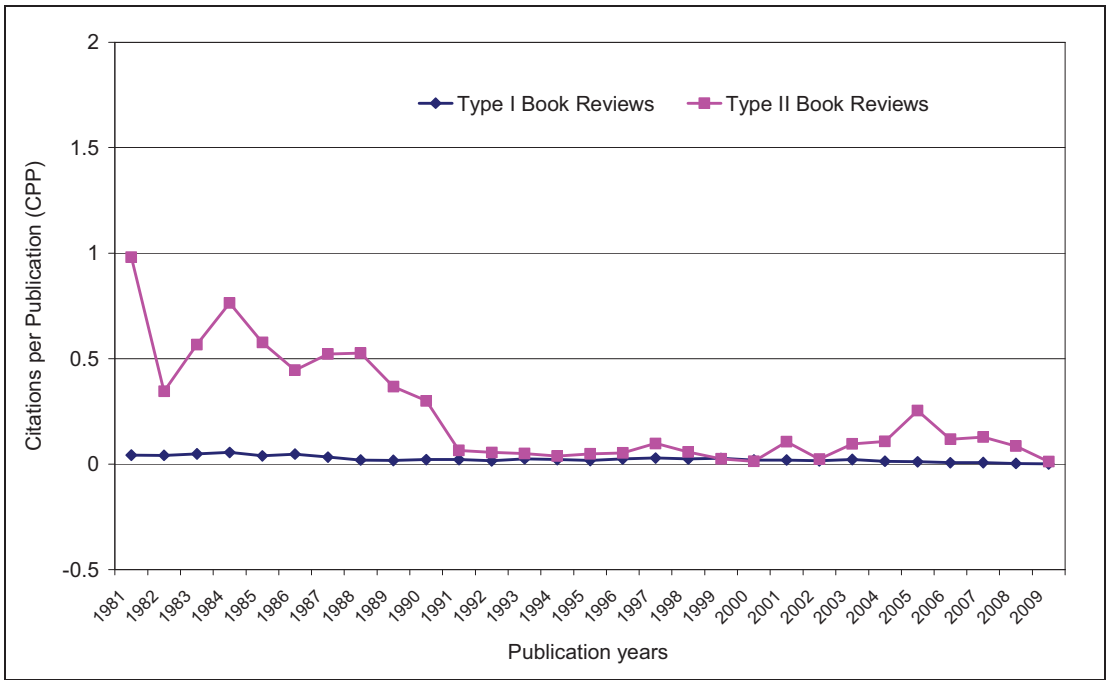

Figure 7. Publication years of *Literature* book reviews and CPP (1981-2009).

In Table 4, we present co-citation counts resulting from the book as it appeared in the citing document reference list and the book as it appeared in the book review's reference list.

Matching errors occurred most often at the level of the *author* and secondly, with the *year*. In cases where the author name did not match, we found either a misspelling of the author's surname, or an omission of one initial. If we found a mismatch due to the year, this was because it was either missing from one document or written incorrectly. Additional errors occurred if one document referenced the book editor's surname and the other referenced the author who wrote a chapter in the same edited book. Yet another problem occurred when the book title was part of a series and appeared more than once in a reference list with a different author per volume.

Table 4. Matching books in citing document and book review. Co-citation counts.

	History		***Literature***	
	Type I	**Type II**	**Type I**	**Type II**
• book *title* matched in citing document and review	5,092	1,901	2,472	704
• book *title* and publication *date* matched in citing document and review	4,513	1,433	1,668	440
• book *title* and book *author* matched in citing document and review	4,340	1,302	2,121	556
• all three variables– *title, author, date* – matched in the citing document and review	3,896	1,101	1,442	359

The data retrieved from the perfect match procedure (i.e., all three units) is the most accurate, albeit not perfectly reliable in the sense that other 'intended' co-citations are missed. As a result, we have calculated the minimum to maximum percentages of book reviews that were co-cited with the book, from the total number of book reviews cited in both *History* and *Literature*. Table 5 now shows that slightly more reviews referencing the book and other scholarly sources (Type II) were co-cited with the reviewed book in both *History* and than those classified as Type I. In *History* approximately 37% to 48% of the book reviews co-cited with the book may have had some influence on how that book was received by the author of a journal article. We do not know whether the influence was positive or negative, thus content analyses of these reviews would be the next step for understanding the meaning of the co-citations.

Table 5. Percentage of book reviews co-cited with book (*History* and *Literature*).

	Number Reviews Cited	Number Co-cited With Book		% of Reviews Co-cited (Min. to max. values)	
		Perfect match	Title only	Perfect match	Title only
History					
Type I	10,446	3,593	4,576	34%	44%
Type II	1,711	631	820	37%	48%
Literature					
Type I	6,282	1,301	2,174	21%	35%
Type II	1,129	248	450	22%	40%

A final summary of findings based on the citing options outlined in the introduction (see Table 1) is presented below in Table 6. Of interest is the citation impact calculated in terms of CPP values for each of the citing options. For all book reviews that were co-cited with the book (i.e., Type I + Book; Type II + Book) we include minimum to maximum values. Again, the first value relates to the perfect matching procedure (i.e., *title, author, date*), and the second from the matching procedure using the *title* only. Type II reviews have the most impact, thus providing clear evidence of their scholarly role. Since citations are by authors of journal articles only, more insight is to be gained if we could also obtain citation counts given by authors of books.

Table 6. Book review impacts (CPP) relative to four different citing conditions.

Citing Options	Number of Reviews Cited / Co-cited	Sum of Citation Counts	CPP (Min. to Max. values)
History			
Type I	10,446	14,074	1.35
Type II	1,711	3,516	**2.05**
Type I + Book	3,593 to 4576	3,896 to 5092	1.08 to 1.11
Type II + Book	631 to 820	1101 to 1901	**1.74** to **2.31**
Literature			
Type I	6,282	8501	1.35
Type II	1,129	1612	**1.43**
Type I + Book	1,301 to 2174	1442 to 2472	1.11 to 1.14
Type II + Book	248 to 450	359 to 704	**1.45** to **1.57**

Citing reviews alone or with book

Here we focus on the following question: In which circumstance would an author cite a book review alone in a journal article or co-cite the review with the reviewed book? Our data retrieval method indicates that this is possible, but does it mean that there is a strong contextual difference between the two cases, or is this mostly a Web of Science artifact? To address this issue, we have taken a random sample of recently published reviews from the *History* dataset and we have carried out a small content analysis (see Appendix A).

The purpose of this content analysis was to obtain hints as to where a more comprehensive study might take us. It is not part of the scope of this bibliometric study to engage in a full-scale qualitative analysis, but initial insights pertaining to why a review is cited alone or why it has been co-cited with the book help to determine whether or not it makes sense to develop a bibliometric weighting system for evaluation purposes. For instance, if a book review has not been cited, we could apply a weight of "0" to a total citation count of "0". If the book review was cited alone, we could apply a weight of ".5" to the total citation count, and if a book review was co-cited with the book we could apply a weight of "1" to the total citation count. Our rationale for granting the highest weight to a review co-cited with a book is based on the notion that it has had some influence on how the content of a book was received. Research has already confirmed that books receiving favorable reviews tend to be cited more often than those receiving negative reviews (e.g., Nicolaisen, 2002a); hence we suggest that a co-citation may be a reflection of the reviewer's positive or negative influence.

A brief content analysis indicates that book reviews are cited because of their scholarly value. Authors of journal articles in *History* do not necessarily elaborate on their reasons for citing a book review, but do indicate how critical the reviewer was of the book's thesis, and may comment on the status of the reviewer (i.e., whether or not he or she is a well-known scholar in the same field as the author of the published book). An author might also state why he or she is 'inspired' by a book review to adopt a particular term or theoretical standpoint. Moreover, we know that authors of book reviews may also cite other reviewers or persons who have in fact reviewed their own books (see Appendix A).

A book review can be influential to an author writing a scholarly journal article, but this influence seems to make little difference whether or not it was cited alone or co-cited with the book. In the absence of a formal 'rule' for how credit must be given to book reviews and books – i.e., separately or together – it is common for historians to use a footnote reference style. With a footnote the author may reference a review and a book separately, but an author may also give credit to both within the same note. The Web of science later processes the footnote as one reference to the review and not to the book. In the Sciences and Social Sciences, where we see different norms for citing, it is easier to detect co-citations if an author gives distinct credit to the review and the book in a full reference list at the end of an article.

Book reviews in Humanities research evaluations

In order to carry out valid bibliometric evaluations, robust citation counts are essential; hence some bibliometricians might argue that there is little incentive to focus on book reviews, knowing that they are so infrequently cited. Others will recognize that the standards set for meaningful citation-based indicators in the natural sciences may not be necessary or need to be accommodated to the Humanities. In a research evaluation context, we give consideration to the value of a scholarly book review, including surrounding circumstances, such as the quality of the journal in which it was published and whether or not the journal's editor invited (and perhaps paid) the scholar to write the review. A first step in taking book review's seriously may be to count or include them in assessment studies, thus making them more visible. As long as they are counted, a new type of indicator could be valuable if it is used in conjunction with other forms of evaluation.

A 'healthy' impact metric is not feasible at the individual author level; however, it may be useful to evaluate journals that publish book reviews, based on the influence that some of these reviews have within the scholarly communication system. This means that we focus on the journal as a benchmark for the individual's reviewing performance, and reward individuals who contribute to quality review journals. A ranking may be formulated in one of two ways:

1) An indicator termed the ***B**ook **R**eview **I**nfluence **S**hare* (***BRIS***) which recognizes the inherent value of a review, but distinguishes between reviews that are not cited and those that have been cited in the journal literature. With this, we give a weighted value of 1 to the book reviews not cited and a weighted value of 1.5 to the book reviews that have been cited.

$$BRIS = \left(\frac{(W_1 \times BRNotCited) + (W_{1.5} \times BRCited)}{NumberOf\ \mathrm{Re}views} \right) - 1$$

2) Another indicator termed the ***B**ook **R**eview **I**nfluence **F**actor* (***BRIF***), which places emphasis on the total number of citations that a set of book reviews have received. Here we considered applying weights to reviews cited alone versus reviews co-cited with the book, but we do not have strong qualitative evidence as yet to apply such a weighting system. For the moment, this indicator is basic and constitutes the summing of all citations given to each cited book review, divided by total number of reviews.

$$BRIF = \frac{\sum_i c_i}{n}$$

An example of how the BRIS and the BRIF may be calculated is shown below for the *Review of American History* (1981-2009).

$$BRIS_{(Rev.Am.Hist.)} = \left(\frac{(W_1 \times BRNotCited) + (W_{1.5} \times BRCited)}{TotalNumberOf\ \text{Re}views} \right) - 1 = \left(\frac{(1 \times 2{,}919) + (1.5 \times 346)}{3{,}265} \right) - 1$$

$$= \left(\frac{2{,}919 + 519}{3{,}265} \right) - 1 = \left(\frac{3438}{3{,}265} \right) - 1 = 1.050 - 1 = 0.050 = 5\%$$

$$BRIF_{(Rev.Am.Hist.)} = \frac{\sum_i c_i}{n} = \frac{497}{3265} = 0.15$$

Table 7, below presents the top ranking Web of Science *History* journals (n=35) based on the new *BRIS* and the *BRIF*[3] indicators (sorted respectively) for the citation period of 1981 to 2009. If we compare certain journals, we see that one may present a higher output of book reviews than another (e.g., *Isis* n=9,016 versus *History and Theory* n=601) but this does not necessarily mean that it has produced the higher share of influential reviews [e.g., *Isis* BRIS=5% versus *History and Theory* BRIS=13%]. Only 3% of the Type II reviews were cited from *Isis*, compared to *History and Theory* at 57%, thus contributing to a much higher BRIF value for the later journal. Bibliometric evidence now shows that Type II reviews overall tend to be cited more frequently than Type I, but without such evidence it makes sense to assume that a review that functions more like a literary critique will be cited more. Again, this type of review is considered to be more scholarly because it engages the reader in a wider discussion of the academic background surrounding the book's contribution (Nicolaisen, 2002b).

Since we are using the WoS journal subject categories to select all journals related to the Humanities discipline of *History* we also recognize that some journals are related to other disciplines. For example, the journal *Social Sciences History* is categorized as both as a History-related and Social Science-related journal. The same holds true for the *Social Studies of Science*, and with this journal we observe strong *BRIS* and *BRIF* values given that it had published S. Shapin's well-cited review of Bruno Latour's notable book *Science in Action*. Naturally, outliers (i.e., exceptional reviews of notable books) will play a role in the inflation of these new indicator values, and there will be differences related to how editors of multi-disciplinary journals select reviews to publish and how authors in different disciplines later use them.

[3] For the full title of the journal refer to the Web of Science Journal Title Abbreviations at http://images.isiknowledge.com/WOK45/help/WOS/E_abrvjt.html

Table 7. Top ranking *History* journals (n=35) based on the *BRIS* and *BRIF* (1981-2009).

Journal Title (Abbreviated)	# Revs	#Cited	%Type II Cited	Total Citations	BRIS	BRIF
Hist. Reflect.-Reflex. Hist.	15	9	73%	11	30%	0.73
Past Present	14	6	57%	31	21%	2.21
Biol. Philos.	230	77	87%	192	17%	0.83
Soc. Stud. Sci.	263	79	58%	297	15%	1.13
Stud. Hist. Philos. Sci.	165	49	72%	118	15%	0.72
Sci. Eng. Ethics	7	2	50%	2	14%	0.29
Gesch. Ges.	50	14	50%	25	14%	0.50
Br. J. Philos. Sci.	561	147	57%	310	13%	0.55
Hist. Theory	601	155	57%	343	13%	0.57
Synthese	67	14	57%	23	10%	0.34
Hist. Methods	125	26	54%	55	10%	0.44
Philos. Sci.	519	96	36%	164	9%	0.32
Soc. Sci. Hist.	38	5	40%	7	9%	0.18
Arch. Reform. Hist.	29	5	60%	6	9%	0.21
J. Hist. Med. Allied Sci.	885	146	6%	162	8%	0.18
Acadiensis	25	4	50%	9	8%	0.36
Vierteljahrsh. Zeitgesch.	40	6	20%	7	8%	0.18
Minerva	342	50	66%	70	7%	0.20
Hist. Hum. Sci.	238	33	67%	67	7%	0.28
Br. J. Hist. Sci.	2337	297	6%	343	6%	0.15
Dipl. Hist.	646	71	42%	145	5%	0.22
Ann. Sci.	3101	335	23%	375	5%	0.12
J. Hist. Ideas	94	10	20%	20	5%	0.21
Rev. Am. Hist.	3265	346	34%	497	5%	0.15
Isis	9016	915	3%	1053	5%	0.12
Fr. Hist. Stud.	40	4	0%	20	5%	0.50
Huntingt. Libr. Q.	121	12	0%	17	5%	0.14
Bull. Hist. Med.	2219	209	5%	256	5%	0.12
Quad. Stor.	93	8	25%	8	4%	0.09
Am. J. Bioeth.	107	9	56%	12	4%	0.11
Public Underst. Sci.	141	11	27%	11	4%	0.08
Technol. Cult.	4206	328	1%	404	4%	0.10
South. Cult.	261	19	5%	32	4%	0.12
Contemp. Eur. Hist.	14	1	0%	1	4%	0.07

Conclusions

In the present study we have examined book reviews as scholarly pieces of information and their influence on the scholarly communication system within the Humanities. We have focused on two prominent reviewing disciplines, *History* and *Literature* and we have used the Web of Science as a data source for observing general output and citation patterns to book reviews. There are clear advantages and disadvantages associated with this data source, and the advantage is that it is an index to quality international journals in the Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities and has been a tried and true source for citation analyses in the past, particularly for research evaluation purposes. With this database it is possible to identify and isolate book reviews from other types of documents, classify reviews according to their reference lists (i.e.., Type I versus Type II) and detect the degree to which the two types have been cited in journal articles. Nevertheless, book reviews are intrinsically linked to books and the challenge of using the WoS rests upon identifying books as unique documents in reference lists, and obtaining clear information about the relationship between book reviews and books, specifically in co-citation.

In our analyses of book reviews referencing the book (Type I) and book reviews referencing the book as well as other scholarly sources (Type II), we have found that Type II tend to be cited more often than Type I. The citation counts are not robust unless we focus on a 20 to 30 year period; therefore it is difficult to use them for sophisticated individual level measures, akin to those used in the natural sciences. Nevertheless, a reward system may be created for scholars who contribute to quality review journals. If the number of Type II scholarly reviews grows significantly in coming years, the process of monitoring citations is more promising. We may also find that if data providers like Thomson Reuters (Web of Science) and Elsevier (Scopus) expand their scope, to include more Humanities-related journals in addition to an index of books, the researcher's ability to evaluate the impact that reviews have on books will be much improved. Access to both journal and book citation data through the Web of Science is just one external condition that will make it easier to generate more reliable and valid statistics. Some bibliometricians might choose not to wait for external developments, and focus instead on devising more sophisticated analytic tools for mining citation data from Google Scholar or other digital repositories with book-related data.

To conclude this study, we have proposed the development of a set of indicators for monitoring Web of Science journals, which have become prominent outlets for book reviews. Our indicators may be used with other similar data sources (e.g., Elsevier's Scopus database), and although they are preliminary and experimental, we consider them to be a starting point for further in-depth analyses. There are other patterns to consider, for instance, the correlation between BRIF's and the general Impact Factors of book reviewing journals. We have yet to examine the relationship between scholars writing book reviews and their overall productivity within a Web of Science context. More work needs to be done to understand the book reviewing culture in general, particularly with respect to why it is that certain books receive more scholarly reviews than others, the degree to which a book's author and the reviewer are peers from the same discipline, and the motivation that scholars have for writing different types of reviews (i.e., Type I versus Type II).

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Appendix A.

Book review and book co-cited (i.e., in separate footnotes)		
Article citing review	**Review title**	**Notes**
Preston, A. (2006). Bridging the Gap between the Sacred and the Secular in the History of American Foreign Relations	Leffler, MP. (1999). We now know: Rethinking Cold War History (review of Gaddis, JL, 1997)	*Few scholars know as much about the origins of the Cold War as John Gaddis and Melvyn Leffler, yet on the most important questions of causation they do not agree*[97]
Goodman, J. (1998). For the Love of Stories.	Rabinowitz, HN. (1993). The promise of the new south - life after reconstruction (review of Ayers, EL, 1992).	[41] *For an example of a critic pointing his finger at post-modernism for a historian's experiment, see Howard N. Rabinowitz, "The Origins of a Poststructural New South: A Review of Edward L . Ayers ' The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction' Journal of Southern History 59 (August 1993): 505-15.*
Kamrath, M.L. (2001). Charles Brockden Brown and the "Art of the Historian": An Essay concerning (Post)Modern Historical Understanding.	Haskell, TL (1998). Beyond the great story: history as text and discourse (review of Berkhofer, RF, 1997).	*Berkhofer...challenges us to not only "surmount he dilemma of representationalism or the semiotic absolute" but to also deal with issues of multicultural representation and anachronism as well as new ways of representing the past.*[86] [86] *One of the most recent assessments of Berkhofer's study is Thomas Haskell's review essay in History and Theory, 37 (Oct. 1998), 347-69.*
Book review cited alone (i.e., in one footnote)		
Article citing review	**Review title**	**Notes**
Best, J. (2004). Deviance may be alive, but is it intellectually lively? A reaction to Goode	Valverde, M. (2000). Controlling vice: Regulating brothel prostitution in St. Paul, 1865-1883. (review of Best, J, 1998).	*I [the Author] was pleased when my monograph on nineteenth-century brothels was reviewed in the Journal of American History, but bemused by the review's first sentence: ''This study is meant primarily as a contribution to a field whose central concept has been thoroughly discredited but that nonetheless refuses to make a graceful exit from curricula: the sociology of 'deviance''' (Valverde 2000: 1802).*
Cutcliffe, S.H. (2010). Travels In and Out of Town. William Cronon's Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West.	Hays, SP. (1992) Natures metropolis-Chicago and the great west (review of Cronin, W., 1991)	*Thus it was that environmental historians Richard White and Samuel Hays could refer to the book as "extraordinary" and as "innovating and exciting" while at the same time declaring Cronon's "linkage of capital and nature . . . sometimes . . problematic" (White) and his analysis "highly selective"(Hays).*[4]
Reich, S.A. (2009). The Great Migration and the Literary Imagination.	Coclanis, PA. (2004). Generations of captivity: a history of African-American slaves (review of Berlin, I., 2003).	[3]*See also Peter Coclanis, "The Captivity of a Generation," review of Generations of Captivity: A History of African-American Slaves, by Ira Berlin, William and Mary Quarterly 61:3 (July 2004): 544–556. 90.*

		[53]*Two sources inspire my use of the term morality tale, both of which come from critiques of the excessive use of agency and the tendency toward romanticization in recent historical scholarship, one in the writing of American labor history and the other in the writing of the history of American slavery. On labor history, see Eric Arnesen, "Passion and Politics: Race and the Writing of Working-class History," The Journal of the Historical Society 6:3 (September 2006): 323–356; on slavery, see Coclanis, "Captivity of a Generation," 544–556.*