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| RESEARCH ARTICLE

## A Bibliometric Overview of *Orbis Litterarum* from 1983 to 2020

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| ABSTRACT

*Orbis Litterarum* is an international journal devoted to the study of European, American and related literature. This study analyzes the journal publications from 1983 to 2020 in a bibliometric approach after extracting bibliography data from the Web of Science database. The study covered all the published articles of *Orbis Litterarum* from 1983 until 2020, aiming to inform readers and researchers about the journal with both quantitative and qualitative data. The bibliometric study includes the most cited sources, top contributing countries, universities and authors, research fields and publication dynamics. Hopefully, it may help researchers to optimize their research decisions for in-depth studies on literary scholarship, criticism and theory.

| KEYWORDS

*Orbis Litterarum*, bibliometric study, bibliometrix, Web of Science, data.

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

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### 1. Introduction

*Orbis Litterarum*, founded in 1943, is an international journal devoted to the study of European, American and related literature, making outstanding achievements in literary scholarship, criticism and theory. In the second decade of the new millennium, it's necessary to have a retrospective study of the publications of *Orbis Litterarum* for researchers' prospective studies.

Bibliometrics uses bibliographic data to examine a research area and its major trends to provide a general overview (Kumar, Sureka and Pandey, 2020: 831). Based on the theoretical foundation laid down by Kessler (1963), it is gradually used in almost all research fields. Aria and Cuccurullo (2017) developed a unique tool called bibliometrix for performing comprehensive science mapping analysis. After that, bibliometrix has provided objective and reliable analyses in such fields as medicine and science (Brito, Seabra and Figueiredo, 2018), biosimilars (Hernández-Vásquez *et al.*, 2018), sustainable tourism (Della Corte *et al.*, 2019), cognitive and behavioral studies (Aria *et al.* 2020), social vulnerability (Lima and Bonetti, 2020), and innovativeness (Marchiori *et al.* 2021).

### 2. Methods

The bibliometric study with bibliometrics focuses on publications in *Orbis Litterarum* between 1983 and 2020 using the Web of Science (WoS), the world's most trusted global citation database. It covers 1.9 billion cited references from over 171 million records, allowing researchers to track ideas across disciplines and time to make more-informed decisions that guide their research strategy. After retrieving the publication information of *Orbis Litterarum* from the WoS, the data were converted and cleaned for the employed bibliometric tools in Rstudio, a professional software for data scientists to develop and share their work.

### 3. Results and Discussion

We retrieved 1,151 documents published in *Orbis Litterarum* between 1983 and 2020 from the WoS, as shown in Table 1. We will analyze articles only.

**TABLE 1** Document types of publications

Document Types	No.	Percent
Articles	850	73.8
Book reviews	289	25.1
Editorial material, etc.	12	1.1

**3.1 Analysis of articles**

There are 850 articles published in *Orbis Litterarum* from 1983 to 2020. Annual articles range from 17 in 2015 to 32 in 2018, with an average of 22.4 articles per year. Their references amount to 22,129, with an average of 26 references per article.

**3.1.1 Top cited sources**

The top three cited sources are *Orbis Litterarum*, *Cambridge Companion*, and *New Literary History*, as shown in Table 2.

**TABLE 2** Top 10 most-cited sources

No.	Sources	Articles
1	Orbis Litterarum	82
2	Cambridge Companion	40
3	New Literary History	36
4	Critical Inquiry	34
5	Publications of the Modern Language Association of America	30
6	Poetique	26
7	Poetics Today	24
8	Modern Language Review	23
9	Poetics	22
10	Deutsche Vierteljahrsschrift FÜR Literaturwissenschaft Und Geistesgeschichte	20

**3.1.2 Contributing countries and universities**

*Orbis Litterarum* has a global readership, and authors are from all over the world. From 1983 to 2020, scholars from 43 countries contributed to the journal. The USA is the top contributing country with 191 articles, followed by Denmark and Germany.

*Orbis Litterarum* is edited at the University of Southern Denmark University, while the top three contributing universities are University Copenhagen, Aarhus University, and Odense University.

Authors from Denmark are most frequently cited, followed by those from the USA and the UK. However, the three countries with the highest average article citations are Turkey (2.125), Denmark (1.529), and Australia (1.375).

**3.1.3 Collaboration between countries and regions**

As evident in Figure 1, the collaboration between countries and regions is quite limited. Thus, we encourage authors from different literary and cultural backgrounds to work together for more in-depth research and innovative findings.



**FIGURE 1** County collaboration map

### 3.1.4 Contributing authors

As shown in Table 3, as many as 715 scholars contributed their time and wisdom to *Orbis Litterarum* from 1983 to 2020. Lotka's law suggests that 61% of the authors produce only 1 item (article/work). However, 609 scholars (85.2%) wrote only one document for *Orbis Litterarum*, showing that the authorship of *Orbis Litterarum* is more diverse than other journals in general. However, only 10 authors (1.3%) published five documents or more, suggesting that the journal needs more productive authors.

**TABLE 3** Lotka law of author's production

Doc. Written	N. of Authors(715)	Proportion of Authors
1	609	85.2
2	74	10.3
3	14	2
4	8	1.1
5	5	0.7
6	2	0.3
7	1	0.1
8	1	0.1
9	1	0.1

### 3.1.5 Influential authors

Albrecht Classen is the most productive author with nine articles, followed by Sofie Kluge, Ian Almond, Robert Elbaz, and Lars Ole Sauerberg. In terms of the h-index, Albrecht Classen, Ian Almond, and Benjamin Boysen take the first three positions. When evaluated with the g-index, Albrecht Classen, Ian Almond, Lars Ole Sauerberg, and Benjamin Boysen share the first rank. If the m-index is used, Hans Lauge Hansen, Anne Mangel, and Benjamin Boysen are the top three influential authors for *Orbis Litterarum*.

### 3.1.6 Article analysis: research fields

In the 850 articles, we retrieved 1,363 keywords and listed the most popular keywords. Modernism is the most discussed topic. It is both a philosophical and an artistic movement for the creation of new forms of art, philosophy, and social organization, including urbanization, new technologies, and war. The study of Modernism in *Orbis Litterarum* from 1983 to 2020 experienced several turns in research objects, approaches and ideas. It started with a psychological interpretation of Joyce's *Exiles* (van Stralen, 2007), a discussion about the other in Joyce's 'A Painful Case' and 'The Dead' (Boysen, 2007), Joyce's engagement with the theme of exile in relation to Ibsen (Mack, 2008), and Elias Canetti's theory of power under the influence of Joyce (Juan, 2008). Then McCulloch (2012) studied a piece of poetic prose and argued that modernism and theory need to be understood in conjunction with each other. Wood (2013) analyzed the narratological, psychological and physical modalities of performance, concluding with an analysis of desire, creativity and sublimation in Karin Michaelis's *The Dangerous Age*. However, Kaunonen (2013) creatively worked on modernist poetry associated with music, while Willaert (2017) analyzed the literary reception of early television. Afterwards, the study of Modernism returned to literary works. Somers (2017) explained the exclusion of the American "New Poets" from the modernist Canon. Edmond (2018) insists on learning from the role of theory in global modernism and world literature. Freed (2019) believes that schematism is the "writing" of modernity, taking as an example Robert Musil's novel *The Man without Qualities*. Renard (2020) opines that Huxley's use of epiphanies positions his literature in the Modernist context. Matic (2020) thinks that Theodor Fontane's *Effi Briest* is at the cusp of what is to become Modernism.

Childs (2000: 2) states that Modernism is usually studied focusing on major writers (James, Conrad, Proust, Mann, Gide, Kafka, Svevo, Joyce, Musil, Faulkner in fiction; Strindberg, Pirandello, Wedekind, Brecht in drama; Mallarme, Yeats, Eliot, Pound, Rilke, Apollinaire, Stevens in poetry). However, former studies in *Orbis Litterarum* show that it would be creative to find new research objects with new approaches to studying Modernism.

### 3.1.7 Publication dynamics: word dynamics and thematic evolution

Hot topics keep changing from 2007 to 2020. However, researchers are inclined to study "modernism", "postmodernism", "poetry", "intermediality", "psychoanalysis", "memory", "history", "trauma", "holocaust", and "fiction". For example, "intermediality" was studied periodically from 2013 to 2020, and substantial progress was achieved. Kaunonen (2013) studied the contribution of intermediality to the writing of modernist poetry associated with music. Bruhn (2015) believes that Vladimir Nabokov's "Spring in Fialta" is best understood as a mixed mediality text. Ellestrom (2016) takes the analytical perspective of "visual iconicity in poetry" to study visual characteristics. Tanderup (2017) puts forward a modern media culture where literature takes place beyond the book and between media. Vilmar (2020) argues that melophrases create intermedial reading experiences with a significant musical

quality: a feeling of hearing. In *Orbis Litterarum*, studies of intermediality were broadened by combining poetry with music, poetry with iconicity, and novels with sound. We have reasons to expect more creative studies of intermediality from different perspectives.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The study analyzed the publications in *Orbis Litterarum* from 1983 to 2020 in a bibliometric approach. Though it did not cover the documents published between 1940 and 1982 because they were not accessible in WoS, it still had the following findings: 1) The top three cited sources are *Orbis Litterarum*, *Cambridge Companion*, and *New Literary History*. The USA is the top contributing country, followed by Denmark and Germany. The top three contributing universities are University Copenhagen, Aarhus University, and Odense University. The three countries with the highest average article citations are Turkey, Denmark, and Australia. The collaboration between countries and regions is quite limited, inviting authors from different backgrounds to work together for creative research. Lotka's law suggests the authorship of *Orbis Litterarum* is more diverse than other journals in general, and it needs more productive authors. When evaluated with the h-index, g-index and m-index, respectively, influential authors are not the same. Keywords are calculated to identify favorable research fields and publication dynamics.

The bibliometric analysis can inform readers and researchers about *Orbis Litterarum* with both quantitative and qualitative data. Hopefully, it will help researchers to optimize their research decisions and conduct creative studies for *Orbis Litterarum* and literary scholarship at large. However, the current study focuses on only one journal in the literature. Future research may consider more journals on the same topic in literary studies and shed more light on the history and development of a specific literary phenomenon.

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