

# One Hundred Scopus Citations to a Non-Scopus Indexed Article: A Case Study

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## ABSTRACT

Receiving 100 citations from indexed journals is not a common occurrence, although it does happen very rarely, and it is even more uncommon for a non-indexed article. Given this, the purpose of this present study is to perform a bibliometric analysis of 100 cited Scopus articles to a non-Scopus indexed article, using a case study of the article titled "Authorship trends and collaboration pattern in the marine sciences literature: A scientometric study" which was published by Elango and Rajendran in the *International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology* in 2012. On October 15, 2022, the Scopus database was searched with the article title in the references field, and the resulting bibliographic data was exported as a comma-separated values file. The tools utilized for this analysis were ScientoPy, the Bibliometrix R Package, and VOSviewer. Based on the findings, most of the cited articles were published within the last three years, and international researchers have given more recognition compared to Indian researchers. The most popular topics were found to be bibliometrics, bibliometric analysis, and bibliometrix. The fact that all 100 cited articles were published across various subject disciplines used by Scopus to categorise sources demonstrates how well-established the citing article is within the scientific community.

**Keywords:** bibliometrics, hundred citations, single-article, highly-cited articles, Scopus, sleeping beauty

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Citation counts are now utilized as a proxy for assessing the quantity and quality of published articles (Nieminen et al., 2006). Measures of citation impact, such as h-index and journal impact factor (Garfield, 1972; Hirsch, 2005; Waltman, 2016), gauge the influence of scientific publications by analysing the citations they have received. Although there exist some critics of these indicators (Koltun & Hafner, 2021; Seglen, 1997), they are still commonly employed for research evaluation purposes (Wang et al., 2022). Since they demonstrate how a publication has incorporated the contents of other publications (research findings, other people's thoughts, etc.), citation counts or the number of citations are employed in research evaluation as an indication of research impact (Bornmann et al., 2008). By tallying the number of times an article is cited in other works, citation analysis determines the impact of an author's publications. In relation to this, Mammola et al. (2021) discovered that citing papers with a high impact factor enhances the number of citations.

## 1.1. Proportion of Highly Cited Papers

As per previous studies, only a minor percentage of articles or publications have received 100 or more citations. For example, Indian publications in orthopaedics accounted for 1.11% (Vaishya et al., 2022), Indian publications accounted for 0.56% (Elango & Ho, 2017), tribology research publications accounted for 0.77% (Elango & Ho, 2018), publications on obsessive compulsive disorder accounted for 4.49% (Grover & Gupta, 2022), papers on cyber security accounted for 0.53% (Dhawan et al., 2021), papers in the category of information science and library science accounted for 0.18% (Ivanović & Ho, 2016), papers in the category of education and educational research accounted for 0.53% (Ivanović & Ho, 2019), and papers in

the category of horticulture accounted for 0.94% (Kolle et al., 2017), regardless of the publication year.

The results of a search for randomly chosen journals in the Scopus database were utilized to determine the percentage of highly cited papers with 100 or more citations. These journals are presented in Table 1. The findings reveal that the proportion of highly cited papers varies from 0.28% to 5% for the selected journals.

## 1.2. Research Questions

The reputation of a scientific article within the scientific community can be determined by the number of citations it has received. In the case of a non-indexed article, reputation is more recognized by the international scientific community. In this context, the purpose of this study is to analyse the nuances of an article by Elango and Rajendran (2012) (referred to as the "citing article") that is not indexed in Scopus but has received 100 or more citations. The study aims to answer the following specific questions:

- What is the temporal evolution of the cited articles?
- Who are the top authors among the cited articles?
- What are the top countries among the cited articles?
- Are there any common themes among the cited articles?
- What is the distribution of cited articles across subject disciplines?

In 2012, the authors of the citing article "Authorship trends and collaboration pattern in the marine sciences literature: A scientometric study" published it in the *International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology*. The study utilized data collected from the *Indian Journal of Marine Sciences* from 2001 to 2010 to examine trends in authorship and collaboration. Various sciento-

**Table 1.** Number of highly cited papers (TC≥100) in selected journals

Sl.	Journal	ISSN	TP (as on 11.11.2022)	Publication period	HCP (%)
1	<i>Scientometrics</i>	0138-9130	6,871	1978-2022	260 (3.78)
2	<i>Journal of Informetrics</i>	1751-1577	1,238	2007-2022	62 (5.0)
3	<i>Research Evaluation</i>	0958-2029	863	1991-2022	19 (2.2)
4	<i>Journal of Documentation</i>	0022-0418	2,431	1945-2022	71 (2.92)
5	<i>Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology</i>	2330-1635	1,406	2014-2022	32 (2.27)
6	<i>Publications</i>	2304-6775	351	2013-2022	1 (0.28)

TC, total citations; TP, total papers; HCP, highly cited papers.

metric tools, such as the collaboration index (CI), collaboration co-efficient, and dominance factor, were employed to analyse the data. The study also investigated the applicability of Lotka's law. Additionally, the study provided comprehensive information on the calculation of the CI, which is widely acknowledged by researchers (Alhawari et al., 2021; Bragg et al., 2022; Campra et al., 2022; Koseoglu, 2016; Secinaro et al., 2020; Xu et al., 2022).

### 1.3. Modified Collaboration Index

Previously, the CI was computed by taking into account all the authors and publications, including those with single-authors. However, the study conducted by Elango and Rajendran (2012) focused on determining the total number of authors who contributed to articles with multiple authors, as well as the total number of multi-authored articles. This approach was proposed to address some drawbacks in the previous method.

Collaboration Index (CI)=

$$\frac{\text{Total number of authors of multi-authored articles}}{\text{Total number of multi-authored articles}}$$

However, the above method also has some drawbacks. To illustrate, the following scenario may be considered:

- Article1 - Author1, Author2
- Article2 - Author2, Author1

In this example, there are two articles and two distinct authors contributing to them. Despite there being four

authorships in total, the existing version of the CI (i.e. total number of authors divided by total number of articles) would yield a value of 1. In light of this, the study introduced a modified version of the CI (MCI), as follows:

Modified Collaboration Index (MCI)=

$$\frac{\text{Total number of authorships of multi-authored articles}}{\text{Total number of multi-authored articles}}$$

According to the modified version, the CI is computed by dividing the total number of authorships by the total number of multi-authored articles, resulting in a value of 2. In comparison to the previous version, the modified version produces a value that is twice as high.

## 2. DATA AND METHODS

The title of the citing article "Authorship trends and collaboration pattern in the marine sciences literature" was entered into the references field of the Scopus database in order to conduct a search. The search yielded 100 records, which are referred to as "cited articles." This search was conducted on October 15, 2022 (Fig. 1). The retrieved bibliographic records were then downloaded for further analysis. Various software tools, including Bibliometrix R Package (K-Synth Srl, Naples, Italy), VOSviewer, (Center for Science and Technology Studies, Leiden University, Leiden, Netherlands) and ScientoPy (University of Cauca, Popayán, Colombia), were utilized for this purpose.

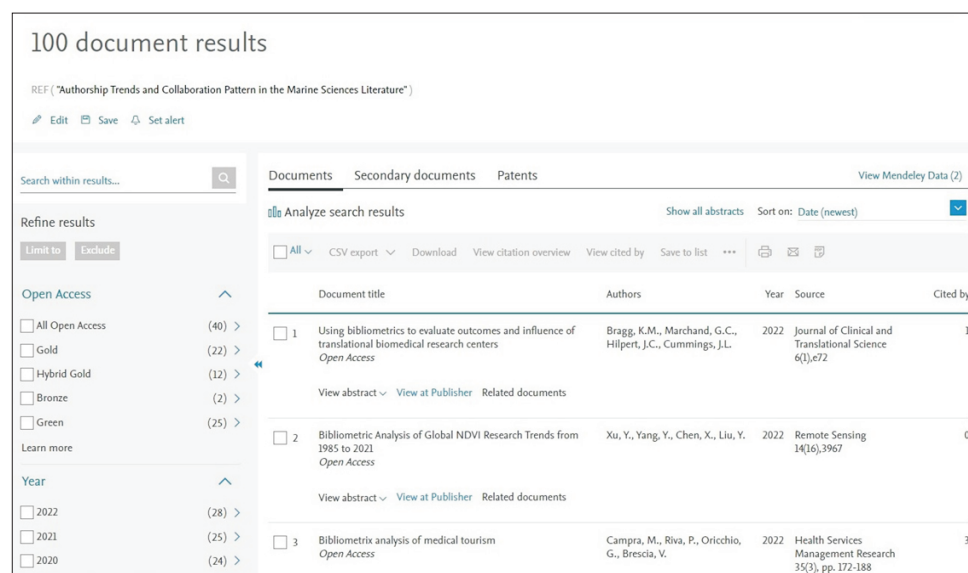


Fig. 1. Search results.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2 presents the general information of 100 cited articles that were published between 2013 and 2022 (up to October 15, 2022). The data reveals that citations for the citing article began to accumulate in the year following its publication. These 100 cited articles were published in 69 different sources, with 67 of them scientific journals. Among the 100 cited articles, 71 have received at least one citation, while the remaining 29 have not yet received any. In comparison to other fields, the average number of citations for these articles is an impressive 8.77 (Elango et al., 2023; Niknejad et al., 2021).

The authors included three times the number of keywords as there were articles. Additionally, when compared to other subject areas, the number of articles ( $n=17$ ) authored by single authors is relatively low (Arias-Chávez et al., 2022). The CI, which takes into account the authors, is calculated to be 3.19, surpassing several others fields (Arias-Chávez et al., 2022; Bashir, 2022; Campa et al., 2022; Di Cosmo et al., 2021; García-León et al., 2021). On average, each article has three authors (3.13) and CI is calculated to be 3.19. However, when accounting for authorships, the MCI is determined to be 3.57, which is 12% higher than the existing method.

The following explanation provides details on how to compute the MCI using the results obtained from Bibliometrix.

**Table 2.** Descriptive information of 100 cited articles

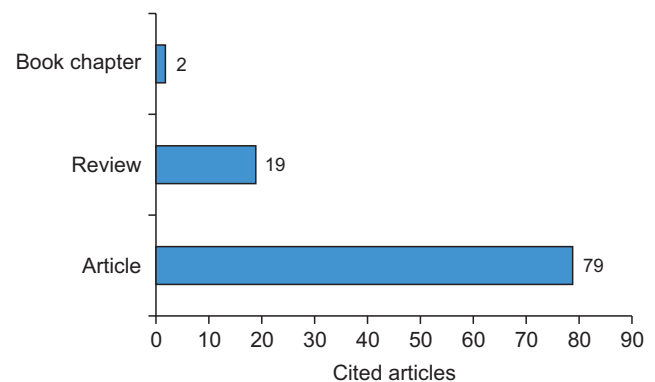
Description	Numbers
Timespan	2013-2022
Sources (journals and books)	69
Articles	100
Average citations per articles	8.77
References	6,413
Keywords plus	375
Author's keywords	338
Authors	277
Author appearances	313
Authors of single-authored documents	12
Authors of multi-authored documents	265
Single-authored documents	17
Collaboration index	3.19
Modified collaboration index	3.57

Modified Collaboration Index (MCI)=

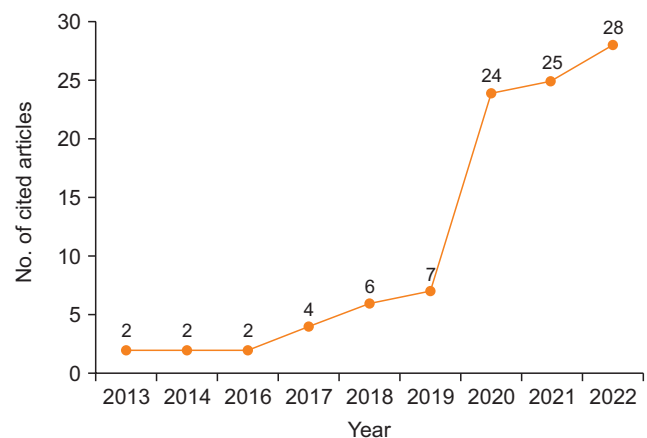
$$\frac{(\text{Author appearances})-(\text{single-authored documents})}{(\text{Total documents})-(\text{single-authored documents})}$$

The various document types from the 100 cited articles are shown in Fig. 2, illustrating that the majority of the studies were published as articles. It is not unexpected that articles are frequently chosen as the preferred document type for bibliometric OR scientometric analyses (Moo-ghali et al., 2011; Patra et al., 2006). Only two studies were published as book chapters, while 19 investigations were published as reviews. The remaining studies, excluding the book chapters, were published in 67 different journals.

Fig. 3 illustrates the annual trend of cited articles, encompassing a period of nine years from 2013 to 2022 (up until October 15, 2022). Following its publication in 2012, the citing article started to accumulated citations in 2013. The majority of the cited articles, approximately three-fourths, were published within the most recent three-year span from 2020 to 2022. The remaining articles were pub-



**Fig. 2.** Document types of 100 cited articles.



**Fig. 3.** Yearly trend of 100 cited articles.

lished over a duration of six years. As a result, the citing article can be referred to as a “sleeping beauty” (Song et al., 2018; van Raan, 2004).

Fig. 4 illustrates the top 10 authors of the 100 cited articles, along with the corresponding percentage of articles published in the most recent last two years, specifically 2021 and 2022. These distinguished authors have cited articles ranging from 2 and 9. With the exception of the author of the citing article, all other authors hail from different countries, exemplifying the international recognition of the article over its nation recognition. Notably, authors Köseoglu and King originate from Hong Kong, Mostafa is from Kuwait, Brescia, Calandra, and Secinaro are from Italy, Yildiz is from Australia, Zhang is from China, and Palacios is from Portugal. It is worth mentioning that authors Mostafa and Palacios have cited this citing article in five and two articles, respectively, all of which were published within the last two years. Following closely behind,

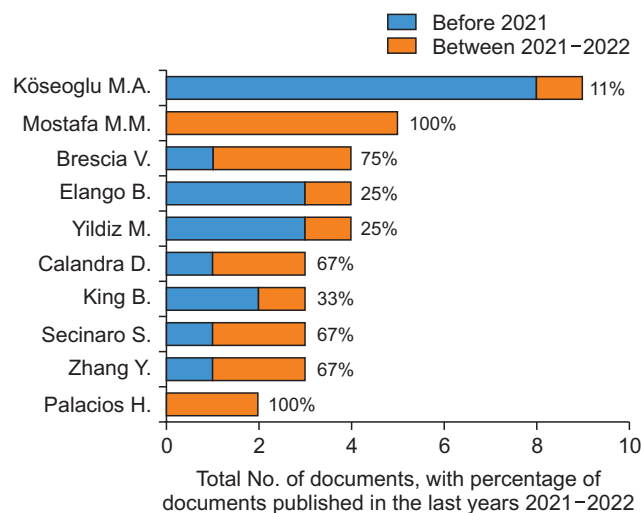


Fig. 4. Top authors of the cited articles.

Brescia cited this article in three-fourths of the articles, signifying the frequent citation of this article by these authors in recent years.

The authors of the 100 cited articles hailed from 35 different countries. Fig. 5 displays the leading 10 countries of origin of authors of these 100 cited articles, and these particular countries contributed articles ranging from between 4 to 25. Out of the 100 cited articles, only 25 were from India, which is the country of origin for the authors of the citing article. This clearly indicates that the article was highly esteemed within the international scientific community. Among these top 10 countries mentioned, Italy, the United Kingdom, the United States, and China were also recognized as top contributors to scientific production in 2021 (Elango, 2022). It can be observed that the citing article has garnered less attention from Indian authors, while attracting increased attention from the international scientific community. For example, more than 80% of articles by Italy, Kuwait, and Malaysia were

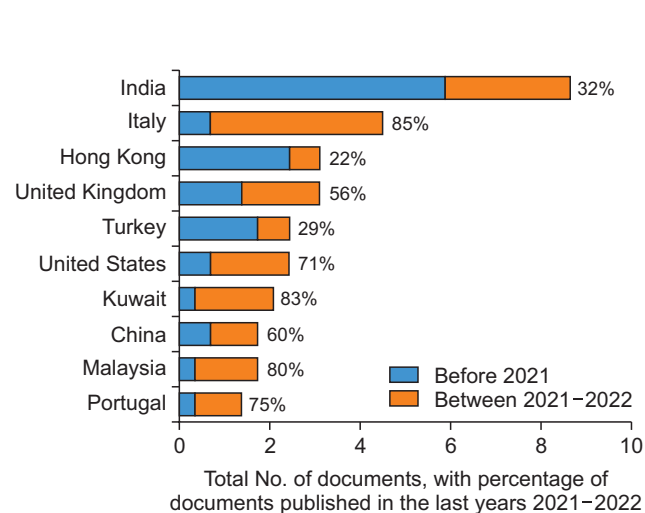


Fig. 5. Top countries of authors of cited articles.

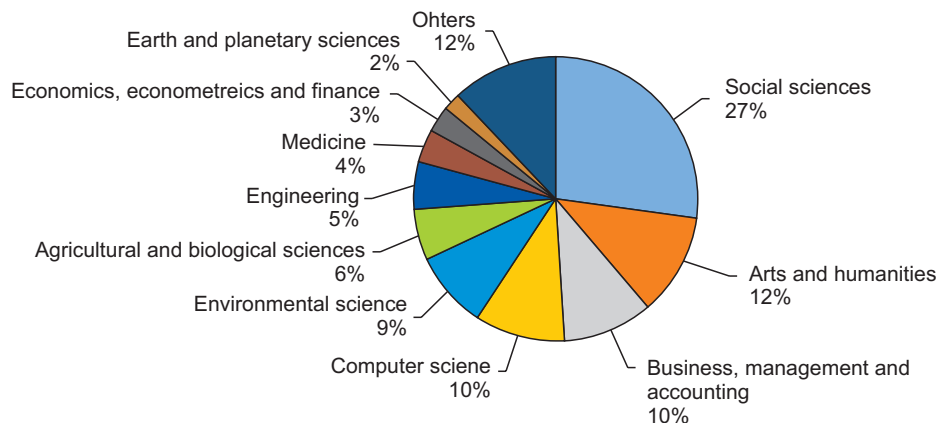
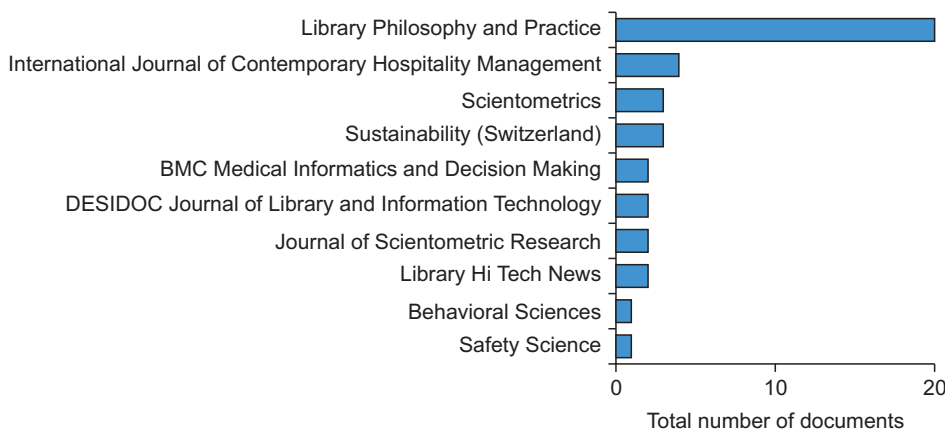


Fig. 6. Distribution of subject areas of 100 cited articles.





**Fig. 7.** Top journals of 100 cited articles.

published within the last two years, in comparison to only 32% by India.

The Scopus database contains 23 different subject-related sources where the 100 cited articles were discovered (Fig. 6). Out of the 27 subject disciplines used by Scopus to classify sources, only health professionals, immunology & microbiology, nursing, and pharmacology, toxicology & pharmaceuticals have no cited articles. The majority of the cited articles were published in sources belonging to the disciplines of social sciences, arts & humanities, business management & accounting, computer science, and environmental science. This demonstrates that the article is being utilized as a resource in a wide range of disciplines.

Fig. 7 illustrates the top 10 journals, collectively responsible for publishing 40% of the 100 cited articles. Among these journals, six possess an impact factor for the year 2021, ranging from 2.286 (*Behavioural Sciences*) to 9.321 (*International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management*). While two of these journals are included in the Emerging Source Citation Index, they have yet to acquire an impact factor. This outcome serves as a testament to the exceptional quality of the cited articles. Unfortunately, *Library Philosophy and Practice*, one of the aforementioned ten journals, has been excluded from Scopus coverage due to concerns with its publication practices.

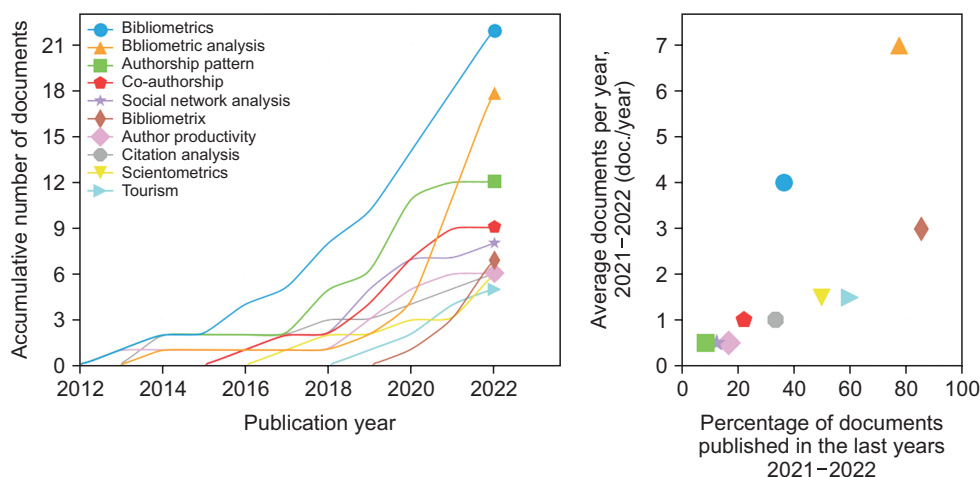
The word cloud shown in Fig. 8 presents the top 50 keywords used by the authors in the 100 cited articles. The size of the keyword or phrase is inversely related to the number of articles it appears in (Ruiz-Rosero et al., 2019). The analysis reveals that the keyword bibliometrics, authorship pattern, co-authorship, and social network analysis are particularly prevalent among the cited articles. Additionally, Fig. 9 provides an evolution plot of the top 10 author keywords, allowing us to examine their temporal patterns. The panel on the right side illustrates the av-



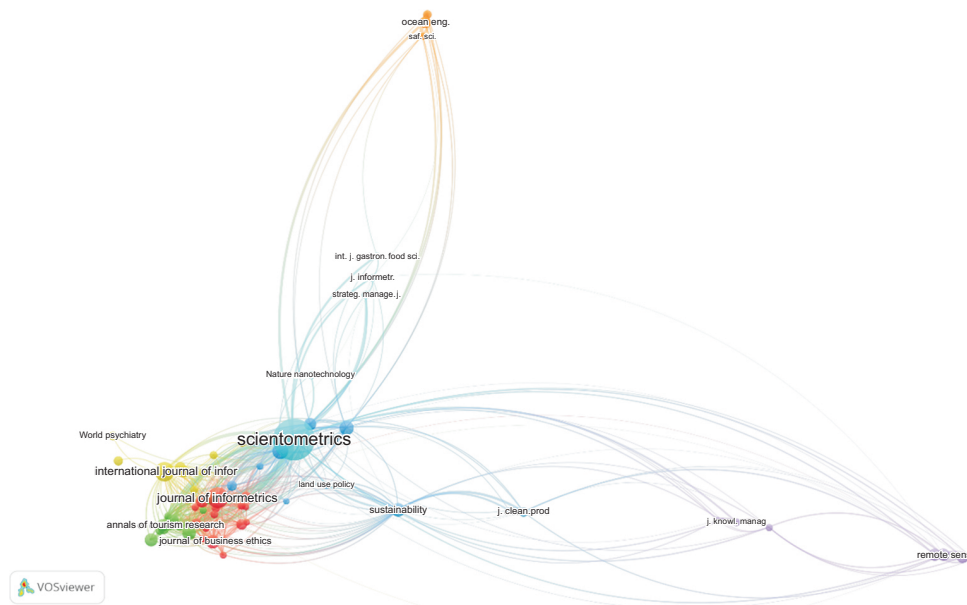
**Fig. 8.** Word cloud of author keywords of cited articles.

erage growth rate in relation to the proportion of articles published in the recent two years, while the panel on the left side displays the accumulative number of articles over the years. From the figure, it is evident that among the 100 cited articles, the most popular keywords are *bibliometrics*, *bibliometric analysis*, and *bibliometrix*.

The structure of a given subject is reflected in the connections between nodes (such as authors, papers, and journals) in a citation analysis network, and the edges can be interpreted in various ways depending on the network type, including co-citation, bibliometric coupling, and direct citation (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017). Consequently, a co-citation network map of cited sources has been generated in VOSviewer to gain insight into the prominent sources among the 100 cited articles. The analysis focuses on cited sources, and out of 3,385 sources, 63 sources have been selected based on a threshold value of at least 10 citations per source. The resulting network map reveals 7 clusters (Fig 10). It is challenging to assign a specific subject area to the clusters since the cited journals belong



**Fig. 9.** Evolution plot of top 10 author keywords of 100 cited articles.

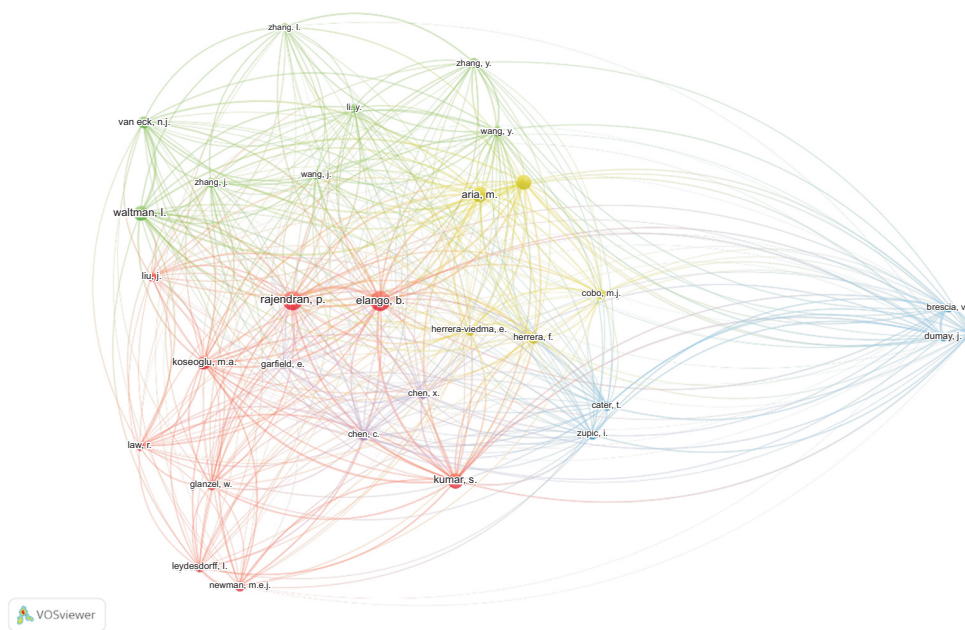


**Fig. 10.** Co-citation network of sources of 100 cited articles (unit of analysis=cited sources; minimum number of citations of a source=10).

to various subject areas. However, the most influential sources are *Scientometrics* and the *Journal of Informetrics*: Both of these journals were listed among the top 25 influential journals in the field of bibliometrics (Martín-Martín et al., 2018).

Author co-citation analysis, an important technique in bibliometrics, involves counting how many times an author's work is cited by another author in the references of citing publications. This technique is used to detect, analyse, and visualize the intellectual structure of a dataset (Bayer et al., 1990). To explore the prominent authors among the 100 cited articles, a co-citation network map of cited authors was generated using VOSviewer. The unit of analysis in this map is cited authors, and out of the 12,068 authors, 30 were selected based on a threshold value of

at least 20 citations. The resulting network map reveals 4 clusters (Fig. 11). The largest network, represented by the colour red, includes the authors van Eck and Waltman, who developed the VOSviewer (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). The next significant cluster, represented by the colour green, consists of pioneers in the field of bibliometrics, like Leydesdorff and Glanzel. The blue cluster comprises the developers of Bibliometrix (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017) and SciMAT (Cobo et al., 2012). Among these authors, Glanzel, Leydesdorff, and Garfield were identified as among the top 25 influential authors in the field of bibliometrics (Martín-Martín et al., 2018).



**Fig. 11.** Co-citation network of authors of 100 cited articles (unit of analysis=cited authors; minimum number of citations of an author=20).

#### 4. MERITS AND DEMIERTS OF THE PROPOSED MCI

The current version of the CI possesses some limitations, and this study has proposed a MCI, which has the following advantages:

- It is easy to calculate.
- It can be employed to evaluate the level of collaboration among a group of authors on a particular dataset.
- It can be applied to any dataset type. For example, it can be used to compute for various document types, a specific author, institution, and country, a particular journal, and so on.

Undeniably, it has the following disadvantage:

- The author positions are not taken into account: for instance, whether they are the first, last, or corresponding author.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The citing article “Authorship trends and collaboration pattern in the marine sciences literature: A scientometric study” published by Elango and Rajendran in the *International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology* in 2012, is used as a case study to demonstrate the results of a bibliometric analysis of 100 cited Scopus

articles to a non-Scopus indexed article (Elango & Rajendran, 2012). This study yields some interesting facts. Receiving 100 citations from Scopus indexed articles by a Scopus-indexed article as well as a non-indexed article is highly reputable among the scientific community. Because the majority of the cited articles were published during the last three years, the results demonstrate that the citing article is a ‘sleeping beauty.’ The fact that three-fourths of the cited articles were authored by authors outside India demonstrates how well-recognized the citing article is on a global scale. The three most prominent themes among the 100 cited articles were bibliometrics, bibliometric analysis, and bibliometrix. The top 10 journals that published the 100 cited articles published 40% of the cited articles, and the scientific community worldwide is aware of all 10 journals. To summarise, regardless of the journal’s indexing, the scientific community will recognize a publication that includes fascinating and significant material.

The results of this study are specifically constrained by the fact that they are based entirely on the 100 cited articles of the chosen citing article.

#### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The author of this study is one of the authors of citing article.



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