

Value of Digital Object Identifier in Academic Journals and Its Influence on Social and Academic Impact: Nursing Journals Experience

Elena Pastor-Ramon*

Lluís Codina **

Cristòfol Rovira ***

Introduction

During last years, nursing research landscape has changed a lot thanks to the Bologna Plan, thanks to the change from three-year university studies to four years, nursing students can access to master's and doctoral studies. As a consequence, the nursing research situation has also improved. Additionally, health research institutes creation, also improved the context and research results.

Nurses have been doing research for many years, but they have some problems that physicians do not have: the institution does not usually support the research career in nursing, they do not have time, the profession is feminised so they have an added family burden at home that does not allow them to continue researching, difficulty in applying new techniques, and many do not know if the quality of the research they read is adequate.

In addition to all this, most of the nursing journals from non-English countries are not included in WOS or Scopus, so we find that the research quality of both the institution and the authors is based on metrics that do not reflect non-English language care research.

Materials and Methods

The main motivation for this work is to improve Spanish scientific nursing journals, and the main objective was to analyse the journals published in Spain and to compare the activity of Spanish nurses with other colleagues from non-English speaking countries such as Portugal, France, Italy, Poland, Belgium or Turkey in the Cinahl nursing database. Also, we wanted to highlight the importance of the use of the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) by the journals.

* Virtual Health Sciences Library of the Balearic Islands (Bibliosalut). Pompeu Fabra University, Spain, epastor@bibliosalut.com

** University Pompeu Fabra, Spain, lluis.codina@upf.edu

*** University Pompeu Fabra, Spain, Cristofol.rovira@upf.edu

Different searches of the scientific production of Spanish, German, Italian, French, Belgian, Turkish, and Portuguese nurses were performed in Cinahl, from 2015 to 2020, limited to their countries language. All the references were downloaded into a CSV file to be analysed.

Results

It was found that 55.95% of Spanish articles were not assigned a DOI. Repeating the search, but with the language of publication in English, it was found that only 5.06% of the articles did not have a DOI, so, the difference between publishing in Spanish journals and English-language journals could make a big difference in the visibility of the research. Compared to the countries mentioned, the articles without a DOI were 11.40% in Polish (from 42 articles); 19.28% in Portuguese (from 394 articles); 4.33 French (France) (from 507 articles); 2.16% in German (from 2.626); 9.12% in Turkish (from 3.036 articles); 2.17% French (Belgium) (from 46 articles); 92.10% Italian (from 38 articles).

Discussion

Assigning a DOI should be mandatory in scholar research. It is an identifier with more than 20 years, and its value is more than proven in order to assign a series of metadata to the document that it would not have otherwise. There is still a very high percentage of Spanish journals that do not use DOI and it makes research even more invisible because, in addition to not being represented in traditional metrics, they are also not detected by the new metrics such as Altmetric, PlumX or Dimensions, because these tools recover the activity of dissemination and citations of articles using an identifier such as DOI or PMID.

Conclusion

Using DOI in academic articles, in the case we present nursing journals, allows to visible the impact of the articles even when the journals where they were published are not indexed in bibliometric databases such as Web of Science or Scopus. We can use other tools to analyse this impact and give value to the nursing research.

Keywords: Nursing research, Digital Object Identifier, Bibliometrics, Scholarly communication, Altmetrics

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