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# A bibliometric analysis of the Journal of Infection and Public Health: 2008–2016

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** The Journal of Infection and Public Health published its first issue in 2008. The fact that the journal has been published uninterruptedly as well as its editorial content and the application of a peer-review process to select manuscripts, made the journal eligible to be indexed by databases such as Scopus. This study presents a general overview of the journal from 2008 until 2016 using bibliometric indicators to assess its performance.

**Methods:** The data for this study, dating between 2008 and 2016, was extracted from Scopus database. All the information was exported in CSV format to the Sequel Pro software for data analysis. Additionally, collaboration and word co-occurrence networks were generated using VOSviewer.

**Results:** The total number of documents published between 2008–2016 was 586, of which local authorship (Saudi Arabia) constituted a small share, accounting only for 19.3% (113 documents). Those with foreign authorship (other countries excluding Saudi Arabia) represented 80.7% (473) of the total. Furthermore, the three countries that co-author documents with researchers from Saudi Arabia are Egypt, the United States and the United Kingdom. Likewise, these three countries serve as nodes connecting researchers from other countries located in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. An analysis of the top-five journals that cited the research published revealed that that 90.2% of them belonged to the first and second quartiles confirms the quality of the research being published. Word co-occurrence analysis established a slight shift of focus in the research topics published during the last four years studied, as a new cluster was formed with terms related to “education”, “intervention” and “implementation”.

**Conclusion:** The journal has managed, in very few years, to be considered by researchers worldwide. Furthermore, throughout the years, the journal showed an evolution in the main topics covered, providing a contemporary overview of public health.

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### Introduction

The Journal of Infection and Public Health (JIPH) was founded in 2008 by the Saudi Arabian National Guard Health Affairs, King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences and the Saudi Association for Public Health, which at the time was envisioned as a scientific journal that covered topics regarding infection prevention and control, microbiology, infectious diseases, public health and the application of healthcare epidemiology to the evaluation of health outcomes. Since then, the journal has been published uninterruptedly. This timeliness, as well as its editorial content and the application of a peer-review process to select manuscripts, made the journal eligible to be indexed by databases such as Scopus and

Web of Science. Undoubtedly, the inclusion of any journal into one of these databases increases exponentially the citation rate of the authors as their research is exposed to a wide-ranging audience.

Bibliometrics can be defined as a qualitative and quantitative analysis of research that is often used to assess the impact of an individual researcher, research groups, institutions, countries or journals. The bibliometric analysis of a specific journal is important as it provides insight that goes far beyond the scope of the journal [1–4]. Frequently researchers study some of the more commonly known bibliometric parameters (impact factor, h-index) before submitting a manuscript to a journal. Likewise, libraries evaluate the bibliometric characteristic of journals before deciding whether to include as part of their collection.

Hence, this study presents a general bibliometric overview of JIPH since it began being indexed by SCOPUS in 2008.

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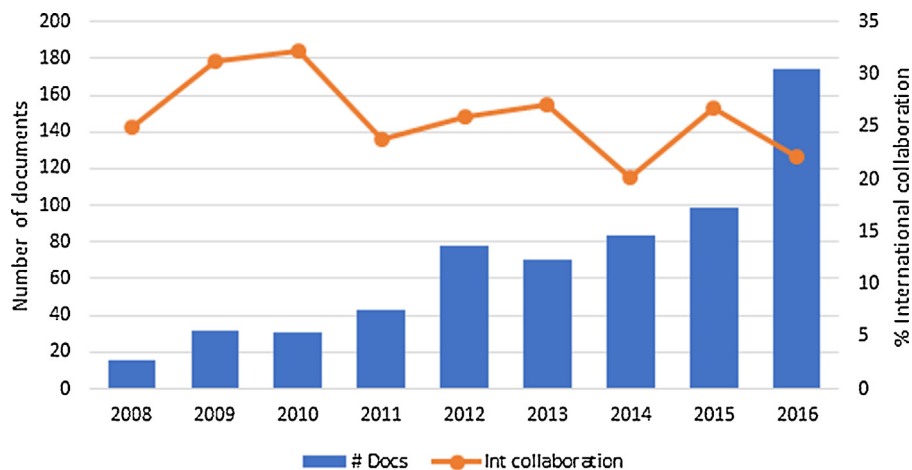


Fig. 1. Trends in the number of documents published annually by JIPH and the ratio of documents that were generated due to the collaboration of researchers from more than one country.

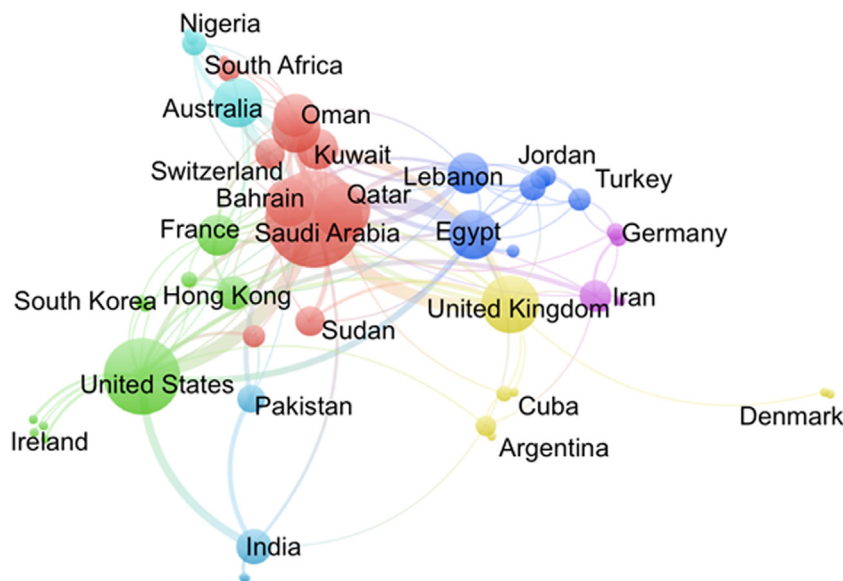


Fig. 2. Co-author collaboration network by country from documents published by JIPH between 2008–2016.

**Materials and methods**

The data for this study, dating between 2008 and 2016, was extracted from Scopus (October 17th, 2017). All the information was exported in CSV format to the Sequel Pro software for data analysis. Additionally, the VOSviewer software [5] was employed to generate the collaboration and word co-occurrence network.

**Results**

The total number of documents published between 2008–2016 was 586. However, during its first year (2008), JIPH published only 16 documents. The following years the number of annual publications increased significantly being more than ten-fold by the year 2016 (Fig. 1). Likewise, the number of issues published annually increased from two (in 2008), to four (2009–2010) and then to six (from 2011 to the present day). The most frequently published document type that was indexed by Scopus corresponded to “article” which comprised 69.8% of the total production, followed by “article in press” (10.0%), “review” (7.8%), letter (7.4%), editorial material (4.5%) and erratum (0.5%). Since the proportion of documents cat-

egorized as “article in press” was noteworthy, these were analyzed in more detail considering that this study only included papers published until 2016. The oldest record was from 2011 [6], followed by one from 2014 [7], two from 2015 [8,9] and 57 from 2016. This is an important issue as “articles in press” do not contribute citations to other documents as regular Scopus articles [10].

As far as international collaboration is concerned, approximately 26% of the documents published by JIPH were the product of an international collaboration. Fig. 1 depicts the fluctuating trend which reached a peak in 2010 (32.3%) and from then on it has gradually descended reaching its lowest in 2014 (20.2%). Fig. 2 presents the collaboration network of the documents published by JIPH during the 2008–2016 time period. Node size is proportional to the number of documents published by each country. Likewise, lines represent collaboration between the countries that are connected by them. Undoubtedly, international researchers that collaborated the most with Saudi Arabian researchers were from the United States, Egypt and the United Kingdom.

Table 1 summarizes the top ten countries in terms of relative contribution to the number of papers published by JIPH. Even though Saudi Arabian researchers are the main contributors of the journal, they only account for 19.3% of the total amount, followed by

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