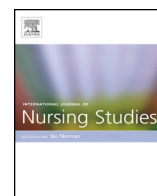




ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## International Journal of Nursing Studies

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/ijns](http://www.elsevier.com/ijns)

## Mapping the field of military nursing research 1990–2013: A bibliometric review

Jane Currie<sup>a,\*</sup>, Jennifer Chipps<sup>b</sup><sup>a</sup> Sydney Nursing School, University of Sydney, 88 Mallett Street, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW 2050, Australia<sup>b</sup> School of Nursing, University of the Western Cape, South Africa

## ARTICLE INFO

*Article history:*

Received 29 March 2015

Received in revised form 10 June 2015

Accepted 16 June 2015

*Keywords:*

Bibliometric review

Research

Military nursing

Army

Navy

Air force

Defence

Nursing

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Over the past 20 years, military forces worldwide have been engaged in a number of conflicts and humanitarian operations and the impact of this on the field of military nursing research is unknown. The aim of this bibliometric review was to investigate the research field of military nursing in the main databases with the purpose to describe trends in military nursing research since 1990.

**Objectives:** To identify military nursing papers in the main databases and to describe the field of military nursing research for the period 1990–2013 in terms of research productivity, trends in topic focus, trends in authorship and country of publication.

**Method:** Bibliometric review of published military nursing research papers was undertaken in March 2014 and data was extracted and coded and trends were analyzed using SPSSv21.

**Results:** In total 237 articles were included in the review. The majority of publications emanating from America ( $n = 175$ , 73.8%) and the quantity of papers has increased significantly since the commencement of the second Gulf War in Iraq from 2003 onwards ( $n = 156$ , 65.8%). This has been accompanied by a shift in topic focus from professional ( $n = 16$ , 20.3%) and occupational issues ( $n = 17$ , 21.5%) pre 2003, to clinical ( $n = 48$ , 30.4%) and an increase in multidisciplinary research from 4% in 1990–94 to 29% in 2010–13. The mean citations were 10.6 (sd 17.0) and the mean references per paper post 2003 showed a marked increase from 23.5 to 25.4.

**Conclusion:** The military nursing research field appears stronger than it has been in the past twenty years and has demonstrated increased transferability to other fields. To maintain this momentum and further develop the field of military nursing research, military forces worldwide need to devise focused nursing research strategies that involve international and multidisciplinary collaboration.

© 2015 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

**What is already known about the topic?**

- Conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have led to significant advances in health care practices.
- Military nursing research has the potential to forward both military and civilian nursing practice.

**What this paper adds**

- The military nursing research field appears underdeveloped, although there are signs of increased momentum in terms of the quantity of papers published, the number of references per paper, the impact factor of journals and the increase in multidisciplinary research, which holds potential for the transferability of military nursing knowledge to other fields.
- To further develop the military nursing research field, military nursing forces need to devise research strategies

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +61 0416 647 340.

E-mail address: [jane.currie@sydney.edu.au](mailto:jane.currie@sydney.edu.au) (J. Currie).

that include international and multidisciplinary collaboration.

## 1. Background

Military nursing research is an important field because the lessons learned by military nursing during recent world events has the potential to forward both military and civilian nursing practice, particularly in specialist areas such as trauma, mental health, public health and surgical nursing. Yet, little is known about the international field of military nursing research, in terms of publication trends, topic focus and collaboration. This paper addresses this through a bibliometric process that will review and describe trends in the published peer reviewed research in the field of military nursing. For the purpose of this review the term 'military nursing research' refers to peer reviewed research that focuses on military nursing as the major topic and/or holds recommendations for the practice of military nursing.

The Army Nursing Service was established in the United Kingdom (UK) in 1881 and this was the first formal organization of military nursing. The Army Nursing Service was an organization that oversaw the work of military nurses deploying them overseas, beginning with the First Boer War. Military nursing was the birthplace of a number of significant health care practices, many of which were translated into civilian practice. Most notable for nursing were those instigated by Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War and documented in 'Notes on Nursing' and included practices related to infection control and patient nutrition (Nightingale, 1859). Many advances in care and treatment have and will continue to be made as a result of the health care and treatment provided to casualties of war, conflict and humanitarian disasters and it is important that these are documented (Feider et al., 2012).

More recently, conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have led to significant advances in health care practices, in particular damage control surgery, damage control resuscitation, massive transfusion protocols, infection control and trauma reporting systems (Aronson et al., 2006; Eastridge et al., 2006; Hodgetts et al., 2007; Wildridge et al., 2012). A citation analysis of combat casualty research identified advances in the management of massive haemorrhage as the most significant contribution to military health care and that lessons learned have been adopted into civilian trauma paradigms (Orman et al., 2012).

The conflicts in the middle east have exposed military nurses to patterns of injury rarely experienced in civilian health care and this has presented an opportunity to further evolve military nursing knowledge and practice. The injury patterns from ballistic trauma present challenges for all specialties of nursing involved in the patients' care, particularly as a large proportion of patients, up to 69%, injured in the second Gulf War (2003–2011) and/or Afghanistan (2001–2014) suffered polytrauma (Bridges, 2010, p. S75). Providing care for injured patients in military operational environments requires military nurses to take consideration of constraints in resources, such as equipment, time and environmental conditions

and this often requires nurses to adapt their approach to care to suit a particular situation in order to optimize health outcomes. The long-term rehabilitation of injured military personnel, both physical and psychological, also presents unique challenges for military nursing, the wider health care system and Veterans health.

However, it has been argued that there is limited research evidence underpinning military nursing practice (Bridges, 2010). The advances in military nursing knowledge provide potential opportunities for translation into most civilian fields of nursing, particularly trauma, critical care, peri-operative and mental health nursing. The translation of combat casualty research, such as trauma governance and treatment of massive haemorrhage are evidence of the utility of military research to the civilian setting (Hettiaratchy et al., 2010; Orman et al., 2012). Capturing the lessons learned and ensuring that military nursing builds upon a firm evidence base is essential and will facilitate ongoing advancement of care paradigms as well as translation of practices into the civilian setting. The impact of military conflicts and humanitarian operations on the field of military nursing research is currently unknown and to investigate this the authors undertook a bibliometric review. The review is designed to investigate the field of military nursing research papers published in the main databases between 1990 and 2013, to describe the field in terms of research productivity, trends in topic focus, trends in authorship and country of publication to gain a sense of the development of the military nursing field.

## 2. Method

### 2.1. Review strategy: bibliometrics

Bibliometrics provides a quantitative analysis of the literature published within a specific field and provides a method of mapping the development and structure of a given scientific field (Clarke et al., 2007; Estabrooks et al., 2004; Lievrouw, 1989). The intention of a bibliometric review is to map the published research within a particular field so that commonalities and differences can be exposed which may include, the most common research topics and trends within a field, the core authors, patterns of collaboration, assessing research in terms of output funding, impact and geographic trends (Anderson et al., 2009). A key assumption of bibliometrics is that the publications reflect the knowledge base within that field (Estabrooks et al., 2004).

For the purpose of this study, the focus was on military nursing research papers between 1990 and 2013 published in peer-reviewed academic journals in the main health databases. This time period includes a number of conflicts involving multinational forces including the first (1990–1991) and second Gulf Wars, Sierra Leone Civil War (1991–2002), War in Afghanistan and East Timorese Crisis, from which a number of military research based health care innovations resulted. By choosing the period 1990–2013, the authors were able to identify trends in research productivity, trends in topic focus, trends in authorship and country of publication.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1076160>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1076160>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)