



Sport Organizations in World Literature: Status and Systematic Determinants

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Abstract

The economic significance and development of sports have led to the determination of sports organizations as a research subject in the scientific world. From the perspective of sustainability, the continuity of sports and their innovative aspects have consistently influenced the ongoing development of sports. This research aims to systematically examine 1572 scientific studies conducted on sports organizations between 2012 and 2023 using bibliometric analysis techniques with various software programs such as R Studio and R Shiny. During the literature review, data were accessed through analyses of scientific production, average citations, journals, authors, countries, and keyword analysis. The analyses have shown that the journals in which the top researchers publish have a significant impact on the ranking of countries. This, in turn, has resulted in the emergence of a cause-and-effect relationship throughout the study. The research has highlighted the most influential countries, journals, authors, and the impact factors of authors in the field. This study reinforces the findings in the realm of sports organizations and serves as one of the initial references for future studies in the field.

Keywords: Bibliometric analysis, Scopus database, Sport, Sport organizations

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INTRODUCTION

Management, a widely discussed concept in contemporary times, encompasses the collaborative decision-making process undertaken by a collective of individuals based on shared ideas and concerted endeavors (Lam, 2014). The field of sports management, which can be traced back to the scholarly research of the 1980s (Gammelsæter, 2021), is systematically delineated as the systematic pursuit of social and professional objectives. The advent of modern sports activities has necessitated the evolution of a novel organizational framework (Marcu and Buhaş, 2014). An indepth understanding of the organizational structure assumes paramount significance in comprehending the intricate design and structural framework of sports organizations (Slack and Parent, 2006). Therefore, to comprehend the overall structure and status of sports organizations, it is necessary to investigate national and international sports institutions responsible for sports. holistic structure and prevailing circumstances of sports organizations.

Prominent sports of sports while also supporting the formation of high-quality sports organizations. Notably, an in-depth exploration of the structural dimensions of sports organizations in literature contributes significantly to the multifaceted development of sports in cultural, economic, political, and social contexts, thus manifesting a pioneering outlook. Therefore, it is essential to investigate and evaluate organizations from new perspectives to promote innovative approaches.

Bibliometric analysis, having gained paramount importance organizations are intrinsically linked to the principles of sustainability, continuity, and long-term competitiveness, as elucidated by Maney and Jakimovski (2017). This enables the preservation of the continuity in the assessment of academic productivity (Ellegaard, 2018), has emerged as an indispensable tool for evaluating, analyzing, and visually representing scientific research (Moral-Muñoz et al., 2020). The employed methodologies offer a comprehensive overview and facilitate a systematic review of the literature (Donthu et al., 2021). Consequently, the application of bibliometric analysis as a standalone technique allows for the systematic presentation of scientific data and findings (Ellegaard and Wallin, 2005). This approach aids in the identification and analysis of variables such as publication count, citation count, impact factor, and production frequency (Choudhri et al., 2015; Khan et al., 2021). Further exploration of studies utilizing bibliometric analysis reveals a wide range of research conducted in diverse fields beyond sports organizations, including management of loyalty in sports organizations (Loranca-Valle et al., 2021), Olympic games (Millet et al., 2021), sports tourism and sustainability (Jiménez-García et al., 2020), and sports management (Aygün, 2023; Baier-Fuentes et al., 2020). Hence, bibliometric analysis enables a comprehensive examination not only of sports organizations but also various disciplines, facilitating universal evaluations.

The primary objective of this study is to conduct a comprehensive investigation employing the bibliometric analysis technique to explore the prevailing state, developmental trajectory, and prospective outlook of research pertaining to sports organizations. In addition to shedding light on

the intricacies of sports organizations, this research endeavors to illustrate the profound impact of sports' economic significance and the consequential influence exerted by sports organizations within the realm of scholarly discourse. Specifically, this inquiry aims to address the following research inquiries:

- (i) What is the evolutionary progression of sports organizations within the Scopus database?
- (ii) What is the contemporary status of sports organizations over the past decade?
- (iii) Who are the prominent scholars cited and contributing to the field of sports organizations?
- (iv) How can the research interests of individuals be directed towards forthcoming investigations?

The paper is structured in the following order. The second section delineates the methodology and pertinent definitions employed for executing the literature review within the scope of this study, whereas the third section encompasses the findings derived from the application of the bibliometric analysis technique. Subsequently, in the final section, the research endeavors to elucidate and bridge the existing gap in the literature by leveraging the acquired results, followed by a comprehensive discussion of the implications and conclusions derived from the study.

METHOD

Due to its inherently universal nature (Donthu et al., 2021), bibliometric analysis, as a quantitative method, strives to generate a definitive outcome by restricting a scientifically verifiable dataset based on the study's domain (Wallin, 2005). While it is occasionally classified as a review in specific sources, it can also be regarded as a research article in terms of its scholarly standing. Scopus and Web of Science (WoS) databases are widely acknowledged as prominent platforms that offer substantial support to researchers, specifically those engaged in conducting research utilizing bibliometric analysis techniques (Savaş, 2022).

In this study, the comprehensive and reliable data were obtained from the Scopus database due to its accessibility. Additionally, the data set was analyzed using R Shiny in the bibliometric program within R Studio. The methodology was developed by considering the following factors:

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("sports organizations") AND PUBYEAR > 2011 AND PUBYEAR < 2024 AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "BUSI") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "SOCI") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "ECON") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "MULT")) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ch") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "bk")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English")).

As a consequence of the imposed limitations, the aim of this study was to scrutinize English-language scholarly works conducted within the domain of sports organizations during the period spanning from 2012 to 2023 (n=2430). Four disciplines presumed to bear direct relevance to sports organizations ("BUSI"=Business, Management and Accounting; "SOCI"=Social Sciences; "ECON"=Economics, Econometrics and Finance; "MULTI"=Multidisciplinary) were chosen for comprehensive analysis. The examination yielded a total of 1572 studies authored by 2714 scholars (Figure 1).

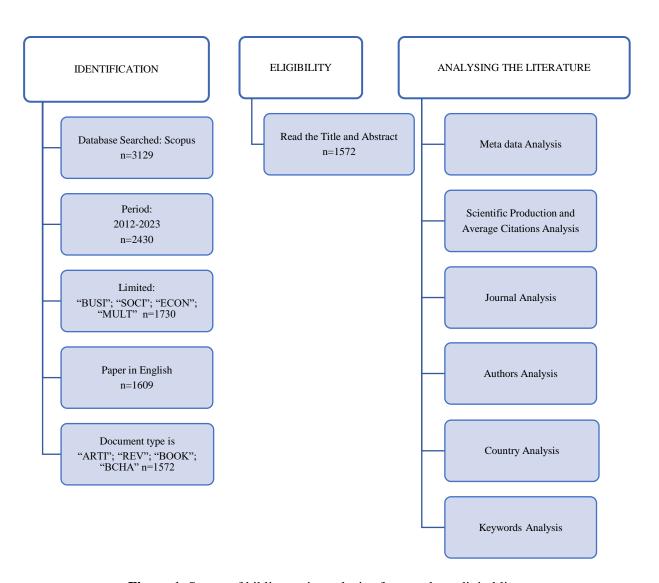


Figure 1. Stages of bibliometric analysis of research on digital literacy

RESULTS

Regarding data access, the literature search in this study relied on the Scopus database. Renowned for its comprehensiveness, the Scopus database incorporates abstract and citation databases spanning diverse disciplines (Scopus, 2022). Notably, sports organizations have emerged as a progressively intensifying research topic, particularly during the period from 2012 to 2023.

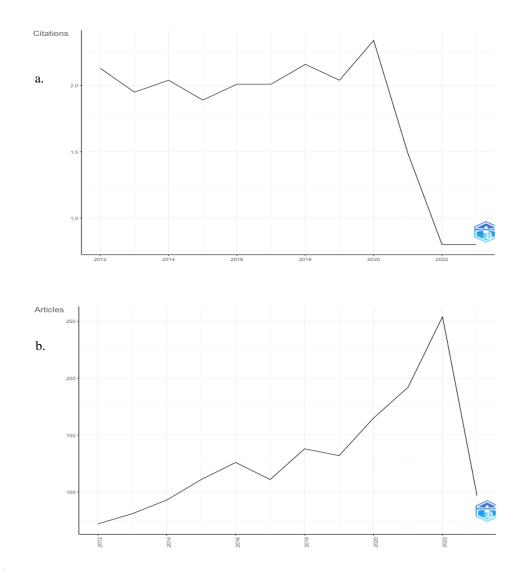


Figure 2. Annual number of production (a) and citiations (b) related to sports organizations by years 2012-2023

Upon analyzing Figure 2, it becomes evident that a persistent upward trajectory characterizes the annual scientific output from 2012 to 2023. Specifically, the annual scientific production stood at 254 in 2022, but declined to 97 in 2023. Additionally, scrutinizing the annual average citation rates reveals that the peak citation rate of 2.34 occurred in 2020, followed by a diminishing trend in citation rates from 2020 to 2022.

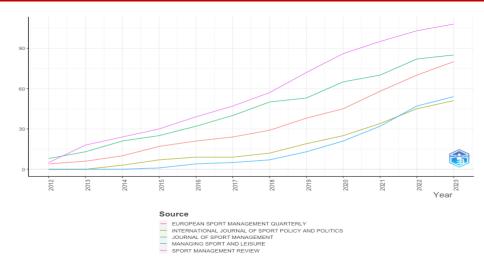


Figure 3. Most Relevant Sources Over Time

Regarding scientific output, the respective rankings are as follows: Sport Management Review (n=687) attains the foremost position, trailed by the Journal of Sport Management (n=544), European Sport Management Quarterly (n=402), International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics (n=214), and Managing Sport and Leisure (n=184). Additionally, there is clear evidence of a persistent upward trajectory in scientific production throughout the period spanning from 2012 to 2023.

Table 1. Ten most global highly cited documents and most local highly cited documents

| Most Global Cited Documents | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Article | Doi Number | Total Citations | | | | | | |
| Hutchins, B., & Rowe, D. (2012). Routledge. | 10.4324/9780203120415 | 209 | | | | | | |
| Kanamori, S., et al. (2014). PloS one | 10.1371/journal.pone.0099638 | 179 | | | | | | |
| Stavros, C., et al. (2014). Sport Management Review | 10.1016/j.smr.2013.11.004 | 158 | | | | | | |
| Geurin-Eagleman, A. N., & Burch, L. M. (2016). Sport Management Review | 10.1016/j.smr.2015.03.002 | 156 | | | | | | |
| García-Fernández, J., et al. (2018). Sport Management Review | 10.1016/j.smr.2017.07.003 | 150 | | | | | | |
| Veal, A. J., Toohey, K., & Frawley, S. (2012). Leisure and Events | 10.1080/19407963.2012.662619 | 147 | | | | | | |
| Wicker, P., & Breuer, C. (2013). Int. Journal of Vol. and Nonprofit Org. | 10.1007/s11266-012-9272-2 | 113 | | | | | | |
| Trendafilova, S., et al. (2013). Sport Management Review | 10.1016/j.smr.2012.12.006 | 98 | | | | | | |
| Misener, K., & Doherty, A. (2009). Journal of Sport Management | 10.1016/j.smr.2012.07.003 | 98 | | | | | | |
| Wicker, P. (2017). Sport Management Review | 10.1016/j.smr.2017.01.001 | 94 | | | | | | |

| Most Local Cited Documents | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Article | Doi Number | Total Citations | | | | | |
| Wicker, P., & Breuer, C. (2013). Int. Journal of Vol. and Nonprofit Org. | 10.1007/s11266-012-9272-2 | 35 | | | | | |
| Misener, K., & Doherty, A. (2009). Journal of Sport Management | 10.1016/j.smr.2012.07.003 | 31 | | | | | |
| Hoeber, L. et al. (2015). European Sport Management Quartly | 10.1080/16184742.2015.1085070 | 27 | | | | | |
| Trendafilova, S., et al. (2013). Sport Management Review | 10.1016/j.smr.2012.12.006 | 26 | | | | | |
| Peachey, J. W., et al. (2015). Revista De Gestión Deportiva | 10.1123/jsm.2014-0126 | 25 | | | | | |
| Ferkins, L., & Shilbury, D. (2012). Journal of Sport Management | 10.1123/jsm.26.1.67 | 25 | | | | | |
| Adriaanse, J., & Schofield, T. (2014). Journal of Sport Management | 10.1123/jsm.2013-0108 | 24 | | | | | |
| Shilbury, D., et al. (2013). Sport Management Review | 10.1016/j.smr.2012.12.001 | 23 | | | | | |
| Millar, P., & Doherty, A. (2016). Sport Management Review | 10.1016/j.smr.2016.01.002 | 21 | | | | | |
| Winand, M., et al. (2014). Managing Leisure | 10.1080/13606719.2013.859460 | 21 | | | | | |

The validity of an academic study within the scientific community is intrinsically linked to its readership and citation frequency. In particular, the attainment of a high global impact factor is strongly associated with the number of citations received. A comprehensive analysis of studies conducted on a worldwide scale reveals that Hutchins and Rowe (2012) claims the top spot with 209 citations, closely followed by Kanamori et al. (2014) with 179 citations. Trendafilova et al., (2013) and Misener & Doherty (2009) garner 98 citations, while Wicker (2017) secures the third position with 94 citations. In terms of local criteria, the study by Wicker & Breuer (2013) acquires 35 citations, while Misener & Doherty (2009) receives 31 citations, placing it in the tenth position. Furthermore, the study conducted by Winand et al. (2014), ranked tenth, garners 21 citations.

Table 2. The top 5 country with the strongest production over time

| Country | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Total |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| USA | 34 | 76 | 102 | 153 | 210 | 265 | 328 | 397 | 524 | 621 | 738 | 794 | 4242 |
| AUSTRALIA | 25 | 60 | 82 | 110 | 134 | 152 | 183 | 208 | 239 | 275 | 338 | 354 | 2160 |
| UK | 11 | 20 | 41 | 64 | 88 | 115 | 152 | 175 | 201 | 249 | 305 | 316 | 1737 |
| CANADA | 11 | 17 | 33 | 49 | 69 | 89 | 113 | 136 | 163 | 189 | 243 | 269 | 1381 |
| GERMANY | 12 | 16 | 19 | 23 | 33 | 36 | 46 | 56 | 75 | 88 | 110 | 125 | 526 |

Upon analyzing the volume of scientific research outputs spanning from 2012 to the present, the respective rankings of the top 5 countries are as follows: The United States asserts its prominence by securing the first position with 4242 publications, closely followed by Australia in second place with 2160 publications. The United Kingdom claims the third position with 1737 publications, while Canada occupies the fourth spot with 1381 publications. Lastly, Germany concludes the rankings with 526 research publications.



Figure 4. Word cloud

In the process of identifying emerging themes within the realm of sports organizations, a word cloud was constructed using key terms. The resultant analysis revealed that the keywords "people" (91%), "article" (79%), "sport" (74%), and "sports organizations" (51%) were recurrently employed in scholarly discourse.



Figure 5. Co-WordNet

Cowordnet is a technique employed in scientific research to elucidate the interrelationships between a given keyword and other associated terms. Its application aims to demonstrate the extensive interconnectedness of the concept of "sports organizations" across diverse domains. The key terms with the highest frequency encompass community sport, sport participation, sport federations, and sports clubs, constituting a prominent red cluster. A second cluster, denoted by the color blue, comprises closely related keywords such as professional sport, sport management, social responsibility, and professional sports. Through an examination of the word cluster network, it becomes evident that the network of words directly or indirectly linked to "sports organizations" may exhibit temporal variations. Notably, the association between sports organizations and the Covid-19 pandemic, which emerged in the final quarter of 2019, is exemplified by keywords such as physical activity and Covid-pandemic, depicted in the color pink.

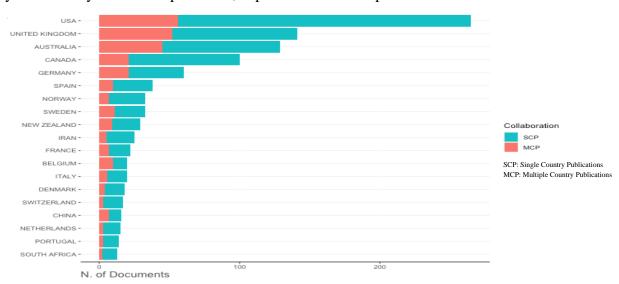


Figure 6. Number of documents by the corresponding author's country

In the analysis of corresponding author's country, it was evident that the preponderance of scholarly documents pertaining to sports organizations emanated from the United States (USA), totalling 141 publications. Following closely behind, the United Kingdom recorded 141 publications. Among other countries examined, South Africa contributed 13 documents, while Portugal contributed 14 documents. The United States and the United Kingdom exhibit prominent positions in terms of document count concerning sports organizations. Figure 8 illustrates a categorical differentiation between single-authored and multi-authored articles. This demarcation distinguishes articles in which all co-authors share the same country of origin (right side of the bar) from those featuring at least one co-author from a different country (left side of the bar). Notably, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Germany demonstrate a notable prevalence of articles attributed to international collaborations, signifying the involvement of authors from multiple countries in their production.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This research offers a concise overview of the studies undertaken pertaining to sports organizations. By presenting a synthesis of the research findings, it is anticipated to serve as a valuable reference for informing and guiding future investigations in this domain.

With the increasing number of publications on sports organizations, a strong relationship is observed among authors, institutions, and countries. Notably, distinguished journals in the domain of sport management, such as Sport Management Review and Journal of Sport Management, have been acknowledged for their seminal contributions and significant influence in the realm of sports organizations. The international recognition of the social, cultural, and economic value of sports has motivated researchers to focus on studies related to sports organizations. The conducted and forthcoming studies will serve as a guide for the more effective management and administration of sports. Despite the perception of the Covid-19 period as a period of disruption for sports, efforts have been made to ensure the continuity of national and international activities in subsequent years. This has led to an increase in research conducted on sports organizations. Additionally, the economic significance of sports also influences scientific developments.

Whilst the scientific production exhibited a persistent upward trajectory from 2012 to 2022, the attainment of a scientific production rate of 97 in the year 2023 is not an unexpected finding. This can be rationalized by the ongoing nature of the year 2023, coupled with the consideration that a six-month period still remains, leading to the projection that this rate will continue to ascend until year-end (Figure 2). Hutchins & Rowe (2012), as well as Kanamori et al. (2014), are acknowledged as influential researchers within the field. Thanks to the universality of sports, conducting numerous studies related to sports is considered routine. Shilbury (2011) shares methodological similarities with our study in the scope of research on sports management and marketing, and like our study, it presents a general inference. González-Serrano et al. (2020), in their research on

entrepreneurship and innovation in the sports sector, employed analyses that are similar to our study, emphasizing the promising future of innovation and entrepreneurship for the sports industry. Furthermore, Chersulich-Tomino et al., (2020) highlight the importance of addressing management processes, including planning, control, and financial issues, in order to enhance the quality of sports events, which is crucial for the sustainability of sports activities.

As a result, a near-equitable distribution of scientific production and impact factor is observed among sports organizations when the gender variable is taken into account. The prominence of the United States and the United Kingdom, both in terms of productivity and production, is congruent with the affiliation of authors and journals hailing from these nations that occupy the top 5 positions. This confluence reinforces the preeminent standing of these countries, journals, and authors across diverse dimensions. Ultimately, whilst the employment of bibliometric analysis to evaluate sports organizations is regarded as an innovative approach, it is expected that there will be a surge in the number of researchers, publications, and impact factors. Therefore, the bibliometric analysis technique used will provide a comprehensive evaluation for future studies, contributing to the literature.

Conflict of Interest: The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

Researchers' Statement of Contribution Rate: Research Design-MA; Data Collection-MA; Statistical analysis-MA; Preparation of the article-MA.

Information on Ethics Committee Permission: This article does not contain any studies with human participants performed by of the author.

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