

FINANCIAL STRESS REVIEW: A BIBIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract

This paper seeks to review Financial Stress literature. Using bibliometric analysis, 690 full-paper articles from an open access journals indexed by SCOPUS have been selected. The selection criteria also include the recent five years publication from 2018- 2022, with English only language. It was found that USA have been the top country producing financial stress research articles and Journal of Affective Disorders has the highest publications among other top journals. Financial Stress Country wise, Malaysia still has a long way to climb the ladder and be at par with the top-notch countries.

Keywords: Finance, Stress, Bibliometric, Review, Literature.

INTRODUCTION

The objective of this paper is to review the financial stress literature using bibliometric analysis. Past research conducted either qualitatively or quantitatively has found many influencing factors and impact towards financial stress. However, we would like to explore what, who and when and where this research was done.

The pandemic of Corona virus has been badly affecting so many people in the world financially. Even though the pandemic is over, many are still struggling with financial hardships and are in dire need of help to stand on their own feet. The struggle is real that this causes financial stress to them. Financial stress is associated with unhealthy financial well-being which is caused by certain factors such as struggling with no or low income (Friedline et al., 2021; Ismail and Zaki, 2019) and debt

delinquencies (Xiao and Kim, 2022) and their inability to pay their bills. Untreated financial stress may lead to anxiety (Tran et al., 2018) and depression (Guan et al., 2022), low quality of life, satisfaction, and bad health (Huang et al., 2020). The depression caused by financial stress may further trigger individuals to suffer from psychological depression and social selection (Guan et al., 2022). Other impacts such as absenteeism, low productivity, resignation, lateness, sleeplessness and alcoholism can also be observed among the individuals who are suffering from financial stress (Oyadeyi et al., 2022). It is reported that the individuals' faiths and beliefs, family support as well as getting help from the counsellors and therapy treatment are among the coping strategies to reduce financial stress (Friedline et al., 2021).

The review revealed that certain journals are preferable than others when it comes to publication. Journals from the United States also dominate the publications which eventually makes it become the highest publications for this topic.

METHODOLOGY

This qualitative study was conducted using bibliometric analysis (Donthu et al., 2021). The SCOPUS database was chosen for this purpose and the keyword was "FINANCIAL STRESS". Only open-access, full-paper articles with English medium from the year 2018- 2022 were selected. The field area was Social Science, Economics Econometric and Finance, Psychology, and Business Management and Accounting. All the selected articles were saved using the bibtex. The R software was then utilised to yield the results including the main findings, the authors, the publication of articles according to year, publishers, countries and themes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The search found 690 documents which fulfilled all the set criteria. These documents were written by 2421 authors and published at 399 sources. There were 3.83 co-authors per document. The average citation per document is 6,803. The rate of international co-authorship is 27.97%. There were 206 financial stress articles published in 2022, 187 (2021), 119(2020), 87 (2019) and 90 in 2018 as in Table 1. It can be seen that these publications increase over time, possibly due to the Covid 19 pandemic situation.

Table 1. Number of articles produced per year

Year	Articles
2018	90
2019	87
2020	119
2021	187
2022	206

Figure 1 shows that Journal of Affective Disorders is the top-notch publisher among Top 10 listed publications with 16 documents. This followed by SSM-Population Health (13), Journal of Family and Economic Issues (12), Social Science and Medicine (11), Child Abuse and Neglect, Psycho-Oncology, Resource Policy (10 each respectively) and Finance Research Letters (8 documents). Journal of Affective Disorders has 7.8 cite score and 6.533 impact factor making it ranked first in this analysis.

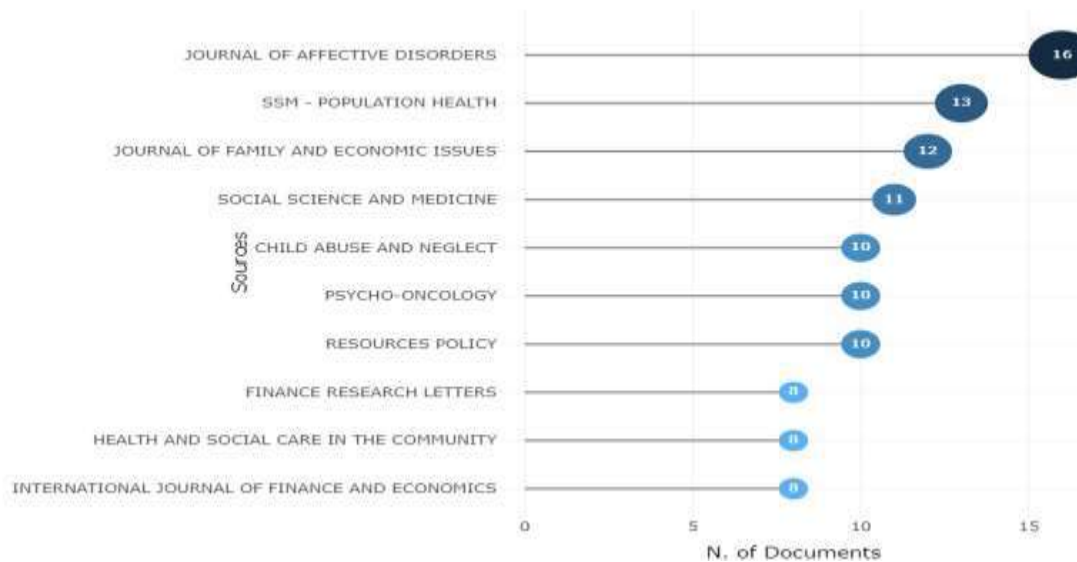


Figure 1: Publications by Top Ranked Journals

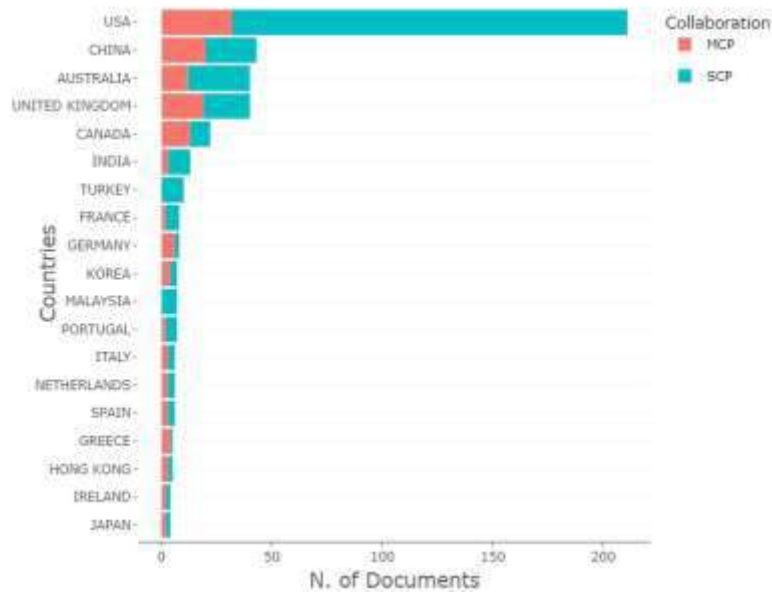


Figure 2: Publications by Countries

Based on the Figure 2, it was discovered that that single and multiple authors from USA have the highest number of publications (more than 200), followed by China, Australia, UK and Canada. Surprisingly Malaysia was placed 11th, which all were from single collaboration partnership.

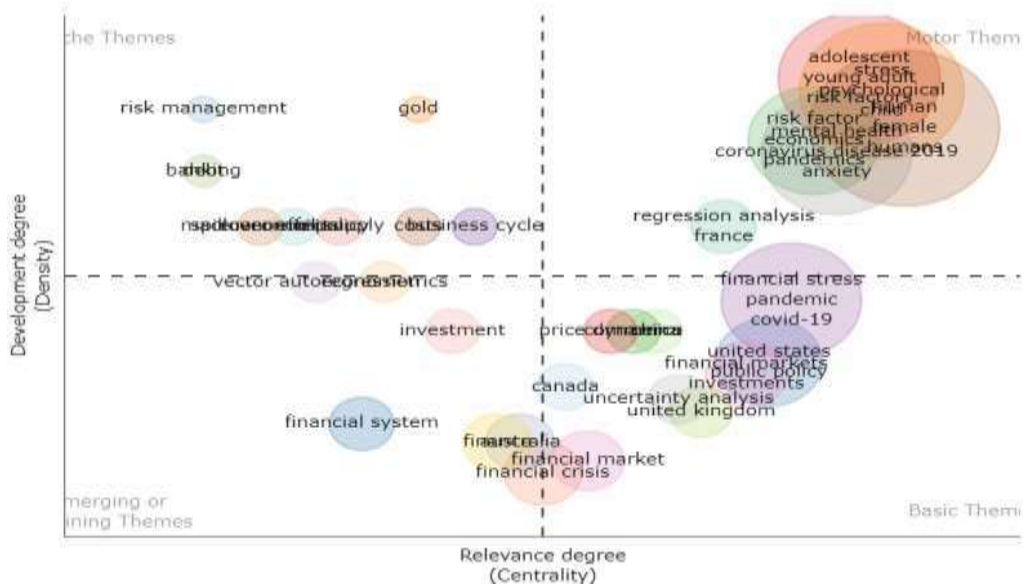


Figure 3: Thematic Evolution (2018-2022)

The thematic evolution was divided into four themes which are niche theme and emerging theme for the density and, motor theme and basic theme for the centrality. As displayed in Figure 3, it was found that the financial stress topic is categorized in between basic and motor theme and this topic is hot research topic especially when it is related to Covid 19 pandemic.

CONCLUSIONS

Financial stress topic has been a hot topic especially during pandemic of Covid 19. Though all in the world have been affected by this pandemic, the USA authors have dominated this research area in a significant degree, way far from China and other countries. However, this review is only limited to full open English articles from Scopus platform only, thus it may have missed some other of good quality articles not listed in Scopus. This is not an SLR or meta-analysis hence the review has opted all other details in the articles.

The bibliometric analysis is a technique which has given other perspective and insights of the literature review. The R software has made it possible to see the topic trend and area be sought after in the future. It can be concluded that financial stress topic still has much room to be explored especially in Malaysia. Our future work may include financial stress among employees and its impact towards their performance.

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