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Content and Citation Analysis of Articles in Paykareh Scientific Quarterly

Abstract

Problem Definition: Scientific journals that publish the most up-to-date research, like everything else, need to be evaluated from different dimensions. Paykareh Quarterly is one of the scientific journals that has published about 23 issues and 125 articles so far (up to the present research). The present study addresses the following issues: The level of participation of group research authors; Research method used in articles; Total number and the average of citations per article; Citation of books, journals, dissertations, and other sources of information; Language status and update rate of citations; The most prolific author among the authors of article sources; The most references cited by the authors of the articles in this journal.

Objective: The primary purpose of this research is to analyze the content and citations of the articles published in the Paykareh scientific journal and compare the results with the current world journals to promote the status of the present journal.

Research Method: The research method is citation analysis, and Rover-Matrix and Excel software have been used to analyze the data. The statistical population includes 23 issues of Paykareh quarterly, the statistical sample of which contains 125 articles selected from these quarterly issues.

Results: Out of 125 articles reviewed, 44 articles were written by one author, and 81 articles were produced by two or more authors. The most used method (82%) is the descriptive-analytical method. The total number of citations in 23 issues of this publication was 2482, and its citation average for each article was 20. According to the research findings, among the information sources, books with 64% citations were cited more than other sources, and Persian language sources were 72% higher than Latin sources. Concerning the recency of the sources, 38% were related to the outdated. Among the authors, the works of Ruyin Pakbaz, Mohammad Khazaei, Mahnaz Shayestehfar, and Ali Akbar Dehkhoda have been cited the most. Also, the encyclopedia of art books, Dehkhoda dictionary, and Fargang-e Mosavar (illustrated dictionary) have been the traditional symbols of most cited books.

Keywords

Citation Analysis, Content Analysis, Articles, Paykareh Quarterly

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Introduction

Scientific journals are one of the main channels of knowledge and new findings transfer. Given these journals' role and importance in science and knowledge, making an accurate scientific evaluation is necessary. Periodic evaluation of scientific journals can guide policymakers in knowledge production and improve the quality of research activities. The presence of a particular source in another document's reference list indicates a connection between the document and the source cited in the reference list. The analysis of these connections creates a category called citation analysis. Using citation analysis, a wealth of published resources can be ranked based on usage, and high-yield authors can be identified. Paykareh Quarterly is a journal of the Faculty of Arts in the Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, published in 2012. The scientific articles of this quarterly are in art and history. As mentioned in the portal of this journal, the purpose of publishing is to raise the level of knowledge and present artistic achievements. Considering a decade of activity of this journal, the present study tries to evaluate the articles published from 1391 to 1400 using citation analysis to assess the scientific behavior of authors, the status of articles, and the level of scientific participation of researchers in presenting articles. This way, the research areas, the research method used, the total and average citations of the articles, the type, time, and date of the sources, and its most-cited authors and references are determined. This journal might efficiently achieve related scientific goals by presenting the general trend, format, and possible strengths and weaknesses.

Research Method

The method of the present study is to apply citation analysis and content analysis to articles. The citation analysis approach is a technique for examining researchers' activity patterns. In this research, their classification and general analysis are done by reviewing the analytical course of the articles in the Paykareh journal. The statistical population of this research is 125 articles published from 1391 to the spring of 1400, and the necessary information has been collected through the journal's website. In this process and considering the titles and contents of articles, some information, including articles' type and method, author's gender, job status, educational status, affiliation, and area of interest, in addition to the number of sources based on their type, language, and recency, were collected and analyzed using Rower-Matrix software.

Research Background

Numerous studies have been conducted on citation analysis of Iranian journals, some of which are mentioned in See Tables 1 & 2:

Table 1. Research done on citation analysis. Source: Author.

Publisher Data	Titel Research	Authors
2021	Content Analysis of Articles Quarterly Journal of Tourism Management Studies (2012-2011)	Rezania, Moghanipour.& Zafarmand
2021	Study of the Knowledge and Content Flows of Articles in the Journal of Accounting Knowledge from the Beginning of the Publication to the end of 2019	Nobakht, & Nobakht
2020	Content Analysis of Audit Research in the Quarterly Journal of Experimental Accounting Research.	Amiri, & Armkan
2019	Citation and Content Analysis of the Journal of Modern Psychological Research From 2006 to 2015	Hamdipour, Ommi, & Zavaraqi

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Publisher Data	Titel Research	Authors
2019	Content analysis of Journal of Health and Care	Soleimani, Asadzadeh, Dabagh Fekri, & GhomEisi
2018	International Journal of Educational Psychology, University of Allameh Tabatabai content and citation analysis	Alipour, Babaie Menghari, Abasi, & Davodi
2017	Content and Citation Analysis of Articles Published in Iranian Journal of Aging, 2006-2015	Abolfathi Momtaz, Delbari, Sahaf, Roustaei, Hosseiny, & Ramshini
2012	Content and citation analysis of articles in the Quarterly Journal of Womens Research	Riahinia, & Navabi Nezhad
2011	Citation analysis of articles in the scientific-research quarterly of philosophical knowledge(No 1-30)	Homayi, Soleimani, & Afshar

Research on content and citation analysis in the field of art has rarely been done, some of which are mentioned (See Table 2).

Table 2. Content analysis and citation research in the field of art. Source: Author.

Publisher Data	Titel Research	Authors
2019	Content Analysis of Quality Evaluation Worksheets in Scientific Journals of Art	Hassani
2019	A descriptive study of comparative articles in the Visual Arts magazine (ex-fine arts) from 2011 to 2017	Feizabi,Samanian,& Hajimohammadi
2018	Citing and citations Issues in the assessments of Art: Challenges and Problems: Case Study Painting	Samadi, Nakhoda, Norouzi Chakalaki, & Asadi
2018	Content analysis of the articles published in the first 30 issues of Goljaam bi-quarterly	Mirzaei

Due to the importance of analyzing scientific articles in the field, conducting this research will identify the shortcomings as well as the necessary changes in the style of the journal based on the methods of modern journals and ultimately improve the quality of research journals in the field of art.

Findings

1. Content analysis: According to the results obtained, from 1391 to 1400, 125 articles by 216 authors have been published in the scientific journal Paykareh, of which 118 were women (55%), and 98 (45%) were men. The study of the authors' educational status showed that 110 out of 216 had a doctoral degree, 102 had a master's degree, and only 4 had a bachelor's degree. Among the authors and the academic ranks, it includes 7 (3%) professors, 24 (11%) associate professors, 58 (27%) assistant professors, 20 (9%) instructors, and 107 (50%) doctoral, master, and bachelor students. Having examined the frequency distribution of authors from 125 articles published in quarterly, it was found that 44 articles had one author, 71 articles had two authors, 9 articles had three authors, and 1 article had four authors. In total, 65% of articles included group collaboration of authors, and 35% were conducted individually. Organizational affiliations of the authors of articles published during the research years include the University of Tehran Fine Arts (Pardis), with 47 authors in the first place. The Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, with 32 authors, the Islamic Azad University, with 25 authors, the Tarbiat Modares University, with 15 authors, and the Kashan University, with 14 authors, hold the second, third, fourth, and fifth positions, respectively. In analyzing the dispersion of the thematic scope of research in the published articles, it was found that the highest research scope is allocated to painting (18.4%) and the lowest scope is related to the economics of art and museum, which has not

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reached to less than 1%. However, in some areas of research, the same proportion is observed. For example, in the research areas of painting, symbolism, and graphics (16%), urban arts and motifs (12%), and the three fields of carpet, painting training, and calligraphy (10%), the scope percentages are equal. Regarding the frequency distribution of the methods used in the studies, the results showed that out of 125 articles, 104 were descriptive-analytical, 16 were comparative, and 2 were interpretive.

2. Citation analysis: The citation analysis of this study showed that in 125 titles of the reviewed articles, 2482 were presented in Persian and English, and the average number of citations per article was 20. Issue 21 of this publication with 176 citations had the highest number of citations, and Issue 11 with 45 citations included the lowest number.

1.2. Types of cited sources: The sources cited in the articles were divided into 4 categories: books, articles, web pages, and dissertations. According to the findings Table 3, the book has the highest citation rate (64%). This proportion indicates the book-oriented nature of the authors of Paykareh quarterly articles. After book citations, the article (25%) is in the second position, and the lowest citation rate (2%) is related to dissertations.

2.2. Language of cited sources: The frequency distribution of citations in sources marked by language showed that English sources, 19%, and Persian sources, 81%, were cited (See Table 3).

Table 3. Types of sources and the number of citations sorted by language. Source: Author.

Language / Source Type	Persian		English	
	Citation No.	**Percentage**	**Citation No.**	**Percentage**
Book	1296	52	292	12
Article	523	21	75	4
Web pages	150	6	69	3
Dissertations	60	2	2	0
Sum	2029	81	438	19

2.3. Recency of cited sources: In the study of the up-to-date sources used in the articles of Paykareh Quarterly, as shown in Figure 1, 27% of the references were up-to-date, 35% were medium, and 38% were outdated sources. Based on the time interval from 1400 onwards, they are classified from 1 to 7 years (as up-to-date sources), 7 to 14 years (as medium sources), and above 14 years (as outdated sources). Accordingly, it can be said that most of the sources of this journal are medium and outdated. In the present study, the sources cited as web pages were not involved in the analysis due to the uncertainty of their access dates.
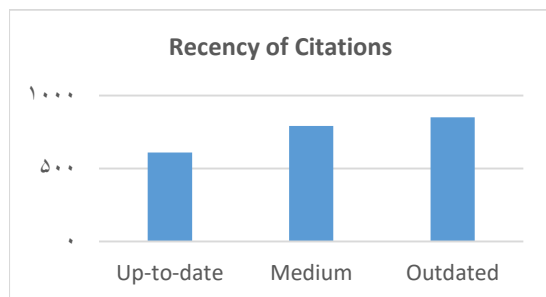

Figure 1. Recency rate of cited sources. Source: Author.

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2.4. The most cited authors: Based on the findings Table 4, the most cited author was "Ruyin Pakbaz," with 31 citations. Other frequently cited authors are "Mohammad Khazaei" (22 citations), "Mahnaz Shayestehfar" (17 citations), "Ali Akbar Dehkhoda" (15 citations), Dariush Shaygan and "Kamran Afshar Mohajer" (12 citations), respectively. Electronic sources were anonymous due to their use in images that were not included in this analysis.

Table 4. The most cited Iranian authors in the studied articles. Source: Authors

NO	Author	Citation	Percentage	NO	Author	Citation	Percentage
1	Ruyin Pakbaz	31	1.2	6	AbolQasem Dadvar	10	0.4
2	Mohammad Khazaei	22	0.9	7	Ali Asqar Kafshchian Moghadam	9	0.3
3	Mahnaz Shayestehfar	17	0.7	8	Yaqub Azhand	8	0.3
4	Ali Akbar Dehkhoda	15	0.6	9	Amir Hossein Chitsazian, Hassan Bolkhari Ghahi	7	0.2
5	Dariush Shaygan, Kamran Afshar Mohajer	12	0.5	10	AbdolMajid Hoseini Rad, Ahmad NadAlian, Seyed Hossein Nasr	6	0.2

Also, among foreign writers, "Arthur Upham Pope" is at the top with 14 citations as the most cited author (See Table 5).

Table 5. The most cited foreign authors in the reviewed articles. Source: Author.

No	Author	Citation	No	Author	Citation
1	Arthur Upham Pope	14	4	James Hall	8
2	Oleg Grabar	12	5	Jean Chevalier	7
3	J. C. Cooper	11			

Table 6 shows the most cited translators in the reviewed articles, among which "Jalal Sattari" has been ranked as the most cited translator with 22 citations.

Table 6. The most cited translators of the reviewed articles. Source: Authors

No	Author	Citation	No	Author	Citation
1	Jalal Sattari	22	4	Mahnaz Shayestehfar, Ruyin Pakbaz, Ali Ramin	8
2	Roghaye Behzadi, Soudabeh Fazaeli	10	5	AbolQasem Esmeilpour, Yaqub Ajand	7
3	Malihe Karbasian	9	6	Farnaz Haeri, ArabAli, Sharveh, Alireza Sami Azar, Mohammad	6

5.2. The most cited sources: As shown in Table 7, the Encyclopedia of Art, with 22 citations, is the most cited book in the reviewed articles. Other frequently cited books are the Dehkhoda Dictionary (17 citations), Illustrated Dictionary of Traditional Symbols (9 citations), etc., which indicate that the authors of the articles refer to art reference books to write articles.

Table 7. The most cited sources in the reviewed articles. Source: Author.

No	Title	Citation	No	Title	Citation
1	Encyclopedia of Art	22	3	Illustrated dictionary of Traditional symbols, Illustrated dictionary of symbols in Eastern and Western art, Dictionary of Symbols	9
2	Dehkhoda Dictionary	17	4	Painting: from ancient times to the present	8

Discussion

1. Content analysis: This study showed that the articles in the Paykareh journal were mostly group research (65%), and 35% were conducted individually. Nowadays, group research enjoys more accuracy, comprehensiveness, and speed, and the low percentage of single-author articles in the study area is one of the positive points of this journal. Regarding gender, 55% of the authors are female, and to some extent, male and female authors participate equally in publishing articles in this area. Regarding the research domain, it should be said that this journal covers most of the research areas; however, the unequal distribution of these areas is evident. Given the existing findings and the trend of inequality and dispersion in research areas, the journal's decision to minimize these inequalities should be based on preventing the over-acceptance of articles in a particular area. Particular research priorities can be included on the journal's site for authors and researchers to observe so that articles are evenly distributed across all areas. Investigating the ten years of the journal in terms of geographical dispersion and the authors' affiliation shows unequal frequencies. Therefore, the executive agents of the journal should try to reduce this inequality by adopting policies based on creating an equal number of researchers in all universities. Journalists should avoid accepting too many articles from a particular university and give this privilege and priority to universities that are inferior in frequency to other universities. This study's findings indicate the researchers' focus on the descriptive-analytical method. Therefore, it is worthy for students and faculty members to be encouraged to conduct qualitative and review research and to refrain from conducting duplicate research.

2. Citation analysis: The results showed that in 125 published articles, the average citation for each article is 20, which is acceptable and shows that the authors are well aware of the importance of citation and have conducted their research according to previously written scientific texts. This study showed that the authors of the articles are book-reliant. Whereas the book is a widely available and accessible source, in today's research, sources such as journals and electronic resources should not be neglected. Such sources can be valuable and primary sources for citing research due to their faster speed in updating the information in the publication process. In examining the language cited in the articles, as the results showed, the authors are more interested in Persian sources. The small number of citations to Latin sources can be due to unfamiliarity with English and Latin languages and the unrelated content of Latin books to Islamic sciences. However, there is a need to refer more to Latin language sources for more up-to-date and rich research.

Conclusion

The results of this study indicate that most of the research has been done by group authors through cooperation and interaction between assistant professors, postgraduate students,

associate professors, and doctoral students. Moreover, the most used method is the descriptive-analytical, and this journal's thematic areas of research go through an unequal and dissimilar process. Since the presence of a source in a reference list indicates a relationship between the document and the source, the Paykareh journal, with an average citation of 20 per article, showed that researchers in this area are well aware of the importance of citation. However, the book-oriented and outdated sources used in this journal are worth attending, and it is necessary to consider up-to-date sources.

Suggestions

Due to the specialization of art disciplines and the increase in the number of technical articles, up-to-date and problem-oriented research should be the issue of this journal. Since most of the sources cited by the authors in this area are books, it is recommended that the use of other sources of information, especially journals and dissertations, be given priority due to their recency. Moreover, the editor and reviewers should recommend using non-Persian and up-to-date sources for the authors of this journal.

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