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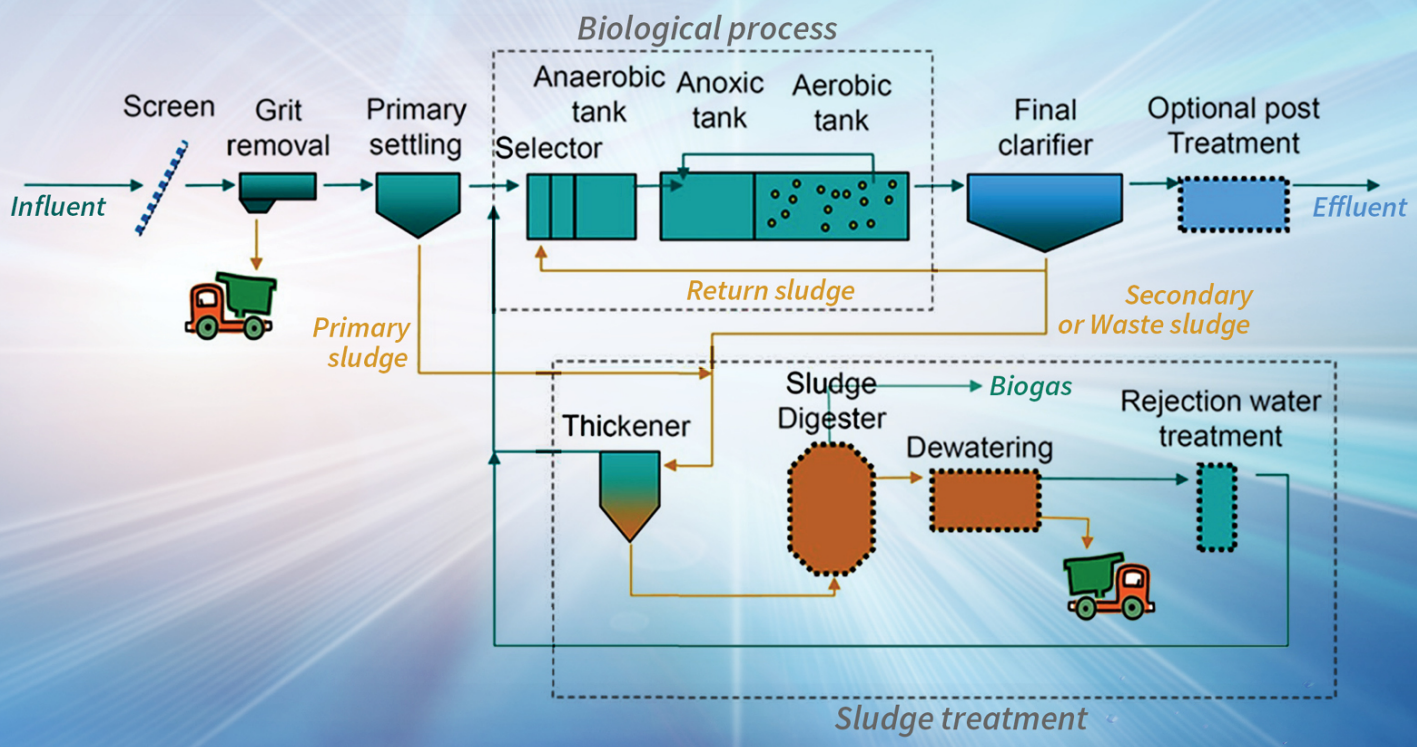

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Comment

Comment on: "A Bibliometric Analysis and Visualization of Medical Big Data Research" *Sustainability* 2018, *10*, 166

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Liao et al. recently published a paper in this journal entitled "A Bibliometric Analysis and Visualization of Medical Big Data Research" [1]. In "Section 2. Data and Methods", the authors specified the following: 'We took "medical big data" as topical retrieval and the time span was defined as "all years" (However, according to the returned results, we know that the first publication in MBD was appeared in 1991). The literature type was defined as "all types". In total, 988 documents met the selection criteria. Ten document types were found in these 988 publications.'

To check results in the original paper [1], we searched the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science, the online version of the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-EXPANDED), and the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) on 2 November 2018. The databases were searched using the keywords "medical big data" in terms of topic (title, abstract, author keywords, and *KeyWords Plus*) within the publication years of 1900 to 2017. Only 18 documents could be found, including 15 articles, two meeting abstracts, and one editorial material but not "988 documents" as mentioned in the original paper [1]. The 15 medical big data-related articles were published by Al Hamid et al. [2], Azar and Hassanien [3], Chen et al. [4], Choi et al. [5], Chow-White et al. [6], Gao et al. [7], Hata and Nakajima [8], Iqbal et al. [9], Kim and Lee [10], Kong et al. [11], Wang et al. [12], Xia et al. [13], Yao et al. [14], Yuan et al. [15], and Zhao et al. [16]. In the same section, the authors noted: "However, according to the returned results, we know that the first publication in MBD was appeared in 1991". However, the article published in 1991, entitled "A Research-Oriented Medical Cost Accounting System" [17], is not related to "medical big data", as there is no mention of "big data" in the article.

The Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-EXPANDED) and the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) were originally designed for researchers to find published literature, but not intended for bibliometric study [18,19]. Thus, it is necessary to employ bibliometric analysis when using the Web of Science database for bibliometric study. Understanding of the database used and an appropriate data treatment are needed for bibliometric study. Liao et al. [1] used the wrong method and data to publish "A Bibliometric Analysis and Visualization of Medical Big Data Research" in *Sustainability*, and this may result in misleading readers of the journal.

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