

Arabic journals' literature about Sinai: a bibliometric study

Research - Summary

Received: 30.07.2022

Accepted: 08.11.2022

Published: 31.12.2022

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Abstract

The study deals with the topic of Sinai in literature in the Arabic language in Arab journals in the period from 1900 to 2012, in order to identify the objective and qualitative diversity of articles about Sinai, with the aim of revealing the areas of strength and weakness in this production in order to benefit from the strengths and work on the areas of weakness to strengthen them.

The study relied on the descriptive analytical method for its suitability to this type of study. The paper collection of the literature of articles in Arabic about Sinai was done and a bibliography of this production was created, to facilitate dealing with it, by analyzing this production using paper measurement methods such as: Bradford's Law of Dispersion. This production was distributed objectively, qualitatively, temporally, and geographically to study its growth and development. The study concluded with several results, including that the number of focal journals reached six magazines representing various subject areas, politics represented the basic objective orientation for half of the total of these journals, and that the decade of the seventies represented the most productive period in terms of the number Articles accounted for more than a quarter of the total production.

Keywords

Arab journals, Sinai, bibliometric studies

1. Study Methodology

Terminology of Study:

1. Bibliometrics:

Bibliometrics involves a set of statistical and quantitative methods used to study the structural characteristics of literature. It employs statistical and mathematical techniques to analyze data related to documents (articles, research papers, books, published materials, and other information sources) to understand the characteristics of information dissemination processes (Al-Shami, 2022).

2. Bradford's Law:

Also known as Bradford's distribution or Bradford's law of scattering, this is a significant law in bibliometrics. It relates to the concentration of articles in a subject field within a set of scientific journals. Samuel Clement Bradford, an English science librarian, described this phenomenon in 1948. According to Bradford's Law:

- A small group of specialized scientific journals (Bradford Nucleus) in a given subject field publishes a high percentage (about one-third) of the total number of specialized articles.
- A larger group of journals publishes the second third of specialized articles.
- The largest number of non-specialized journals publishes the final third of specialized articles (Al-Shami, 2022).

Problem and Importance of the Study:

The study addresses the lack of attention to Arab literature about Sinai from an informational perspective. This production has not been measured or studied to

highlight its structural characteristics adequately. This research aims to identify the value, key features, sources, and pathways of this production using bibliometric methods to analyze relevant data from various information sources and their creators. The importance of this study stems from the significance of Sinai to Egypt, both geographically and historically, politically, economically, and religiously. The diverse intellectual interest in Sinai makes this topic worthy of detailed study.

Objectives of the Study:

The study aims to:

1. Identify the characteristics of Arabic literature in journals about Sinai from an objective and temporal perspective.
2. Identify the most influential journals on the Sinai issue.
3. Investigate the factors influencing the literature of Arabic-language journals about Sinai.
4. Determine the strengths and weaknesses of this production.

Study Questions:

The study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. Which journals are most interested in publishing content about Sinai?
2. How many focal journals exist for literature about Sinai?
3. What are the thematic and temporal growth rates of articles about Sinai?

Limitations and Scope of the Study:

The study focuses on literature published in Arabic about Sinai in journals, whether originally written in Arabic or translated, from the early 20th century to the end of 2012. It covers various aspects, including social, political, historical, economic, environmental, geographical, and cultural, excluding military aspects. The study aims to highlight works concerned with development, contributing to national efforts towards Sinai's development and reconstruction. It encompasses

literature in Arabic, irrespective of publication location, and excludes news articles due to their lack of significant scientific effort.

Study Methodology and Data Collection Tools:

The study utilizes the descriptive analytical method, which involves collecting, comparing, analyzing, and interpreting facts and information related to Sinai to make generalizations. It also employs bibliometric methods, using statistical and mathematical techniques to analyze data and identify characteristics of literature in a specific knowledge field (Abdel-Qader and Abdel-Qader, 2018, p. 121). Bradford's law of scattering, in its modern Brooks formula for the Bradford-Ziff distribution, is used to uncover the most influential journals about Sinai. The study draws on a comprehensive inventory of literature on Sinai, using bibliographies, databases, and periodical catalogs to compile and analyze quantitative and statistical data.

3. Conclusion

This study found that 206 journals contain articles in Arabic about Sinai, contributing a total of 722 articles. Of these, 108 journals contributed only one article each, representing 52.43% of the total journals and about 14.96% of the total articles.

The 1970s emerged as the most productive decade, accounting for more than a quarter of the total articles. The period from 2000–2009 was the second most productive, while the least productive periods were the first decade (1900–1909) and the third decade (1920–1929), with each producing just one article.

Six focal journals, representing 2.91% of the total, published 245 articles, accounting for 33.93% of the total. These focal journals showed significant diversity in topics, with a predominance of politics and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The focal journals included Palestinian Affairs, Al-Hilal Magazine, the Arab Geographical Magazine, October Magazine, the International Politics Magazine, and the Journal of the Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University.

A chronological analysis revealed that only the Arab Geographical Journal published articles on Sinai consistently. The Palestinian Affairs and International Politics magazines saw a significant increase in articles during the 1970s, while

interest in Sinai in October Magazine began in 1977, peaking by 1982 before declining sharply.

The thematic distribution of articles in each focal periodical corresponded closely to the interests and editorial policies of those magazines, with the number of articles reflecting their thematic focus.