

ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC PAPER

Research and Writing Development in the Area of Sport Science Publishing in Montenegro

Stevo Popovic¹

¹University of Montenegro, Faculty for Sport and Physical Education, Niksic, Montenegro

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to analyse the personal scientific production of Montenegrin sports sciences researchers, as well as trend of publication within Montenegrin sports sciences journals. This investigation subject included the studies published in the period from 2002 to 2017 that have been focused on the sports sciences issues. The electronic databases (Google Scholar, Scopus and Web of Science) were searched for research articles available until 6 September 2018. Then research findings were summarized in accordance with the PRISMA guidelines and the number of citation, h-index, i10-index as well as number of documents by authors were presented respectively. Results of this study indicated that the sports sciences researchers rapidly increased the number of publications from 2002 to 2017 and switch the writing language from Montenegrin to English, especially in last five years. The number of citations span from 100 and 2800 within most of researchers, while h-index and i10-index span from 4 to 30 in most cases in Google Scholar database, while the same researchers were cited quite lesser in Scopus and Web of Science databases. On the other hand, in Google Scholar database, there are three registered Montenegrin journals: Sport Mont journal (over 1000 articles published since 2002) is the most cited one with highest h-index (16), Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine (over 80 articles) is the best ranked Montenegrin journal, while Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education (over 40 articles) was established in 2017 and the relevant analyses could not be possible to be completed, while the analyses in Scopus and Web of Science were conducted for the Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and it was reached quite lower score too. It was indicated the highest impact was recognized in the last years, regarding to citations of available articles published by Montenegrin authors, as well as writing style of articles published in English. Hence, the further deployment is expected in upcoming period.

Key words: *improvement, ranking, researcher, journal, Montenegro*

Introduction

Bibliometric studies have, by and large, focused on the features of the fundamental sciences rather than the interdisciplinary sciences. Prior research has been highly focused on natural and technical science disciplines and not many investigations have dealt with the sports sciences as one of the most emerging and popular science nowadays. For example, over 25,000 is published annually in the area of sports sciences, and it is equal as in most natural and technical science disciplines (Personal communication, I. Varela Silva, 2017). For this reason, there is an increasing number of studies in which

quantified scientific achievements are analyzed, both personally and institutionally, all in order to better evaluate scientific contribution in areas that show significant progress in the past period and must be ready to defend the entry into elite scientific society with solid arguments.

Development of sports science in Montenegro is related to the establishment of the Higher Pedagogical School in Cetinje, through the Faculty of Philosophy in Niksic, until the establishment of an independent Faculty for Sport and Physical Education at the University of Montenegro in 2008. Montenegrin Sports Academy, together with the faculty,



Correspondence:

S. Popovic
University of Montenegro, Faculty for Sport and Physical Education, Narodne omladine bb, Niksic, Montenegro
E-mail: stevop@ac.me

played a major role in creating sports science and well educated staff that, at the end of the second decade of the 21st century has a recognizable status in the region, and wider. In front of the mentioned institution are founders, or co-founders of three scientific journals, and bearers of the annual scientific conference, and the hired staff is highly ranked in their fields when it comes to published works in prestigious international journals, and citation. Hence, the purpose of this study is to analyse the personal scientific production of Montenegrin sports sciences researchers, as well as trend of publication within Montenegrin sports sciences journals.

Method

This investigation subject included the studies published in the period from 2002 to 2017 that have been focused on the sports sciences issues. Considering that there are only three registered journals in Montenegro in this area: "Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine", "Sport Mont" and "Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education", these three journals were used in the analysis, while the bibliographic characteristics of all researchers in the field of sports sciences whose affiliation is related to any discipline belonging to sports sciences has been processed.

Three electronic databases (Google Scholar, Scopus and Web of Science) were searched for research articles available until 6 September 2018. Aforementioned databases have been selected for several reasons, primarily because of their quality, then availability and their recognition among researchers in the field of sports science. "Google Scholar" is a database that is free and accessible without any restrictions. Even though it

includes a large number and not reviewed documents, it does not promise the quality as "Web of Science" and "Scopus"; however, this database is specified, especially because of its availability and easy confidentiality. In contrast, "Scopus" is a database that's heading to the top, where "Web of Science" already is, and is increasingly accepted and used in European countries. Finally, "Web of Science" is the most prestigious database that has become a brand in the scientific public in most countries with a quality seal based on the subordinate legislation related to the promotion in academic careers.

The research findings were summarized in accordance with the PRISMA guidelines and the number of citation, h-index, i10-index as well as number of documents by author were presented for each of the aforementioned Montenegrin journals, but also for each individual researcher in the field of sports science who are among the best researchers by the given parameters determined in the method of this study.

Results

The first table (Table 1) shows the results obtained by analyzing the "Google Scholar" database. It is interesting to note that the journal "Sport Mont" has the highest number of citations, as well as h-index and i10-index, which was not unexpected, since this journal has been published since 2003 and has over 1000 published articles. It is followed by the "Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine" with a significantly lower number of citations, while it is commendable that the "Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education" has managed to reach almost 300 citations in a very short period of time since its founding.

Table 1. Bibliometric analyses of Montenegrin journals in "Google Scholar" database on 6 September 2018

Journal	Number of Citations	h-index	i10-index
SMJ	1356	16	23
MJSSM	418	10	11
JASPE	287	10	10

Legend: SMJ – "Sport Mont" journal, MJSSM- "Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine", JASPE – "Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education", h-index - is an author-level metric that attempts to measure both the productivity and citation impact of the publications of a scientist or scholar, i10-index - the number of publications with at least 10 citations; this very simple measure is only used by "Google Scholar", and is another way to help gauge the productivity of a scholar

The second table (Table 2) shows the results obtained by analyzing the "Scopus" database. Unfortunately, this database does not allow analysis of non-indexed journals. Even though two Montenegrin journals in the field of sports science (SMJ and MJSSM) are indexed in the aforementioned database, only the parameters for the "Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine" were available, as the "Sport Mont" journal did not yet complete the indexing process. It has been recently accept-

ed by this renowned database. It is interesting to note that the "Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine" achieved a very significant result in the first year of tracking in the "Scopus" database and reached "Cite Score" 0.60 in 2017. It is interesting to point out the fact that the passing time in 2018 is excellent, so on the day, August 9, 2018, it has already reached "Cite Score" of 0.50, and in that way promised that in the current year it will certainly achieve a better result than in the previous one.

Table 2. Bibliometric analyses of Montenegrin journals in "Scopus" database on 6 September 2018

Journal	CiteScore 2017	SJR 2017	SNIP 2017
MJSSM	0.60	0.167	0.634
SMJ	Not calculated	Not calculated	Not calculated
JASPE	Not calculated	Not calculated	Not calculated

Legend: CiteScore -measures average citations received per document published in the serial, SJR - SCImago Journal Rank that measures weighted citations received by the serial, citation weighting depends on subject field and prestige (SJR) of the citing serial, SNIP - Source Normalized Impact per Paper measures actual citations received relative to citations expected for the serial's subject field

The third table (Table 3) shows the results obtained by analyzing the “Web of Science” database. Unlike the “Scopus” database, this database offers the ability to analyze citations and journals that are not indexed. After the analysis, it was noticed that the “Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine”, although with significantly fewer papers pub-

lished so far, has significantly more citations than the “Sport Mont” journal. Very clear quality of the journal is reflected in the fact that it has more than one citation per published article, which is a great success for the journal because it was established not long so ago in 2012, and indexed in this database since 2015.

Table 3. Bibliometric analyses of Montenegrin journals in “Web of Science” database on 6 September 2018

Journal	Number of Citations	h-index	Average citations per item
MJSSM	86	4	1.15
SMJ	57	Not calculated	Not calculated
JASPE	0	Not calculated	Not calculated

The fourth table (Table 4) shows the results obtained by analyzing the “Google Scholar” database. However, this time the journals have not been analyzed, but Montenegrin researchers were. The interesting thing is that there are over 10 researchers with over 100 citations, and their frequency in the top 100 most highly cited researchers at the university is even more interesting. Specifically, five researchers in the field of sports

science are among the top 30 most highly cited researchers in the entire University of Montenegro. If we were to judge by the number of citations in this database, it would be safe to say that sports science is one of the leading scientific fields at the university. It is interesting to add that in the category of social sciences, researchers in the field of sports science have a leading role at the aforementioned institution.

Table 4. Bibliometric analyses of top ten Montenegrin researchers in “Google Scholar” database on 6 September 2018

Researcher	Number of Citations	h-index	i10-index
Dusko Bjelica	2759	31	85
Stevo Popovic	2710	33	77
Jovan Gardasevic	1174	20	46
Rajko Milasinovic	551	15	17
Bojan Masanovic	387	13	15
Ivan Vasiljevic	294	9	9
Rasid Hadzic	277	11	12
Jovica Petkovic	207	7	6
Kemal Idrizovic	206	9	7
Miroslav Kezunovic	168	4	3

The fifth table (Table 5) shows the results obtained by analyzing the “Scopus” database. In relation to the previous analysis, it is evident that the number of citations is significantly lower. The answer to this difference lies in the fact that the “Scopus” database has a much narrower scope of documents, which leads to the conclusion that it should show higher quality. Namely, the “Google Scholar” database does not have a clearly defined proposition, but buys all available documents on the Internet and records them in its database, while the “Scopus” database

has a clear protocol that every journal must follow from the moment it expresses the desire to index in this prestige database. Therefore, the bibliometric data obtained in the analysis in the “Scopus” index database shows more relevant data. Looking at the above mentioned table, it can be noticed that the rank of researchers in the list of top 10 most-cited researchers has changed significantly comparing to “Google Scholar” database, but there are certain changes, which indicate that certain researchers put much more emphasis on quality compared to quantity.

Table 5. Bibliometric analyses of top ten Montenegrin researchers in “Scopus” database on 6 September 2018

Researcher	Number of Citations	h-index	Documents by author
Stevo Popovic	281	8	34
Dusko Bjelica	246	7	36
Kemal Idrizovic	79	6	22
Jovan Gardasevic	43	3	20
Miroslav Kezunovic	33	2	8
Jovica Petkovic	26	1	5
Dragan Krivokapic	22	2	7
Rajko Milasinovic	11	1	3
Ivan Vasiljevic	11	2	10
Rasid Hadzic	10	1	5

The sixth table (Table 6) shows the results obtained by analyzing the “Web of Science” database. Compared to the previous two analyzed databases, it is evident that this database goes further when we talk about quality, since the number of citations has dropped drastically compared to the “Scopus” database. All in all, the fact is that “Web of Science” is the most recognizable brand among scientific databases,

and a great number of academic promotion of researchers depends on publishing their scientific papers in journals indexed in this prestigious database. Analyzing the obtained results, it is clear that Montenegrin researchers have a significant number of published articles in journals indexed in “Web of Science”, and several researchers have a significant number of citations.

Table 6. Bibliometric analyses of top ten Montenegrin researchers in “Web of Science” database on 6 September 2018

Researcher	Number of Citations	h-index	Documents by author
Stevo Popovic	205	6	29
Dusko Bjelica	182	5	27
Kemal Idrizovic	53	5	12
Miroslav Kezunovic	21	1	5
Jovica Petkovic	20	1	2
Rajko Milasinovic	7	1	2
Rasid Hadzic	6	1	5
Ljubojevic Milovan	5	1	1
Jovan Gardasevic	4	1	7
Dragan Krivokapic	4	1	1

Discussion

It is interesting to point out that Montenegrin researchers and publications issued by the Montenegrin institutions made a significant impact in the period it is talked about. First of all, it should be noted that Montenegrin researchers published a significant number of articles in prestigious international journals that are indexed in databases such as: “Web of Science” (SCI, SSCI, SCIE & ESCI) and “Scopus”. However, by analyzing published articles, it is important to point out that before 2013 there were no published articles in the “Web of Science”, while in the “Scopus” database the first article published by one of the Montenegrin researchers was in 2008. This data clearly indicates that sudden development on an individual basis has been made in the last decade. In addition to a significant number of articles published in prestigious journals, it is interesting to point out the article published by the authors Dusko Bjelica and Stevo Popovic (NCD Risk Factor Collaboration, 2017) in the prestigious journal “Lancet” indexed in the Q1 category (WOS), and the impact factor for 2017 was 53,254, which is not a frequent phenomenon among entire Montenegrin researcher society. The same has been significantly enhanced the number of citation of the two authors mentioned above. In addition to the above article, another article highlighting an impact factor of more than 10 is published by Stevo Popovic (Quanjer et al., 2014), published in the “European Respiratory Journal”, with an impact factor assigned for 2017 was 12,242 and was also in the Q1 category (WOS). Articles published in the most prestigious journals have contributed significantly to the increase in the citation of those authors. Concerning the number of citations of Montenegrin authors in the field of sports sciences, it is interesting that five researchers in the field of sports science are in the top 30 most highly-cited scientists throughout the University of Montenegro. Also, on the overall list of “Google Scholar” database within the keyword “Sport Science”, Montenegrin authors are highly ranked, Dusko Bjelica is at 29th, Stevo Popovic at 30th, while Jovan Gardasevic is at 57th place. All in all, the Montenegrin authors slowly occupy a recognizable place in the field of sports sciences in the entire world, and this has helped them greatly in investing in

an annual scientific conference, but also in the publication of scientific journals.

When it comes to scientific journals, we should start from the most cited journal in the “Google Scholar” database, which was launched 15 years ago and reformed in 2016. Since then significant growth has been recorded. Specifically, from the fourteenth volume, the journal was standardized in accordance with recognizable international protocols, and from the fifteenth volume it was exclusively in English. Such editorial decisions were not popular; however, if we analyze the progress of the journal in the past three years, it is evident that the progress is huge, primarily because of inclusion in the “Scopus” database, but also because of the significant number of citations, both in the “Google Scholar” database and in the “Web of Science” (“while “Scopus” has not yet done an analysis, and it is expected very soon). The best example of this abrupt progress is the third edition of the fifteenth volume (Cosic Mulahasanovic, Nozinovic Mujanovic, Mujanovic, & Atikovic, 2017; Mohammed, & Choi, 2017; Nová, 2017; Oreb, Prlenda, & Oreb, 2017; Popovic, Gardasevic, Masanovic, Arifi, & Bjelica, 2017; Radas, Sesar, & Furjan-Mandic, 2017; Sermahhaj, Arifi, & Bahtiri, 2017; Siljak, & Djurovic, 2017; Stankovic, Peric, Ruiz-Llamas, & Quiroga-Escudero, 2017; Zemková, Jeleň, Zapletalová, & Hamar, 2017), where the citation of this journal is at the level of high-quality journals that have been indexed for years in the world’s leading databases. Therefore, it is rightly expected that “Sport Mont” journal will soon be accepted in the leading database of “Web of Science” and will continue to make progress in coming years. On the other hand, although a significantly younger journal, the “Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine” made a sharper penetration towards an elite society in a much shorter period. Namely, the journal has been indexed since 2015 in the “Web of Science” database, while in the “Scopus” database since 2016. Even though it is indexed into the “Web of Science” database, this journal still does not have a certain impact factor, since it is in the “Emerging Source Citation Index”, and the next step that this journal is expected to achieve is that the “Web of Science” database assigns an impact factor and to be included in one of

the remaining three bases (SCI, SSCI or SCIE). To reach that goal, the number of articles in each edition has increased, so in the first (Marques, Peralta, Sarmento, Martins, & Carreiro da Costa, 2016; Sarabon, Hirsch, & Majcen, 2016; Sæther, 2016; Silva, Marcelino, Lacerda, & Vicente João, 2016; Sindik, Mikic, Dodigovic, & Corak, 2016) or the second issue of the fifth volume (Arazi, Asadi, & Chegini, 2016; Novak, Milanovic, Radisavljevic Janic, Stefan, & Kristicevic, 2016), Oliveira, Valladares, Vaz, & João, 2016; Roga, Erceg, & Grgantov, 2016; Stojanovic et al., 2016) five articles replaced with ten in the first (Bülent Okan, 2017; Cigrovski, Franjo, Rupcic, & Bakovic, 2017; Hurst et al., 2017; Jelicic, Uljevic, & Zenic, 2017; Morteza Tayebi, Mahmoudi, Shirazi, & Sangi, 2017; Gardasevic, Rasidagic, Krivokapic, Corluka, & Bjelica, 2017; Popovic, 2017; Serbes, Cengiz, Sivri, & Filiz, 2017; Sindik et al., 2017), and the second issue of the sixth volume (Josephson, & Williams, 2017; Kozinc, & Sarabon, 2017; Loureiro et al., 2017; Luptáková, & Antala, 2017; Mandic, Wilson, Clark-Grill, & O'Neill, 2017; Nepocatyh, Balillions, & O'Neal, 2017; Sæther, 2017; Siljeg, Sindik, & Leko, 2017; Valleser, & Narvasa, 2017; Yildizer, Ozboke, Tascioglu, & Yilmaz, 2017), and continued with the practice of publishing twenty articles annually. It is also interesting to point out that acceptance rate is also frequently decreasing and for the period 2016-2017 amounts 12% for original research submitted. This fact is in favor of the argument that the quality of the accepted works is raised year after year, and therefore the citation of the journal is increasing, which is one of the main factors that influence the assignment of the impact factor. Finally, when the "Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education" is concerned, it is still premature to make certain projections for entering the most prestigious databases; however, the fact that the journal in the first year of its existence managed to be indexed in databases such as "DOAJ" and "Index Copernicus", as well as a number of other databases, says that the future lies ahead of this journal, especially because interest in publishing in this journal has been shown by a significant number of authors worldwide (Arazi, Olia, Nafissi, Moghadam, & Falahati, 2018; Gardasevic, Bjelica, Vasiljevic, Sermahaj, & Arifi, 2018; Herdy, Costa, Simão, & Selfe, 2018; Monson, Brasil, & Hlusko, 2018; Vukasevic, Vukotic, & Masanovic, 2018).

Regarding the limitations in this study, it is important to emphasize that it was not possible to analyze all the desired entities in the certain databases, because it was only available in the "Google Scholar" database. With regards to further inclusion of "Sport Mont" journal in the "Scopus" database, the possibility will open for further analyzing the data that were the subject of this study. Therefore, the recommendations for further study are to analyze bibliographic data of individual Montenegrin researchers, as well as Montenegrin publications, with the goal of providing more detailed scientific information to the scientific public and raising awareness of the need for further progress in this area. In conclusion, it is indicated that the highest impact was recognized in the last year, regarding to citations of available researches published by Montenegrin authors, as well as writing style of articles published in English. Hence, the further deployment is expected in upcoming period and need to be constantly followed.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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