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RESEARCH ARTICLE

REVISED Scopus based bibliometric and scientometric analysis of occupational therapy publications from 2001 to 2020 [version 2; peer review: 1 approved with reservations]

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Abstract

Background: Occupational therapy (OT) is one of the allied health professions, with its first journals in 1920. The main objective of this study was to find out the publication trend in the field of OT research for the period of 2001-2020 using the principles of bibliometrics and scientometrics.

Methods: The data was retrieved from Scopus from the past 20 years (2001-2020). VOSviewer software was used to find year-wise publications in OT-specific and non-OT-specific Journals along with top journals, countries, organisations, authors, cited articles, and highly used keywords.

Results: There was a steady growth of OT articles over the past 20 years. Scopus indexes 16 OT-specific journals are identified. American Journal of Occupational Therapy, British Journal of Occupational Therapy Journal, Australian Occupational Therapy Journal, Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy, and Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy are the leading publications and citations. A comparison of OT-specific and non-OT journals inferred that the OT-specific papers are three times more published in non-OT journals. There is a trend in publishing multidisciplinary medical journals than OT journals. The US publishes the most articles, followed by the UK, Australia, Canada, and Germany. Though the US alone produced a considerable number of articles (9517), only five organisations are listed in the top 20, compared to Canada (n=6) and Australia (n=5). Australia represents the highest number of published authors (n=11/20). Canada represents a highly cited author from the top-cited publications. The five common keywords used by OT-authors are "occupational therapy", “rehabilitation”, “stroke”, “physical therapy,” and “activities of daily living”. This study lists top-20 journals along with their CiteScore and Journal Impact Factor.

Open Peer Review

Approval Status ?

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version 2 (revision) 11 May 2023	
version 1 08 Feb 2022	? view

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Any reports and responses or comments on the article can be found at the end of the article.

Conclusions: This study will help the budding researchers in OT to select a suitable quality journal for publication and, further, helpful for research promotion, researcher incentivising, grant allocations, and policymakers in the OT field.

Keywords
Occupational therapy, occupational therapy journals, core journals, citations metrics, Scopus, VOSviewer

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REVISED **Amendments from Version 1**

The major changes are in discussion and conclusion. As per the suggestions from the reviewer, we have incorporated the discussion on Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) and accordingly the conclusion is also re-written. Further, corrections are made to correct the English language.

Any further responses from the reviewers can be found at the end of the article

Introduction

Occupational therapy (OT) is one of the allied health professions practiced globally. Research and research publications are an integral part of the OT profession. *"Archives of Occupational Therapy"* was the first published OT journal published in 1922 (Cruz *et al.*, 2019). In the 21st century, most journals became online web-based after the invention of the internet (Cruz *et al.,* 2019). Thirty-nine journals have been published that contain "occupational therapy" in journal-title available online. Thirty-two journals are published in English (Cruz *et al.,* 2019). These journals are core OT journal that mainly publishes OT-related articles. With the advancement in electronic databases and the online availability of periodicals, the newer bibliometrics and scientometrics methods of journal evaluation or evaluation of research measures are evolved (Meho and Yang, 2006). Citation analysis and content analysis are two commonly used methods of bibliometric analysis (Wallin 2005; T. Brown, Gutman, Ho, *et al.*, 2018). This method is proven to examine the impact or influence of published articles, journals, researchers, institutions, and countries. Further, this method evaluates micro-level performance, such as institution/university performance, to macro-level performance of a particular profession in research and country-wise research evaluation (Wallin 2005; T. Brown, Gutman, Ho, *et al.* 2018).

Content and citation analysis is a common practice in the bibliometrics of occupational therapy. In the past, most of the content analysis was performed for specific OT journals such as the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* (AJOT) (Ottenbacher and Short, 1982; Ottenbacher and Petersen, 1985), *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy* (CJOT) (Ernest, 1983), *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal* (AOTJ) (Trevan-Hawke, 1986; Madill *et al.*, 1989), *British Journal of Occupational Therapy Journal* (BJOT) (Cusick, 1995; Mountain 1997) and *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research* (OTJR) (G. T. Brown and Brown, 2005). Pearl *et al.* (2014) evaluated and reported the content of five occupational therapy journals: AJOT, AOTJ, BJOT, CJOT, and the *Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy* (SJOT).

Most of the reported studies were based on the cited journal analysis, that is, analysis of what OT journal articles cited from other journals (Johnson and Leising, 1986; Roberts, 1992; Reed, 1999; Potter, 2010). Recently, Nowrouzi-Kia *et al.* (2018) evaluated top publications with more than 100 citations in occupational therapy. This study was the first to uncover the highest annual citation rates, randomized control trials, literature reviews, and cross-sectional studies in occupational therapy.

Ziviani and colleagues (1984) analyzed the content and citation of three OT journals, *AJOT, BOTJ,* and *AOTJ.* It was the first bibliometric study examining both content and authority in the OT field. Recently, bibliometric studies have become a popular method to know the publication trends, find researchers/authors on a particular topic, and identify journals where prospective authors select to publish their manuscripts. This study type helps identify a specific profession's publication landscape (MacDermid *et al.*, 2015). These data are also used as criteria for research promotion, researcher incentivizing, grant allocations, and policymaking. Further, these data can be used to benchmark faculty, department, institute, or research organization (T. Brown *et al.*, 2019).

Several studies were reported on the performance of OT researchers. Those studies evaluate OT authors' publication output regarding their content and citation impact. All analyses were conducted for OT authors from specific geographical locations such as Canada (MacDermid *et al.*, 2015), Brazil (Folha *et al.*, 2017), the United Kingdom (T. Brown, Ho *et al.*, 2018), and Australia (T. Brown, Gutman, and Ho, 2018). Recently one study reported the bibliometric analysis for authors of western countries and Asian countries. It includes a total of nine countries among them, the United States (US), Canada, the United Kingdom (UK), and Australia were included as countries of the west, and Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, and South Korea were included as Asian countries (Man et *al.*, 2019). Among those few publications, it was observed that OT authors had published many publications in non-OT journals (MacDermid *et al.*, 2015; T. Brown *et al.*, 2017; T. Brown, Ho, *et al.*, 2018; T. Brown, Gutman, and Ho, 2018). Many highly cited OT papers are also published in non-OT-specific journals (Man *et al.*, 2019). Another study on OT publication in non-OT journals from 2004 to 2015 found that publication in non-OT journals increased by 173% (Folha *et al.*, 2019). Because there has been an explosion of new online electronic journals with open-access options for publications, publishing is a multidisciplinary type of journal that has become a global trend among prospective authors in any discipline.

Recently all bibliometric studies in the field of OT used Journal Citation Report (JCR) matrices and Journal Impact Factor (JIF) for their analysis provided by Web of Science (WOS) (T. Brown, Gutman, Ho, *et al.*, 2018; MacDermid *et al.*, 2015; Gutman *et al.*, 2017; Folha *et al.*, 2017; T. Brown *et al.*, 2017; T. Brown *et al.*, 2019; T. Brown, Gutman, and Ho, 2018; Man *et al.*, 2019). A simple mathematical formula calculates JIF. The total citations will be in the numerator and the citable item as the denominator for the previous two years. The denominator creates confusion because the authors cite anything from the available literature. Journals do not label the publications as citable items in their author guidance. Neither prevents any item from citing (Fernandez-Llimos, 2018). Similar to JIF, Scopus CiteScore also uses citation analysis for ranking journals. The Scopus database that provides CiteScore is among the two databases accepted worldwide. The other is the Web of Science (WOS), which provides JIF (T. Brown and Gutman, 2019; Fernandez-Llimos 2018; Sau, 2020).

The CiteScore metrics released in 2017 offer access to citing and citation articles. It computes all published materials as citable articles (Fernandez-Llimos, 2018). However, there was concern about citable items such as "notes", "letter to the editor", "editorials", "erratum", and "retracted", and there will be many unidentified items. This error has been fixed in the recently updated version of CiteScore metrics 2020, where they have fixed for the "articles", "reviews", "conference papers", "book chapters", and "data papers" published. Scopus CiteScore has more excellent comprehensive coverage of published research data (Fernandez-Llimos, 2018; Sau, 2020). Both JIF and CiteScore calculations are based on citations received by a journal in a given period for the published citable item in that duration (Fernandez-Llimos, 2018; Sau, 2020). Significant and strong correlations were found between JIF and CiteScore in recent studies comparing 14-OT journals published in English (T. Brown and Gutman, 2019). Hence, both JIF and CiteScore for measuring journal quality are used in our current study.

Thus, it indicates a requirement for a comprehensive bibliometric evaluation of OT literature using accurate and accessible matrices, which can be used to understand the global prospect of OT literature. These reasons prompted us to conduct a detailed bibliometric and scientometric analysis of research output in OT using the Scopus database. Hence, the following research questions were proposed.

i) What is the year-wise OT-publications trend in Scopus-indexed journals for 2001-2020?

ii) What are the OT-specific and non-OT-specific publications trends for 2001-2020?

iii) Which are the top journals that publish peer-reviewed OT publications between 2001 and 2020?

iv) Which are top-performing countries in OT-research publications between 2001 and 2020?

v) What are the collaboration trends in OT for 2001-2020?

vi) Which are the top-performing organisations in OT for the period of 2001-2020?

vii) Which are the top-cited publications in OT for 2001-2020?

viii) Which are the commonly used keywords in OT journals for 2001-2020?

Methodology

Ethical approval

This study was conducted based on data retrieved from Scopus between 2001 and 2020. Due to no human subjects' involvement, ethical approval was not required.

Source of data

Scopus database was used for the study. Scopus is one of the international scientific committee's best bibliographic databases (Fernandez-Llimos, 2018; Sau, 2020). Scopus has covered 70 million items and 1.4 billion cited references since 1970, making it the most extensive research publication database. Scopus bibliometric information is expensively used in the scientometric analysis. Citations vary between databases and it is based on the number of journals indexed in that database. We selected Scopus for this study because it includes more OT-specific journals compared to WOS and overall indexed more journals compared to WOS. The citation count was calculated within the database. Due to extensive coverage (Fernandez-Llimos, 2018; Sau, 2020), Scopus has a more citable item and a probability of getting more citations to count.

Data retrieval strategies

The search was conducted in December 2021 and was limited to scientific articles and reviews on OT published from 2001 to 2020. We used the TITLE-ABS-KEY function using the advanced search option of the Scopus database. Keywords such as *"Occupational Therapy"* and *"Occupational Therapist"* (T. Brown, Gutman, Ho, *et al.*, 2018; Nowrouzi-Kia *et al.*, 2018; T. Brown *et al.*, 2019; T. Brown *et al.*, 2017: Gutman *et al.*, 2017) was used along with multiple Boolean operators such as "AND", and "OR" to retrieve the maximum number of relevant articles. We excluded non-peer-reviewed documents such as "short surveys", "conference papers", "editorials", "notes", "letters", "books", "book chapters", "erratum", and "retracted papers" (T. Brown, Gutman, Ho, *et al.*, 2018; Nowrouzi-Kia *et al.*, 2018).

Scientometric analysis

The VOSviewer®, a free software, was used. Microsoft Excel 2016® was used for all the figures and scientometric calculations.

Scientometric data was retrieved from Scopus using a comma-separated file (CSV) with complete information. The full details, such as citation, bibliographical, abstract, keywords, funding, and other information, were downloaded as a CSV file to analyse the data using VOSviewer.

Identification of year-wise publication trends

All journal titles were screened to identify the OT-specific journals from the Scopus database. The journals with titles that contained the "Occupational therapy" word were categorised as OT-specific journals (Folha *et al.*, 2019). Additionally, we verified all journals' title, which contains either of these three words "Ergotherapia", "Occupational Therapy", or "OT" and confirmed the organisation that published those journals. Further, the occupational therapy organisation or association publishing journals were included in the OT-specific journal list. The remaining journals were categorised as non-OT-specific journals. Then year-wise CSV file was imported into VOSviewer to generate year-wise publication of OT-specific, non-OT-specific information. We used VOSviewer software citation per source function for this purpose. VOSviewer uses "source" instead of "journal" in the software. Citation per publication is used to generate ten-year journal publication output. Then the information is imported into an Excel file to compute year-wise OT publications, year-wise publications in OT-specific journals, and year-wise publications in non-OT-specific journals. The cumulative publications for all three categories were calculated separately to identify the growth trend of OT publications.

Identifications of top journals, authors, countries, and organisations

The VOSviewer was used to categorise the top twenty journal sources, countries, and 20 organisations based on publication numbers. Similarly, we used twenty-year files to identify the top twenty authors who published at least 25 articles and the top 20 individual articles based on the number of citations. We referred to analysis using CiteScore 2020 from the Scopus database and Journal Citation Report 2020 from WoS Master Journal List to tabulate the Scopus CiteScore and JIF for the top-twenty journals.

Country collaboration network and authors' keyword visualisation

A network map on international collaboration about OT publication and author keywords visualisation was generated using VOSviewer software.

Results

The overall OT publication trends revealed a steady growth of (7.72%) each year. In OT-specific and non-OT-specific journals publication, growth was 0.29% and 7.44%, respectively (Figure 1). Approximately one-fourth (24.30%) of articles were published in OT-specific journals in the last twenty years, and three-fourths (75.69%) were published in non-OT-specific journals. From 2001 to 2020, OT publications increased by 165.14 % (n = 1544). Similarly, the overall OT publication in OT-specific journals increased by 14.84 % (n=57). In contrast, non-OT-specific journals overall publication increased by 269.85% (n =1487).

A total of 16 OT-specific journals are listed in the Scopus database. Year-wise OT-specific journal publications for the period of 2001 to 2020 showed in Figure 2. The top five journals published more than half of OT-specific journal publications. Those journals were the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* (AJOT) 18.42 %, the *British Journal of Occupational Therapy* (BJOT) 17.56 %, the *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal* (AOTJ) 11.53%, the *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy* (CJOT) 7.64 % and Scandinavian *Journal of Occupational Therapy* (SJOT) 7.64 %, (Table 1). Reaming articles were published *in Occupational Therapy in Health Care* (OTHC) 6.87 (n=511), *Ergotherapie und Rehabilitation* (ErgoR) 6.15 % (n=458), *Occupational Therapy International* (OTI) 5.28 %(n=393), *OTJR Occupation, Participation and Health* (OTJR) 4.27 % (n=318), *Occupational Therapy in Mental Health* (OTMH) 3.56% (n=265), *Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools, and Early Intervention* (JOTSEI) 3.10 % (n=231), *Physical and*

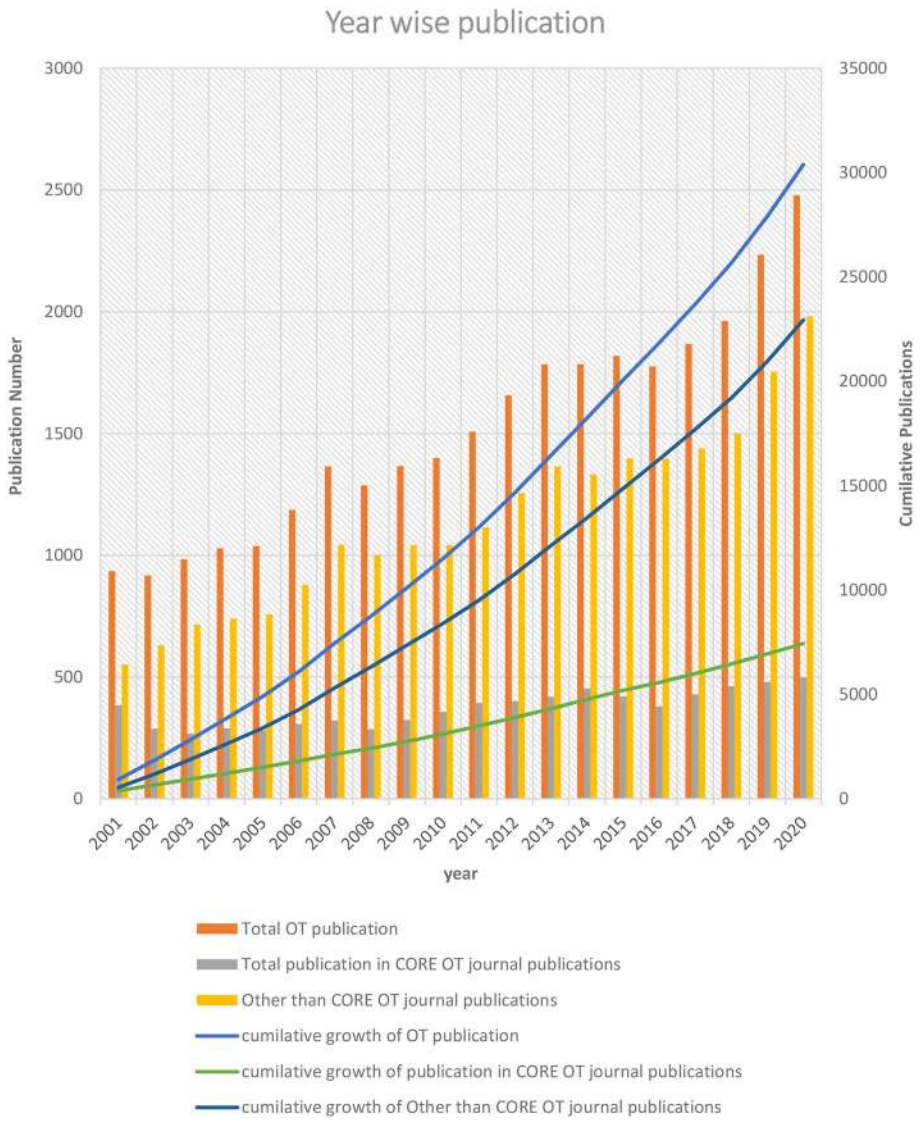


Figure 1. Year-wise OT-publication trend.

Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics (POTP) 2.42% (n=180), *Physical and Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics* (POTG) 2.24% (n = 167), *Brazilian Journal of Occupational Therapy* (BrJOT) 1.71 % (n=127), *Hong Kong Journal of Occupational Therapy* (HKJOT)1.32% (n =98), and *Irish Journal of Occupational Therapy* (IrJOT) 0.28 % (n=21).

The current analysis found that 14 of the top 20 are OT-specific journals, which published one-fourth of OT articles from 2001 to 2020 (Table 1). Among those journals, the AJOT received more citations (n = 27770). However, the *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* (APMR) received the highest citation per document (37.27). The CiteScore of those 20 journals ranges from a minimum of zero to a maximum of 5.7. Fifteen of the top 20 journals have journal impact factors (JIF) or citation indicators (JCI). Six journals were indexed in WOS's Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI). In contrast, two journals were not listed in WOS. Impact factors for those 15 journals were rage from 0.03 to 3.966.

Among the top OT publishing countries, the US published the most articles (n= 9517), followed by the UK, Australia, Canada, and Germany (Table 2). The Netherlands received the highest citation per document (41.84), followed by Denmark, France, Italy, and Norway. Furthermore, data revealed that the US, UK, Australia, and Australia have solid international collaboration among the best 20 countries published in the past 20 years (Figure 3).

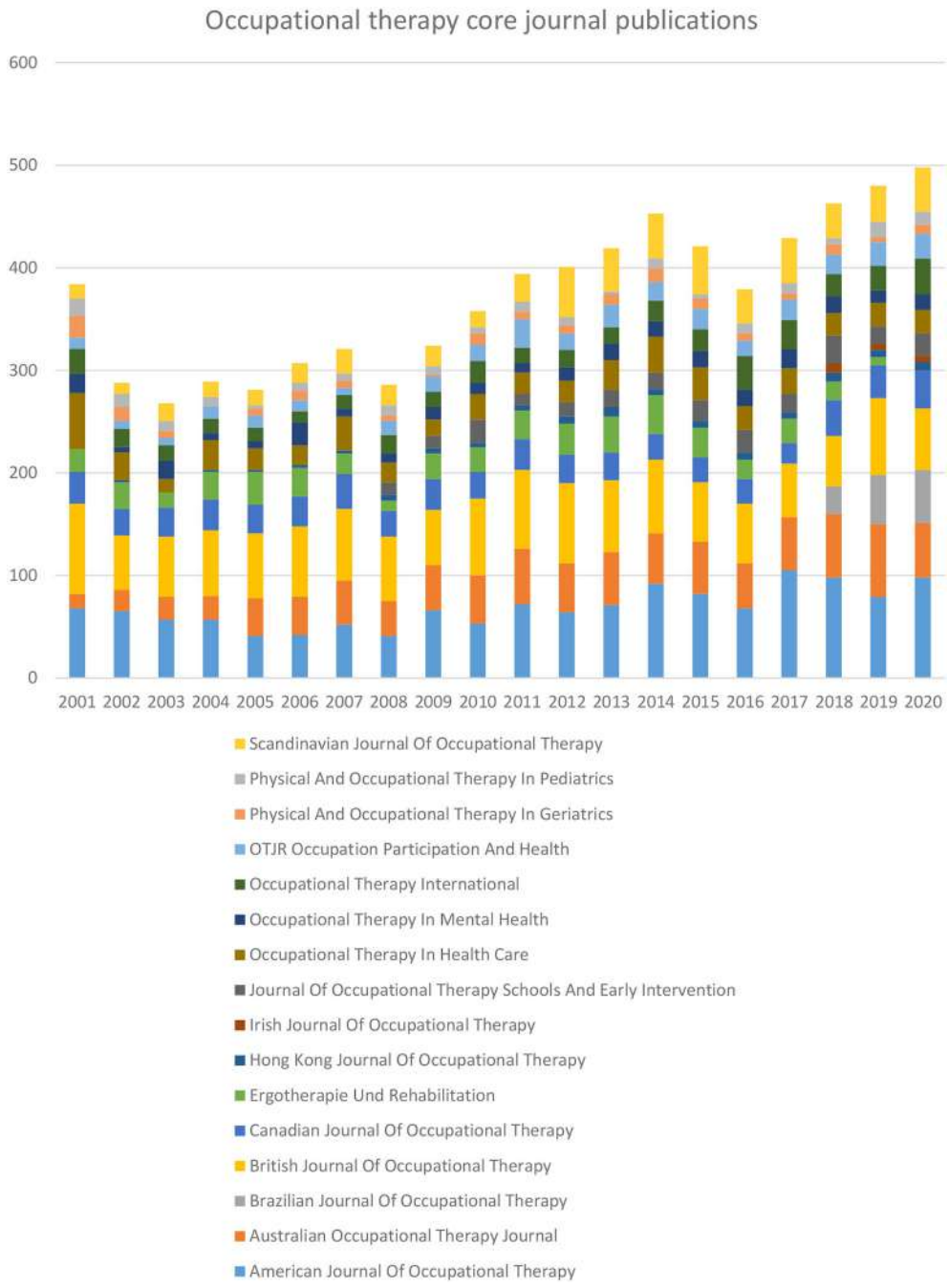


Figure 2. Year-wise occupational therapy-specific journal publication.

The top five organizations publishing OT publications in the last 20 years are the department of occupational science and occupational therapy, the University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, the department of health sciences, Lund University, Lund, Sweden, the school of rehabilitation science, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, school of health and rehabilitation sciences, the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia and department of occupational therapy, Colorado state university, Fort Collins, USA (Table 3). Among the top 20 universities of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, received the highest citations (cpd = 200.50).

Among the top researcher, Brown T (n=128) was identified as a leading author with the maximum number of articles in the field of OT, followed by Eklund M (n=88), Kottorp A (n= 41), Rodger S (n=88), Ziviani J. (n=76) and Mackenzie I. (n=67). The top authors' citations per document and lifetime h Indexed are provided in Table 4. Further, the top 20 highly cited

Table 1. **Top-20 occupational therapy-specific journals.**

Sl no	Source	ISSN	Journal Impact Factor (JIF) 2020/Journal Citation Indicator (JCI)	Cite score 2020	Documents	citations	cpd
1	British Journal of Occupational Therapy	0308-0226	1.243	1.8	1307	13489	10.32
2	American Journal of Occupational Therapy	0272-9490	2.246	2.6	1259	27770	22.06
3	Australian Occupational Therapy Journal	0045-0766	1.856	2.1	857	12200	14.24
4	Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy	1103-8128	2.611	2.7	568	7916	13.94
5	Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy	0008-4174	1.614	1.9	560	10519	18.78
6	Occupational Therapy in Health Care	0738-0577	0.53	1.3	511	3606	7.06
7	Ergotherapie Und Rehabilitation	0942-8623	NA	0	458	93	0.20
8	Occupational Therapy International	0966-7903	1.448	1.5	392	5662	14.44
9	Work	1051-9815	1.505	1.8	340	3149	9.26
10	Disability and Rehabilitation	0963-8288	3.033	3.9	331	6566	19.84
11	OTJR Occupation, Participation and Health	1539-4492	1.768	2.2	304	3775	12.42
12	Occupational Therapy In Mental Health	0164-212X	0.32	1.5	264	1601	6.06
13	Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	0003-9993	3.966	5.7	256	9531	37.23
14	Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools, and Early Intervention	1941-1243	0.22	0.8	231	807	3.49
15	Journal Of Allied Health	0090-7421	NA	0.9	179	2019	11.28
16	International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation	1741-1645	0.18	0.5	178	782	4.39
17	Physical and Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics	0194-2638	2.36	2.9	178	3615	20.31
18	Physical and Occupational Therapy In Geriatrics	0270-3181	0.26	0.7	169	1017	6.02
19	Clinical Rehabilitation	0269-2155	3.477	4.9	157	5671	36.12
20	Brazilian Journal of Occupational Therapy	2526-8910	0.13	0.4	127	168	1.32

Table 2. **Top 20 countries in occupational therapy publications.**

Sl	country	documents	citations	cpd
1	United States	9517	216810	22.78
2	United Kingdom	3500	86130	24.61
3	Australia	2887	62476	21.64
4	Canada	2776	74303	26.77
5	Germany	1926	27738	14.40
6	Sweden	1202	25620	21.31
7	Netherlands	846	35396	41.84

Table 2. *Continued*

Sl	country	documents	citations	cpd
8	Italy	792	20024	25.28
9	Japan	740	10567	14.28
10	France	642	17502	27.26
11	Brazil	640	7991	12.49
12	Spain	638	13056	20.46
13	China	481	6389	13.28
14	India	461	7308	15.85
15	Switzerland	430	9042	21.03
16	Denmark	415	12326	29.70
17	Israel	377	5869	15.57
18	South Korea	369	5647	15.30
19	South Africa	356	7466	20.97
20	Norway	340	7569	22.26

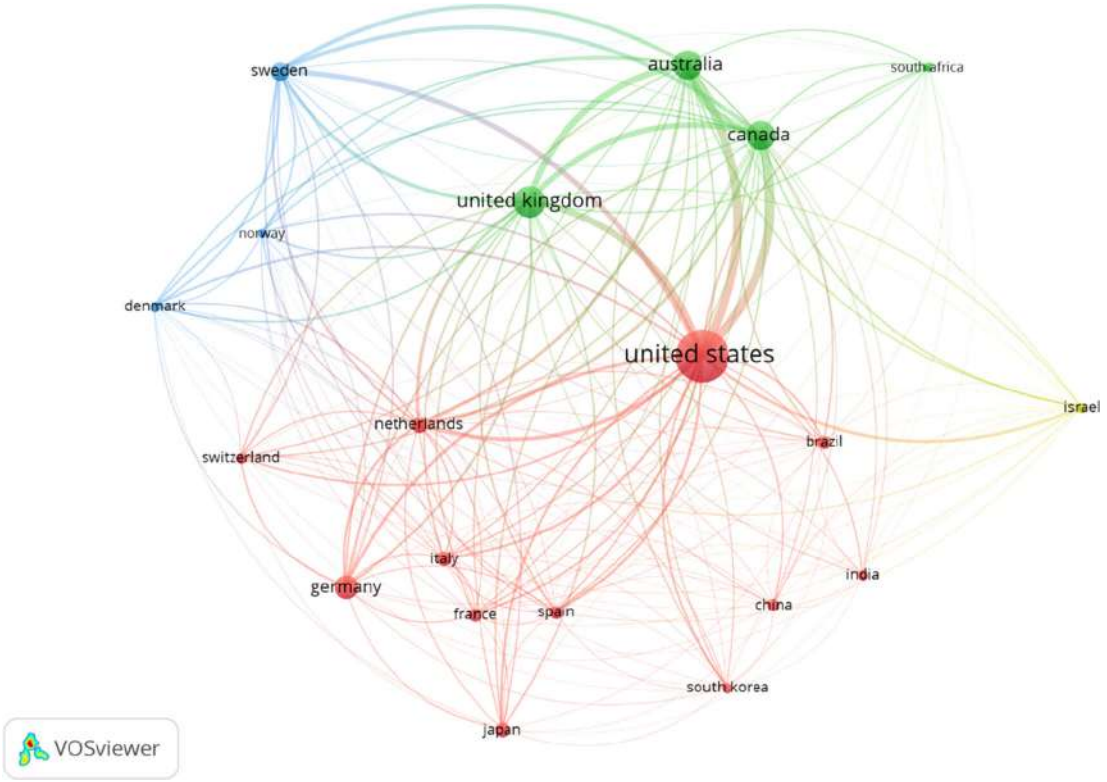


Figure 3. Occupational therapy publication collaboration network of top-20 publishing countries.

Table 3. Top-20 occupational therapy organizations.

Organization	Country	documents	citations	CPD
Department of occupational science and occupational therapy, university of Toronto, Toronto	Canada	41	407	9.93
Department of health sciences, Lund university, Lund,	Sweden	36	624	17.33
School of rehabilitation science, McMaster university, Hamilton, on,	Canada	36	614	17.06

Table 3. *Continued*

Organization	Country	documents	citations	CPD
School of health and rehabilitation sciences, the university of Queensland, Brisbane,	Australia	35	468	13.37
Department of occupational therapy, Colorado state university, fort Collins, co,	United States	30	630	21.00
Department of occupational therapy, university of Illinois at Chicago	United States	29	318	10.97
Department of occupational therapy, school of rehabilitation sciences, Iran university of medical sciences, Tehran,	Iran	27	68	2.52
National research centre for the working environment, Copenhagen	Denmark	26	632	24.31
Program in occupational therapy, Washington university school of medicine, St. Louis, Mo,	United States	26	355	13.65
Harvard medical school, Boston, ma,	United States	25	2723	108.92
Faculty of health sciences, university of Sydney, Sydney, NSW,	Australia	24	1238	51.58
School of occupational therapy, college of medicine, national Taiwan university, Taipei	Taiwan	24	359	14.96
Division of occupational therapy, school of health and rehabilitation sciences, university of Queensland, Brisbane	Australia	22	576	26.18
McMaster university, Hamilton	Canada	22	3172	144.18
University of British Columbia, Vancouver	Canada	22	4411	200.50
American occupational therapy association, Bethesda, md,	United States	21	227	10.81
Department of physical therapy, university of Toronto, Toronto	Canada	21	184	8.76
School of occupational therapy and social work, Curtin university, Perth, WA	Australia	21	142	6.76
School of physical and occupational therapy, McGill university, Montreal.	Canada	21	281	13.38
Division of occupational therapy, school of health and rehabilitation sciences, university of Queensland, Brisbane	Australia	20	399	19.95

Table 4. Top authors in occupational therapy research.

Sl no	Author	Scopus id	Affiliation	Country	Doc	citations	cpd	h index
1	Brown T.	35228602300	Monash University, Melbourne.	Australia	128	1137	8.88	27
2	Eklund M.	56216675200	Institutionen för Hälsovetenskaper, Lund.	Sweden	88	1742	19.80	37
3	Rodger S.	7005081814	The University of Queensland, Brisbane.	Australia	88	2048	23.27	35
4	Ziviani J.	6603664282	The University of Queensland, Brisbane.	Australia	76	2081	27.38	43
5	Mackenzie L.	7006703790	The University of Sydney, Sydney	Australia	67	871	13.00	21
6	Clemson L.	6602125528	The University of Sydney School of Health Sciences, Sydney	Australia	63	1453	23.06	37

Table 4. *Continued*

Sl no	Author	Scopus id	Affiliation	Country	Doc	citations	cpd	h index
7	Fleming J.	7401457123	The University of Queensland, Brisbane.	Australia	60	1207	20.12	35
8	Law M.	7202653007	McMaster University, Hamilton	Canada	58	2623	45.22	63
9	Gitlin L.N.	7003860203	Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.	United States	53	3048	57.51	50
10	Gustafsson L.	7203014989	Griffith University, Brisbane	Australia	53	476	8.98	16
11	Kottorp A.	6506079508	Malmö Högskola, Malmo	Sweden	52	751	14.44	26
12	Mckenna K.	7102801655	The University of Queensland, Brisbane	Australia	51	1182	23.18	32
13	Abo M.	7004758531	The Jikei University School of Medicine, Tokyo	Japan	50	584	11.68	27
14	Kielhofner G.	7007094254	University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago	United States	49	1166	23.80	33
15	Gutman S.A.	7004894255	Columbia University, New York	United States	48	382	7.96	15
16	Lannin N.A.	6602527646	Affiliation information is based on the most recent publication Monash University, Melbourne	Australia	48	753	15.69	34
17	Mccluskey A.	55523738500	The University of Sydney School of Health Sciences, Sydney	Australia	48	1171	24.40	22
18	Iwarsson S.	26643085000	Institutionen för Hälsovetenskaper, Lund.	Sweden	46	1599	34.76	43
19	Tham K.	7004310672	Malmö Högskola, Malmo	Sweden	44	1078	24.50	32
20	Lloyd C.	7202193315	Griffith University, Brisbane,	Australia	43	818	19.02	24

publications are listed in Table 5. The article published in 2017 received 2309 citations and was the most cited article in the Lancet. We observed a negative correlation (-0.14278) when comparing citations with the total year after publication.

Our study enlisted 20 author keywords commonly used in OT literature. Overall, the best 20 keywords were identified, with at least 50 occurrences in the OT publications (Figure 4).

Table 5. Top-20 highly cited OT publications.

Sl No	Article	Citations	Age of publications
1	Livingston, G., Sommerlad, A., Orgeta, V., Costafreda, S. G., Huntley, J., Ames, D., ... Mukadam, N. (2017). Dementia prevention, intervention, and care. The Lancet, 390(10113), 2673-2734. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(17) 31363-6	2309	3
2	Shepard, C. W., Finelli, L., & Alter, M. J. (2005). Global epidemiology of hepatitis C virus infection. Lancet Infectious Diseases, 5(9), 558-567. doi:10.1016/S1473-3099(05)70216-4	2199	15

Table 5. *Continued*

Sl No	Article	Citations	Age of publications
3	Bateman, E. D., Hurd, S. S., Barnes, P. J., Bousquet, J., Drazen, J. M., FitzGeralde, M., ... Zar, H. J. (2008). Global strategy for asthma management and prevention: GINA executive summary. European Respiratory Journal, 31(1), 143-178. doi:10.1183/09031936.00138707	2195	12
4	Ringleb, P. A., Bousser, M. -., Ford, G., Bath, P., Brainin, M., Caso, V., ... Wardlaw, J. (2008). Guidelines for management of ischaemic stroke and transient ischaemic attack 2008. Cerebrovascular Diseases, 25(5), 457-507. doi:10.1159/000131083	2076	12
5	Schweickert, W. D., Pohlman, M. C., Pohlman, A. S., Nigos, C., Pawlik, A. J., Esbrook, C. L., ... Kress, J. P. (2009). Early physical and occupational therapy in mechanically ventilated, critically ill patients: A randomised controlled trial. The Lancet, 373(9678), 1874-1882. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(09)60658-9	1856	11
6	Langhorne, P., Bernhardt, J., & Kwakkel, G. (2011). Stroke rehabilitation. The Lancet, 377(9778), 1693-1702. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(11)60325-5	1255	9
7	Gillespie, L. D., Robertson, M. C., Gillespie, W. J., Sherrington, C., Gates, S., Clemson, L. M., & Lamb, S. E. (2012). Interventions for preventing falls in older people living in the community. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 2012(9) doi:10.1002/14651858.CD007146.pub3	1216	8
8	Baumeister, R. F., Campbell, J. D., Krueger, J. I., & Vohs, K. D. (2003). Does high self-esteem cause better performance, interpersonal success, happiness, or healthier lifestyles? Psychological Science in the Public Interest, 4(1), 1-44. doi:10.1111/1529-1006.01431	1041	17
9	Flora, G., Gupta, D., & Tiwari, A. (2012). Toxicity of lead: A review with recent updates. Interdisciplinary Toxicology, 5(2), 47-58. doi:10.2478/v10102-012-0009-2	1024	8
10	Amini, D. A., Kannenberg, K., Bodison, S., Chang, P. -., Colaianni, D., Goodrich, B., ... Lieberman, D. (2014). Occupational therapy practice framework: Domain & process 3rd edition. American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 68, S1-S48. doi:10.5014/ajot.2014.682006	1007	6
11	Alter, M. J. (2007). Epidemiology of hepatitis C virus infection. World Journal of Gastroenterology, 13(17), 2436-2441. doi:10.3748/wjg.v13.i17.2436	969	13
12	Sambrook, P., & Cooper, C. (2006). Osteoporosis. Lancet, 367(9527), 2010-2018. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(06)68891-0	934	14
13	Winstein, C. J., Stein, J., Arena, R., Bates, B., Cherney, L. R., Cramer, S. C., ... Zorowitz, R. D. (2016). Guidelines for adult stroke rehabilitation and recovery: A guideline for healthcare professionals from the american heart Association/American stroke association. Stroke, 47(6), e98-e169. doi:10.1161/STR.0000000000000098	918	4
14	Ohgaki, H., & Kleihues, P. (2005). Epidemiology and etiology of gliomas. Acta Neuropathologica, 109(1), 93-108. doi:10.1007/s00401-005-0991-y	902	15
15	Shi, H., Magaye, R., Castranova, V., & Zhao, J. (2013). Titanium dioxide nanoparticles: A review of current toxicological data. Particle and Fibre Toxicology, 10(1) doi:10.1186/1743-8977-10-15	862	7
16	Baumeister, R. F., Campbell, J. D., Krueger, J. I. I., & Vohs, K. D. (2003). Does high self-esteem cause better performance, interpersonal success, happiness, or healthier lifestyles? Psychological Science in the Public Interest, Supplement, 4(1) doi:10.1111/1529-1006.01431	828	17
17	Litz, B. T., Stein, N., Delaney, E., Lebowitz, L., Nash, W. P., Silva, C., & Maguen, S. (2009). Moral injury and moral repair in war veterans: A preliminary model and intervention strategy. Clinical Psychology Review, 29(8), 695-706. doi:10.1016/j.cpr.2009.07.003	818	11
18	Van Tulder, M., Becker, A., Bekkering, T., Breen, A., Del Real, M. T. G., Hutchinson, A., ... Malmivaara, A. (2006). Chapter 3: European guidelines for the management of acute nonspecific low back pain in primary care. European Spine Journal, 15(SUPPL. 2), S169-S191. doi:10.1007/s00586-006-1071-2	817	14

Table 5. *Continued*

Sl No	Article	Citations	Age of publications
19	Wallace, D. V., Dykewicz, M. S., Bernstein, D. I., Blessing-Moore, J., Cox, L., Khan, D. A., ... Tilles, S. A. (2008). The diagnosis and management of rhinitis: An updated practice parameter. Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, 122(2 SUPPL.), S1-S84. doi:10.1016/j.jaci.2008.06.003	808	12
20	Roley, S. S., DeLany, J. V., Barrows, C. J., Brownrigg, S., Honaker, D., Sava, D. I., ... Youngstrom, M. J. (2008). Occupational therapy practice framework: Domain & process 2nd edition. American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 62(6), 625-683. doi:10.5014/ajot.62.6.625	795	12

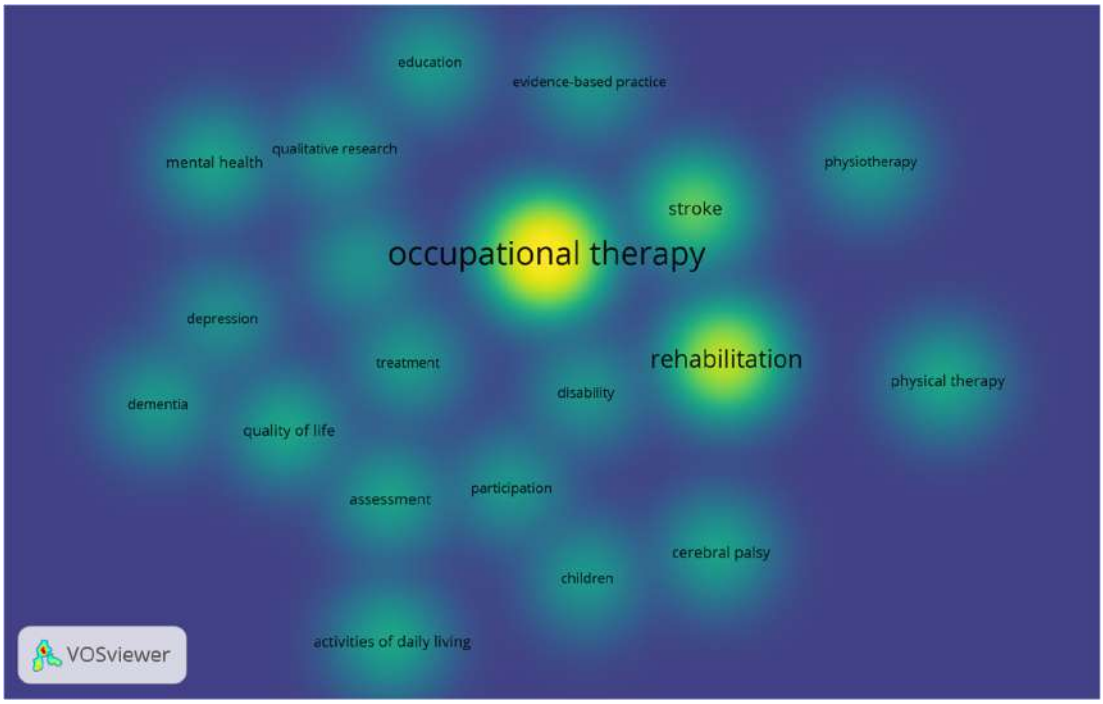


Figure 4. Density visualisation of keywords in occupational therapy publications.

Discussion

Over the last twenty years, overall OT publication output steadily increased, indicating the profession's growth in research, and its dissemination is not significantly influencing the modern era of digitalization. Publication in non-OT-specific journals is three times more compared to OT-specific journals. A similar trend was also observed in recent studies (T. Brown *et al.,* 2019; Gutman *et al.,* 2017; Folha *et al.,* 2017; T. Brown, Ho *et al.,* 2018; T. Brown, Gutman, and Ho 2018; Folha *et al.,* 2019). This increase may reflect the growth of research activities in OT across the globe (Folha *et al.*, 2019). Occupational therapy works along with medical and other allied health professionals. It allows occupational therapists to work as a part of a multidisciplinary team. Similarly, it opens the door to interdisciplinary research opportunities. That multidisciplinary research is used to publish in either medical-related or multidisciplinary journals. Those journals have higher JIF than OT journals (T. Brown *et al.*, 2019; Gutman *et al.*, 2017; Folha *et al.*, 2017; T. Brown, Ho *et al.*, 2018; T. Brown, Gutman, and Ho 2018; Folha *et al.*, 2019). A recent study found that non-OT-specific journals have three times more JIF than OT-specific journals (Folha *et al.*, 2019). These multidisciplinary and medical-oriented journals have more readers than OT-specific journals, giving more visibility and increasing the chance of receiving more citations. It may also encourage OT researchers to publish more in non-OT-specific journals (T. Brown *et al.*, 2019; Gutman *et al.*, 2017; Folha *et al.*, 2017; T. Brown, Ho *et al.*, 2018; T. Brown, Gutman, and Ho 2018; Folha *et al.*, 2019).

A total of five journals, such as AJOT, BJOT, AOTJ, SJOT, and CJOT, published half of the OT-specific journal articles. Previous studies also made similar observations (T. Brown and Gutman 2019; T. Brown, Gutman, and Ho, 2018). These

journals are well-known in OT and have a long publishing history (T. Brown and Gutman, 2019). AJOT, BJOT, AOTJ, and CJOT were published by prominent national organizations of OT and recognised by the global OT community (T. Brown and Gutman, 2019). These journals' publication frequencies are more, and they publish more articles per issue than other journals. Among these 16 OT journals, two journals, BrJOT and IrJOT, are new in the Scopus database and have data from the past three years. Hence, those journals will have a lower number of articles. According to the previous study, Scopus-indexed OT-specific journal numbers were 14 (T. Brown and Gutman, 2019). Among these two new journals, BrJOT published many articles in three years and placed among the best 20 journals that published OT-specific articles. OT-specific journals published one-third of total OT publications. Several OT-specific journals are published globally and have an online publication (Cruz *et al.,* 2019) but are not included in the Scopus database. Including all those OT-specific Journals might change the citation matrices of occupational therapy journals because occupational therapy journals tend to get more citations than OT-specific journals.

Out of the 20 top journals that produced the maximum number of articles in occupational therapy, the first eight are OT-specific journals. There is a normal phenomenon because these journals published OT-specific articles. ErgoR received more minor citations among those ten OT-specific journals due to its publication language. This is the only journal listed in the top twenty published in Germany. All other periodicals are published in the English language. AJOT, BJOT, AOTJ, SJOT, and CJOT received more citations in terms of overall citation. It may be due to their large volume of publications (T. Brown and Gutman, 2019; T. Brown, Gutman, Ho, *et al.*, 2018). AJOT, BJOT, AOTJ, SJOT, and CJOT received more than ten citations per document. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* received more citations per document than any other journal in the top 20. It has the highest CiteScore and JIF. Among the OT-specific journals, POTP had the highest CiteScore (2.9), and AJOT had the highest JIF (2.246).

The US, Australia, the UK, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Netherlands, and Italy are the top most country in terms of the number of published articles, and this is different from that of the previous study (T. Brown and Gutman 2019; T. Brown, Gutman, Ho, *et al.,* 2018). The US published approximately one-third of total OT publications (n=9517). Other study findings also revealed that the US is the top OT article (T. Brown, Gutman, Ho, *et al.,* 2018). The US received many citations (216810) for the published documents. The US is where OT originated from and has a good education and research system in OT, which may be the reason for the huge number of publications. The US is also the host country for many OT-specific and non-OT-specific journals. This could also be a reason for the huge number of publications in occupational therapy. However, citation per document is more minor for US articles than in the Netherlands, Denmark, Italy, France, and Norway, with very few publications compared to the US. It may be due to the lack of availability of OT-specific journals in their geographic location, which triggered them to publish their research in non-OT-specific journals with higher quality than OT-specific journals. The finding also suggested that high-income countries (HIC) have produced more publications than low- and middle-income countries (LIMC). It may be due to the lack of human resources, financial support, and infrastructure for research and policies in LIMC (Prvu *et al.*, 2019; Regalado *et al.*, 2023).

We found that the US, Australia, the UK, and Canada are the leading countries in international collaborations in OT publications. The size of the level and circle indicate the weightage of collaborative activity. A bigger size represents more collaborations, and a smaller size means fewer collaborations. The line between two nodes and their densities represents their link and strength (Figure 3). Color expressed different cluster levels based on international collaborations (Van Eck and Waltman, 2019). The finding suggests that HIC courtiers have more international collaborations with more HIC than LIMC. It may be the similarity of disease burden among HICs compared to LIMC.

Among the top 20 organizations, 18 are universities or entities of a university. All the top 20 organizations are from HICs. These universities are mainly placed in the urban set up with all necessary support, such as research culture among academicians, well-equipped libraries with academic resources, affiliated hospitals, client participation, internal funding, and grant office supports (T. Brown *et al.,* 2019). This is favorable for more research output, which may cause the university domination's top twenty organization list. Our study found only one organization in this top list: research institutes from Denmark and one occupational therapy association from the USA. Though the US alone produced many OT articles, only five organizations are listed in the top 20, compared to the US, Canada (n=6), and Australia (n=5). Despite having a high volume of publications, less representation of US organizations in the top list was also observed in previous studies (T. Brown, Gutman, Ho, *et al.*, 2018; Man *et al.*, 2019). Other countries that are listed in top organizations are Denmark (n=1), Iran (n=12), Sweden (n=1), and Taiwan (n=1).

Australia (n=11) has the highest representation in the top author list, followed by Canada (n=1), Sweden (n=4), the US (n =3), and Japan (n=1). The US authors are less in the top list instate having high publication volume. UK authors produce more publications than US authors, but no authors from the UK are listed in the top 20 author list. Law M. from

McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, had the highest h indexed (63), and Gitlin L. N from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, united states received the highest citation per document (57.51) among top-20 authors. Our study found Brown T as a top author in publication numbers. The finding of T. Brown, Gutman, Ho, *et al.* (2018) supported our study. Findings also suggest that no authors are listed in the top twenty list from LIMCs. This shows the dominance of HICs in Occupational therapy research.

Of the top-twenty highly cited articles from 2001 to 2020, four papers were published in 2008, two in 2005, 2006, 2009, and 2012, and one in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2017. Our study does not find any relation with year after with more citations. Our findings opposed previous studies' findings, which observe a long citation window helps an article gather total citations (Gutman *et al.,* 2017; T. Brown *et al.,* 2019; T. Brown, Gutman, Ho, *et al.*, 2018; T. Brown *et al.,* 2017). Most of the highly cited papers are published in non-OT-specific journals. Most highly cited studies were published in non-OT-specific journals like earlier studies. Those non-OT journals are generally high-quality medical journals (Gutman *et al.,* 2017; T. Brown, Gutman, Ho, *et al.*, 2018; T. Brown *et al.*, 2019; T. Brown *et al.*, 2017; T. Brown, Ho *et al.*, 2018). It may happen due to the increased pressure to publish in journals with good impact factors or CiteScore. The quality of journals provides more visibility, which helps the author get more readership and citations because it helps in a grant application and promotion (Gutman *et al.* 2017; T. Brown *et al.*, 2019).

VOSviewer density visualisation (Figure 4), by default, uses blue, green, and yellow to represent the density visualisation (Van Eck and Waltman, 2019). The yellow indicates the number of items in a point's neighborhood and the neighboring items' higher weights. Out of the total best 20 keywords, "occupational therapy", "rehabilitation," "stroke", "physical therapy", and "activities of daily living" are five common keywords used more frequently in OT research, which are in yellow (Figure 4). Occupational therapy and rehabilitation are commonly used as keywords because these two words are identical terms for the occupational therapy profession. The authors used these two words to make their research visible in the electronic search. Stoke is probably the oldest and strongest research field where occupational therapists work globally. Physical therapy is a common allied health profession occupational therapists may collaborate and publish together. Activities of daily living are one of the core practice areas of the occupational therapist.

Conclusion

Our study shows the dominance of HICs over LIMCs in research production. This might be due to multiple factors unfavorable for LIMCs to conduct research, which may be due to a lack of resources or knowledge translations published in a specific language (Prvu *et al.*, 2019; Regalado *et al.*, 2023). This scientometric research outcome gives a glimpse of OT research worldwide. It suggests further research in OT to discover why the difference in research output between HICs and LIMCs and the different factors that influence occupational therapy research in HICs and LIMCs because these information might be essential for developing country-specific research priorities or developing strategies in the field of occupational therapy. Similarly, other disease-specific scientometric research must be conducted to determine top researchers and countries' collaborative institutions. This study retrieved scientometric information from the Scopus database and listed 25 journals with their CiteScore and Journal Impact Factor. It was observed that OT articles were published three times more in non-OT-specific journals, indicating that OT research significantly overlaps with other disciplines of medicine. Hence, the investigation should not conclude a literature search with only OT-specific journals. The SJOT is one of the core OT journals but is listed under the subject category of "public health, environmental and occupational health" rather than the category of "occupational therapy".

Key points

1) From the Scopus database, twenty Journals were identified, which published a maximum number of occupational therapy articles.

2) Scopus database indexed a total of 16 OT-specific journals. Scopus database also included two OT practice magazines in their database.

3) VOSviewer software is an open-access tool that can be used as a cost-effective method for any scientometric analysis.

4) BJOT, AJOT, AOTJ, SJOT, and CJOT are the leading occupational therapy journals in the number of published items.

5) Compared to LIMCs, HICs dominate research in occupational therapy.

Data availability

Underlying data

Mendeley Data: Scopus Based Occupational Therapy Research (2001-2020). https://doi.org/10.17632/yp7xjg4zs3.2 (Sau and Nayak, 2022)

This project contains the following underlying data:

Data File "20 best source which published maximum number of article" contains analysis of the data obtained from Scopus for 2001-2020. The analysis includes 20 best sources, 20 best cited documents, 20 best authors, 20 best countries, 20 best organisations, 20 highest used keywords, year-wise publication analysis, and OT-specific journal details.

Data files "Scopus-935-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-981-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-984-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1029-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1038-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1186-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1365-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1287-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1366-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1400-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1508-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1657-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1784-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1785-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1819-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1776-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1868-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-1962-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-2234-Analyze-Source", "Scopus-2479-Analyze-Source" respectively contains the data obtained for the years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively with the keywords for search.

Data are available under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license (CC-BY 4.0).

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Open Peer Review

Current Peer Review Status: ?

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This is an important work implying the need for OT (occupational therapy) research development. The primary concern is related to the selection of only one database for this research study and the rationale/importance of this work in the current context. This needs to be justified and details related to the rationale must be added. The other concern is related to the discussion conclusion sections - where the authors highlight several aspects related to the results from this research but fail to connect the findings with implications for OT research, professional development, policies, and practice. Particularly the implications for LMICs (Low and Middle Income Countries). This study highlights OT research developing in 5 high-income nations and misses to include what could be done in the rest of the world to bring OT research to the standards found in those 5 high-income nations. The conclusions are also not directly relevant. These issues require revision. Additionally, the language requires proofreading and revision.

I congratulate the authors for their efforts and suggestions to revise the manuscript based on my comments.

Is the work clearly and accurately presented and does it cite the current literature?
Yes

Is the study design appropriate and is the work technically sound?
Yes

Are sufficient details of methods and analysis provided to allow replication by others?
Partly

If applicable, is the statistical analysis and its interpretation appropriate?
Yes

Are all the source data underlying the results available to ensure full reproducibility?
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the results?
No

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

Reviewer Expertise: Disability, Public Health and Epidemiology

I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard, however I have significant reservations, as outlined above.

Author Response 23 Mar 2023

Yogendra Nayak

Authors are thankful for the reviewer comment. We are writing the following responses with the revision of the manuscript.

1. We have justified why we used one databased for our study in methodology sections under the subheadings “source of data”. Citations vary between databases and it is based on the number of journals indexed in that database. We selected Scopus for this study because it includes more OT-specific journals compared to WOS and overall indexed more journals compared to WOS. The citation count was calculated within the database. Due to extensive coverage, Scopus has a more citable item and a probability of getting more citations to count.

2. The suggestions of LIMC is included in the discussion sections of revised manuscript.

3. Conclusion is modified according to suggestions, incorporation of the implications for further research in the field of occupational therapy.

4. Language proofing taken care and the necessary changes are made in the revised manuscript.

Competing Interests: Authors declare that there is no financial or non-financial conflict of

interest

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