TOP 40 BOOK LIST – Most frequently cited books in NDPLS 2003-2007

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Once again, at long last, we have compiled a new listing of the forty books that were most frequently cited in NDPLS articles during the years 2003-2007. The count included books that were cited in editorials and in the reference lists to book reviews. If a book was reviewed in NDPLS, a citation was counted for it having been reviewed. If a book was cited in two different editions, the counts for the two editions were combined. Edited collections were included here also. If a chapter was cited in an article, the citation count went to the book. If two or more chapters were cited within the same article, however, the citation was counted only once for appearing in that article. This procedure would give equal treatment to authored and edited books. The trends are described from the vantage point of the books, the publishers, and some self-organizing propensities of the NDS literature.

All together 1122 books were cited in the journal during the five year span. The distribution of citation frequencies, starting at three citations, appears in the figure below. The Top 40 broke nicely at 4 or more citations per book; the Top 40 actually contains 41 titles. Not shown in the figure are the 113 books with two citations, which left 927 that were cited once. Many of the books that were cited infrequently pertained to specific application areas and did not always involve nonlinear dynamics. Books that addressed some more generalizable principles of dynamics were cited more often.

It is probably not surprising that the most books with the highest citation counts were published before 2003 and thus had the greatest exposure. Only three books in the top 40 were published in 2003, and none later. For a listing of what’s new and interesting, always check the Nonlinear Dynamical Bookshelf feature of the SCTPLS Newsletter, and “New Books by Society Members” on the SCTPLS web site, News archive page.

Distribution of Book Citations

2003-2007

![Distribution of Book Citations Chart]

- Frequency
- Number of Citations
- 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 23
An analysis of the publishers might be informative for authors who are shopping for a publisher, and for avid readers who like to scour catalogs looking for the latest publications. The most frequent publishers on the Top 40 list are Lawrence Erlbaum Associates and MIT Press. LEA was purchased by Taylor and Francis in 2006; most of LEA’s titles are marketed under T&F’s Psychology Press imprint.

The second most frequent publisher, actually ranking third, is the coalition of Plenum, Kluwer Academic, and Springer-Verlag. Plenum was purchased by Kluwer in 1998, and Kluwer was merged with Springer-Verlag in 2003 to form Springer. Oxford University Press is fourth most frequently appearing publisher in the list. World Scientific, which has a long-running series of books in nonlinear dynamics, is tied in the next tier with Princeton University Press, Addison-Wesley, and Freeman for two titles each.

Of the 41 titles, 13 (or 32%) were published by well-known university presses. Commercial publishers whose purviews expand beyond research material into broader ranges of readership (Bantam, Freeman, Simon & Schuster, and Viking) accounted for five titles (12%). Commercial academic presses accounted for the remainder.

Before closing it should be remembered that the Top 40 list of books and publishers does not represent any universal truths about the field of nonlinear dynamics. Rather it is a snapshot of what appears to be a self-organizing effect of the NDPLS purview, the interests of the authors who contribute, and the scope of particular books. Brilliant contributions that are designed to cover a specific topic deeply are probably not going to be mentioned as often as those that span a broader range of topics. What does appear to be most frequently mentioned in this list are books with substantial methodology components, basic nonlinear dynamics, and those pertaining to self-organizing phenomena. Last, but certainly not least: The key word chaos appears in 12 of the titles.

12-23 Citations


6-10 Citations


5 Citations


4 Citations


