Content Analysis of International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research

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Abstract

Researches published in the journals helps to identify current state of research trends in a field. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research is an open access, peer reviewed online multidisciplinary journal which helps researchers from different fields to publish their research. The main aim of the study was to analyse the articles published in the journal using content analysis research method. Analysis of articles was done to identify productivity of journal, authorship pattern, geographic distribution etc. The results helped to identify the characteristics of the authorship pattern, most prolific country and institution.

Keywords: Content Analysis, Authorship Pattern, Geographical Distribution, year wise distribution, subject productivity

Introduction

Understanding the current state of research in a field is important for the advancement of the discipline. Journals are channels of communication for researchers to publish their research. Journals are published in print, electronic and online form. Online open access journals are more accessible and popular among researchers. As these journals provide open access to articles which results in greater visibility and more citations. Articles published in the journals reflect predominant areas of research during the particular period of time. So, it is necessary to analyse literature published in the journals to understand the specific trends. Each discipline follows specialised methods to understand the research trends in their field. Evaluation of articles published in multidisciplinary journals is also important to understand the trends in multidisciplinary area of research.

Thus, the present study was conceptualised to analyse the current subject trends, authorship characteristics, geographic distribution relating to articles published in the International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research for the year 2019 to 2022

About International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR)

International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR) is widely indexed open access, refereed/peer reviewed multidisciplinary, international scholarly journal which help researchers to share their research since 2019.

The major highlight of this journal is that

- It publishes researches in almost all disciplines because it is multidisciplinary in nature

- It supports publication of journal in all spoken language
- It provides unique cross ref and document id for each published paper.
- It supports indexing of its articles in all research databased and repositories. [1]

Review of Related Literature

Review of related literature was done to identify the researches which have used content analysis as a research method to analyse journal articles in different field.

Pratapure, Sujata (2016) analysed 169 articles published in the 5 volumes of Annals of Library and Information Studies. The study examined the growth of publication, authorship pattern, geographical distribution of the articles. [2]

Jarvelin and Vakkari (2022) analysed articles published in more than 30 LIS scholarly journals from 1965 to 2015. Analysis revealed that strong emphasis of LIS research on Library and Information service has declined and scientific and professional communication has become the popular topic[3]

Thool (2016) attempted to analyse the 39 issues of LIBRES from 1996-2015 to identify the year wise distribution of the articles, subject wise distribution and authorship pattern.[4]

Aharony (2012) examined journal research publication in the 10 library and information science journals from 2007-2008. The study presented the statistical descriptive analysis of authorship patterns and keywords.[5]

Spens and Kovacs (2006) reviewed three major research journals in the field of logistics research for the year 1998-2002. A total of 378 articles were retrieved. It was found that most of the researches published on logistics used survey as a research method. [6]

Sokem (2021) study aimed to identify general trends of published research in the field of social studies education. Total 55 articles were retrieved for the year 2016 to 2019. It was found that majority of research articles used qualitative research method and data collection tool employed was interview.[7]

Malliari and Togia (2016) investigated the general trends in LIS research by analysing the articles published in Library and Information Science Research for five years from 2005-2010[8]

Objectives of the Study

The review of related literature has shown that many researches have been conducted using content analysis as research method in different fields but not many researches have been conducted using journal with multidisciplinary scope.

So, the present study was conceptualised with following objectives.

- To study the distribution of articles year wise
- To examine the characteristics of author with respect to authorship pattern, affiliation, geographic distribution and designations.
- To identify the areas or subject categories under which the articles are submitted.
- To identify the average length of the articles submitted to the journal.

Research methodology

To fulfil the above objectives, content analysis as research method was employed. According to White and Marsh (2006),

"Content Analysis method can be used qualitatively and quantitatively for systematically analysing verbal, written and visual documentation" The data for content analysis is usually collected from books, journals, articles, photographs and forums etc.[9]. To analyse, content is usually broken into conceptual chunks which are then coded. Content analysis is of two types: Conceptual content analysis and relational content analysis. In conceptual analysis, concept is coded and then inferences are made. Whereas for relational analysis relationship between the concepts are identified. [10][11]

Sample for the study

Data for the content analysis of journal articles was collected from the official site of 'International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research'. The data was collected for the year 2019-2022. Some data was not available from the year 2020 to 2021 due to some technical error.

Data Analysis and Findings

Distribution of the articles published in the journal year wise

Table 1: Distribution of the articles published in the journal year wise

Publication Year	No of articles
2019	48
2020	75
2021	44
2022	380
Total	547

Table 1 shows year wise distribution of the articles published in the journal. Total number of articles submitted in the journal are 547. It can be seen that total number of articles submitted to the journal have gradually increased. Highest number of articles were submitted to the journal in the year 2022.

Authorship Pattern

Table 2: Authorship Pattern

No. of authors	No of articles
1	230
2	194
3	48
4	39
5	21
6	6

Table two shows distribution of articles based on the number of authors. It can be seen that out of 547 articles, 230 articles were submitted by the single author, 194 articles were submitted by two authors and 46 articles were submitted by three authors. Thus, it can be concluded that single authors have contributed more articles to the journal and are most productive compared to the multiple authors.

Designation of contributors

Table 3: Designation of contributor

Designation	No of articles
Teaching Faculty	388
Students/Research Scholars	215
Practitioners	52

Table 3 provides information about different designations of authors who have contributed their research work in the journal. Authors like teaching faculty, retired professional, practitioners and students have contributed to the journal. Certain designations with variations in the name were grouped together. As evident from table 3, teaching faculty have contributed more articles followed by students/research scholars and practitioners respectively.

Geographical Distribution of the contributors

Table 4: Geographical Distribution of articles

Country	No of articles
India	212
Bangladesh	10
Nigeria	9
Indonesia	9
Malaysia	5
Oman	3
Ukraine	3
China	2
Taiwan	2
Oman	3
Turkey	2

Information about the top 10 countries who have contributed their research articles is given in table no. 4. As evident from the table 4, authors from India have contributed more articles. India is followed by Bangladesh, Nigeria and Indonesia who have contributed 10 and 9 articles respectively.

Institution wise distribution of articles

Table 5: Institution wise distribution of articles

Institutions	No of articles
Swami Vivekanand Sanstha Institute of Pharmacy	69
NRI Institute of Technology	32
I.T.R.A	24
Atlas Skilltech University	19
People's Dental Academy	15
Aurora P.G. College	10
Institute of Dental Sciences	9
Pratibhatai Pawar College of Pharmacy	9
Annamalai University	8
S.V.Medical College	8

Total 336 institutions have contributed their research work to the journal. Table 5 provides information about the top 10 institutions. Contributors from 'Swami Vivekanand Sanstha's Institute of Pharmacy' have contributed 69 articles followed by NRI Institute of Technology and I.T.R.A

Subject wise distribution of the articles

Table 6: Subject wise distribution of articles

Subject areas	No of articles
Medical / Pharmacy	80
Engineering	65
Sociology > Education	44
Sociology > Administration / Law / Management	40
Sociology	29
Sociology > Economics	26
Business Administration	23
Other	20
Arts	18
Physics > Mechanical Engineering	17
Sociology > Linguistic / Literature	17

The journal classifies the articles in different subject categories. The articles were analysed based on subject categories assigned to the articles. It revealed that most of the articles submitted in the journal were from medical/pharmacy field followed by Engineering, Sociology and education.

Average length of the articles

Table 7: Average length of articles

Length	No of articles
1--10	381
11--20	151
21--30	6
31--40	3

Table 7 provides details about the average length of the articles published in the journal. It was found that maximum number of articles published in the journal are in the page range of 1-10 followed by 11-20. Thus, it shows that very detailed articles are published in the journal.

Conclusion

International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research, since its inception in 2019 to till date has published more than 500 articles. The number of articles submitted to the journal is increasing gradually. Authorship pattern revealed that single authors have contributed more articles to the journal compared to multiple authors. Teaching faculty which includes Professor, Head, Librarian, associate professor and assistant professor have contributed more articles followed by students and research scholars and practitioners. Geographic distribution of articles has revealed that majority articles submitted to the journal are from India. It was found that 'Swami Vivekanand Sanstha Institute of Pharmacy' is most prolific institution as it has contributed 69 articles to the journal.

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