

Rebuttal to: Li et al. “Dynamic analysis of international green behavior from the perspective of the mapping knowledge domain,” Environmental Science and Pollution Research, vol. 26, pp. 6087–6098

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Li et al. (2019) recently published a paper in the journal, entitled “Dynamic analysis of international green behavior from the perspective of the mapping knowledge domain.” Many of the related results presented in the original paper (Li et al. 2019) are not acceptable because of the use of inappropriate search methods. Li et al. stated in Data sources that “Two databases, SCI-EXPANDED and SSCI, were selected from the core collection of Web of Science. With the topic ‘green behaviour,’ 23,352 documents published from 1986 to 2017 were obtained, including papers, abstracts, and reviews. To make the analysis more scientific, it was necessary to re-screen the 23,352 records and refine them in the literature. Finally, 22,114 papers published from 2000 to 2017 were obtained and exported in the form of full records (covering author and author units, source journal titles, titles, keywords, and abstracts) and cited references in plain-text format.”

SCI-EXPANDED and SSCI from 1986 to 2017 were selected as mentioned in the original paper (Li et al. 2019). In total, 26,605 and 25 documents were found by using searching keywords (green behaviour) and (“green behaviour”) respectively. After our pre-study, searching keywords “green behaviour,” green behaviours,” green behavioural,” “green behavior,” “green behaviors,” and “green behavioral” should be considered for “Dynamic analysis of international green behavior from the perspective of the mapping knowledge domain.” This method results 95 documents including 93 articles in which 86 articles (92% of 93 articles) had

searching keywords in their “front page” while seven articles (7.5%) did not include searching keywords in their “front page.” For example, articles entitled “Improving environmental performance through unit-level organizational citizenship behaviors for the environment: A capability perspective” (Alt and Spitzack 2016) and “Investigating willingness to save energy and communication about energy use in the American workplace with the attitude-behavior-context model” (Xu et al. 2017). By using the “front page” as a filter, it will avoid introducing unrelated articles for analysis (Fu et al. 2012; Ho 2018c). In recent years, similar rebuttals have also been published in *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* (Ho 2018a), *Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews* (Ho 2018c), and *Journal of Soils and Sediments* (Ho 2019).

The Web of Science Core Collection is designed for researchers to find published literatures, not for bibliometric studies (Ho 2018a, b). Therefore, it is critical for researchers to use Web of Science Core Collection accurately (Ho 2018a, b). It was pointed out that the documents searched out by *KeyWords Plus* were irrelevant to “green behavior” (Fu and Ho 2015). Due to the biases from the Web of Science Core Collection, Ho’s group was the first to propose “front page” (including the article title, the abstract, and the author keywords) as a filter to improve the bibliometric method (Fu et al. 2012; Fu and Ho 2014; Ho and Fu 2016).

Li et al. (2019) used inappropriate searching keywords, methods, and data to publish bibliometric article in *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*. In my opinion, Li et al. could have provided a more accurate result if they had used appropriate searching keywords in the first place. In addition, using such limited number of papers for mapping knowledge domain is inappropriate from a statistical point of view.

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