

Core resources of international health researchers: An analysis of citations in major international health journals



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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1. How heavily do international health researchers use journals (what percentage of citations)?
- 2. What is the age of the cited journal articles? Mostly less than 5 years or greater range?
- 3. What are the most highly cited journals?
- 4. Are datasets cited?

LITERATURE REVIEW

- 1. International health is a growing field in public health programs, and thus, an important collection development area for libraries.
- 2. Citation analysis is an established method to identify core literature.
- 3. Public health researchers rely heavily on journals as information resources.
- 4. 50% of cited articles were published within 5 years.
- 5. Cited articles are concentrated in a small number of journal titles.





METHODS Selection Tools & Criteria Journal Citation Report • Core Public Health Journals Project version 2.0 Scopus Journal focus → developing nation Diverse subjects included 4 Journals Selected: **Bulletin of the World Health Organization Lancet Infectious Disease Health Policy and Planning** Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition All items in the first 2013 issue of each Journal (n=78) **Excluded** Editorial Review ystematic Revie **Papers Included: Original Studies** (n=37)**Bull World Health Organ (7)** Health Policy Plan (10) J Health Popul Nutrition (16) Lancet Infect Dis (4) **Citations (hand-counted)** (n=1281) **Bull World Health Organ (267)** Health Policy Plan (456) J Health Popul Nutrition (444) Lancet Infect Dis (161)

FINDINGS & ANALYSIS **Types of Citations** 5 citations for datasets are included in Miscellaneous. Total: 1281 **Citation Pattern of Journal Articles Age of Cited Articles Most Cited Journals Total: 857** (Bradford Zone 1) N Engl J Med 13 **3**0 rans R Soc Trop Med Hyg BMC Public Health 10 JAMA 10 PLoS One 9 Lancet Infect Dis **Age of Cited Articles** J Clin Microbiol Am J Clin Nutr Cochrane Database Syst Rev Age of Cited Articles in 5 year periods (year of citing item) Clin Infect Dis <u>– (year of cited item)</u> • Unique titles: 346 • 220 journals (26%) are cited only once. Only Lancet and Bulletin of the World Health In other public health Organization are considered to be core journals in mapping studies, 1-5 our study (It may be a limitation of this pilot years were over 50%. study's method or sample size).

DISCUSSION

Conclusion

- Journals are the most important information source (67%) for international health researchers; yet books are still an important source type (17%).
- While recent articles are cited most, cited journal articles greatly range in age at citation.

 There is a need for older journals.
- There is a need for older journals.

 Major medical journals may not be key
- resources to international health researchers.
 Librarians may want to focus on clinical journals that are relevant to their programs.
- Sharing data among international health research is limited (in these results, only government sources such as IMF, World Bank, FAO, OECD). Education & outreach by librarians is called for.
- Datasets are cited inconsistently (e.g. as a web page, or without URL) another area where librarian educational outreach is needed.

Future Study

- To make our data better represent the international health literature, our future study
- include more journals expand to a 3 year period (e.g. 2010-2013) use sampling technique
- Journals will be categorized by subject disciplines to understand the interdisciplinary nature of international health research.

KEY REFERENCES

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