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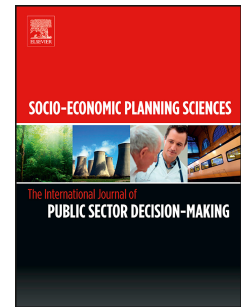
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A survey and analysis of the first 40 years of scholarly literature in DEA: 1978-2016

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Abstract

In recent years there has been an exponential growth in the number of publications related to theory and applications of Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA). Charnes, Cooper, and Rhodes (1978) introduced DEA as a tool for measuring efficiency and productivity of decision making units. DEA has immediately been recognized as a modern tool for performance measurement. Since then, a large and considerable amount of articles has been appeared, including significant breakthroughs in theory and a great portion of works on DEA applications, both public and private sectors, to assess the efficiency and productivity of their activities. Although there have been several bibliographic collections reported, a comprehensive analysis and listing of DEA-related articles covering its first four decades of history is still missing. This paper, thus, aims to report an extensive listing of DEA-related articles including theory and methodology developments and "real" applications in diversified scenarios from 1978 to end of 2016. Some summary statistics of the publications' growth, the most utilized academic journals, authorship analysis, as well as keywords analysis are also provided.

Keywords. Data Envelopment Analysis; efficiency and productivity; bibliography; survey

1. Introduction

There has been continuous and rapid growth in the field of Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA)-related studies since the original work of Charnes, Cooper, and Rhodes [Measuring

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