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AN ANALYSIS OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN TOURISM JOURNALS FROM 2000 TO 2007: A GOOGLE SCHOLAR APPROACH

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RESEARCH NOTE AN ANALYSIS OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN TOURISM JOURNALS FROM 2000 TO 2007: A GOOGLE SCHOLAR APPROACH

Rob Law, Qiang Ye, Wei Chen, and Rosanna Leung

ABSTRACT. This research note reports a study that analyzed the 100 most influential articles, which is operationalized as the most cited publications published in tourism journals from 2000 to 2007. A Google Scholar-based software system was developed in Java to retrieve the citation information. The empirical findings show that 10.16% of the citations were from Institute for Scientific Information-listed (ISI) journals, and that 71.64% of them were from neither ISI nor tourism journals. The most popular topics covered by these articles were psychology and tourist behavior, followed by destination image and marketing. This article contributes to the literature by providing an alternative means of assessing the impact of research into tourism.

KEYWORDS. Tourism journals, citation analysis, publications, Google Scholar

INTRODUCTION

Citation count is one of the most important indicators for the evaluation of academic research (Garfield, 1972; Garfield, Malin, & Small, 1983; Moed, 2005). Recently, the growing importance of citation analysis has been recognized by tourism and hospitality researchers worldwide. Published citation count studies in the existing tourism literature, however, mainly rank individual researchers or journals

(Law & van der Veen, 2008; McKercher, 2008; Schmidgall, Woods, & Hardigree, 2007). Academic publications, an important form of scientific output, constitute the basic unit of academic findings that form the knowledge base of a discipline. Thus, the examination of citation counts can provide new insight into the influence of articles in tourism journals.

This article answers the primary research question, "What are the most influential articles in tourism journals?"; and the related

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question, "What topics do these influential articles cover?" This article also provides an alternative method to evaluate the impact of tourism research based on Google Scholar (GS) citation counts. GS is a component of Google, the world's leading search engine, which indexes the scholarly articles, books, and dissertations that it finds in different databases and various languages. GS has recently gained the attention of academic researchers conducting citation analysis because of its ability to cover multidisciplinary fields (Waters, 2007). Harzing and van der Wal (2008) singled out GS as an important new source for citation analysis. In this research, the authors developed a Google Scholar-based system with Java to analyze the most influential articles published in tourism journals from 2000 to 2007.

BACKGROUND

The importance of academic research has been widely documented in the existing tourism literature. Publication in reputable research journals can serve as a way to quality research performance measure (Jogaratname, Chon, McCleary, Mena, & Yoo, 2005; McKercher, Law, & Lam, 2006; Schmidgall, Woods, & Hardigree, 2007). In general, the existing evaluation methods for journal quality fall into two major categories: judgmental assessment and objective counting. In the first category, researchers maintain that the quality of research journals can be measured by the perceived value of subject experts (McKercher, Law, & Lam, 2006); whereas the second category involves objective evaluations such as using citation counts as a proxy for journal quality (Law & van der Veen, 2008). Specifically, a citation count is the number of times that a published article has been cited by other publications in a pre-defined time period and in pre-defined publication channels. Hence, citation counts can be used to measure the impact of a scholarly piece of work. In two recently published articles, McKercher (2008) as well as Schmidgall et al. (2007) used citation

counts to rank the most influential tourism and hospitality scholars, based on the argument that the major purpose of a publication is to make one's research findings known to others and that these findings may influence related work in the future. The growing importance of citation analysis strongly suggests that academic research performance has moved, albeit slowly, from "publish or perish" to "be cited or vanish."

In the recent tourism literature, published articles have examined the scientific impact of research findings based on perceived journal rating (McKercher, Law, & Lam, 2006), citation count for selected journals (Law & van der Veen, 2008), publication records of individuals (Jogaratname et al., 2005; Ryan, 2005; Zhao & Ritchie, 2007) and institutes (Jogaratname et al.), as well as citation counts for individual journals (Ryan, 2005), and individual researchers (McKercher, 2008; Schmidgall et al., 2007). Schmidgall and colleagues stated that high quality articles are cited more frequently than are low quality ones. Of these prior studies, those of McKercher and Law and van der Veen used GS to evaluate citations.

Although prior studies of the scientific impact of research findings and journals may be of interest to certain readers, the ranking of institutes, individuals, and journals does not necessarily benefit knowledge development. For instance, McKercher's (2008) work is interesting, but may be incomplete as certain individuals may be excluded. After all, it is basically unknown to tourism researchers, especially to junior academics, what the most influential articles in tourism journals are. In other words, the types of articles that receive the greatest number of citations in tourism journals and the quality of these citations have been largely overlooked by tourism researchers.

This study makes a first attempt to bridge this research gap by analyzing the citation counts of the 100 most frequently cited articles published in tourism journals from 2000 to 2007, a period during which tourism research experienced an exceptional growth rate. As previously stated, citation frequency *Law et al.* 737

is directly related to the impact of a journal or an individual. Xiao and Smith (2008) noted that GS citations are comparable to the counts provided by indices from Thomson Scientific's Journal Citation Reports (http://admin-apps.isiknowledge.com/JCR/JCR?SID= 4D Ih3b177gK6AAn9Agg) or, alternatively, Scopus (http://www.scopus.com/scopus/ home. url), which is Elsevier's alternative of journal citation reports. In addition to journals and individuals, citation frequency is positively related to the quality of published articles (McKercher, 2008; Schmidgall et al., 2007).

This study also examines citation quality, which is operationalized as the sources of citations. More specifically, it aims to determine whether the citations are from ISI journals, tourism journals, or other sources such as conference proceedings or government publications.

METHODOLOGY

Because of the launching of new tourism journals and the discontinuation of others, it is virtually impossible to compile a comprehensive list of such journals. This study used the lists of tourism and hospitality journals published in English that appeared in the latest study to rate tourism journals, that by McKercher, Law, and Lam (2006; 70 journals), and the matrix of tourism journals presented by Arendt, Ravichandran, and Brown (2007; 57 journals). The exclusion of certain newly launched or discontinued journals is acknowledged. It is, however, highly unlikely that these excluded journals contain the most frequently cited articles.

Data collection was conducted from January to April 2008 using http://scholar.google.com/advanced_scholar_search?hl=en, which is GS's Advanced Scholar Search function. The citation numbers were updated in early January 2009. Each year from 2000 to 2007 was entered in the date field for each of the journals included to prevent GS from displaying only the first 1,000 results for each search action. The total number of citations for a specific article was found using the

"Cited by" function under the primary results. This function also provided links to the publications that cited the article. These linked publications were then analyzed based on their publication source/channel, that is, whether they were found in ISI or tourism journals or in other sources.

It would have been very difficult, if not impossible, to check the citations manually; therefore, the authors developed a GS-based system using Java to retrieve the publication and citation information of the extracted articles. For each article, the article title, number of citations, author/s, journal name, publishing year, publisher, and link to its citation page were saved. Next, another Java program went through all of these articles and retrieved their citation information. In each citation, the same data fields as the main articles were saved, with the addition of an identification number for the article cited. In this way, a database of publications and their citations was constructed. The popularity of the articles and quality of the citations were then analyzed. Although the free software "Perish or Publish" mentioned by McKercher (2008) can be used to track individual researchers or journals, it is unable to trace the citation sources. The software developed in this research, however, is capable of retrieving such information. To determine whether a citation was in an ISI or tourism journal or another source, the authors retrieved the "Master Journal List" from Thomson Scientific's official website and used it to identify whether a journal was an ISI journal. The same procedure was carried out to identify tourism and hospitality journals.

A few hundred hours were used for data collection and organization. During the data collection stage, the double quote operator "..." was used as a restrictive operator in the publication field to limit the search for specific journals, and thus to avoid duplication. Both "and" and "&" were also used to ensure that all of the articles published in a journal were included.

The 100 articles that received the largest number of citations and were published in tourism journals from 2000 to 2007 then formed the database for analysis. The details of these 100 articles, including title, author(s), journal, volume/issue, and page numbers, were subsequently verified by EBSCOHost's Hospitality and Tourism Complete database (http://search.ebscohost.com/), which is the largest database of tourism and hospitality journals. Such verification was carried out to ensure the accuracy of the identification of the influential journal articles. Then, the collected data were reorganized to analyze the quality of the citations.

Following prior studies, the 100 articles were also grouped according to the major topics of tourism research (Jafari & Ritchie, 1981; Goeldner & Ritchie, 2006; Journal of Travel & Tourism Marketing, 2009; Xiao & Smith, 2006). The authors reviewed the titles and abstracts carefully to determine the topic of each article. The next section presents and discusses the empirical findings on citation quality and research topics.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 lists the 100 most influential articles published in tourism journals from 2000 to 2007. The attributes presented for each paper include (a) "Topic," (b) "Authors," (c) publication year ("Year"), (d) average number of citations per year from publication year to end of 2008 ("Avg Cites per Year"), and average citation ranking ("Cites/Year Rank"), (e) total number of citations ("Total cites"), and total citation ranking ("Total Cites Rank"), (f) number and percentage of citations in ISI journals, including Tourism Management (TM) and Annals of Tourism Research (ATR) ("ISI"), (g) number and percentage of citations in tourism journals excluding TM and ATR ("TJ excluding ISI"), and (h) number and percentage of citations in other sources ("Others"). In addition, the articles in Table 1 are listed in descending order of the average number of citations per year.

Table 1 shows that Buhalis' article, published in 2000, ranked first in both total citations with 310 citations and average cites

per year with 34.44 citations, followed by Gallarza, Saura, and Garcia's 2002 article. The article that ranked 100th was published in 2002 and received an average of 7.29 citations per year.

On average, each of the 100 articles received 68.70 citations, or 10.16 citations per year. Among these citations, 10.16% were from ISI journals, 18.20% were from tourism journals (excluding ISI journals), and 71.64% were from other sources. TM and ATR were the only two ISI-listed tourism journals in 2007. However, according to Liesegang, Shaikh, and Crook (2007), among the manuscripts submitted to the American Journal of Ophthalmology from July 23, 2002, to December 31, 2003, 71% "were rejected or were withdrawn after a revision request" (p. 552). In other words, 29% of the submitted manuscripts were accepted for publication. The ISI impact factor for the American Journal of Ophthalmology in 2004 was 2.33. Comparatively, first-tier tourism journals have an acceptance rate of only about 10% (McKercher, Law, Weber, Song, & Hsu, 2007), but the ISI impact factors for these journals were less than 1. Using the ISI impact factor to evaluate the quality of a tourism journal is, therefore, simply not useful.

Two implications can be drawn from the findings in Table 1. First, tourism journals are not well known to researchers in mainstream academic disciplines, as evidenced by the low percentage of ISI journal citations. Many articles received no more than five citations from ISI journals. However, articles in tourism journals were often cited in other sources, including books, conference proceedings, dissertations, preprints, technical reports, and other scholastic publications in different languages. This implies that the articles of tourism researchers may influence both other tourism researchers and interested parties, which indicates that these researchers are not simply talking to themselves.

Table 2 shows that the 100 articles covered 12 topics, with psychology and tourist behavior ranked first (n = 27), closely followed

TABLE 1. The Most Frequently Cited Articles in Tourism Journals in 2000-2007

Topic	Authors	Year	Avg Cites per Year	Cites/Year Rank	Total Cites	Total Cites Rank	ISI(%)	TJ excluding ISI(%)	Others (%)
DIM	Buhalis, D.	2000	34.44	1	310	1	17 (5.48%)	56 (18.06%)	237 (76.45%)
DIM	Gallarza, M. G., Saura, I. G., & García, H. C.	2002	22.29	2	156	3	12 (7.69%)	25 (16.03%)	119 (76.28%)
PTB	Yoon, Y., & Uysal, M.	2005	20.75	3	83	22	6 (7.23%)	22 (26.51%)	55 (66.27%)
PTB	Bowen, J. T., & Shoemaker, S.	2003	20.17	4	121	5	8 (6.61%)	30 (24.79%)	83 (68.6%)
PTB	Baker, D. A., & Crompton, J. L.	2000	19.56	5	176	2	17 (9.66%)	36 (20.45%)	123 (69.89%)
DIM	Pike, S.	2002	18.43	6	129	4	10 (7.75%)	20 (15.5%)	99 (76.74%)
TTT	Buhalis, D., & Licata, M. C.	2002	15.29	7	107	10	13 (12.15%)	14 (13.08%)	80 (74.77%)
DIM	Bigné, J. E., Sánchez, M. I., & Sánchez, J.	2001	14.88	8	119	6	10 (8.4%)	19 (15.97%)	90 (75.63%)
HEI	Berrittella, M., Bigano, A., Roson, R., & Tol, R. S.	2006	14.67	9	44	83	5 (11.36%)	1 (2.27%)	38 (86.36%)
DIM	Beerli, A., & Martín, J. D.	2004	14.40	10	72	33	5 (6.94%)	16 (22.22%)	51 (70.83%)
PTB	Richards, G., & Wilson, J.	2006	14.00	11	42	85	2 (4.76%)	10 (23.81%)	30 (71.43%)
TRD	Franklin, A., & Crang, M. A.	2001	13.88	12	111	9	16 (14.41%)	27 (24.32%)	68 (61.26%)
PTB	Gursoy, D., Jurowski, C., & Uysal, M.	2002	13.57	13	95	12	9 (9.47%)	19 (20%)	67 (70.53%)
HGR	Tsaur, S., Chang, T, & Yen, C.	2002	13.43	14	94	13	20 (21.28%)	1 (1.06%)	73 (77.66%)
TPDP	Tosun, C.	2000	13.22	15	119	6	8 (6.72%)	20 (16.81%)	91 (76.47%)
DIM	Enright, M. J., & Newton, J.	2004	12.60	16	63	48	2 (3.17%)	9 (14.29%)	52 (82.54%)
PTB	Murphy, P., Pritchard, M. P., & Smith, B.	2000	12.56	17	113	8	10 (8.85%)	21 (18.58%)	82 (72.57%)
PTB	Williams, J., & Lawson, R.	2001	11.63	18	93	14	11 (11.83%)	18 (19.35%)	64 (68.82%)
PTB	Taylor, J. P.	2001	11.50	19	92	15	10 (10.87%)	15 (16.3%)	67 (72.83%)
DIM	Agarwal, S.	2002	11.29	20	79	25	10 (12.66%)	10 (12.66%)	59 (74.68%)
PTB	Beerli, A., & Martín, J. D.	2004	11.00	21	55	65	3 (5.45%)	10 (18.18%)	42 (76.36%)
TRD	Oh, H.	2001	11.00	21	88	18	5 (5.68%)	12 (13.64%)	71 (80.68%)
DIM	Ritchie, J. R. B., & Crouch, G. I.	2000	10.89	23	98	11	4 (4.08%)	17 (17.35%)	77 (78.57%)
PTB	Tosun, C.	2002	10.71	25	75	29	7 (9.33%)	9 (12%)	59 (78.67%)
TTT	Wang, Y., Yu, Q., & Fesenmaier, D. R.	2002	10.71	24	75	29	9 (12%)	7 (9.33%)	59 (78.67%)
PTB	Elsrud, T.	2001	10.50	26	84	21	12 (14.29%)	16 (19.05%)	56 (66.67%)
TOM	Ritchie, B. W.	2004	10.40	27	52	69	0 (0%)	23 (44.23%)	29 (55.77%)
PTB	Kozak, M.	2002	10.29	28	72	33	11 (15.28%)	11 (15.28%)	50 (69.44%)
DIM	Hassan, S. S.	2000	10.22	29	92	15	11 (11.96%)	13 (14.13%)	68 (73.91%)
DIM	Kim, H., & Richardson, S. L.	2003	10.17	30	61	54	5 (8.2%)	10 (16.39%)	46 (75.41%)
DIM	Cai, L. A.	2002	10.00	31	70	37	4 (5.71%)	10 (14.29%)	56 (80%)
ET	Briedenhann, J., & Wickens, E.	2004	10.00	31	50	71	3 (6%)	7 (14%)	40 (80%)
HEI	Aas, C., Ladkin, A., & Fletcher, J.	2005	10.00	31	40	87	5 (12.5%)	3 (7.5%)	32 (80%)
PTB	Kozak, M., & Rimmington, M.	2000	9.89	34	89	17	10 (11.24%)	25 (28.09%)	54 (60.67%)
DIM	Edensor, T.	2001	9.88	35	79	25	9 (11.39%)	20 (25.32%)	50 (63.29%)
HEI	Mihalic, T.	2000	9.78	36	88	18	12 (13.64%)	4 (4.55%)	72 (81.82%)
TOM	Getz, D., & Carlsen, J.	2000	9.78	36	88	18	13 (14.77%)	10 (11.36%)	65 (73.86%)
RT	Scheyvens, R.	2002	9.71	38	68	41	6 (8.82%)	15 (22.06%)	47 (69.12%)

TABLE 1. Continued

Topic	Authors	Year	Avg Cites per Year	Cites/Year Rank	Total Cites	Total Cites Rank	ISI(%)	TJ excluding ISI(%)	Others (%)
HEI	Poria, Y., Butler, R., & Airey, D.	2003	9.67	39	58	59	7 (12.07%)	16 (27.59%)	35 (60.34%)
PTB	Papatheodorou, A.	2001	9.63	40	77	27	12 (15.58%)	7 (9.09%)	58 (75.32%)
DIM	Prentice, R., & Andersen, V.	2003	9.50	41	57	60	7 (12.28%)	7 (12.28%)	43 (75.44%)
ET	Dwyer, L., Forsyth, P., & Spurr, R.	2004	9.40	42	47	75	10 (21.28%)	7 (14.89%)	30 (63.83%)
TRD	Farrell, B. H., & Twining-Ward, L.	2004	9.40	42	47	75	1 (2.13%)	14 (29.79%)	32 (68.09%)
SCI	Murphy, L.	2001	9.38	44	75	29	11 (14.67%)	12 (16%)	52 (69.33%)
PTB	Sirakaya, E., & Woodside, A. G.	2005	9.25	45	37	91	1 (2.7%)	15 (40.54%)	21 (56.76%)
PTB	Mason, P., & Cheyne, J.	2000	9.22	46	83	22	8 (9.64%)	19 (22.89%)	56 (67.47%)
PTB	Sørensen, A.	2003	9.17	47	55	65	4 (7.27%)	10 (18.18%)	41 (74.55%)
TOM	Ryan, C.	2002	9.14	48	64	47	5 (7.81%)	5 (7.81%)	54 (84.38%)
DIM	Orams, M. B.	2002	9.00	49	63	48	9 (14.29%)	7 (11.11%)	47 (74.6%)
HEI	Garrod, B., & Fyall, A.	2000	8.89	50	80	24	13 (16.25%)	16 (20.%)	51 (63.75%)
DIM	Doolin, B., Burgess, L., & Cooper, J.	2002	8.86	51	62	51	6 (9.68%)	16 (25.81%)	40 (64.52%)
DIM	Klenosky, D.	2002	8.86	51	62	51	3 (4.84%)	17 (27.42%)	42 (67.74%)
ET	Lim, C., & McAleer, M.	2002	8.86	51	62	51	9 (14.52%)	5 (8.06%)	48 (77.42%)
PTB	Gursoy, D., & McCleary, K. W.	2004	8.80	54	44	83	2 (4.55%)	14 (31.82%)	28 (63.64%)
ET	Song, H., & Witt, S. F.	2006	8.67	55	26	98	6 (23.08%)	2 (7.69%)	18 (69.23%)
ET	Kulendran, N., & Witt, S. F.	2001	8.63	56	69	38	13 (18.84%)	14 (20.29%)	42 (60.87%)
PTB	Kozak, M.	2001	8.63	56	69	38	10 (14.49%)	11 (15.94%)	48 (69.57%)
DIM	Edensor, T.	2000	8.44	58	76	28	8 (10.53%)	21 (27.63%)	47 (61.84%)
TOM	Hjalager, A.	2002	8.43	59	59	57	7 (11.86%)	11 (18.64%)	41 (69.49%)
PTB	Noy, C.	2004	8.40	60	42	85	2 (4.76%)	7 (16.67%)	33 (78.57%)
TOM	Miller, G.	2001	8.38	61	67	43	3 (4.48%)	14 (20.9%)	50 (74.63%)
TOM	Blake, A., & Sinclair, M. T.	2003	8.33	62	50	71	4 (8.%)	17 (34%)	29 (58%)
DIM	Baloglu, S., & Mangaloglu, M.	2001	8.25	63	66	45	5 (7.58%)	12 (18.18%)	49 (74.24%)
PTB	Besculides, A., Lee, M. E., & McCormick, P. J.	2002	8.14	64	57	60	3 (5.26%)	10 (17.54%)	44 (77.19%)
PTB	Uriely, N., Yonay, Y., & Simchai, D.	2002	8.14	64	57	60	6 (10.53%)	13 (22.81%)	38 (66.67%)
PTB	Andereck, K. L., & Vogt, C. A.	2000	8.11	66	73	32	4 (5.48%)	22 (30.14%)	47 (64.38%)
HEI	Font, X.	2002	8.00	67	56	63	3 (5.36%)	7 (12.5%)	46 (82.14%)
PTB	Teye, V., Sirakaya, E., & Sönmez, S. F.	2002	8.00	67	56	63	3 (5.36%)	10 (17.86%)	43 (76.79%)
SCI	Waitt, G.	2003	8.00	67	48	73	6 (12.5%)	3 (6.25%)	39 (81.25%)
TOM	Sharpley, R.	2000	8.00	67	72	33	9 (12.5%)	19 (26.39%)	44 (61.11%)
TOM	Divisekera, S.	2003	8.00	67	48	73	4 (8.33%)	6 (12.5%)	38 (79.17%)
TRD	Cheong, S., & Miller, M. L.	2000	8.00	67	72	33	11 (15.28%)	12 (16.67%)	49 (68.06%)
PTB	Weaver, D. B., & Lawton, L. J.	2001	7.88	73	63	48	4 (6.35%)	11 (17.46%)	48 (76.19%)
DIM	Åke Nilsson, P.	2002	7.86	74	55	67	8 (14.55%)	1 (1.82%)	46 (83.64%)
HT	O'Connor, P.	2003	7.83	75	47	75	2 (4.26%)	13 (27.66%)	32 (68.09%)
TOM	Stamboulis, Y., & Skayannis, P.	2003	7.83	75	47	75	4 (8.51%)	9 (19.15%)	34 (72.34%)

TABLE 1. Continued

Authors	Year	Avg Cites per Year	Cites/Year Rank	Total Cites	Total Cites Rank	ISI(%)	TJ excluding ISI(%)	Others (%)
Lepp, A., & Gibson, H.	2003	7.83	75	47	75	4 (8.51%)	14 (29.79%)	29 (61.7%)
Gursoy, D., Kim, K., & Uysal, M.	2004	7.80	78	39	88	5 (12.82%)	7 (17.95%)	27 (69.23%)
Durbarry, R.	2004	7.80	78	39	88	5 (12.82%)	3 (7.69%)	31 (79.49%)
Saxena, G.	2005	7.75	80	31	92	6 (19.35%)	9 (29.03%)	16 (51.61%)
Aguiló, E., Alegre, J., & Sard, M.	2005	7.75	80	31	92	6 (19.35%)	3 (9.68%)	22 (70.97%)
Seddighi, H. R., & Theocharous, A.	2002	7.71	82	54	68	2 (3.7%)	10 (18.52%)	42 (77.78%)
Sirgy, M. J., & Su, C.	2000	7.67	83	69	38	11 (15.94%)	17 (24.64%)	41 (59.42%)
Holden, A.	2003	7.67	83	46	80	3 (6.52%)	8 (17.39%)	35 (76.09%)
Reynolds, P. C., & Braithwaite, D.	2001	7.63	85	61	54	10 (16.39%)	13 (21.31%)	38 (62.3%)
Hankinson, G.	2004	7.60	86	38	90	4 (10.53%)	8 (21.05%)	26 (68.42%)
Waitt, G.	2000	7.56	87	68	41	6 (8.82%)	12 (17.65%)	50 (73.53%)
Lee, C., & Taylor, T.	2005	7.50	88	30	94	3 (10.%)	2 (6.67%)	25 (83.33%)
Chhabra, D., Healy, R., & Sills, E.	2003	7.50	88	45	81	3 (6.67%)	3 (6.67%)	39 (86.67%)
Weaver, D. B.	2005	7.50	88	30	94	4 (13.33%)	8 (26.67%)	18 (60.%)
Money, R. B., & Crotts, J. C.	2003	7.50	88	45	81	2 (4.44%)	19 (42.22%)	24 (53.33%)
Uriely, N.	2005	7.50	88	30	94	3 (10%)	3 (10%)	24 (80%)
Telfer, D. J.	2001	7.50	88	60	56	13 (21.67%)	9 (15%)	38 (63.33%)
Oh, C.	2005	7.50	88	30	94	3 (10.%)	2 (6.67%)	25 (83.33%)
Goossens, C.	2000	7.44	95	67	43	11 (16.42%)	12 (17.91%)	44 (65.67%)
Mitchell, R. E., & Reid, D. G.	2001	7.38	96	59	57	6 (10.17%)	13 (22.03%)	40 (67.8%)
Wang, Y., & Fesenmaier, D. R.	2006	7.33	97	22	99	2 (9.09%)	9 (40.91%)	11 (50%)
Ryan, C., Hughes, K., & Chirgwin, S.	2000	7.33	97	66	45	14 (21.21%)	18 (27.27%)	34 (51.52%)
Jackson, J.	2006	7.33	97	22	99	2 (9.09%)	1 (4.55%)	19 (86.36%)
Sharpley, R.	2002	7.29	100	51	70	7 (13.73%)	4 (7.84%)	40 (78.43%)
		10.16		68.70		698 (10.16%)	1250 (18.20%)	4922 (71.64%)
	Lepp, A., & Gibson, H. Gursoy, D., Kim, K., & Uysal, M. Durbarry, R. Saxena, G. Aguiló, E., Alegre, J., & Sard, M. Seddighi, H. R., & Theocharous, A. Sirgy, M. J., & Su, C. Holden, A. Reynolds, P. C., & Braithwaite, D. Hankinson, G. Waitt, G. Lee, C., & Taylor, T. Chhabra, D., Healy, R., & Sills, E. Weaver, D. B. Money, R. B., & Crotts, J. C. Uriely, N. Telfer, D. J. Oh, C. Goossens, C. Mitchell, R. E., & Reid, D. G. Wang, Y., & Fesenmaier, D. R. Ryan, C., Hughes, K., & Chirgwin, S. Jackson, J.	Lepp, A., & Gibson, H. Gursoy, D., Kim, K., & Uysal, M. Durbarry, R. Saxena, G. Aguiló, E., Alegre, J., & Sard, M. Seddighi, H. R., & Theocharous, A. Sirgy, M. J., & Su, C. Holden, A. Reynolds, P. C., & Braithwaite, D. Hankinson, G. Waitt, G. Lee, C., & Taylor, T. Chhabra, D., Healy, R., & Sills, E. Weaver, D. B. Money, R. B., & Crotts, J. C. Uriely, N. Telfer, D. J. Oh, C. Goossens, C. Mitchell, R. E., & Reid, D. G. Wang, Y., & Fesenmaier, D. R. 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Note. Topic Abbreviations:

DIM—Destination Image and Marketing TPDP—Tourism Product Development and Planning ET—Economics of Tourism HEI—Heritage and Environment Issues

HGR—Host Guest Relationship HT—Hospitality Topics RT—Rural tourism PTB—Psychology and Tourist Behavior TTT—Tourism Technology Trends SCI—Sociology and Culture Issues TRD—Theory and Research Development TOM—Tourism Organization Management

TABLE 2. The Most Popular Topics

Rank	Topic	Number of Articles
1	Psychology and tourist behavior	27
2	Destination image and marketing	25
3	Tourism organization management	15
4	Heritage and environment issues	11
5	Economics of tourism	7
6	Theory and research development	6
7	Tourism technology trends	2
7	Sociology and culture issues	2
7	Rural tourism	2
10	Hospitality topics	1
10	Tourism product development	1
	and planning	
10	Host guest relationship	1
	Total	100

by destination image and marketing (n = 25). The hospitality topics, development and planning, and host guest relationship ranked last, with only one article each. It would be interesting in a future study to uncover the trends in topics in the most cited publications.

CONCLUSIONS

This study attempted to develop an alternative and novel approach to evaluate the quality of published articles based on the number of times that they have been cited. Scholars, especially those who cannot afford Scopus or Thomson Scientific's Web of Science, students, and industrial practitioners can start their literature review with GS, which is free and simple to use. Pauly and Stergiou (2005) stated that GS citation counts are comparable to traditional citation counts, and they suggested that GS is particularly suitable for evaluating research quality in disciplines with low ISI representation and in new journals. Thus, this approach appears to be valuable for the evaluation of articles in tourism journals.

If nobody reads and subsequently cites a published article, the work of the author/s of the article has limited, if any, impact on the academic community. Hence, citation analysis partly answers the question of "So what?" in academic research. This study thus makes a

contribution to the assessment of the impact of tourism research by determining the most influential articles published in tourism journals and their publication sources and topics. The findings are expected to help tourism researchers, especially junior academics, to better plan their research agendas. To increase the impact of their scholarly work, researchers can determine what type/s of articles to write and in which research journal/s to disseminate their research findings.

This study has the limitations of the inclusion of self-citation, the proprietary nature of GS, and ongoing changes in citation counts. Another limitation is the analysis of tourism journals alone. In reality, tourism researchers do not limit their publications only to hospitality and tourism journals. Moreover, certain frequently cited tourism papers such as marketing or information technology related papers may not be published in hospitality and tourism journals. As such, they might not be included in this study.

A natural extension of this research would be to repeat the study for all years and then to compare and contrast the findings between time periods (i.e., those for each year from 2000 to 2007 versus those for all years). As well, it would be interesting to compare and contrast these findings on tourism journals with those on other journals, especially ISI-listed journals, using GS and/or other approaches. Finally, it is likely that some tourism studies were published in mainstream management journals, and were cited by many researchers. As such, these publications' influences on tourism research surely deserve future research efforts.

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