

Trends of scientific production about Corona Pandemic in the Arab periodicals platforms

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Research - Summary

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Abstract

This study aimed to identify the features of the scientific production about the Corona pandemic published during the year 2020 and indexed in four Arab periodicals platforms. The platforms and published studies on the Corona pandemic were surveyed, Microsoft Excel was used for data analysis. The researchers investigated the thematic, linguistic and temporal trends of this production, as well as identifying the most important periodicals that published it, in addition to the features of authorship, the authors' specializations, and the most important institutions they belong to. The most important results were that the number of articles published on the Corona pandemic amounted to 748 articles. the most important topics covered were medicine, economics, and law, respectively. the Arabic language had the largest share of published articles, and the highest publication rate was in the month of December.

Keywords

Arab journals, productivity, COVID-19

Study Objectives:

- To identify the platforms of Arab journals.
- To understand the characteristics and features of the scientific output on the COVID-19 pandemic published on Arab journal platforms.

Research Questions:

- What are the general features of the Arab journal platforms under study?
- What are the numerical, thematic, linguistic, and temporal trends of the scientific output under study?
- Which journals are publishing the most scientific output under study?
- What are the writing characteristics on the topic of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of individual and collaborative authorship?
- What are the main disciplines to which the authors belong?
- What are the key institutions to which the authors are affiliated?

Study coverage:

- The intellectual output on the COVID-19 pandemic published on the following Arab journal platforms:
 - ASJP (Algerian Scientific Journals Platform)
 - EKB (Egyptian Knowledge Bank Journals Platform)
 - IMIST (Moroccan Scientific Journals Platform)
 - IASJ (Iraqi Academic Scientific Journals Platform)
- Articles published during the year 2020.
- Linguistic: Arabic, English, and French.
- Formal: Research papers and studies published in journals indexed on these platforms.

Methodology:

The study relied on the survey method, which aligns with the nature of the research. It involved surveying the Arab journal platforms under study and reviewing the studies published on the COVID-19 pandemic. Microsoft Excel was used to analyze the data.

Study Terminology:

- COVID-19 Pandemic: A respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus, primarily transmitted through contact with infectious materials, objects, or surfaces contaminated with the virus. It is characterized by fever, cough, and shortness of breath and can develop into pneumonia and respiratory failure.
- Open Access Journals: Journals that are electronically available without restrictions to anyone with internet access.
- Digital Platforms: Interactive electronic environments that utilize web technologies, combining features of electronic content management systems to share content, exchange, and disseminate information and ideas.

Data Collection Tools:

Data for this study were collected through direct search on the Arab journal platforms under study using the keywords: (Corona), (COVID-19), (Corona), (Covid-19).

Findings:

The main findings can be summarized as follows:

- The total number of articles addressing the COVID-19 pandemic on the Arab journal platforms under study is 748 articles.
- The Algerian journal platform ranks first among the Arab platforms under study in terms of the number of published articles, accounting for 49.87%.
- The topics covered were diverse, with medicine being the most frequently addressed, followed by economics, and then law.

- The temporal distribution of article publication showed fluctuations throughout the year under study, with the highest publication rate in December, followed by July.
- Arabic was the primary language of publication, with English in second place, followed by French.
- A total of 293 journals published articles on the COVID-19 pandemic, distributed across the platforms, with the Algerian platform leading at 42.7% of the total journals recorded in the study.
- The "Annals of the University of Algiers" journal topped the list with 49 articles on the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by the "Journal of Social Empowerment" and the "Journal of Labor Law and Employment" from the Algerian platform, each with 21 articles.
- The total number of authors in all the articles was 1,401 researchers, with the Algerian platform having the highest number of authors at 707, accounting for 50.46% of the total number of authors.
- Articles with single authorship accounted for 55.3% of the total, while those with joint authorship accounted for 44.7%.
- Academic disciplines ranked first according to the occupational specialization of the authors at 79.3%, followed by medical disciplines at 13.1%.
- Algerian institutions were the most significant contributors to the intellectual output on the COVID-19 pandemic, with Moroccan institutions, particularly Mohammed V University, ranking second with 29 researchers.

Recommendations:

- Arab journal editors should ensure to specify the publication schedule, including the month of publication.
- Emphasis should be placed on mentioning the affiliations of the authors of articles in Arab journals.
- Greater attention should be paid to publishing studies and research in Arabic, and researchers and specialists should be encouraged to write in Arabic.

- Researchers should be encouraged to conduct more in-depth studies on the various research trends related to this pandemic.