

Development of Research and Writing Activities in the Field of Sports Science Publishing in Montenegro

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research was to analyze the trend of publication within Montenegrin journals, as well as the scientific research activities of Montenegrin researchers in the field of sports science. The investigation subject included the scientific papers published in the period from 2002 until 2020, within the field of sports science. The electronic databases (Google Scholar, Scopus and Web of Science) were searched for research articles available until 22nd September 2020. The findings of this study were summarized in accordance with the PRISMA guidelines, presenting the values of citations, h-index, i10-index, as well as the number of scientific papers of the best authors. The results of this study indicated that researchers in the field of sports science increased the number of publications from 2002 to 2020. The number of citations span from 502 and 10677 within ten most cited researchers in Google Scholar database, while the same researchers were cited quite less in Scopus and Web of Science databases. On the other hand, in Google Scholar database, there are three registered Montenegrin journals and the Sport Mont journal is the most cited one. The Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine is the best ranked Montenegrin journal according to the bibliometric data that can be found in the Scopus and Web of Science databases, while the Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education is the lowest ranked in Scopus and Web of Science databases, but middle ranked in Google Scholar database, and with significant progress in the last year. Hence, the further deployment is expected in upcoming period.

Introduction

We are witnessing that attention is increasingly being paid to bibliography research in which the main focus is sports science, as one of the youngest but the most popular sciences today [1]. Considering the fact that knowledge from various scientific fields is expanding day by day and increasing amount of information is available, the purpose of bibliographic research is exactly reflected in that all important information is systemized in one place and could be easily accessed. Research conducted by Popovic [1] and Vukasevic et al. [2], clearly indicate the significance of sports sciences.

Popovic [1] states that sports sciences are equal to both natural and technical sciences, according to the number of papers published on an annual basis. All this clearly express that sports sciences are rapidly developing, building a stable scientific field. Even though Montenegro is a territorially small country, it is the region in which grow up a lot of excellent athletes, both in individual and collective sports. Many achievements of Montenegrin athletes are remembered. While we are talking about this topic, it should not be omitted to mention a golden medal at the European Championship won by water polo players of the national team of Montenegro in Malaga in 2008, as well as a silver medal at the World Championship in Barcelona, in 2013. A notable result was also achieved by women's handball national team, winning a gold medal on European Championship held in Serbia in 2012, as well as a silver medal on summer Olympic Games in London, held in the same year. Also, a silver medal won by Mario Hodzic and a bronze medal won by Nikola Malovic at the senior European Championship in karate, held in Guadalajara, are a confirmation of hard work and potential of Montenegrin athletes. Considering that Montenegro gained its independence in 2006, and has been trying to prove itself through a large number of activities for many years, among others with achieved sports results, it should be point out that without sports science, professional sport and its progress is inconceivable. That is an unbreakable bond which leads to success if it is done diligently and with dedication on its firming. In Montenegro, sports sciences are linked to the Faculty for Sport and Physical Education of the University of Montenegro, as a renowned institution operating in this field. Faculty for Sport and Physical Education was founded in 2008, and since then has been working as an individual university unit, within which the greatest experts in the field of sports science in Montenegro work, and improve their competences. Furthermore, as a confirmation of quality, the Faculty for Sport and Physical Education standing behind the international conference of sports science that is organized once a year, and which gathers a large number of experts from around the world, within the latest achievements in this field are presented. In addition, the Faculty for Sport and Physical Education has three journals in which papers from the field of sports sciences are published, namely: "Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine", "Sport Mont" and "Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education". Accordingly, the purpose of this paper is to present and analyze the scientific activity of researchers, as well as the trend of publishing in the mentioned Montenegrin journals in the field of sports science.

Method

Subjects and Sample Characteristics

The subject of research in this study were scientific papers in the field of sports science, published in the period from 2002 until 2020, and the research included journals that cover the mentioned field in Montenegro, and those are: "Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine", "Sport Mont" and "Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education". Also, the scientific research activities of all researchers in the field of sports sciences has been processed.

Instruments

For research articles available until 22 September 2020 were searched three electronic databases (Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science). Mentioned scientific databases have all the aspects necessary to conduct an adequate and reliable analysis. Namely, "Google Scholar" is the most visible, open database that collects all bibliographic material, even one that has not been reviewed and thus does not ensure quality as is the case with the other two. "Scopus" is a widely accepted database and it is very important. All journals that are within the scope of "Scopus" database are reviewed every year, in order to maintain a high standard of quality. At the very end, the "Web of Science" is the most prestigious scientific citation database that has grown into the most reliable instrument for evaluating the journals and scientific production of the author, and being part of the elite is also a prerequisite for adequate academic progress.

Measurement Procedure and Data Analysis

In this research were used "Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyzes (PRISMA)"



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guidelines [3]. For the purposes of this research, into consideration were taken the number of citations, h-index, i10-index, as well as scientific papers of researchers, which are ranked as the most successful in the field of sports science and who presented their scientific activities in the form of published scientific papers in the mentioned journals.

Results

Table 1 shows the data obtained by analyzing the "Google Scholar" database. Based on the obtained results, it can be concluded that the highest values of citations, h-index, and i10-index has "Sport Mont" journal. Surely, there is constant progress from year to year, which is clearly visible if a comparison is made with the previous research [1, 2]. Mentioned research progress of "Sport Mont" journal is supported by the facts that it dates back to 2003, and there are published over 1500 scientific papers. That is why it is not surprising that "Sport Mont" journal is at the top of this list. Right after it, with a less number of citations, is the "Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education". It is very important to mention that a change is registered by comparison with the previous research [2], in which this journal was in the last place in terms of citations, while it is now ahead of the "Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine" journal, which is the last on this list. Thus, even though it is a young journal, created in 2017, it records rapid progress and an increase in the number of citations within the "Google Scholar" database.

Table 1. Bibliometric analyses of Montenegrin journals in "Google Scholar" database on 22nd September 2020

Journal	Number of Citations	h-index	i10-index
SMJ	5171	39	112
JASPE	1804	25	55
MJSSM	1526	18	53

Note: 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

In table 2 are processed and presented results obtained by analyzing the "Scopus" database. What is evident, as in the previous research that had Montenegrin journals in the field of sports science as the subject of research, the analysis included only indexed journals, and accordingly the "Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical education" was not taken into consideration. The better ranked journal within this database is the "Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine", but there is also an evident decrease compared to 2018 when CiteScore was 3.30, while the journal "Sport Mont" recorded growth within CiteScore compared to the previous year, when it was 0.83.

Table 2. Bibliometric analyses of Montenegrin journals in "Scopus" database on 22nd September 2020

Journal	CiteScore 2019	SJR 2019	SNIP 2019
MJSSM	2.8	0.309	0.453
SMJ	1.9	0.529	0.624
JASPE	Not calculated	Not calculated	Not calculated

Note: 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

In table 3 are presented results by analyzing the "Web of Science" database. The difference compared to the "Scopus" database is that citation data can be recorded for journals that are not indexed in this database. After the conducted analysis, it can be stated that the "Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine" has the largest citation. In addition, the h-index and the average number of citations per published scientific work have increased compared to previous years. "Sport Mont" also has an enviable number of citations, although it is not indexed in this database yet. It is important to note that the youngest journal, in the field of sports science in Montenegro, "Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education" also records citations in the most prestigious database.

Table 3. Bibliometric analyses of Montenegrin journals in "Web of Science" database on 22nd September 2020

Journal	Number of Citations	h-index	Average citations per item
MJSSM	324	7	2.55
SMJ	296	Not calculated	Not calculated
JASPE	23	Not calculated	Not calculated

The activities of researchers in the field of sports science within the scientific database "Google Scholar" are shown in table 4, who actively publish scientific papers in the analyzed journals. It is important to emphasize that the analysis included the top ten researchers with affiliation in the mentioned field. There is a remarkable increase in citations of individual authors comparing to 2018 and 2019. If we take into consideration the number of citations made by these researchers, it is important to note that 6 researchers in the field of sports sciences, included in this analysis, are among the top 30 researchers at the University of Montenegro, and all 10 researchers is among the top 40 researchers at the University of Montenegro, taking into account all scientific fields. Furthermore, all 10 researchers have over 500 citations. Based on the mentioned, it can be certainty stated that researchers from the field of sports science are diligently working on the affirmation of this scientific field and that they are leaders at the mentioned institution.

Table 4. Bibliometric analyses of top ten Montenegrin researchers in "Google Scholar" database on 22nd September 2020

Researcher	Number of Citations	h-index	i10-index
Dusko Bjelica	10677	50	184
Stevo Popovic	9068	50	133
Jovan Gardasevic	3661	37	89
Bojan Masanovic	2476	31	64
Ivan Vasiljevic	1454	25	36
Rajko Milasinovic	1051	19	20
Rasid Hadzic	571	14	16
Dragan Krivokapic	548	11	11
Marina Vukotic	515	12	17
Miroslav Kezunovic	502	8	8

In table 5 is shown the scientific activity of the top 10 researchers in the field of sports science from the University of Montenegro, within the "Scopus" database. It is noticeable that the number of citations is significantly lower compared to the "Google Scholar" database. This can be explained by the more narrowly, and more quality scientific research content of the database itself. It is evident that in this table there are 8 out of 10 same names as in table 4, and all 10 were on this list in 2019, only with a slightly different formation.

Table 5. Bibliometric analyses of top ten Montenegrin researchers in "Scopus" database on 22nd September 2020

Researcher	Number of Citations	h-index	Documents by author
Stevo Popovic	1922	12	49
Dusko Bjelica	1860	10	53
Jovan Gardasevic	193	8	38
Kemal Idrizovic	137	7	23
Bojan Masanovic	98	6	25
Miroslav Kezunovic	84	3	10
Jovica Petkovic	57	2	5
Dragan Krivokapic	52	3	10
Ivan Vasiljevic	39	4	18
Rasid Hadzic	25	1	7

Table 6 shows the scientific research activity of authors in the field of sports science in the most prestigious database "Web of Science". As indicated above, the "Web of Science" is database with the highest quality and in many countries is the basis for assessing the quality of both institutions and journals and authors. Accordingly, it can be stated that there is an evident decrease in the number of citations in relation to the previous two analyzed databases, although there is an exceptional number of citations of the first two authors in this one. It can be seen from the attached that Montenegrin authors have a large number of papers in the most prestigious database and they have significantly improved compared to the previous two years. It is important to note that one author has over 50 published works, the other in this table is very close to that number, and even six authors have over 10 published papers in this database, which is also a significant improvement compared to 2019, and the number of citations of all authors exceeds the double-digit number.

Table 6. Bibliometric analyses of top ten Montenegrin researchers in "Web of Science" database on 22nd September 2020

Researcher	Number of Citations	h-index	Documents by author
Stevo Popovic	1715	10	53
Dusko Bjelica	1658	10	49
Kemal Idrizovic	120	7	16
Miroslav Kezunovic	91	5	20
Jovica Petkovic	49	2	4
Jovan Gardasevic	36	3	19
Rasid Hadzic	22	2	10
Bojan Masanovic	17	2	20
Rajko Milasinovic	16	1	3
Dragan Krivokapic	12	1	5

Discussion and Conclusion

After the analysis of the presented results, it is very important to emphasize that the researchers from the Faculty for Sport and Physical Education have made remarkable progress for the mentioned period and have published a large number of scientific papers, which are recorded in the mentioned electronic scientific databases, and special attention is paid to the most prestigious ones, such as "Web of Science" (SCI, SSCI, SCIE & ESCI) and "Scopus". It is interesting to note that the first scientific paper of a researchers in the field of sports science was published in the "Web of Science" scientific database in 2013, while in the "Scopus" database in 2008 [1]. If we take into account previous research [1, 2], it could be seen a clear progress from year to year. Namely, based on the data in this study, and compared to the research from 2018 [1], the researchers published 108 more scientific papers, while they published 89 more scientific papers compared to 2019 [2] in the "Web of Science" database. Regarding to the "Scopus" scientific database, 88 more scientific papers were published compared to 2018 and 49 more compared to 2019. Also, the progressive progress of Montenegrin

researchers in the field of sports science is evident, not only in the mentioned databases, but also in the "Google Scholar" database. Dusko Bjelica records an impressive 10,677 citations within the mentioned database, which puts him in the second place by number of citations at the University of Montenegro, but there is a tendency for him to take the lead in a relatively short period of time. It is important to note that changes are recorded within this database compared to the previous year, and they relate to the top 10 Montenegrin researchers in the field of sports science. Namely, Ivan Vasiljevic advanced from the sixth place to the fifth, while Marina Vukotic found her place in the top 10 researchers. Regarding the "Scopus" electronic database, it is important to point out that the first author in terms of the number of citations is Stevo Popovic, with 1922 citations. The progress, which made Jovan Gardasevic, Bojan Masanovic, as well as Ivan Vasiljevic compared to 2019, is evident.

As for the "Web of Science" database, one of the important facts is that two researchers who were not in the top 10 researchers last year found their place among them, compared to the research conducted by Vukasevic et al. [2]. These are Bojan Masanovic, who has published 10 papers in journals indexed in SCI, SSCI or SCIE databases in the last two years [4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13] and Ivan Vasiljevic, who published three papers in the same period in the journals that are indexed in the mentioned databases [14, 15, 16]. Along with them, Jovan Gardasevic is making extremely visible progress, having published nine papers in the last two years in journals indexed in SCI, SSCI or SCIE databases [11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20]. Montenegrin researchers in the field of sports sciences are one of the few in the entire scientific community of Montenegro who have managed to publish scientific papers in even the most prestigious journals of today. Therefore, Dusko Bjelica and Stevo Popovic, with their competencies and expertise, deserved the attention of the public when they published scientific papers in journals that belong into the Q1 category. The first scientific paper was published in the journal "Lancet" [21], which had an impact factor of 53.254 at that time, while the second was published in the journal "Nature" [22], which had an impact factor of 41.577 in that period. Also, another scientific paper is already available to the public in the "Lancet" journal [23], which currently has an impact factor of 60.392. It was the publication of scientific papers in high-ranking journals that resulted in the great number of citations and popularity of the mentioned researchers. It is important to state that researchers in the field of sports science (all mentioned researchers belong to one institution, i.e. the Faculty for Sport and Physical Education of the University of Montenegro) based on data provided by "Google Scholar" database (Table 1) are among the best in the University of Montenegro. Namely, six authors are in the top 30, and all 10 authors are in the top 40 researchers at the University of Montenegro, according to the number of citations.

The journals included in the analysis in this work made a constant progress. The "Sport Mont" journal, which is the most cited journal in the "Google Scholar" electronic database, records a progressive increase from year to year. As stated in previous research [2], the key for the development of this journal is 2017, when the journal was indexed in the "Scopus" database, since when the citation has been on the rise. A good indicator of the progressive growth of this journal are the scientific papers of eminent researchers published during 2019 [24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33]. It is important to emphasize that the journal has maintained constant growth, which is confirmed by the findings of this study and there is a real possibility that it will enter the most prestigious database "Web of Science". When it comes to the "Montenegrin Journal of Sports Science and Medicine", it can be said that it is the best in Montenegro in the field of sports science, included in the prestigious "Web of Science" database, i.e. in the "Emerging Source Citation Index". Regarding to above mentioned, this journal still has no impact factor. If we take into account the dynamics of its growth, we can say with certainty that it will soon be included in one of the three most prestigious categories within the "Web of Science" database (SCI, SSCI or SCIE) and will receive an impact factor. Very high quality scientific papers by eminent authors, which were published in the first [34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,] and the second edition of the eight volume [44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53], and also in the first edition of the ninth volume [54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60,

61, 62, 63, 64] are guarantee that it will happen. At the very end, the youngest, but still a journal that has made notable progress is the "Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education". The mentioned journal has been making constant progress since its founding in 2017, so it has been indexed in world scientific databases such as: DOAJ, Index Copernicus, Crossref, ROAD, in addition to "Google Scholar". Accordingly, the editorial team of this journal consists of scientists from Brazil, Turkey, Malaysia, Serbia, Croatia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the fact that this journal recognizes a growing number of eminent authors from the region, and the world [65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75] it is not surprising why it is recorded much larger citations compared to previous years, as well as to record the citations of this journal in the "Web of Science" database. Of course, it is expected that it will soon be indexed in one of the prestigious electronic citation databases.

The limitation of this study is reflected in the incomplete data within the "Scopus" database, namely, the "Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education" has not yet been indexed in the mentioned database. Despite the mentioned disadvantages, the significance of this study is great. Namely, the analysis of the remaining databases gave a clear picture of the progress of both journals and authors who have sports science in the focus of their interest. Certainly, the recommendation for further research would be to follow the progress of the "Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education" and that after its entering the "Scopus" database, make a detailed and precise insight into the dynamics of the development of publishing in the mentioned journals and make a quality comparison with research from previous years.

It is interesting to point out that Vukasevic et al. [2] gave the assumption that the progress of Montenegrin researchers in the coming period will be recorded, and this was confirmed by this study.

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