LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WILEY

Comments on: Ye and Zhang (2019) 'visualizing the knowledge structure of medication-adherence research: A bibliometric analysis (1997–2016)', International Journal of Health Planning and Management, 34: 1333–1353

Abstract

Ye and Zhang used inappropriate search keywords, databases, and methods published a bibliometric paper in the *International Journal of Health Planning and Management*. The comment pointed out the problems, evidence, and improved methods of the study. The authors missed many medication-adherence documents. However, many documents not related to medication-adherence are included. Finally, appropriate search keywords and methods are proposed.

KEYWORDS
bibliometric, front page, medication-adherence, SCI-EXPANDED, searching keywords

1 | INTRODUCTION

Ye and Zhang[1] published a paper entitled 'Visualizing the knowledge structure of medication-adherence research: A bibliometric analysis (1997–2016)' in the *International Journal of Health Planning and Management*. Ye and Zhang mentioned in the 2.1 data source: 'The data in this paper were obtained from the Web of Science Core Collection (WoSCC) on 7 January 2017.'

It is impossible to know the number of 2016 publications in the Web of Science Core Collection on 7 January 2017. Even the author himself cannot repeat the results.

2 | WEB OF SCIENCE CORE COLLECTION INCLUDES

2.1 | Web of science core collection: citation indexes

1. Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-Expanded)—1900-present
2. Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)—1900-present
3. Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI)—1975-present
4. Conference Proceedings Citation Index—Science (CPCI-S)—1990-present
5. Conference Proceedings Citation Index—Social Sciences & Humanities (CPCI-SSH)—1990-present

6. Book Citation Index–Science (BKCI-S)—2005-present
7. Book Citation Index–Social Sciences & Humanities (BKCI-SSH)—2005-present
8. Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)—2015-present

2.2 | Web of science core collection: chemical indexes

1. Current Chemical Reactions (CCR-EXPANDED)
2. Index Chemicus (IC)

It is not suitable to use all these different levels of databases. For example, ESCI complements the highly selective indexes by providing earlier visibility for sources under evaluation as part of the rigorous journal selection process of SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI and A&HCI.[2,3] ESCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, CCR-EXPANDED and IC are not suitable for Ye and Zhang[1] research.

In the same section, the authors point out that the search criteria used in this study are as follows:

- Topic research = (medication adherence OR medication compliance)
- Time span = (from January 1997 to December 2016)
- Document type = (only article, the major document type)
- Language = (all language, English accounted for 95.95%)

Using the same search criteria resulted in 17,364 articles. A difference in 2257 articles (12% of 19,621 articles) was found.

The search keywords used in the original paper[1] were (medication adherence OR medication compliance), that is (medication AND adherence OR medication AND compliance). The search keywords are not suitable for 'Visualizing the knowledge structure of medication-adherence research: A bibliometric analysis (1997–2016)'.

According to the search keywords used by Ye and Zhang[1], the appropriate search keywords ('medication adherence' or 'medication adherences' or 'medicines adherence' or 'medication adherent' or 'medication adherents' or 'medicine adherence' or 'medicinal adherence' or 'medication compliance' or 'medicine compliance' or 'medicational compliance') from 1997 to 2016, using SCI-EXPANDED and SSCI to search in 'Topic' (title, abstract, author keywords, and *KeyWords Plus*) resulted in 8148 articles. SCIE-EXPANDED and SSCI are mainly used by researchers to find published literature, not for bibliometric research.[4,5] Many documents searched out without search keywords in their title, abstract, and author keywords so-called 'front paper'[6] are not related to 'medication-adherence' should not be included in 'Visualizing the knowledge structure of medication-adherence research: A bibliometric analysis (1997–2016)'.[1] Based on 8148 articles, the 'front page" was used as a filter. A total of 5872 - articles (72% of 8148 articles) were found. In addition, 2276 articles (28% of 8148 articles) did not contain any search keywords on their 'front page'. Such a huge difference can be also found in bibliometric papers published in, for example, Environmental Science and Pollution Research,[5,7] Scandinavian Journal of Hospitality and Tourism.[8] It is recommended to use 'front page" as a filter to avoid introducing irrelevant articles for bibliometric analysis.[9,10]

Ye and Zhang[1] published 'Visualizing the knowledge structure of medication-adherence research: A bibliometric analysis (1997–2016)' in the *International Journal of Health Planning and Management* using inappropriate search keywords, databases, and methods. This may lead to misleading readers of the journal.[11] Authors should use more appropriate methods to provide journal readers with accurate information.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest.

ETHICS STATEMENT

(1) This material is the authors' own original work, which has not been previously published elsewhere. (2) The paper is not currently being considered for publication elsewhere. (3) The paper reflects the authors' own research and analysis in a truthful and complete manner. The author agree with the above statements. Date: 10 February 2021.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Research data are not shared.

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