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Research productivity of the Journal of Pakistan Medical Association published during the period 1978 - 2017.

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ABSTRACT:

AIM: The aim of this study was, to calculate the amount and decade-wise growth of scientific articles publish under the caption of original and review articles, case and short reports, and special and short communications in the Journal of Pakistan Medical Association (JPMA) during the period of 1978 – 2017.

METHODS: The data of 480 issues of JPMA was manually retrieved and collected to tabulate in Microsoft Excel 2010 from the website of the journal for the period 1978 - 2017.

RESULTS: This study showed that 5796 articles were published (n=1449 per decade, 120.7 per annum) during the period of 1978 – 2017. Original articles 3750; 7.8% were published as per issue and take the highest position followed by 1281; 266 per issue and short communications 114; 0.23 take the least position in the space in four decades of publishing period. The fourth decade produced 72% more publications than first, 53.2% second and 40.8% a third decade.

CONCLUSION: This study showed that the remarkable inclusion of articles in the decade to decade. The new decade produced more research instead of a previous decade. It is helpful to researchers for contributions to research in health sciences.

Key words: Bibliometrics, Journal of Pakistan Medical Association, research productivity.

Introduction & literature review:

Publishing a journal or periodical is not a child's play, it is the teamwork. A regular biomedical journal required punctuality in work from all quarters to accept for the publishing of manuscript. A mechanical process started; receiving manuscripts, reading thoughtfully, check its plagiarism, making decisions to send it for reviews, resend to the author for further processing and then the time comes to publish. [Keven, Zainab & Anurr \(2017\)](#) signified the field of bibliometric analysis. The bibliometric orientation provides help to generate the profile of a journal as a product and to evaluate the impact of publication to a similar extent contributed by researchers. A single journal of any discipline can indicate the quality, maturity, productivity and numerical aspects of research published in the journal of a related discipline. Bibliometric analysis is the ubiquitous instrument for library professionals to disseminating knowledge with low barriers to authorship contribution and publications of the journal.

[Jawaid, S.A \(2017\)](#) elaborates the value of auditing in publications as a useful tool in progress of a journal. He highlighted the efforts of the editorial team of Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences (PJMS) which has been received 1703 manuscripts for publications during the year 2016. After review 1382 manuscripts were excluded to publish due to numerous grounds. Three hundred twenty-one manuscripts were published in the same year. [Meo & Jawaid \(2018\)](#) emphasis research as a basic component of advancement of education and pontificate the massive pressure on the researchers to publish their manuscripts in Impact Factor Journals, since the regulatory agencies have a requirement. There are only three medical journals in Pakistan which enjoy Impact Factor Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences (PJMS), Journal of Pakistan Medical Association (JPMA)

and Journal of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan (JCPSP). Journal of Pakistan Medical Association (JPMA) is indexed in Index Medicus as peer-reviewed biomedical journal regularly published on monthly bases from Pakistan since 1953, Mubeen & Shaikh (2017).

[Ibrahim & Jan \(2015\)](#) conducted a bibliometric analysis of the original articles, authors, citations, pattern of authorship with productive institute, published in the Journal of Pakistan Medical Association from 2009 to 2013. Study determined 913 original articles published regularly in JPMA. A steady improvements showed in publications in yearly terms from 148 (16.2%) in 2009 to 214 (23.4%) in 2013. Original articles had 21-30 citations; 3-author contributions ranked the highest with 206 (22.6%); 481 (52.7%) authors were geographically affiliated to Sindh, Pakistan; Community Medicine was the most popular medical specialty with was 140 (15.3%) articles; 17340 (90.5%) citations were from journals; and the most productive institution was Aga Khan University, Karachi. Recently, a study was published by [Baladi, ZH. \(2018\)](#) to cover the 4929 manuscripts which were published in 340 issues of the Pakistan Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research during the studied period 1958 – 2007 (50 years) on a regular basis. The journal supports innovative research in physical, biological and technological sciences to help and communicates broad spectrum in industrial sciences.

Another bibliometric research was published by [Hussain, et al \(2019\)](#) to calculate the original articles, author's affiliation and collaboration, gender-ship, subject matter, the date of publication and references published in the Journal of Saidu Medical College, Swat, Pakistan during the period of 2007 - 2017. Total of 200 articles were published in the studied period.

Methodology:

This was a retrospective review. The purpose was to determine the distribution of original, review articles, case and short reports, and special and short communications decade and year-wise. The data of all research items published from 1978 to 2017 download and stored from the website of JPMA (<http://www.jpma.org.pk/IssuesList.php>). Microsoft Excel 2010 spreadsheet had been prepared for data analysis. The study was carried out in the library of College of Applied Medical Sciences King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from June 2018 to November, 2018.

Results:

The results distributed in four decades. Figure 1 showed that 5796; 12.07% articles were published in 480 issues of JPMA from 1978 – 2017 (Forty years). Maximum 2846; 49.1% articles were published in last decade 2008 – 2017, 4 times greater than the first decade which 628; 10.8 articles for 1978 – 1987.

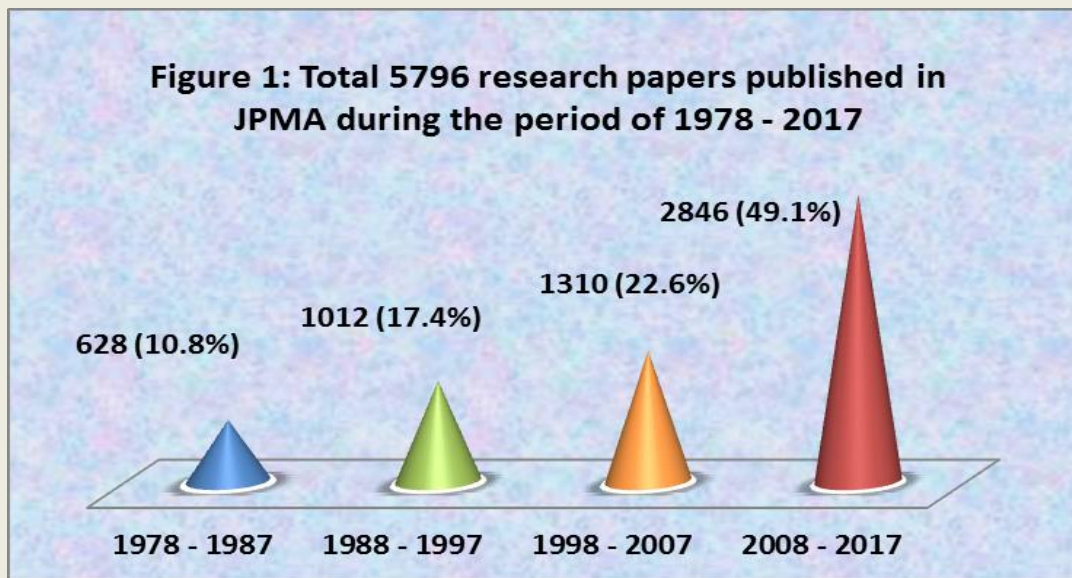


Figure 2 reveals the statistical position of articles which were published as; a) original and review articles, b) case and short reports, and c) special and short communications. Original articles 3750 (65%) grasp the major share in publications followed by 1281 (22%) case reports during the period of 1978 - 2017.

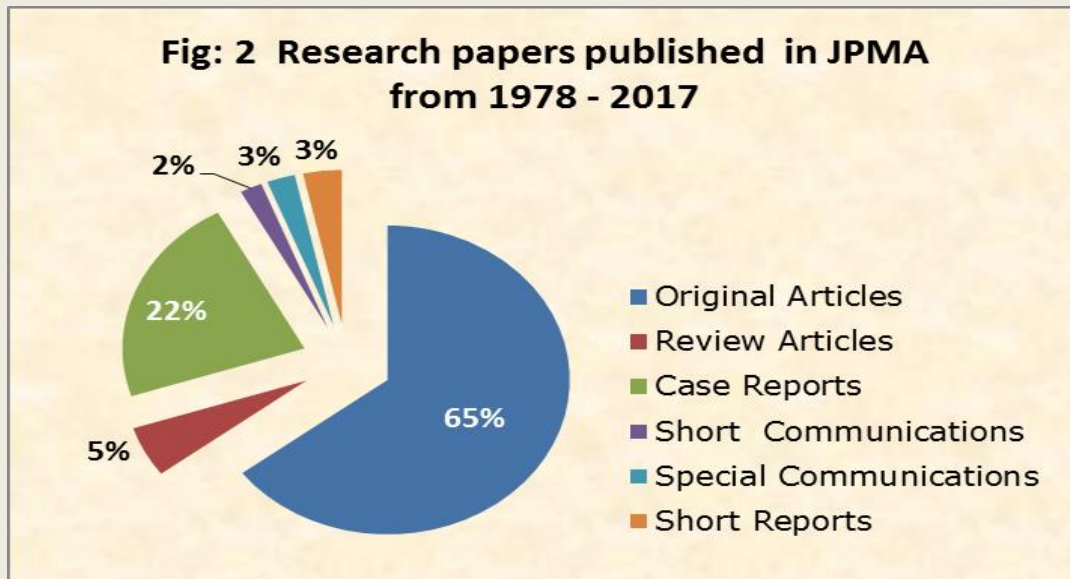


Table 1 displays the breakdown of research productivity with decade wise growth published in the JPMA. It is revealed that the new decade performs better than the previous decade. The first decade produced only 628 articles. The second decade takes an opportunity on the first decade to published 1012 articles with 23.8%, third decade 1310 articles with 13% and fourth decade published 2846 articles with the growth rate of 38.7%.

Table 1: Distribution of published material with decade-wise growth during the period of 1978 - 2017							
S. No	Decades	Original Articles with DWG*	Review Articles with DWG*	Case Reports with DWG*	Short Reports with DWG*	Special Communication with DWG*	Short Communication with DWG*

1	1978 - 1987	439	6	87	NP*	78	18
2	1988 - 1997	639 (18.7%)	57 (112.5%)	231 (48.8%)	41	28 (-51.2%)	16 (-5.8%)
3	1998 - 2007	819 (12.4%)	91 (23.3%)	305 (13.8%)	66 (23.8%)	18 (-21%)	11 (-18.7%)
4	2008 - 2017	1853 (40.8%)	153 (26%)	658 (38.4%)	92 (16.6%)	21 (7.7%)	69 (91.8%)
Total		3750	307	1281	199	145	114
Per decade-wise		937.5%	76.7%	320.2%	66.3%	36.5%	28.5%
Per issue		7.8%	0.63%	2.66%	0.41%	0.30%	0.23%

***DWG:** Decade-wise Growth

***NP:** Not published

Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5 showed the decade and year-wise circulation of publications. In the first decade the year 1987 produced 80 (n=628; 12.7%) as maximum and the year 1978 was produced 39 (n=628; 6.2%) as minimums research articles. The year 1995 was most productive with 116 (n=1012; 11.4%) followed by year 1992 113 (n=1012; 11.1%) research publications published in second decade 1988 – 1997. 164 (n=1310; 12.5) research was published as highest in 2007 followed by 161 (12.2%) in the year 2004 of the third decade. In the last decade the year 2017 produced 338 (n=2846; 11.8%) followed by 331 (11.6%) in the year 2013 as maximum and 172 (6%0 as a minimum in the year 2008.

Table 2: Distribution of articles during the period of 1978 - 1987

Years	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	Total	Per Annum Ave:	Per Issue Ave:
Original Articles	33	34	42	47	43	39	43	51	50	57	439	43.9	3.6
Review Articles	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.6	0.05
Case Reports	4	4	13	11	9	5	7	8	9	17	87	8.7	0.7
Short Reports	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Special Communications	2	9	12	6	6	3	18	12	4	6	78	7.8	0.6
Short Communications	0	0	3	4	0	3	2	0	6	0	18	1.8	0.1
Total	39 (6.2%)	49 (7.8%)	72 (11.4%)	69 (10.9%)	59 (9.3%)	50 (7.9%)	70 (11.1%)	71 (11.3%)	69 (10.9%)	80 (12.7%)	628 (5.23% per issue)		

Table 3: Distribution of articles during the period of 1988 - 1997

Years	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	Total	Per Annum Ave:	Per Issue Ave:
Original Articles	64	54	52	74	72	59	70	71	60	63	639	63.9	5.32
Review Articles	1	5	6	7	11	5	8	4	8	2	57	5.7	0.47
Case Reports	18	16	22	23	25	25	17	29	31	25	231	23.1	1.92
Short Reports	6	8	5	2	3	3	5	6	2	1	41	4.1	0.34
Special Communications	4	4	1	3	2	4	1	5	3	1	28	2.8	0.23
Short Communications	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	2	9	16	1.6	0.13
Total	93 (9.1%)	88 (8.7%)	86 (8.5%)	109 (10.7%)	113 (11.1%)	99 (9.7%)	101 (9.9%)	116 (11.4%)	106 (10.4%)	101 (9.9%)	1012 (8.43% per issue)		

Table 4: Distribution of articles during the period of 1998 - 2007

Years	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total	Per Annum Ave:	Per Issue Ave:
Original Articles	74	50	68	63	91	102	100	92	76	103	819	81.9	6.8
Review Articles	2	2	6	6	5	11	9	11	29	10	91	9.1	0.7
Case Reports	25	20	24	23	34	26	41	32	45	35	305	30.5	2.5
Short Reports	6	9	7	2	6	6	8	7	5	10	66	6.6	0.5
Special Communications	2	0	4	1	4	1	2	1	1	2	18	1.8	0.1
Short Communications	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	4	11	1.1	0.09
Total	110 (8.4%)	81 (6.1%)	110 (8.4%)	95 (7.2%)	141 (10.7%)	146 (11.1%)	161 (12.2%)	144 (10.9%)	158 (12%)	164 (12.5%)	1310 (10.9 % per issue)		

Table 5: Distribution of articles during the period of 2008 - 2017

Years	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total	Per Annum Ave:	Per Issue Ave:
Original Articles	102	145	183	209	203	228	192	197	210	184	1853	65.1	15.4
Review Articles	13	9	13	15	14	17	11	5	10	46	153	5.3	1.2
Case Reports	43	53	62	78	83	71	71	59	70	68	658	23.1	5.4
Short Reports	5	8	4	7	6	11	9	6	6	30	92	3.2	0.7
Special Communications	2	2	0	2	3	1	3	2	3	3	21	0.7	0.1
Short Communications	7	0	5	6	8	3	7	15	11	7	69	2.42	0.5
Total	172 (6.04%)	217 (7.6%)	267 (9.3%)	317 (11.1%)	317 (11.1%)	331 (11.6%)	293 (10.3%)	284 (9.9%)	310 (10.8%)	338 (11.8%)	2846 (23.7% per issue)		

Findings and discussion

It is interesting that every new decade came with more publications. The data of 480 issues published in of PJMA during the period of 1978 – 2017 disparate in six sub-sections. It seems that the journal's main focus was original articles to publish (n=3750; 64.6%) followed by case reports (n=1281; 22.1%) out of 5796 articles. The decade-wise growth shows that the fourth decade (2008 – 2017) published 72% more research papers than the first decade (1978 – 1987), 53.2% second decade (1988 – 1997) and 40.8% third decade 1998 - 2007. Fluctuations in publishing were found in review articles, short reports, special communications, and short communications. The maximum 228 and minimum 33 of original articles were published 2013 followed by 1978. Instead of any research article case-controlled research are smaller but costly, take longer and demand expertise.8, Max. 83 and min. 4 case reports were published in 2012 followed by 1978 and 1979. The bibliometric measures can be used to understand the characteristics of a journal, the literature and communication behavior of the researcher reflects in the fields and subject to represent. It is suggested that, a study on authorship pattern carried out by the researcher to know the number of authors, gender ship of the author, institutional affiliation and quantify the references puts by researchers in publications during the period 1978 – 2017.

Disclaimer: This study presents only numbers and not inclined or declined growth of any organization, city, country and standards.

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