

A Bibliometric Analysis of Holiday-Related Research Trends from 2000 to 2024: Insights from Scopus

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ABSTRACT

Holidays are an important element in individual life as they facilitate physical and mental recuperation, reduce stress, and enhance social relationships. Despite their significance, scholarly attention on holiday-related studies remains relatively limited. This study aims to examine the research trends on holiday-related publications indexed in Scopus from 2000 to 2024 through a bibliometric analysis. Articles containing the keyword “Holiday” and filtered for open access were retrieved from the Scopus database, resulting in a total of 1,701 documents. The analysis focused on publication trends, document types, source titles, institutional contributions, and keyword frequency in article titles. Findings show a steady increase in publications over time, with significant growth from 2017 to 2023 and a peak in 2022 accounting for 10.05% of total output. A notable surge between 2020 and 2022 corresponds with the COVID-19 pandemic, which influenced research interest in holidays, travel, and well-being. In terms of document types, journal articles dominate (93%), followed by review articles, editorials, and letters. PLoS ONE emerged as the leading source journal (5.68%), followed by International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health and BMC Public Health. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine was identified as the leading contributing institution, indicating strong academic involvement in this field. This study highlights the evolving landscape of holiday-related research and its increasing academic relevance over time. The findings provide valuable insights for researchers by mapping publication trends and identifying key areas of focus within the field. Overall, the study contributes to a better understanding of research development on holidays and suggests potential directions for future studies, particularly in exploring broader temporal coverage and socio-economic impacts of holidays.

Keywords: holiday, bibliometric analysis, Scopus, well-being, trends

INTRODUCTION

Holiday is a period of rest allocated for an individual to take a break from work responsibilities or daily routines. Holidays are intended to restore energy, spend time with family, or engage in other activities. Holidays play an important role in restoring and enhancing the physical, mental, and productivity of an individual at the workplace. In Malaysia, there are various types of holiday, such as public holidays, general holidays, festive holidays, and annual holiday. By taking a vacation, an individual can reduce stress by resting from meeting people or environments that make them stressed (Castrillon, 2021). Holidays can also stimulate a country's economy when individuals who take time off choose to travel, leading to spending in certain sectors such as tourism (Roth, 2021).

Therefore, this study will examine temporal trends, which refer to the analysis or observation of changes in publications related to holiday studies to identify priority issues and differences in the field of study. For this purpose, articles on holidays published between 2000 and 2024 were collected and analyzed. The findings of this study are expected to provide useful information to researchers in this field and to map the direction for further studies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Holiday

Holidays are an important element in the well-being of individuals and the effectiveness of an organization, as well as their role in the economy through the tourism sector. It can increase the use of public transit such as subways through tourists using it as their main mode of transportation. The direct use of public transportation can contribute to a country's economy through payments for its use (Cui et al., 2024). Individuals who are on vacation will also help stabilize their emotions. However, this is influenced by several other factors such as who they go on vacation with, what their relationship is, whether they go on vacation with someone of a different gender or not, and whether they go on vacation alone or in a group (Blanco-Moreno et al., 2024).

However, holidays can also have negative effects if the activities undertaken are not beneficial, such as using illegal substances or excessively attending events like concerts, which can have negative impacts on physical, mental, and financial well-being (Chaaban et al., 2024). Holidays generally have a positive effect if the activities undertaken are beneficial. However, if the activities carried out are negative, then the individual will experience negative consequences.

Bibliometric Analysis

Bibliometric analysis is a method of data and text analysis that uses a domain analysis approach and a quantitative approach to analyze academic literature through various parameters such as the number of publications, authors, journals, fields, and affiliations (Lundberg, 2023; Mhlanga & Dzingirai, 2024). This method is effective for identifying trends in large datasets based on exploration, evaluation, and organization of historical data (Chen et al., 2020).

Next, this bibliometric analysis can also evolve into a systematic approach capable of predicting emerging trends on specific topics (Tanshzil et al., 2024). One of the methods used to observe temporal trends is through the process of identifying published works by country, research institute, journal, and research field (Abdelwahab et al., 2024). The use of this analysis is also applied to map the development of a particular research statistically through tables or visually through the use of software such as Vosviewer, to facilitate the understanding of more complex research (Ridwana et al., 2024), (Lv et al., 2024).

METHODOLOGY

The data for this study is based on articles indexed in Scopus in November 2024. The selection of the Scopus database for this analysis is due to its comprehensive and up to-date collection of journals from various research fields. The Scopus database consists of over 97.3 million records, more than 28,300 active serial titles, and over 363,000 books (Elsevier, 2024). This enables the use of reliable, source-neutral data and metrics for referencing related to institutions, authors, and research fields (Elsevier, 2024).

Based on the keyword "holiday" used in the Scopus search engine, 1701 results were listed by setting specific filters such as only open access and publication years from 2000 to 2024. All articles were then stored in reference management software, and all article meta-data were filled in and reviewed accordingly. After removing duplicate records and screening out irrelevant articles based on title, abstract, and keyword relevance, the final dataset comprised 1,701 articles for subsequent bibliometric analysis.

This paper uses bibliometric analysis to examine publication patterns regarding holidays. This paper employs bibliometric analysis using the biblioMagika® to examine publication patterns and research trends related to holidays (Ahmi, 2024).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

All obtained articles were analyzed according to the following aspects: year of publication, type of document (including institutional and authorial), and source title.

Year of Publication

This paper will first analyse the distribution of articles based on the year of publication as shown in Table 1. The first article that has been published is Drug holiday: A challenging child-adult interface in kidney transplantation by (Cochat et al., 2000). The number of articles published from 2017 to 2023 is the highest compared to other years. The highest number of publications on holidays was in 2022, representing 10.05% of the total number of publications

Table 1: Year of Publication

Year	Frequency	Percentage (%)
2000	9	0.53
2001	15	0.88
2002	15	0.88
2003	17	1.00
2004	18	1.06
2005	19	1.12
2006	35	2.06
2007	25	1.47
2008	30	1.76
2009	38	2.23
2010	43	2.53
2011	47	2.76
2012	58	3.41
2013	72	4.23
2014	72	4.23
2015	67	3.94
2016	88	5.17
2017	96	5.64
2018	107	6.29
2019	109	6.41

2020	157	9.23
2021	158	9.29
2022	171	10.05
2023	149	8.76
2024	86	5.06
Total	1701	100.00

Document Type

This paper also analyzes the drafting of articles based on document type. This study was able to identify 5 types of documents from a total of 1701 articles. Table 2 shows a summary of the findings. Journal articles represent the majority of the types of documents that have been produced followed by review, editorial, and the lowest is a letter.

Table 2: Document Type

Document Type	No. Document	Percentage (%)
Article	1582	93.00
Review	60	3.53
Editorial	33	1.94
Letter	26	1.53
Total	1701	100.00

Most journal articles (5.68%) are published on PLoS One as shown in table 3. Based on the title of the article from this journal, it was found that most of the articles were related to the holidays due to Covid-19 and their impact on mental health. (Wiwanitkit & Joob, 2020; Wu et al., 2020; Quilty et al., 2020; Lei et al., 2020; Song et al., 2020; Madani et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2021; Zhong et al., 2020; Le et al., 2021; Plümper & Neumayer, 2021; Bayes et al., 2021; Du et al., 2021; Pomeroy et al., 2022; Takahashi et al., 2022; Zou et al., 2022).

Only 3.53% of the total articles were published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, followed by BMC Public Health with a total percentage of 2.11, BMJ Open with 1.41%, Science of Total Environment with 1.35% and Journal of Travel Medicine with 0.99%. The remaining number of journal articles are published under the heading of other journals.

Table 3: Journal Title

Journal Title	Frequency	Percentage (%)
PLoS ONE	97	5.68
International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health	60	3.53
BMC Public Health	36	2.11

BMJ Open	24	1.41
Science of the Total Environment	23	1.35
Journal of Travel Medicine	17	0.99
Other Journals	1444	84.89
Total	1701	100.00

Most of the documents were produced by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, which represents the highest institution of research on holiday. Followed by Public Health England, UNSW Sydney, Harvard Medical School and The University of Sydney.

The list of Institutions that produce research documents on holidays is as shown in table 4.

Table 4: List of Institutes Contributing to Holiday Research

Institution	Total Publication	Percentage (%)
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	35	2.06
Public Health England	34	2.00
UNSW Sydney	31	1.82
Harvard Medical School	28	1.65
The University of Sydney	28	1.65
King's College London	25	1.47
University of Toronto	24	1.41
University of Melbourne	23	1.35
The University of Queensland	23	1.35
University of Washington	22	1.29

Title Souce Analysis

The title of the article possesses the information that the author wants to express or convey, as the title is the first thing the reader sees and reads.

This study analyzed all single words in the title of 1701 articles. English conjunction such as "of", "in", "and", "by", "among" and "for" will be removed from the analysis.

Table 5 shows a list of the ten most frequently used words in article titles. This study uses article titles to generate public words by using the help of the website wordsift (<https://wordsift.org/>). The decision can be seen in Figure 1.

Table 5: Ten Most Used Words in Source Titles

Word	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Holiday	295	7.48
Study	272	6.90
Patient	138	3.50
Analysis	130	3.29
Effect	124	3.14
Covid	113	2.86
Child	111	2.81
Impact	110	2.79
Time	107	2.71
Case	103	2.61

Figures 1: Word Cloud from Article Source



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this paper aims to look at the trends of published articles on holidays and provide insight into the features and issues of such articles. This paper uses bibliometric analysis to analyze all documents that have been matched with the specified keyword, which is holiday. A total of 1701 articles and 4 types of documents were successfully obtained. By analyzing the distribution of title sources, this paper can explain the development of research and predict research trends regarding holidays. The study concluded that most studies were published in journal form.

Most of the studies focused more on holidays due to the Covid-19 pandemic that spread from 2020 to 2022. This paper is limited to a study on holidays starting from 2000 to 2024. Accordingly, the research on holiday before 2000 was not taken and analyzed. The results of this bibliometric analysis can help relevant researchers to realize the research landscape on holidays and subsequently be able to set the direction for further research. Future research may be able to examine the development of holidays before 2000 and the impact of holidays on the socio-economy of an organization. In addition, further research can also focus on the difference in holiday by comparing those with high and low incomes.

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Ethical Considerations

Ethical approval was not required for this study as it involved the analysis of publicly available bibliographic data and did not include human participants. All data were obtained from reputable academic databases and were used solely for research purposes. The study ensured proper citation and acknowledgment of all sources to avoid plagiarism and maintain academic integrity.

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