



## Original article

A bibliometric study of the *Journal of School Health*: 1965–2014<sup>☆</sup>

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## ARTICLE INFO

## Article history:

Received 5 January 2017

Received in revised form

18 February 2017

Accepted 25 March 2017

Available online 8 June 2017

## Keywords:

*Journal of School Health*

Bibliometric

Visualization

Scientific knowledge map

CiteSpace III

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** As an important international journal in the field of school health, the *Journal of School Health* has drawn wide attention from researchers and readers around the world. Therefore, it is important to conduct a systematic retrospective study of the journal. With the aim of understanding the development of the journal and the evolutionary process of cooperative study of this field comprehensively, we employed bibliometric analysis using the articles published in the *Journal of School Health* from 1965.

**Methods:** Using bibliometrics, 5242 articles published in the journal were extracted and then analyzed using the visualization software CiteSpace III.

**Results:** The annual published amount of literature showed a declining tendency; however, the frequency of citation displayed an increase year by year. Among prolific authors, the number of reports published by JH Price, L Kann and RJ McDermott are at the top. Among the high frequency keywords used in the research journal, “adolescents”, “children” and “programs” have become popular in the journal's vocabulary. CDCP, Univ Texas and Univ Calif are positioned in the forefront of the involved institutions when ranked by degree of contribution.

**Conclusions:** The *Journal of School Health* provides an important platform for sharing research achievements and promoting cooperation in this field. The amount of articles published in the journal is continually improving; its cooperative research network promoted by famous scholars and institutions is forming. As more researchers and institutions join, the network will grow and relationships will become increasingly close. However, limitations to cooperation at the regional or interagency scope remain.

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## 1. Introduction

As a core journal in the Web of Science, the *Journal of School Health* was first published in 1930, and it has attained an impact factor of 1.659 to date. The major research fields that the *Journal of School Health* concentrates on are Education Scientific Disciplines, Education & Educational Research, Health Care Sciences & Services, and Public Environmental & Occupational Health. The *Journal of School Health* is published 12 times per year on behalf of the

American School Health Association (ASHA). Journal readership includes administrators, educators, nurses, physicians, dentists, psychologists/counselors, social workers, nutritionists/dietitians, and other related health experts. These individuals work cooperatively with parents and social communities to achieve the common goal of providing youths with the programs, services, and environment necessary to promote health and improve learning. Many well-known experts or scholars, taking McDermott et al<sup>1–9</sup> for instance, have published high quality articles in the journal, which has made great contributions to its development. The *Journal of School Health* celebrated its 85th anniversary in 2015; based on this, the present article analyzes data informed by the article in this journal, using the information visualization software CiteSpace and the perspective of bibliometrics. Therefore, the aim of this article was to congratulate the journal and provide reference for readers to further understand the journal, as well.

<sup>☆</sup> The study was supported and funded by MOE (Ministry of Education, China), the research projects of Humanities and Social Sciences (No. 13YJCZH239) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 71403155). It is also supported by Shanxi Federation of Social Science Circles (No. SSKLZDKT2014084).

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Peer review under responsibility of Shanxi Medical Periodical Press.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1. Data source

In this article, the article was collected from the scientific article database Web of Science. The Retrieval Period is “1965–2014”. The Search Formula is “Publication Name = *Journal of School Health*”; there were in total 5242 related articles shown after the retrieval. The Retrieval Date was April 30, 2014.

### 2.2. Data processing and analysis

Authors, keywords and institutions were extracted and merged from the 5242 original pieces of data, which meant that multiple words with the same meaning were merged into one relevant word. For example, the keywords “children” and “child” were merged into “children”; “cigarette”, “cigarettes” and “tobacco” were merged into “cigarettes”; and “teacher”, “teachers” and “school teachers” were merged into “teachers”. The institutions “Ctr Dis Control & Prevent”, “CTR DIS CONTROL & PREVENT”, “CDCP” and “CTR DIS CONTROL” were merged into “CDCP”; “UNIV CALIF”, “Univ Calif San Diego”, “UNIV CALIF LOS ANGELES” and “Univ Calif Los Angeles” were merged into “Univ Calif”; and “UNIV TEXAS” and “Univ Texas” were merged into “Univ Texas”. In this article, we make a distinction between authors from different institutions but with the same name, for example, JS Greenberg at Univ Maryland was marked as JS Greenberg 1, JS Greenberg at BOSTON UNIV was marked as JS Greenberg 2. Meanwhile, the article unified the spelling of authors' names, as well, such as L Kann, L KANN and Laura Kann were merged into L Kann; Robert J McDermott and RJ McDermott were merged into RJ McDermott.

### 2.3. Instruments and procedure

After the data were merged, we drew a knowledge map of the *Journal of School Health* using the visual software CiteSpace, Vision 3.8.R3, which was researched and developed by professor Chen of

Drexel University.<sup>10–12</sup> CiteSpace is an available Java application intended for visualizing and analyzing trends and patterns in scientific article. Through analyzing and processing scientific article data, CiteSpace could show trends and frontiers in the field of scientific development as a form of knowledge map. This software analyzed the selected relevant nodes according to different criteria, i.e., authors, keywords and institutions. In this study the analysis period extended from 1965 to 2014 with a time interval of 1 year, from which 49 time slices were formed, displaying the top of the figure. The threshold level was set to (2, 2, 20), (4, 3, 20), (4, 3, 20) Top N per slice = 50.<sup>13–16</sup>

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Analysis of number of annual published articles

The annual published articles refers to the total number of article about the related subject the journal published each year, and it reflects the information content of the journal to some extent. Fig. 1 shows the annual distribution of published articles in the *Journal of School Health*, which was gathered from the Web of Science. From the figure, we can see that the annual number of published articles basically presents a declining trend, in which the earlier stage shows a fluctuation whereas the later stage was relatively stable. The number of annual published articles in 1981 was more than 170, representing the peak of the whole timeline. In addition, the number of annual published articles in the journal can be divided into three stages: the first stage was 1965–1975, during this stage the number of article began increasing, then it reached its maximum in 1970 and began to drop; the second stage was 1976–1988, the amount of article first increased then decreased, reaching the maximum amount for all years in 1981; and the third stage was 1989–2014, during which the amount of article was relatively stable, with a fluctuation of less than 120 items. As the collected article data's terminal date is April 30, 2014, the data statistics for that year are incomplete.

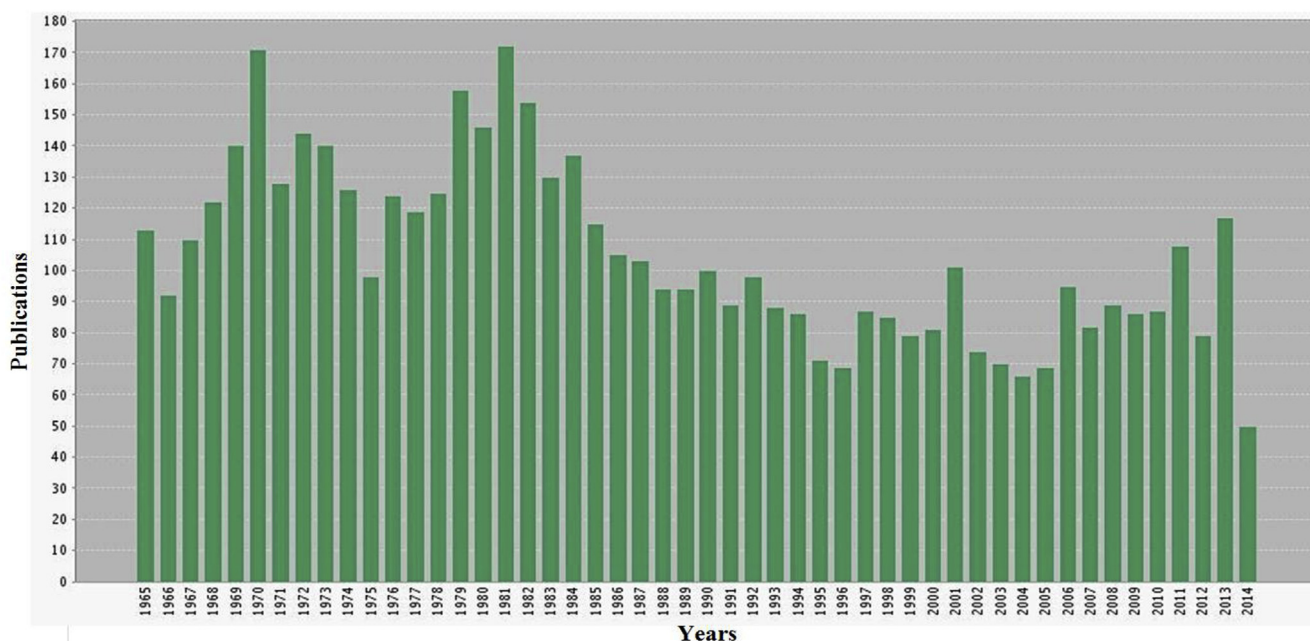


Fig. 1. Annual distribution of published articles in the *Journal of School Health*.

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