

Bibliometric Analysis of ‘Bibliotherapy’ in the Digital Environment: Based on JSTOR Scholarly Publications

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Abstract

Bibliometric analysis makes a significant contribution to directing researchers to more effective studies even before they start reading. It also allows them to quickly discover research gaps in the field, inspire new ideas for research, reveal research trends and map the research field for conceptual, social, or cognitive purposes. Accordingly, the main objective of this article is to provide an analysis of publications on bibliotherapy in JSTOR from 2010 to 2020. The bibliometric analysis method was used as the research method for this study. Data were collected using a standardized search approach through JSTOR using the keyword "bibliotherapy". A total of 906 books, book chapters and journal articles on bibliotherapy have been published across the world during the relevant period. The retrieved data set was analyzed with the text-mining facility of JSTOR. The findings of the study will be important for researchers to conduct more effective studies of bibliotherapy and library professionals to support their clients.

Keywords: *Bibliometrics, Bibliometric studies, Bibliotherapy, Scholarly publications, JSTOR*

Introduction

The growth of technology provides increased opportunities for students and educators to ascertain their learning materials through the digital environment. The main components of a digital environment typically consist of websites, databases, social media platforms, cloud servers, search engines, mobile apps, audio and video, and other web-based resources. In this digital environment, a scholar looking for information

on a particular topic such as bibliotherapy has the ability to access a large amount of information he or she needs in an instant.

Bibliotherapy as an expressive therapy that involves reading certain texts for healing purposes. Utilizing the relationship of individuals with the contents of books, poetry, and other written words as therapy (Agustina, 2020). Reading materials such as academic journals, books, conference proceedings, Thesis and primary sources on bibliotherapy are abundant in the digital environment. It is useful to examine the current trend of literature in the digital environment for systematic evaluation of bibliotherapy.

Bibliometric is the use of statistical methods to analyze books, articles and other publications. The bibliometric studies are considered as an integral part of research evaluation methodology. Different techniques are used by researchers to obtain data for bibliometric studies. JSTOR is a digital library available in digital space for the intellectually curious. This research allows to evaluate the research publications in JSTOR with regard to ‘Bibliotherapy’. JSTOR provides access to more than 12 million academic journal articles, books and primary sources in 75 disciplines (<https://about.jstor.org>). Accordingly, this study examines the growth of scholarly literature on ‘Bibliotherapy’ employing JSTOR digital library.

Objectives

The aim of this study is to perform an overall analysis of all literature collected in the JSTOR from 2010 to 2020 with following parameters.

- To analyze the coverage of publications related to ‘bibliotherapy’ from 2010-2020

- To identify the most visualized community group on ‘bibliotherapy’ studies
- To explore the most studied mental condition in bibliotherapy
- To examine disciplinary based approaches of ‘bibliotherapy’

Materials and Methods

The bibliometric analytical method was used as the research method for this study. Data was collected using a standardized search approach through JSTOR and using the term ‘bibliotherapy’ from the articles books and book chapters published during the ten years, 2010-2020. The retrieved records (906) were analyzed with the text-mining support from JSTOR.

Result and Discussion

Coverage of Publications related to ‘Bibliotherapy’

A descriptive statistical analysis was used to find out the trends of the number of publications by years. Figure 1 illustrates the overall trends in the number of publications related to 'bibliotherapy' over the years from 2010-2020. Only English language literature was retrieved. Nine hundred six (906) items were published in total in those years. Out of these 906 publications, the highest number of scholarly publications was published in the year 2014 with 113 publications. The lowest number of publications appeared in the year 2019 and 2020. It can be speculated that the reason for this situation is that literature has not been uploaded yet or because of the backlash in the world due to the Corona epidemic situation.

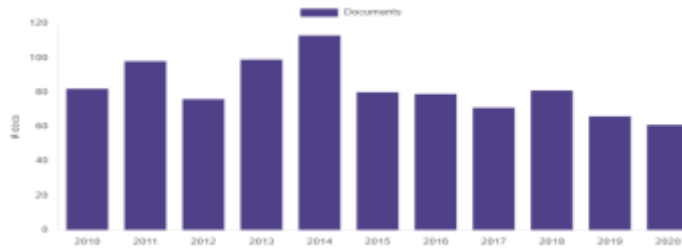


Figure 2 The Total Number of Publications by Years

The Visualized Community Group on ‘Bibliotherapy’ Studies

The published literature indicates that bibliotherapy has been employed with every community group such as children, young and adults. Community groups visible in the studies were considered with the help of the data set obtained in this study. Accordingly, the results found that the most visualized community group on ‘Bibliotherapy’ studies is young people. The below figure indicates the result.

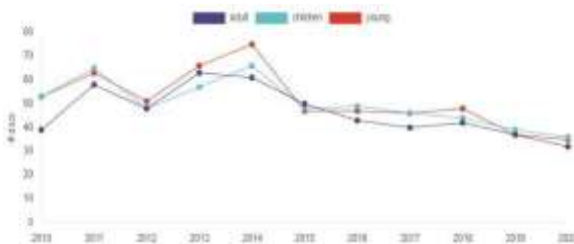


Figure 3 ARABIC 2 Results of Visualized Community Group

Most Studied Mental Condition in Bibliotherapy

Bibliotherapy has been widely utilized for various types of problems such as depression, anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder, stress, personal growth, grief, bullying, alcoholism etc. Meanwhile, the most common one that has drawn much attention from the researchers is depression, says Davis (2020). According to the conceptual mapping and performance analysis, this study indicates that 'Depression' is the most studied mental condition in bibliotherapy research.

The findings of the study will be important for researchers and library professionals to identify the ‘Explanation of ‘Bibliotherapy in the Digital Environment’ to some extent. More future studies need to be conducted based on other scholarly databases.

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JSTOR (<https://about.jstor.org>).