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Comments on: Li et al. (2020) ‘Knowledge structure of technology licensing based on co-keywords network: A review and future directions’ *International Review of Economics & Finance*, 66: 154-165

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ABSTRACT

Li et al. used inappropriate search keywords for their bibliometric in *International Review of Economics & Finance*. A huge mistake was found that may result in misleading readers of the journal. This comment pointed out details about the mistakes.

Li et al. (2020) recently published a paper in *International Review of Economics & Finance* entitled ‘Knowledge structure of technology licensing based on co-keywords network: A review and future directions’. Li et al. mentioned in section 2. Dataset that

‘we extract the publication data about technology license in the core collection of Web of Science. We typed “Technology license” in “topic” filed to research relevant papers from 2005 to 2016. As a result, 5665 journal papers and book sections concerned about technology licensing was abstracted completely. Since we tend to explicate the research situation and construct co-occurrence keywords matrix, 846 papers which either without keywords or noise papers like conference notices, news reports and so on are eliminated.’

Using the same method in the original paper (Li et al., 2020) resulted 12 documents including six articles and six proceedings papers. These results show a huge difference from the results in the original paper (Li et al., 2020). In fact, Li et al. used not “Technology license” but technology license that means (technology and license) to search documents from the Web of Science Core Collection.

Using search keywords technology license in TOPIC filed to research relevant papers from 2005 to 2016 in Web of Science Core Collection as mentioned in the original paper (Li et al., 2020), resulted 6420 documents including 1609 documents (25%) without author keywords and 4811 documents (75% of the 6420 documents) with author keywords in Web of Science Core Collection. In 4811 documents, 2554 proceedings papers, 2081 articles, 256 reviews, 52 book chapters, 26 editorial materials, six retracted publications, four data papers, one biographical-item and reprint respectively had author keywords in the database. Only two proceedings papers by Pan and Chen (2008) and Jun and Yuan (2008) including ‘technology license’ in their title. A total 594 documents included only ‘technology’ but ‘license’ while 132 documents included only ‘license’ but ‘technology’ in their title. A total of 4064 documents not including ‘technology’ nor ‘license’ in their title. In addition, 22 documents including ‘technology license’ in their ‘front page’ including title, abstract, and author keywords (Fu, Wang, & Ho, 2012). A total 710 documents included only ‘technology’ but ‘license’ while 909 documents included only ‘license’ but ‘technology’ in their ‘front page’. A total of 181 documents not including ‘technology’ nor ‘license’ in their ‘front page’.

In recent years, the same mistake has been pointed out in journals, for example *Scandinavian Journal of Hospitality and Tourism* (Ho,

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2019a), *SAGE Open* (Ho, 2019b), and *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* (Ho, 2020a). Recently, Ho (2019c) presented that ‘Research is the way to the truth so that innovations are important to find something new or a new understanding to approach the truth. It is not helpful for researchers to duplicate the same problem again and again without improving their research.’

Furthermore, Web of Science Core Collection includes

Web of Science Core Collection: Citation Indexes includes

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 Science & 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)

Web of Science Core Collection: Chemical Indexes.

1. Current Chemical Reactions (CCR-EXPANDED) (1985-present)
2. Index Chemicus (IC) (1993-present)

It is necessary to choose appropriate databases from the different levels databases in Web of Science Core Collection for bibliometric studies (Ho, 2018, 2019d). ESCI complements the highly selective indexes by providing earlier visibility for sources under evaluation as part of SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, and A&HCI’s rigorous journal selection process (Ho, 2019a; d). SCI-EXPANDED with four documents about “technology license”, SSCI with six documents, A&HCI with none document, CPCI-S with three documents, CPCI-SSH with four document, BKCI-S with none document, BKCI-SSH with none document, ESCI with none document, CCR-EXPANDED with none document, and IC with none document are inappropriate for ‘Knowledge structure of technology licensing based on co-keywords network: A review and future directions’ (Li et al., 2020).

Li et al. (2020) published ‘Knowledge structure of technology licensing based on co-keywords network: A review and future directions’ in *International Review of Economics & Finance* using an inappropriate method. This may result in misleading readers of the journal (Ho, 2019c, Ho, 2020b). It has been pointed out that authors have the duty to use accurate methods in their publications (Ho, 2020a).

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