

Coronavirus (COVID-19): A Scientometric Study of World Research Publications

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Abstract

Background: The corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak originating in Wuhan, Hubei province, China, coincided with chunyun, the period of mass migration for the annual Spring Festival. To contain its spread, China adopted unprecedented nationwide interventions on January 23 2020. These policies included large-scale quarantine, strict controls on travel and extensive monitoring of suspected cases. However, it is unknown whether these policies have had an impact on the epidemic. We sought to show how these control measures impacted the containment of the epidemic. Methods: Web of Science database was searched on February 26, 2020 for Corona virus (COVID-19) publications published between 1997 to 2020. It was performed on the same day in order to avoid the possible bias came from update on the database because the metrics are changing over time. All publication types were considered; however publications as errata were excluded. Analysis parameters include year of publication, publication type, patterns of international collaboration, research institutions, journals, impact factor, h-index, language, and times cited. Results: A total of 12612 Corona virus (COVID-19) research publications were published across the world. The Corona virus (COVID-19) associated publications were originated from 25 countries/territories, indicating the international spread of Corona virus (COVID-19) research. The USA was the largest contributor, with 4524 articles published over 32 years, followed by Peoples R China(2667 articles). The total number of citations for these publications has already achieved 8,015, with an average of 9.01 citations per each publication. The h-index for Corona virus (COVID-19) -associated publications was 48. The USA also have the highest h-index (32), followed by KSA (26) and UK (22). Netherland produced the greatest proportion of publications with international research collaboration (72.7 %) followed by the UK (71 %) and Germany (69.1 %) out of the total number of publications for each country.

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