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Analysis of Criminal Law Literature A Bibliometric Study from 2010-2019

Abstract

Objective: The purpose of this research paper is to present a quantitative analysis of the Criminal Law Literature published from 2010 to 2019.

Design/Methodology: The Institute of Scientific Information (ISI) Web of Science database was used as a source for extracting the data of published documents during the period 2010-2019. The analysis of the published literature was based on the following indicators: research productivity of each country, annual publications, annual citations, highly cited articles, highly cited law journals, most productive institutions in the field of criminal law, and most prolific authors. Research articles, conference proceeding papers, book reviews and editorials are different type of documents included in this study for analysis.

Findings: The Finding revealed that 2017 was the most productive years in term of publications in the field of Criminal Law. The study found that the USA is the most productive country. The findings further showed that four universities situated in USA are in the list of top ten most productive universities in the field of Criminal Law.

Conclusion: The result of this study shows that last three years are the most productive years in term of research in criminal law. Study also found that the USA is the most productive country in the world in term of research in the field of criminal law.

Keywords: Criminal law, bibliometric 2010 to 2019, Web of Science, published literature

Introduction

The term “Bibliometric” is a combination of two different words from two different languages, Latin word “Biblio” and Greek word “Metrics” which imply the study of bibliography by applying mathematics (Thanuskodi 2010). In Bibliometric, the scientific output of printed literature of a particular field is evaluated by the researcher (Swain, 2010). Online publication data is crucial for determining the trend in the particular field as it guides the publication trends e.g. who is contributing and publishing the most,

what is being published the most and where it is published the most. Although the biggest and the most reliable source of such type of data is the Web of Science, produced by Thomson Reuters. The databases like Scopus by Elsevier has also considered as a wide-ranging citation database for bibliometric analysis (VanRaan 2014, p.17).

Cohn and Farrington (2011) reported that the citation analysis and publication productivity are the most commonly and popular measure to determine scholarly influence. In today's modern world, publishing trends are moving towards digitalization with rapid pace. There is trend in modern world that everything tends to be evaluated and ranked from product, organizations and academia (Shichor, 2009). In this scenario publication productivity is getting more importance with passage of time and the scholars with more published work enjoy prestige and influence (Cohn and Farrington 2012). Christenson and Sigelman (1985) asserted that the good work is the work that other find useful and site in their own work and it forms the basic rationale behind citation assessment of scholarly influence. The quality of journal determine the importance of research work and it is the common indicator of how much a scholar contribute to the particular field (Glenn and Villemez 1970) and it decides the major milestones in the career of scholar like employment and promotions (Judge et al. 2004); MacKenzie and Piquero (2001). On the other hand, the quality of a journal is also measured by the number of citations received by a number of articles published in the journal in a particular year.

Criminal Law is one of the most important fields of general law. It deals with offences and their punishments. Criminal laws and their implementation formed the backbone of any civilized society. Criminal law is ever expanding field and embracing many different areas which were previously not in the domain of criminal law. Today, the lawmaker and prosecutors are increasing the reach of criminal law further by creating new crimes, remolding old crimes in new context and ratcheting upwards of criminal penalties (Stuntz, 2001).

Several bibliometric studies have been conducted around the world to evaluate the scientific output of various subjects. There is huge gap in the literate on bibliometric studies in the field of Law. Therefore, in

order to fill the gap, the present study is conducted with an aim to measure the published literature in the ISI web of sciences during the 10-years (2010-2019) in the field of Criminal Law.

Literature Review

The bibliometric studies have been conducted mainly by LIS researchers in order to determine the research productivity outcomes of a particular field. Tiew (1998) conducted a bibliometric study of the Journal of Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (JAMBRAS) in which the researcher covered the research publications during 1987 to 1996. Similarly, Tiew (2003) also conducted bibliometric study of Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science (1996-2000). Knight, Hult and Bashaw (2000) examined and analyzed the research productivity in the Journal of Business Research and covered the issues from 1985 to 1999.

Mehmood and Sharif (2004) analyzed the Pakistani Economic Journals which includes International Journal of Information, Business and Management, Development Review and Pakistan Economic & Social Review. The Indian Journal of Fiber and Textile Research was analyzed by Jena (2000). Thanuskodi (2010) examined the Journal of Social Sciences and covered its issues published from 2003 to 2007. Journal of Contribution to Indian Sociology was analyzed by Tiwari & Deepu (2012) and conducted the bibliometric study on its issues from 2000 to 2009.

Web of Sciences (WoS) is an important platform for publication of research articles. Mukherjee (2010) conducted a detailed bibliometric study of LIS research articles published by Asian Countries from 2001 to 2007 in all journals indexed in the database of the WoS. The study found that Chinese authors were the largest contributors among the Asian countries during the period. The study also disclosed the fact that authors from South Korea received the maximum number of citations. Jabeen *et al.*, (2016) conducted a comprehensive bibliometric study and analyzed the research articles indexed in the ISI WoS archive published during 1994-2003. The study discovered that although Asian countries were producing sufficient LIS Papers, the UK and USA were ahead of Asian countries in this respect. It highlighted the need to develop liaisons and participate in the combined research plans. Ahmad and Rafi (2019) conducted bibliometric study on the Journals published during 2003-2017 in the field of LIS and

discovered that while the overall publications and citations has increased across the globe, North America and UK continue to be the most productive countries. Further the study also discovered that although the trends of research in LIS is increasing in developing countries yet the pace is slow.

Thelwall (2008) reported the history and developments in bibliometric since 1958. The researcher also compared the bibliometric trends between the studies published during 1970s and the studies published after 1990s. However, a few bibliometric studies in the field of Law have been conducted. Kaur (2006) conducted the bibliometric study of Malaysian Law Journal and analyzed the 479 articles from different editions. Effective law is backbone of any stable society which distinguishes it from unstable societies. Naveeda and Rafiq (2015) concluded that the importance of law in society and social sciences is of great importance. Law is nucleus of all the field of life and it helps all the simple and complex issues of life regarding justice and equality. Law set the course of major changes through legislation, administrative response and judicial interpretations.

The review of literature shows that many bibliometric research studies have been conducted in the field of social sciences. These studies assessed the research productivity on annual bases, research productivity of institutions, authors, most reputed authors and highly cited articles in various disciplines of social sciences. Literature review also highlighted the literature gap of bibliometric studies in the field of law and especially in the Criminal Law. Therefore, the present study is conducted to fill the gap. The study will be helpful for the Law scholars to stay informed about the most productive research institutions, prolific authors and most cited-journals in the field of criminal law. The list of most cited authors will help the researchers to identify the benchmark work in the field. It will also help the researchers to select the most prolific law journals for reading and publishing their articles.

Research Questions

- How many criminal law publications published in the ISI web of sciences indexed journals during 2009 to 2019?

- What is the annual citations frequency of criminal law publications indexed in the ISI web of sciences journals during 2009-2019?
- This of the highly cited criminal law articles indexed in the ISI web of sciences during 2010 to 2019.
- Which countries has produced the most research publications in the field of criminal law in the ISI web of sciences indexed journal between the years 2009 to 2019?
- Which of the criminal law journals were highly cited between the years of 2010 to 2019?
- Which were the most productive research institutions in the field of criminal law between the years of 2009 to 2019?
- Who were the most productive authors in the field of criminal law between the years 2009 to 2019?

Research Methodology

The research is the evolution attempt to describe the published literature of criminal law globally for the period of 10 years from 2010-2019. The current year 2020 was excluded in the research because it is open for calendar year publications. We used the term 'criminal law' for searching the publications. The searches were made in the ISI Web of Sciences database. An overall, 10,475 research publications were retrieved as a result of searches made in the database. These publications were published during 2010 to 2019. The initial searches were further limited using documents types; which included: proceeding papers, review articles, book review, original articles, and editorial material. The results reduces to 10123 publication. The researcher further created a data visualization report to analyze the data. The results presented in tables and graphs to interoperate the 10-years productivity in the five areas; analysis of publication years, top 10 research publications, titles, the most prolific authors in the field of criminal law, organizations and the countries contribution, respectively.

In this study all documents published are analyzed by using the search term “Criminal Law”. The documents are analyzed based on the indicators like country’s total research productivity, highly cited articles, highly cited LIS Journals, most productive institutions in the field of Criminal Law. The inclusion criteria was to include only those documents which are indexed in the core collection of the ISI Web of Science (WoS) database and published during 2010 to 2019..

Results

Figure-1 shows that total 10,123 documents extracted from web of science database.

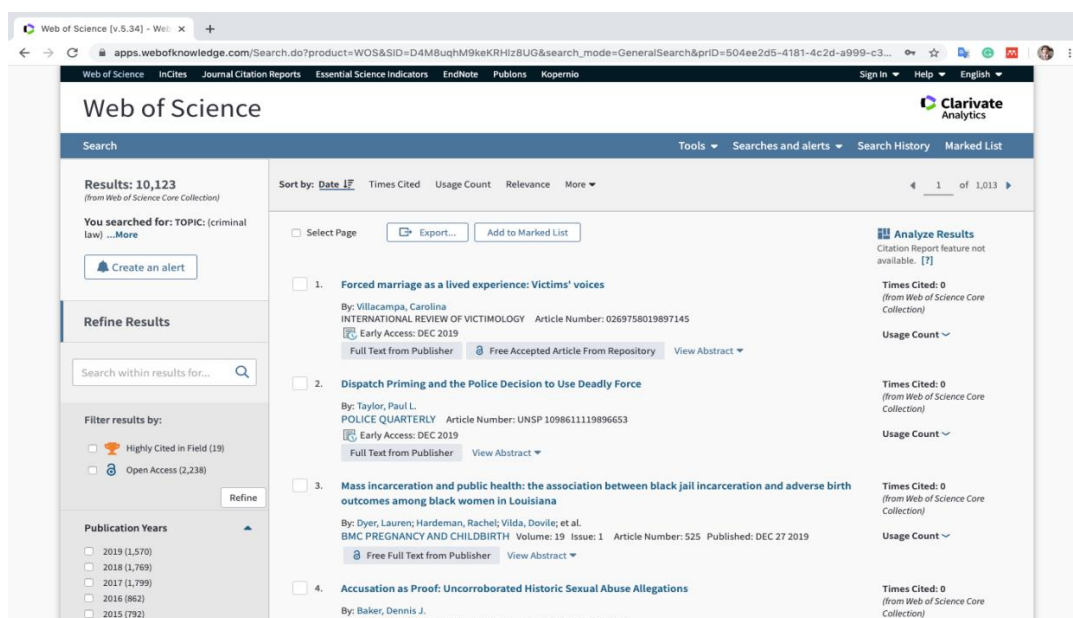


Figure-1 Publication Results

Of the 10,123 publications, 8365 were original articles, 1154 were proceeding papers, 880 were book chapters, 384 editorial material, and 268 book reviews. .

The publication growth graph for the period of ten years shows that the last three years were very productive in the field of criminal law. The productivity of publication in these three years increased about 1400 to almost 1700 per year publication numbers.

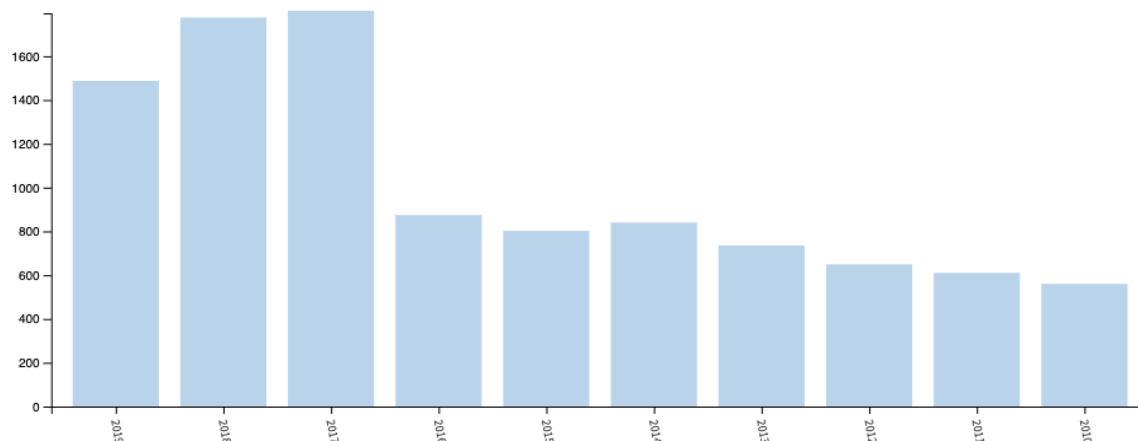


Figure-2 Published Items per Year

Table 1 shows that USA has produced the most number 2990 (29.53%) of publications, followed by England with 945 (9.33%), and Australia with 650 (6.42%). On the other hand, the least number of contribution made by Romania, Spain, and China, in the ISI web of sciences indexed journals (Table 1).

Table-1 Contribution of the Countries

Rank	Country	Number of Documents
1 st	USA	2990 (29.537%)
2 nd	England	945(9.335%)
3 rd	Australia	650(6.421%)
4 th	Russia	600 (5.927%)
5 th	Canada	471 (4.653%)
6 th	Germany	408 (4.030%)
7 th	Netherland	369 (3.645%)
8 th	China	356 (3.517%)
9 th	Spain	299 (2.954%)
10 th	Romania	289 (2.855%)

Table 2 shows the top 10 productive journals in the field of Criminal Law. The journal of international criminal justice is on the top of list with the publication numbers 285 (2.815%). Accordingly, Russian journal of criminology ranked second with the publication numbers 163 (1.610%). International Journal of Law and Psychiatry and Leiden Journal of International Law secured third and fourth position with same number of publications i.e. 89. Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology is at number five with 71 publications. Advance in Social Science Education and Humanities Research (69), International Criminal Law Review (68), International Criminal Justice Series (66), Criminal Law and Social Change (66) and Vestnik Tomskogo Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta Provo Tomsk State University Journal of Law (65) are on the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th position respectively in the list of top ten most productive journals.

Table -2 Top Journals in the Field of Criminal Law

Rank	Journal Title	Number of Publication with Percentage	
1 st	Journal of International Criminal Justice	285	(2.815%)
2 nd	Russian Journal of Criminology	163	(1.610%)
3 rd	International Journal of Law and Psychiatry	89	(0.879%)
4 th	Leiden Journal of International Law	89	(0.879%)
5 th	Journal of Criminal Law Criminology	71	(0.701%)
6 th	Advance in Social Science Education and Humanities Research	69	(0.682%)
7 th	International Criminal Law Review	68	(0.672%)
8 th	International Criminal Justice Series	66	(0.652%)
9 th	Criminal Law and Social Change	66	(0.652%)
10 th	Vestnik Tomskogo Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta Provo Tomsk State University Journal of Law	65	(0.642%)

Table 3. reveals that New York University ranked first with 89 publications (0.879%) among the top ten productive institutes to produce the literature in the field of criminal law. University of Pennsylvania is second in the list with 81 publications. Oxford University is on 3rd position in this list with 73 publications. Harvard University and Toronto University are on 4th and 5th positions with 69 and 67 publications respectively. Two Australian Universities, Sydney University (66) and University of Melbourne (64) are on 6th and 7th on this list of top ten most productive Universities in the field of Criminal Law. University of Amsterdam (63), University of Virginia (63) and Leiden University (62) are the last three universities in this list respectively. Four Universities from USA, two universities from Australia, two universities Netherlands, one from UK and one from Canada are this list.

Table- 3 Top Ten Most Productive Institutes

Rank	Institutes/Universities	Number of Citations with Percentage of 10324	
1 st	New York University	89	(0.879%)
2 nd	University of Pennsylvania	81	(0.800 %)
3 rd	Oxford University	73	(0.721 %)
4 th	Harvard University	69	(0.682 %)
5 th	Toronto University	67	(0.662%)
6 th	Sydney University	66	(0.652 %)
7 th	University of Melbourne	64	(0.632%)
8 th	University of Amsterdam	63	(0.622 %)
9 th	University of Virginia	63	(0.622 %)
10 th	Leiden University	62	(0.612 %)

In that table-4 the numbers of 26 (0.257%) documents published by different authors in the field of criminal law. Freckelton Ian from university of Melbourne Australia has published 15 (0.148%) documents. The third position obtained by Sukhodolov from Baikal State University with the publication

numbers 13 (0.128%). The author AJI RNB from Universitas Negeri Surabaya Indonesia produced 12 (0.119%) numbers publications. The table data show that the authors from Australia, Russia, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Spain, South Korea, Canada Finland and USA have secured the position in most prolific authors list.

Table-4 Most Prolific 10 Authors in Field of Criminal Law

Rank	Author	Published Documents	University	Country
1 st	Anonymous	26 (0.257%)	---	--
2 nd	Freckelton Ian	15 (0.148%)	University of Melbourne	Australia
3 rd	Sukhodolov Alexander. P	13 (0.128%)	Baikal State University	Russia
4 th	AJI RNB	12 (0.119%)	Universitas Negeri Surabaya	Indonesia
5 th	Larasati DA	12 (0.119%)	Manchester Metropolitan University	UK
6 th	Lestari V	12 (0.119%)	University of Padua	Spain
7 th	Pradana GW	12 (0.119%)	Kyung Hee University	South Korea
8 th	Purba IPMH	12 (0.1190%)	McMaster University	Canada
9 th	Van Der Wilt H	12 (0.119%)	Lappeenranta University of Technology	Finland
10 th	Clough J	11 (0.109%)	Metropolitan Institute, Virginia Tech	USA

Discussions

This research study was conducted from quantitative perspective to understand the pattern of research trends in the field of Criminal Law from 2010 to 2019 worldwide. Bibliometric method is used in order to evaluate the scientific production and quantities in the field of Criminal Law. This bibliometric analysis of the publication in the field of Criminal Law revealed some significant results and the trend in the publishing related to Criminal Law.

A total, 3865 research articles were published in the field of Criminal Law from 2010 to 2019. The graph of last ten-years shows a positive growth pattern over the years as 2010 is the year with lowest publications in the field. It gradually increases from 2010 to 2016 with very modest growth rate and then the last three years shows spectacular growth in the publications. It is worth mentioning that last three years account for more combined publications in the field of criminal law with comparison to the first seven years. These finding suggests that the importance of Criminal Law within field of Law is increasing and last few years saw a spectacular growth in the publications.

The USA is the most productive country in the field of publications in Criminal Law. The role of USA is most important in the field of Criminal Law research because USA is not only the most productive county but also four universities from USA are in the list of top ten most productive universities i.e. New York University, University of Pennsylvania, Harvard University and University of Virginia. This fact not only highlights the dominance of USA in the field, but also shows why the legal system of USA is considered as one of the best in the world. These findings also highlight that the American, Australian and European Universities are leading the field of Criminal Law research and there is lack of research in other parts of the world. This result can also be related with the better Criminal Justice System in these countries as compared with developing and third world countries.

Conclusion

This Study was conducted to evaluate the Research in Criminal Law on databases of ISI Web of Science. Total 10123 results were retrieved which consists of Articles, Proceeding Papers, Book Chapters, Editorial Material and Book Reviews. The main purpose of this study is to explore the field of Criminal Law and provide guidelines for the researchers in their future research projects by highlighting the publications, journals, universities, countries and authors in the field. The results of this study shows increasing growth rate in publishing especially in the last three years and it also revealed that USA is the country with most productivity in the field of criminal law.

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