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Heidar Mokhtari

Payame Noor University, Tehran, Iran

Mohammad Karim Saberi

Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran

Hossein Vakilmofrad

Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran, vakili_hn@yahoo.com

Sana Barkhan

B.S, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran

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Iranian Authors' Contributions to the *Library Philosophy and Practice*

Heidar Mokhtari

Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Payame Noor University, Tehran, Iran. ORCID: 0000-0002-2471-0408. E-mail: mokhtariazad@gmail.com

Mohammad Karim Saberi

Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Library and Information Sciences, School of Paramedicine, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran.
Email: mohamadsaberi@gmail.com

Hossein Vakilimofrad (Corresponding author)

Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Library and Information Sciences, School of Paramedicine, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran.
E-mail: Vakili_hn@yahoo.com

Sana Barkhan

B.S, Department of Medical Library and Information Sciences, School of Paramedicine, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran.
E-mail: sanabarkhann97@gmail.com

Abstract

Objective: This study aimed to conduct a bibliometric analysis and scientific visualization of the contribution made by Iranians' authors in the *Library Philosophy and Practice (LPP)* from 2006 to 2019.

Material and Methods: This bibliometric analysis used Scopus database for retrieving data on all papers published by Iranians in *LPP* during the study time span. VOSviewer and Microsoft Excel software packages were used for data analysis.

Findings: Out of 139 papers authored by Iranians in *LPP*, the first published paper belonged to 2006. An increasing trend can be seen in annual publication number, with 1 and 64 papers in 2007 and 2019, respectively. The first ranked active author was Khasseh A.A. with 9 papers. Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and Payame Noor University were in the top of the contributing institutes, each with authoring 20 papers followed by Islamic Azad University, Central with 13 papers. Iranian more collaborated with Indians. The mean rate of received citations per paper was 0.62. The top three highly-cited authors were Isfandyari-Moghaddam, A. (with 13), Khasseh A.A. and Saberi M.K. (each with 11) and Biranvand (with 10), respectively. Citing some known journals in their papers, Iranian researchers considered main topics in LIS field, including bibliometrics, altmetrics and library management and technologies.

Conclusion: This study is a relatively comprehensive bibliometric analysis of Iranians' contributions to *LPP*. The result can be helpful as a road map for researchers and readers countrywide as well as the editorial team of the journal.

Keywords: Bibliometric Analysis, Scientific Visualization, *Library Philosophy and Practice*, Scopus, Iran

Introduction

As a most common research field in the library and information science (Laengle et al., 2017), "bibliometrics" coined by Pritchard in 1969 (Mnzava and Chirwa, 2019). According to Pritchard (1969), bibliometrics is the application of mathematical and statistical methods to books and other media of communication. This essentially involves books, theses, reports, monographs, papers in journals, and nowadays also e-books and e-journals as well as the Web and social media tools. It is a set of approaches and techniques for quantitatively analyzing the scientific literature by applying bibliographic data (De Bellis, 2009).

It is notable that statistical analysis of scientific literature comes back to 50 years before coining the term bibliometrics. In 1926, Lotka published his pioneering research on the frequency distribution of scientific productivity which was determined from a decennial index (1907-1916) of the *Chemical Abstracts*. Lotka concluded that "the number (of authors) making contributions is about $1/n^2$ of those making one; and the proportion of all contributors, that makes a single contribution, is about 60 per cent" (Glanzel, 2003). Changing the so-called phrase, statistical bibliography into bibliometrics, Pritchard (1969) argued that the former is vague in that it can be interpreted as the statistical analyses of bibliographies and/or the bibliographies in statistics (Pritchard, 1969; Mokhtari et al., 2019).

Using bibliometric analyses, the research performances of certain countries, individual journals, certain research institutes, authors, scientific fields and so on can be analyzed (Mokhtari et al., 2021). Having an effective role in the development of science and technology, these bibliometric studies can detect the possible knowledge gap and developing research trends and exploring hot topics.

Many journals in different fields have been analyzed by using different bibliometric approaches. Based on the objective of the study, analysis level, the number of study sample and/or population and the journal at hand, these studies focused some certain bibliometric approaches and scientometric visualization methods, such as co-citation analyses, co-authorship map, word co-occurrences, hot topics, prolific authors and highly-cited researchers, top cited resources, bibliographic couplings and so on.

As an international journal, the *Library Philosophy and Practice (LPP)* has been considered by many worldwide researchers and readers in the field of library and information science. It is an open-accessed peer-reviewed electronic journal owned and published by the University Libraries of the University of Nebraska--Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA. *LPP* publishes articles exploring the connection between library practice and the philosophy and theory behind it (*Library Philosophy and Practice*, 2020). Iranian LIS researchers study in the field for development of theoretical perspectives and bridging practical gaps in this profession. This study aimed to investigate the contribution made by Iranian researchers in *LPP* with using bibliometric techniques and visualization. The study can be helpful as a way map for research for researchers in Iran and the world as well as the editorial team of the journal.

Literature Review

Many bibliometric studies have been conducted in different scientific fields and vast variety of levels. Some of these studies considered the scientific output of a certain journal or that of authors from an individual country. We summarized here some recent bibliometric studies done for analyzing some library and information journals.

The study by Thavamani and Velmurugan (2013) explores the publication trends of scholarly papers in *Annals of Library and Information Studies* published from New Delhi. The Bibliometric analysis has been conducted with 310 contributions published in the journal during the years 2002-2012. The highest number of contributions (43, 13.87%) were published in the year 2010. Most of the contributions were two- authored (136, 43.87%). The degree of collaboration was estimated as 0.65 in the journal.

Thavamani (2015) conducted a bibliometric study of the Collaborative Librarianship (CL) during the period of 2009--2014. A total of 223 research contributions and 343 authors were examined by growth of contributions by year and volume, authorship patterns by year and volume, growth of authors by year, authorship patterns, author productivity, authorship patterns by global, most prolific contributors and degree of collaboration. Average number of authors per paper was 1.538. The highest number of author productivity was 0.65. The average degree of author collaboration was 0.354, indicating its dominance upon one-authored contributions.

Bibliometric analysis of *LPP* in the time span of 2005-2014 (Verma, Sonkar & Gupta, 2015) revealed that 37 countries have contributed during the period, while in 2000-2002 most of the articles were from the United States of America only. Articles have being increased each year. In total, 1177 articles (117 annually) were published in these ten years. Although single-authorship is a dominant authorship trend, but also two-authored articles have shown good number of contributions with the 0.51 rate of degree of all collaborations made.

For analyzing Indian researchers' contribution to the *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)* during 2001-2015, Sa and Barik (2016) studied a total number of 200 scholarly papers from Scopus authored by Indian researchers during the study period. They found that Tamilnadu was the most productive state contributing highest 43 (21.5%) papers. Major area of research was bibliometrics. The yearly growth rates were not constant as the journal counts its publications in cumulative order. Annaamilnad University was the most productive LIS institute of India in this regard. Saudi Arabia was the most collaborative foreign country with contributing only 2 (1%) papers. Two-authored papers were dominated where the degree of collaboration was 0.64. Most papers were original articles.

In analyzing the research publication pattern of *LPP*, Veram, Yadav, & Singh (2018) found that *LPP* has published 1478 articles during 2008-2017 and a vibrant growth rate and majority of papers were published in a multi-authorship pattern and having 0.61 average degree of collaboration. The geographical coverage of the journal was high with 35 country coverage and Nigeria, India and USA are top most countries to contribute this journal, respectively. The publication trend of the journal follows Lotka's law of scientific productivity. There are total 34907 references cited in 1478 articles, majority of them with single author and included less than 20 references.

Dasgupta et al. (2018) conducted a bibliometric analysis of publications in *the Journal of Documentation (JDoc)* during 1991-2013. A total of 1193 peer-reviewed papers published during the years 1991 to 2013 in its 40 volumes were analyzed through Web of Science. They found that the highest number of articles published in 2011 and the lowest in 1995 and country-wise highest numbers of records (431) were from England. The highest number of citations was 668 in 2010 and the lowest in 1996.

Method

As a bibliometric analysis, this study used Scopus database for data collection. Scopus database, the largest database of abstracts and bibliographic references of peer-reviewed scientific literature, with more than 18,000 titles from 5,000 publishers allowing international multidisciplinary integration. It was designed for bibliographic searches and citation data extraction (Meho and Yang, 2007). Many journals have been evaluated by using data included in Scopus, including among others, *LLP* (Kannan & Thanuskodi, 2019; Saberi, Barkhan & Hamzehei, 2019). Searching in the advanced search section of the database, all Iranian researchers' papers in *LPP* during 2006-2019 were retrieved. Bibliometric analysis (including top active authors, more influential authors, collaborating countries, year-wise contributions, etc.) and scientific visualization (including co-authorship mapping, co-citation mapping, etc.) was done on the retrieved data. VOSviewer and Excel software packages were used for data analysis.

It is notable that before doing the bibliometric analysis and visualization, the possible variations in the names of authors, institutions and other items were amended manually in Excel and made identical. VOSviewer, as a visualizing and mapping bibliometric software package (Van Eck & Waltman, 2009) was used for mapping co-authorship networks of authors, institutions and countries, clustering terms and keywords, and mapping the co-citation networks of authors and sources cited.

Findings

Year-wise Distribution of Papers

Table 1 shows the year-wise distributions of 139 papers in *LPP* authored by Iranian researchers during the period 2006 to 2019. The highest number of papers published in the year 2019 (n=64, 46.04%), followed by 2018 (n=30, 21.58%) and 2014 (n=9, 6.47%), respectively. Only 1 paper published in year 2007 and 2 papers published in years 2008 and 2012, in each.

Table 1. Year-wise distribution of LPP papers by Iranian authors

Year	No. of papers	Cumulative No. of Papers	Percentage (%)
2006	3	3	2.16
2007	1	4	0.72
2008	2	6	1.44
2009	8	14	5.76
2010	2	16	1.44
2011	5	21	3.60
2012	2	23	1.44
2014	9	32	6.47
2015	3	35	2.16
2016	5	40	3.60
2017	5	45	3.60
2018	30	75	21.58
2019	64	139	46.04
total	139	-	100.00

Most Active Iranian Authors in LPP

Table 2 shows the most prolific Iranian authors in LPP during the selected period of 2001-2019. The first rank was positioned by Khasseh A.A. with 9 papers. Three authors (Ansari, M., Biranvand, A. and Shekofteh, M) who have written 8 papers each ranked second. Asnafi A.R. was ranked third with 7 published papers.

Table 2. Top highly-active Iranian Authors publishing in LPP

Author	No. of papers	Percentage (%)	Rank
Khasseh, A.A.	9	6.47	1
Ansari, M.	8	5.76	2
Biranvand, A.	8	5.76	2
Shekofteh, M.	8	5.76	2
Asnafi, A.R.	7	5.04	3
Asemi, A.	6	4.32	4
Babalhavaeji, F.	6	4.32	4
Dastani, M.	6	4.32	4
Kazerani, M.	6	4.32	4
Saberi, M.K.	6	4.32	4
Tajafari, M.	6	4.32	4
Isfandyari-Moghaddam, A.	5	3.60	5
Valizadeh-Haghi, S.	5	3.60	5
Farhadpoor, M.R.	4	2.88	6
Khaledian, M.	4	2.88	6

Rahmatizadeh, S.	4	2.88	6
Ziaei, S.	4	2.88	6
Alimohammadi, D.	3	2.16	7
Asemi, A.	3	2.16	7
CheshmehSohrabi, M.	3	2.16	7
Gavgani, V.Z.	3	2.16	7
Hajizeinolabedini, M.	3	2.16	7
Hamzehei, R.	3	2.16	7
Karimi, M.	3	2.16	7
Sadatmoosavi, A.	3	2.16	7
Sanatjoo, A.	3	2.16	7
Sattari, M.	3	2.16	7
Sedghi, S.	3	2.16	7
Seif, M.H.	3	2.16	7
Shabani, A.	3	2.16	7
Zarei, A.	3	2.16	7

Highly-productive Iranian Institutes in LPP

Table 3 shows the most productive Iranian institutions in *LPP* during the study period. In this regard, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and Payame Noor University are in the top of the table contributing the highest, each with authoring 20 (14.39%) papers followed by "Islamic Azad University, Central" with 13 (9.35%) papers. However, University of Isfahan, Shahid Beheshti University and Islamic Azad University, Hamedan Branch were jointly in the third position with publishing 11 (7.91%) papers.

Table 3. Top highly-productive Iranian research institutes authoring in *LPP*

Research Institute	No. of papers	Percentage (%)
Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences	20	14.39
Payame Noor University	20	14.39
Islamic Azad University, Central	13	9.35
University of Isfahan	11	7.91
Shahid Beheshti University	11	7.91
Islamic Azad University, Hamedan Branch	11	7.91
Islamic Azad University, Science and Research Branch	9	6.47
Ferdowsi University of Mashhad	8	5.76
Hamedan University of Medical Sciences	8	5.76
Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences	8	5.76
Iran University of Medical Sciences	7	5.04
Tehran University of Medical Sciences	7	5.04
Tabriz University of Medical Sciences	6	4.32
Gonabad University of Medical Sciences	6	4.32

University of Tehran	5	3.60
Islamic Azad University, North Tehran Branch	4	2.88
Museum and Documentation Center	3	2.16
Safahan Institute of Higher Education	3	2.16
Kerman University of Medical Sciences	3	2.16
Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz	3	2.16
University of Birjand	3	2.16
Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman	3	2.16

Iranian Researchers' Most Highly-cited Papers in LPP

Out of 139 Iranian researchers' papers in *LPP*, only 38 papers received at least one citation. Total received citations were 87 for Iranian researchers in *LPP* (with the mean rate of 0.62 citations per papers). 21 papers received only one citation and other 17 papers received more than one citation. Table 4 shows the features of top cited papers. As can be seen, the paper by Isfandyari-Moghaddam and Saberi (2011), entitled as "the life and death of URLs: the case of Journal of the Medical Library Association" ranked first with 11 received citations. A paper by Biranvand, Seif and Khasseh (2015) entitled as "knowledge sharing among librarians in public libraries of Fars Province, Iran" ranked second with 7 received citations and the third rank was dedicated to the paper by Alimohammadi and Sajjadi (2006) under the title "library instruction: Past lessons, future plans" with 6 received citations.

Table 4. Top highly-cited papers by Iranian researchers in LPP

Author(s)	Title	Year	Cited by	Rank
Isfandyari-Moghaddam A., Saberi M.-K.	The life and death of URLs: The case of Journal of the Medical Library Association	2011	11	1
Biranvand A., Seif M., Khasseh A.A.	Knowledge sharing among librarians in public libraries of Fars Province, Iran	2015	7	2
Alimohammadi D., Sajjadi M.	Library instruction: Past lessons, future plans	2006	6	3
Saberi M.K., Babalhaveji F.	Intrapreneurship in public libraries: An exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis	2018	5	4
Gavgani V.Z., Shokraneh F., Shiramini A.R.	Need for content reengineering of the medical library and information science curriculum in Iran	2011	5	4
Ebrahimi R.	The Effect of information and communications technology (ICT) on teaching library and information science	2009	4	5
Amiree F.S.T., Khabbazan B.	Third wave changes: The role of information and communication technology (ICT) in the definition of librarianship	2009	4	5
Valizadeh-Haghi S., Rahmatizadeh S.	Learning about the information seeking behavior of allied medical sciences students: Advices for libraries of multidisciplinary colleges	2018	3	6
Biranvand A., Khasseh A.A.	E-book reading and its impact on academic status of students at Payame Noor University, Iran	2014	3	6

Ghasri A.N., Dehghani M.	Chat reference: Training and competencies for librarians	2009	3	6
Dastgerdi A.F.	Librarians' education in the age of knowledge: Consideration of skills, methods, and tools	2009	3	6
Saberi M.K., Barkhan S., Hamzehei R.	A bibliometric study and visualization of Library Philosophy and Practice during 1998-2018	2019	2	7
Ziaei S., Korjan F.R.	Assessment of services quality in Tabriz central library from the user's point of view based on LibQual model	2018	2	7
Rahmatizadeh S., Valizadeh-Haghi S.	Evaluating the trustworthiness of consumer-oriented health websites on diabetes	2018	2	7
Chalak A.M., Ziaei S., Nafei R.	A survey of knowledge sharing among the faculty members of Iranian Library and Information Science (LIS) Departments	2014	2	7
Sookhtanlo M., Mohammadi H.M., Rezvanfar A.	A comparative study of the information-seeking behavior of bachelor of science and master of science agricultural extension and education students	2010	2	7
Mohammadi M., Moghaddam A.I., Yeganeh M.E.	Students' perception of the impact of user education on the use of reference resources: An Iranian experience	2008	2	7

Iranian Researchers' Co-authorship Map in LPP

As Figure 1 depicts, out of 232 contributing authors, 80 authors co-authored. In the map, each author cluster is shown in a certain color with authors having high co-authorship. The circle size and line thickness show publication counts and co-authorship counts, respectively. The map is consisted of 9 main clusters. Shekofteh, M. is the leader of authors in the first cluster (in red). Saberi, M.K. is the leading author in the second cluster (in green). The leading author in the third cluster (in blue) is Asemi A. Khasseh, A.A. is the leading author in the fourth cluster (in yellow).

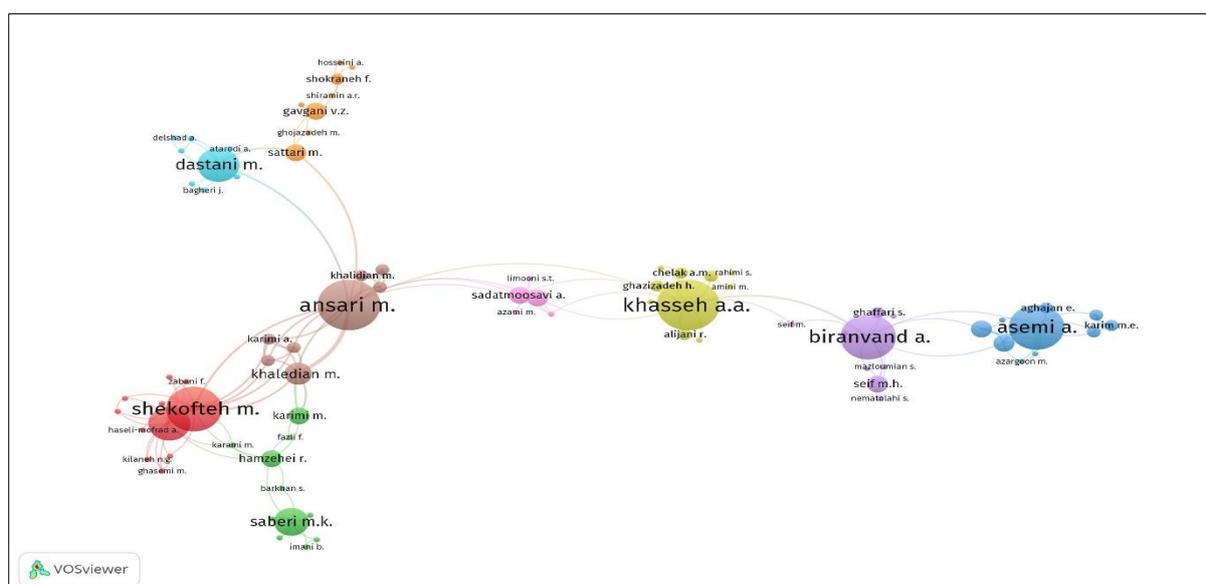


Figure 1. Iranian researchers' co-authorship map in LPP

Considering Iranians' co-authorship with authors from other countries and regions (Figure 2), they contributed with authors from 4 countries. of these countries, the top countributing authors were from India (3 papers), Malaysia (2 papers), Hungrey and USA (1 paper with each), respectively.

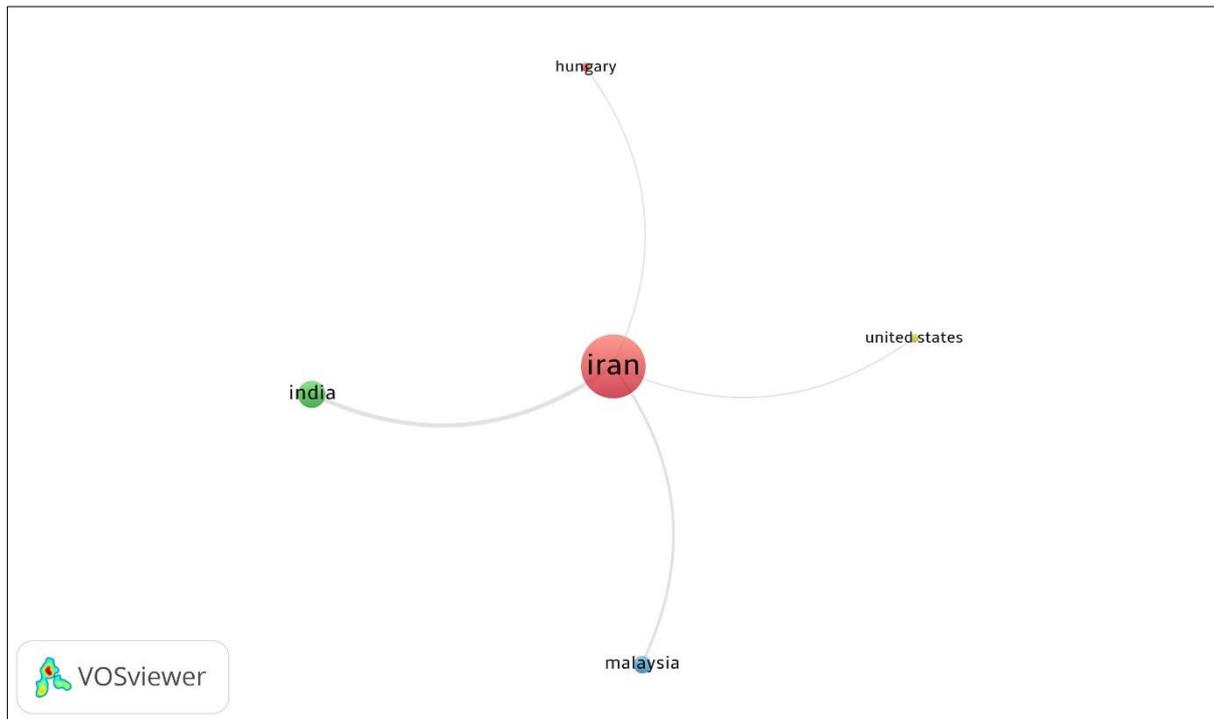


Figure 2. Iranian researchers' co-authorship map with foreign authors in *LPP*

Top Highly-cited Iranian Authors in *LPP*

Including all 232 Iranian authors who authored in *LPP*, the author citation map was depicted (Figure 3). The size of circles in the map shows the number of received citations. The top three authors in this regard were Isfandiyari-Moghaddam, A. (with 13), Khasseh A.A. and Saberi M.K. (each with 11) and Biranvand (with 10), respectively.

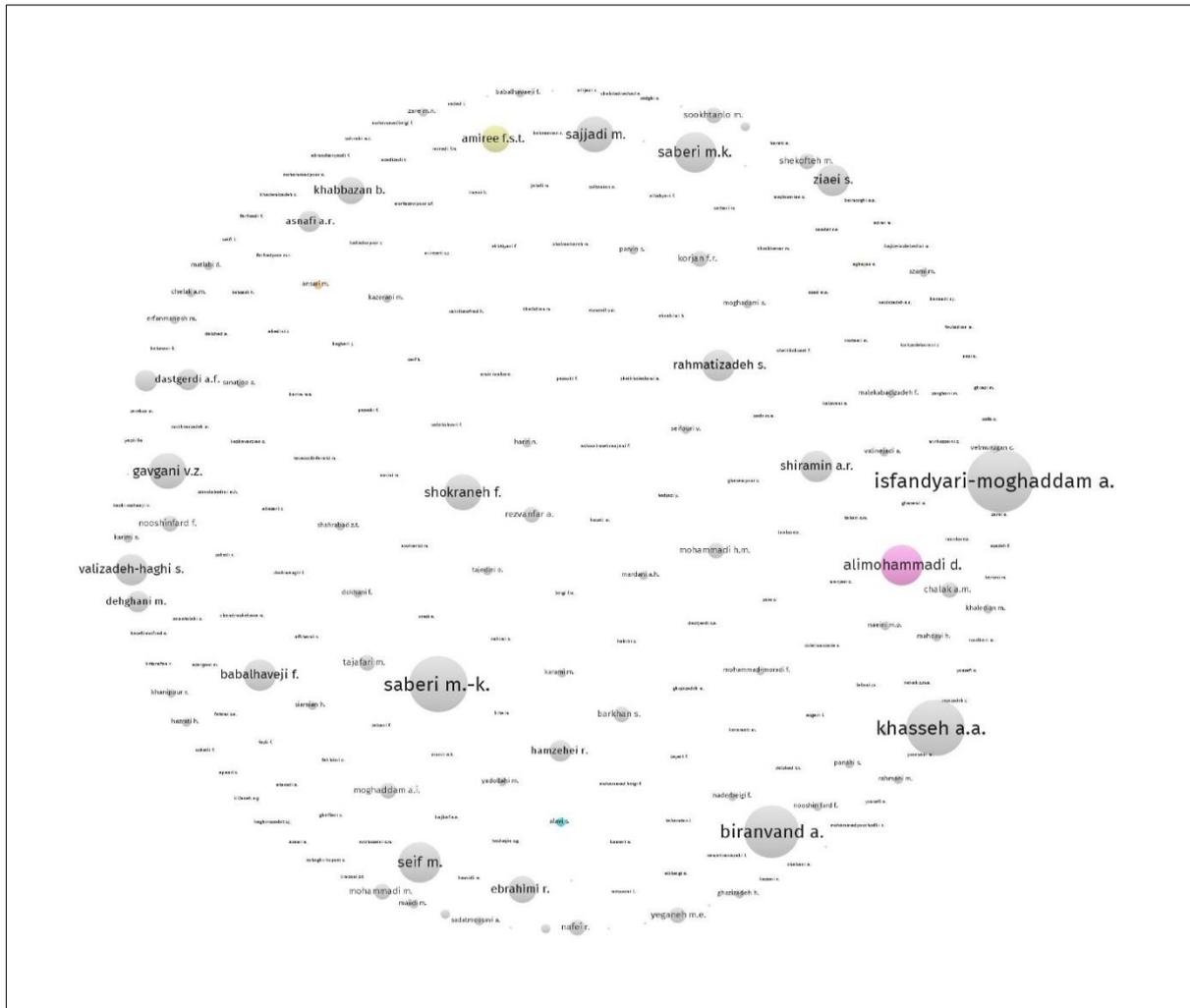


Figure 3. Top highly-cited Iranian authors publishing in LPP

Co-citation Map of Authors Cited by Iranian Authors in LPP

The co-citation map of authors cited in Iranian researchers' papers in LPP was depicted in Figure 4. In all 139 papers, the number of citation amounted to 5185. Including authors with at least 10 received citations, the map consisted of three main clusters. The first cluster (in red) consisted of 6 authors, with Hariri, N. as the top cited author. The second cluster (in Green) included 5 cited authors with Leydesdorff, L as the top one. The third cluster (in blue) consisted of 3 cited authors with Erfanmanesh, M. as the first ranked one.

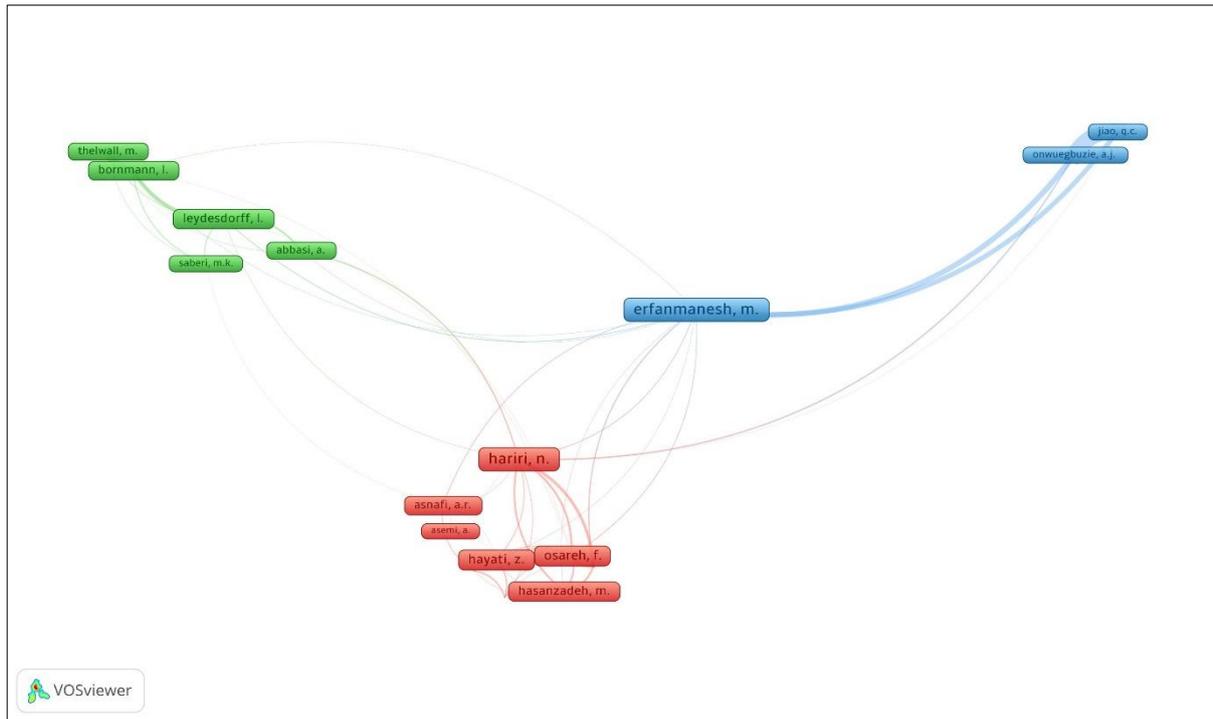


Figure 4. Co-citation map of authors cited by Iranians' authors authoring in *LPP*

Co-citation Map of Cited Resources in Iranians' Papers Published in LPP

Figure 5 shows the co-citation map of cited journals in Iranian researchers' papers published in *LPP*. In 139 papers contributed by Iranian authors in *LPP*, 2032 documents were cited. Resources with at least 10 received citations were included in the map. 22 core resources in 4 clusters have been identified. The core journal of the first cluster (in red) is the *Library Review*. The core resource in the second cluster (in green) is the *Scientometrics*. In the third cluster (in blue), the *Journal of Medical Internet Research* is the core journal. In the fourth on (in yellow),

the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology is the core journal.

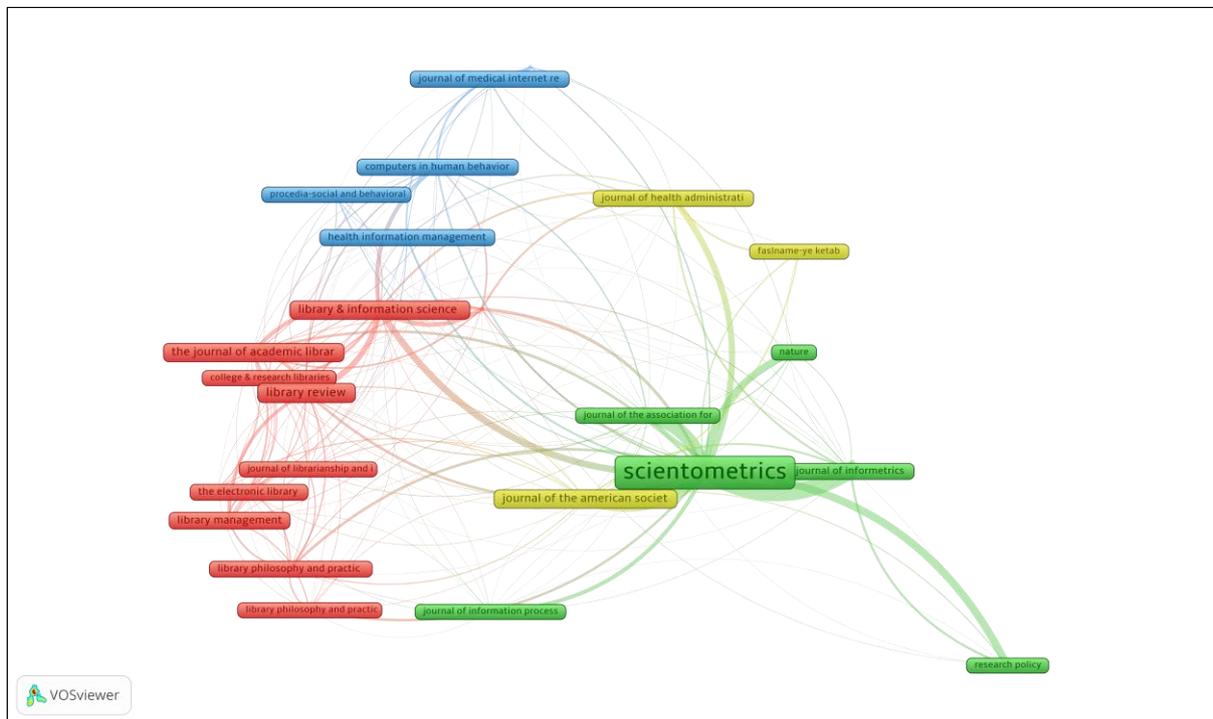


Figure 5. Co-citation map of cited resources in Iranians' papers published in LPP

Keyword Co-occurrence Map of Iranian Researchers' Papers Published in LPP

The keyword co-occurrence map of Iranian researchers' papers in *LPP* is shown in Figure 6. Using keyword clustering technique, keywords co-occurred at least 2 times in the papers have been included in the map. Out of 394 unique keywords, 92 ones were co-occurred two times or more. These highly-frequent co-occurred keywords were included in 4 main clusters. Labeled as "information seeking studies", the first cluster (in red) includes main keywords such as information seeking behavior, librarians, students and education. The second cluster (in green) can be named as "altmetric studies", consisting of the keywords such as social media, altmetrics and web 2.0. The third cluster (in blue) can be named "library management studies", consisting of the keywords such as knowledge management, LibQUAL+® and library and information science. In the fourth cluster (in yellow), keywords such as scientometrics, scientific collaboration and scientific production can be seen and labeled as "scientometric studies".

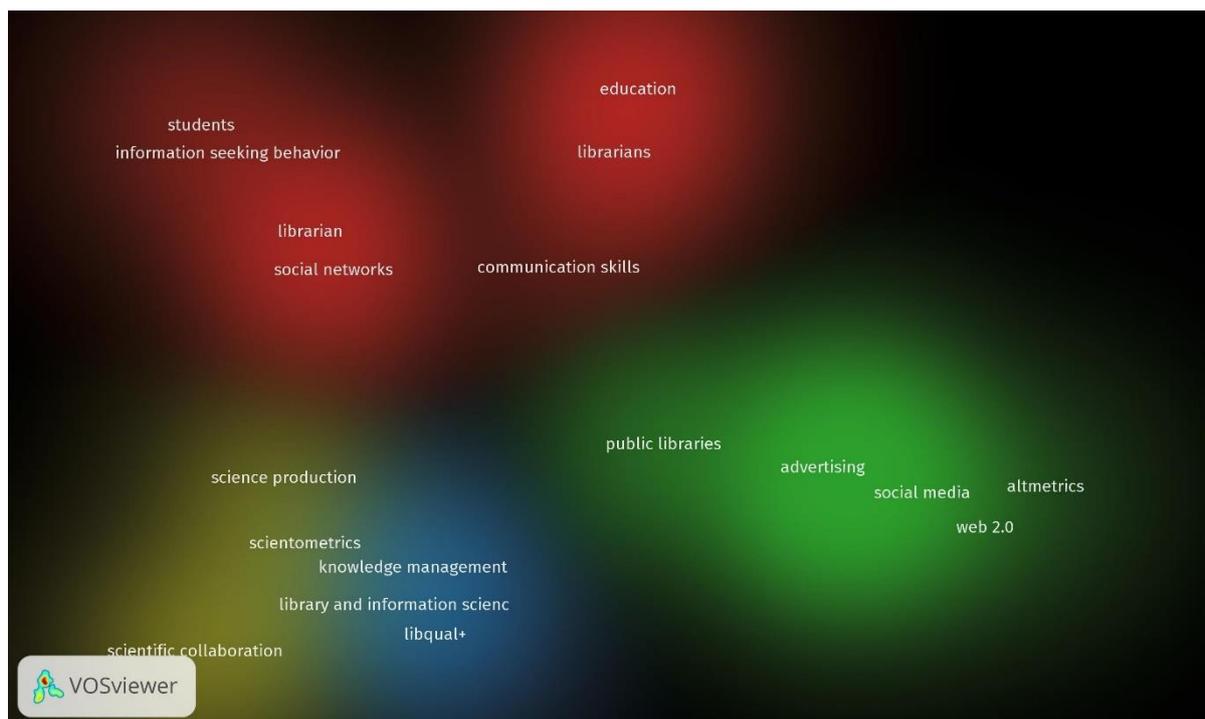


Figure 6. Keyword co-occurrence map of Iranian researchers' papers in *LPP*

Discussion and Conclusion

As one of the effective tools of exchanging and disseminating scientific information and knowledge, scientific journals manifest scientific output in a wider scope and have a main role in the scientific life and science development. Ever-increasing growth of scientific journals worldwide and increase in their number, variety and readers make them evaluated by applying scientometric methods. It is needed that these journals are evaluated with new bibliometric techniques and software packages from different perspectives for identifying active author, institutes and countries, citation trends, hot topics, etc.

Considering the importance of country-level scientometric evaluation for the researchers and readers of countries worldwide, many country-wise bibliometric evaluations have been conducted in different journals, including among others, *LPP* (e.g. Sa and Barik, 2016 for Indian authors). These analyses can be helpful in detecting country-wise scientific trends, research interests and disciplinary topics.

Aiming at investigating the contribution made by Iranian researchers in *LPP*, this bibliometric analysis and scientific visualisation found that they published 139 papers in *LPP* during 2006-2019 with a growing annual trend. In recent years, they increasingly contributed to the journal. The first-ranked collaborating country was India with 3 papers. Payame Noor University and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Science ranked first in publishing papers in *LPP*. These two universities are of universities active in the library and information instruction and research. Khasseh, A.A., as a known author in scientometric field in Iran was the most active author. The mean rate of citations per paper was relatively low (0.62) during the studied time span. There is a need for taking approaches to increasing the citability of these

papers by making them more visible. 11 papers used "public library" as a keyword, revealing the importance of research on the public library within Iran.

Regarding the contributors' co-authorship and co-citation networks, more influential authors are of known authors in Iran LIS field. Highly-ranked resources cited in the Iranian papers in *LPP* are of core and highly prestigious international journals in the field of libraries, medical librarianship and scientometrics.

Regarding keyword co-occurrences, it can be said that Iranian authors considered main topics in LIS field, including among others, bibliometrics, scientometrics, altmetrics, knowledge management and information behavior and technologies. These main topics reflect ones considered in the evolution trend of LIS (Figuerola *et al.*, 2017). However, considering the nature of hot topics, systematic reviews and meta-analysis, publishing such studies in some issues of *LPP* can be beneficial in increasing citations and visibility.

All bibliometric analyses are limited to data extracted from the related databases, including among others Scopus in case of this study (Meho and Yang, 2007). This can be true in case of *LPP* and result in underestimating its full influence. However, this study is a relatively comprehensive bibliometric analysis and visualization of Iranians' contribution to *LPP* as a known journal in its related field and subfields. The results can be beneficial to *LPP* editorial team for decision making on its further development as well as helpful for Iranian researchers and practitioners interesting topics in the field to have better contact with and contribution to the journal based on real needs in the field.

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