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Original article

Bibliometrics study on the *Journal of American College Health*: 1994–2014[☆]Xiao Zheng^a, Yong-Ju Liu^a, Wei-Hong Hu^b, Huang Huang^c, Yan-Pei Ni^d, Hui-Ning Zhao^a, Zhen-Zhen Jin^a, Chi-Chen Zhang^{a,*}^a School of Management, Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi 030001, China^b Medical Department, Huikang Hospital, Shandong 266000, China^c School of Public Health, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06510, USA^d Network Center of Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi 030001, China

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To help readers around the world comprehensively understand the development of the journal and evolution of cooperation study, we employed a bibliometrics analysis for the *Journal of American College Health*.**Methods:** One-thousand-one-hundred-forty-three articles published in this journal from 1994 were analyzed using the bibliometrics and visualization software CiteSpace.**Results:** The annual number of published articles and cited studies increased. The published studies by RP Keeling and H Wechsler were at the forefront. “College student” and “alcohol” were prevalent keywords. University of Wisconsin and Harvard University were the institutional leaders of contributions.**Conclusions:** This journal provides an important platform for sharing research achievements and promoting cooperation in this field. The level of articles published is continually improving. A research cooperative network promoted by famous scholars and institutions is developing. However, cross-regional and international cooperation is relatively limited.© 2017 Shanxi Medical Periodical Press. Publishing services by Elsevier B.V. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

1. Introduction

A significant journal in Web of Science is *Journal of American College Health*, formerly known as *Journal of American College Health Association* (1952–1982) (1982–current). The journal provides information related to health in institutions of higher education and publishes articles on many areas of this broad field; the subjects covered by this journal include Addictions and Substance Use, Allied Health, Behavioral Medicine, Behavioral Sciences, Community Health, Counseling, Health & Society, Health Conditions, Health and Social Care, Mental Health, Population Health, among others. Many well-known experts or scholars, such as RP

Keeling, H Wechsler and WA Christmas, have frequently published excellent articles in the journal, which has helped develop the journal.

Using the bibliometrics and visualization software CiteSpace, we explored and directly reported on the research focus, development and research cooperation of scientific studies published in *Journal of American College Health* from 1994 to 2014. We performed a multi-angular, thorough Bibliometrics and visualization analyses and provide a scientific knowledge map of the analyses. Our aim was to help readers around the world comprehensively understand the development of the journal and evolution of cooperation study.

2. Methods

2.1. Data source

Documents were collected from the scientific literature database Web of Science. The search formula was “Publication Name = *Journal of American College Health*”. The scope was limited

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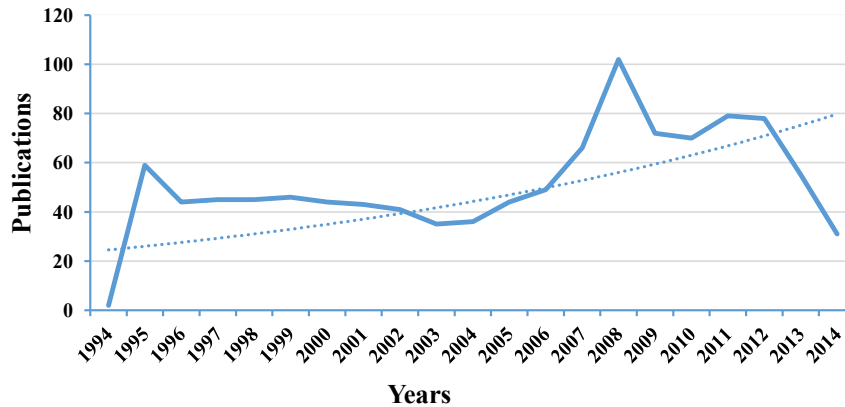


Fig. 1. The annual distribution of the number of published articles in the *Journal of American College Health*.

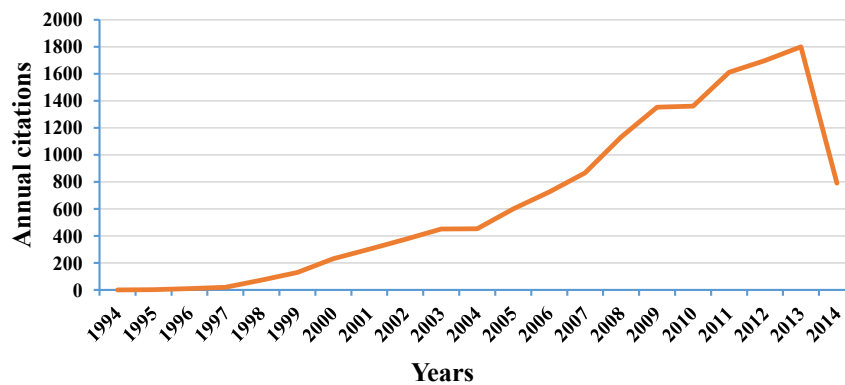


Fig. 2. The annual cited frequency of *Journal of American College Health*.

Table 1

Top 50 cited study distribution and citations in the *Journal of American College Health*.

Publication year	Article number	Total citations	Average citations
1994	1	96	96.0
1996	3	367	122.3
1997	3	417	139.0
1998	4	675	168.8
1999	4	408	102.0
2000	9	733	81.4
2001	2	138	69.0
2002	3	859	286.3
2003	4	311	77.8
2004	3	240	80.0
2005	6	527	87.8
2006	5	419	83.8
2008	2	113	56.5
2009	1	79	79.0
Total	50	5382	107.6

to 1994–2014. There were 1143 retrieved studies that met eligibility criteria for inclusion in the final analysis. The date of retrieval was April 17, 2014.

2.2. Study methods

In this study, we used visual software, CiteSpace, Vision 3.8.R3, as a research tool. The software was developed by Dr. Chen^{1–5} in Drexel University, USA. CiteSpace is a freely available Java application for visualizing and analyzing the trends and patterns in scientific literature. It was designed as a tool for progressive knowledge domain visualization.^{6,7} The software focuses on finding

critical points in the development of a field, especially intellectual turning points and pivotal points. CiteSpace offers various functions to facilitate the understanding and interpretation of network and historical patterns, including identifying fast-growth topical areas, finding citation hotspots, decomposing a network into clusters, automatic labeling of clusters with terms from citing articles, geospatial patterns of collaboration, and unique areas of international collaboration. This software has been widely used in many fields, such as Information Science and Life Science.

After inputting the valid research documents into the software, we set the analysis period from 1994 to 2014 and time division as 1 year; then, 20 time slices were formed. The relevant nodes were selected and analyzed correlatively according to different analyzed contents, i.e., authors, institutions, keywords, and so on; the threshold level was set to (2, 2, 20), (4, 3, 20), and (4, 3, 20) with Top N per slice = 50.^{8–11}

3. Results

3.1. Analysis of the annual number of published journal articles

The distribution of annual journal publications can reflect the total annual number of published journal articles and is a key indicator to evaluate the journal data. As shown in Fig. 1, the annual number of published articles in *Journal of American College Health* fluctuates, but there is a general trend of an increase, and the evolution of the published article number can be divided into three stages. The first stage is from 1994 to 2002; during this time, the annual published articles number increased rapidly and fluctuated.

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