

Journal of Health Management: A Bibliometric Study

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Introduction

Bibliometrics is a type of research method used in library and information sciences (LIS). It is an emerging area of research in the LIS field. The quantitative analysis and statistics to describe patterns of publication within a given field or body of literature are utilised. Researchers use bibliometric methods of evaluation to determine the influence of a single author or to describe the relationship between two or more authors or works. Bibliometric studies can be used to study regional patterns of research, the extent of cooperation between research groups and national research profiles. The main derivatives of bibliometrics are: publication counts, citation counts, co-citation analysis, co-word analysis, scientific 'mapping' and citations in patents. The word 'bibliometric' has been derived from the Latin and Greek words 'biblio' and 'metrics', which refer to the application of mathematics to the study of bibliography. L. Egghe (1987) has defined bibliometrics as 'the development and application of mathematical models and techniques to all aspects of communication'. Results of such studies are very useful in decision making in research administration and planning, in collection development and use in libraries. Bibliometric studies afford investigators to study the quality and quantity of work done by researchers and scientists in various fields.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study were:

- To distribute the number of papers published (year-wise);
- study of references;
- average length of papers;
- authorship patterns; and
- subject-wise break-up.

Source Journal

The *Journal of Health Management (JHM)* is an interdisciplinary journal of the Indian Institute of Health Management Research, published by Sage Publications India. Professor Uday Pareek is the chief editor of this journal. It has an international editorial advisory board. The journal is a biannual publication out of which one is a general issue and one a special issue. JHM is considered a high-quality journal. The hard work of the editorial board has raised its status in the international arena. JHM is designed as a forum for exploring major issues of health policy and health management (including population and family welfare) in developing countries with the aim of better implementation of desired changes. JHM is a refereed publication and carries articles and other material that are based primarily on first-hand experiences and empirical research, and those that reflect the latest thinking. The next issue of the journal (7:2) will be a special issue on primary health care, which will be edited by Professor Ajit Dalal.

The following topics have been selected for special issues up to the year 2004.

1. Quality of Health Management (Guest editors: Jay Satia and S.D. Gupta [1:2])
2. HIV/AIDS: Current Issues and Challenges (Guest editor: Jai P. Narain [2:2])
3. Health Care Financing (Guest editor: Ramesh Bhat [3:2])
4. Gender and Health (Guest editor: T.K. Sundari Ravindran [4:2])
5. HIV/AIDS in Asia: Overcoming the Challenge (Guest editor: Jai P. Narain [5:2])

6. Occupational Health and Women (Guest editor: H.K. Kaila [6:2])
7. Primary Health Care (Guest editor: Ajit Dalal [forthcoming; 7:2])

Methodology

Of the six volumes of the journal, five have been taken into consideration for this study, that is, 10 issues, from 1:1 to 5:2.

Analysis

The total number of contributions is 80, including seven brief research reports and communications. Apart from articles, six biblioscans, five cases, one methodology note, one 'how to do it', 17 book reviews and 103 abstracts have been published in the JHM issues.

Table 1 shows the details of the articles in issues 1:1 to 5:2 (1999–2003). The number of articles published in 2003 was the highest—19 articles (24 per cent). The least number of articles were published in 2001—only 12 (15 per cent).

Table 1
Year-wise Distribution of Articles in JHM

Year	Total no. of articles	Percentage
1999	16	20.0
2000	16	20.0
2001	12	15.0
2002	17	21.0
2003	19	24.0
Total	80	100.0

Note: Mean = 16.

Table 2 shows the details of the references included in the articles published from 1999 to 2003. Out of 80 articles, five had no references. These were published in the years 1999, 2000 and 2001. The number of papers with 11 to 20 references were 26 (32.5 per cent) followed by 22 (27.5 per cent) papers having up to 10 references.

Table 2
References Included in the Papers

<i>No. of references</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Nil	2	2	0	0	1	5	6.25
1-10	6	7	3	2	4	22	27.5
11-20	5	5	3	7	6	26	32.5
21-30	0	1	3	3	2	9	11.25
31-40	2	0	2	0	2	6	7.5
> 41	1	1	1	5	4	12	15.0
Total	16	16	12	17	19	80	100.0

Note: Mean = 13.3.

Table 3 shows that 45 papers (56.25 per cent) cover 10 to 20 pages followed by 16 papers (20 per cent) covering 21 to 30 pages. The maximum number of papers have 10 to 20 pages.

Table 3
Length of Articles

<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
> 10	3	5	2	3	2	15	18.75
10-20	9	9	2	12	13	45	56.25
21-30	4	1	5	2	4	16	20.0
> 31	0	1	3	0	0	4	5.0
Total	16	16	12	17	19	80	100

Note: Mean = 20.

Table 4 shows details of authorship patterns. Out of 80 papers, 36 have been contributed by single author (45 per cent), 28 by two authors (35 per cent) and 10 by more than three authors (12.5 per cent).

Table 4
Authorship Patterns

<i>No. of authors</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1	5	9	5	5	12	36	45.0
2	9	6	4	5	4	28	35.0
3	1	1	1	2	1	6	7.5
> 3	1	0	2	5	2	10	12.5
Total	16	16	12	17	19	80	100.0

Note: Mean = 20.