

SPANISH SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION IN TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY: AN ANALYSIS OF AUTHORSHIP BASED ON INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS WITH HIGH IMPACT AND VISIBILITY

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Spanish position in the context of international tourism has been privileged for many years, although training and research in tourism have been incorporated later in this dynamic. As a consequence of the scarce development of university education in tourism, Spanish tourism research is beginning to consolidate from the 21st century. For example, Spain is ranked fifth in the world ranking by number of scientific documents that register the Scimago Journal Rank in 2015 in the area of tourism, leisure and hospitality management (SCImago, 2017).

All Spanish researchers belong to a diversity of areas of scientific knowledge, without being any of them a specific area of tourism since it does not exist in Spain. Most probably, the number of Spanish postdoctoral researchers who have obtained a university degree in tourism is scarce. However, tourism students can already do doctoral studies in the tourism field since 2008. In addition, in 2013, the first Interuniversity Doctorate in Tourism was constituted with the support of the University of Alicante, the University of Málaga, the University Rey Juan Carlos and the University of Seville.

The late incorporation of the teaching of tourism into the catalogue of university studies has contributed to generating many doubts about the importance of Spanish tourism research. The majority of Spanish authors have reflected on this in several bibliometric studies (Esteban, 2000; Vera e Ivars, 2001; López-Bonilla y López-Bonilla, 2004; Albacete-Sáez y Fuentes-Fuentes, 2010; Hernández, Campón y Folgado, 2011; Vargas, 2011a). As López-Bonilla and López-Bonilla (2004) pointed out a decade ago, the great importance that the tourism sector has shown to reach in Spain has not corresponded with the attention given by the scientific community.

Recently, Spanish researchers have shown interest in the bibliometric analysis on tourism and hospitality research. In this way, several studies have been carried out from different perspectives or disciplines, such as geography (e.g. Antón, López, Marchena and Vera, 1996; Corral and San Eugenio, 2013; Corral and Cànoves, 2014), marketing (e.g. Bigné et al., 2008; López-Bonilla and López-Bonilla, 2008), economy (e.g. Bote, 1996; Figuerola, 2000; Aguiló, 2010) or management (e.g. Camisón and Monfort, 1996; Camisón et al., 1997; Sánchez and Marín, 2003; Ruiz, Chávez and Arias, 2006; Hernández, Campón and Folgado, 2011; Albacete, Fuentes and Haro-Domínguez, 2013). But also some studies have been considered with a general or multidisciplinary character (e.g., Albacete-Sáez and Fuentes-Fuentes, 2010; Vargas, 2011a, 2011b; Moreno and Picazo, 2012; Corral and Cànoves, 2013; Corral-Marfil, Rodríguez, Vargas and Cànoves, 2015, López-Bonilla, Granados-Perea and López-Bonilla, 2017; Peláez-Verdet and Ferrera-Blasco, 2017). Most of these studies have been based on publications in scientific journals, although others have done so through doctoral theses (eg, Esteban, 2000; Ortega and Rodríguez, 2004; Agencia Valenciana de Turismo, 2006; López-Bonilla and López-Bonilla, 2008; Vargas, 2011b) or by means of the minutes of congresses specialized in tourism and hospitality (e.g. Miralbel, Lamsfus, Gomis and González, 2012; Corral-Marfil, 2013; Corral and San Eugenio, 2013). However, none of these works has focused especially on the authorship analysis.

The main objective of the present work is to identify the prolific authors who are affiliated with Spanish institutions that have published their works in the tourism and hospitality field in international journals of high impact. These journals are those indexed in the most important databases worldwide, such as Scopus and especially Web of Science (Journal Citation Reports). Specifically, we intend to analyse the number of articles published by prolific authors, their gender, the number of co-authors, the number of citations, the journals they publish, as well as the institutions and areas of knowledge to which they belong to. As Zhao and Ritchie (2007) point out, authorship analysis is a much more recent phenomenon in tourism and hospitality research than in other mature disciplines. In this way, we intend to analyse both the scientific production and the productivity of these authors descriptively through some bibliometric indicators.

2. METHODOLOGY

The selection of authors has been based on the publications that appear in the Scopus database. The study period analysed covers 12 years, from 2002 to 2013. A case counting method has been applied, which has been based on recording the number of papers published by each of the researchers affiliated with Spanish institutions.

In addition, all journals indexed in Scopus have been analysed. Thus, 52 journals included in the category of «Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality Management» by Scopus in 2014. The selection of papers published in non-specialized journals in tourism has been based on the search for four keywords that are clearly identified with tourism research, such as: «tourism» and «tourist», of a general nature and which cover the vast majority of published works; and «hotel» and «travel agency», of a more specific character as they are related to the main tourist companies of the sector. This search has been done through

Scopus' article titles, abstracts and keywords. In addition, a last complementary search has been done to the previous one that has been based on searching a wide set of keywords. For this purpose, all keywords included in the studies of Corral and Cànoves (2013) and González-Albo et al. (2009) have been used.

Also, in the search process, only those works that appear as publications in journals (identified in Scopus with the term «journals») and that have undergone scientific review have been included, that is, we have eliminated those documents that have been considered as editorials, books, book chapters and book reviews.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The journals in which the Spanish authors publish are very diverse, including journals specialised in hospitality and tourism and journals of other fields of study. However, the main journals of tourism and hospitality are the most outstanding in the number of publications of Spanish authors. JCR journals published by Spanish prolific authors from 2002 to 2013 are as follows: *Tourism Management*, with 39 articles; *Tourism Economics*, with 30 articles; and *Annals of Tourism Research*, with 16 articles.

A total of 46 authors who have published at least six papers in journals indexed in journals included in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR), in the field of tourism and hospitality research, have been identified as Spanish prolific authors. Almost all of these authors publish a greater percentage of articles in JCR journals than in journals indexed in Scopus only. There is a great concentration of the areas of knowledge to which these Spanish authors are attached, such as Applied Economics, Marketing and Business Administration. Thus, the areas of prolific authors are largely concentrated in the fields of economics and business. Also noteworthy are some institutions to which the Spanish authors belong, such as, in particular, the University of the Balearic Islands and the University of Alicante. The preferred scientific journals of Spanish prolific authors are *Tourism Management* and *Tourism Economics*. The results also indicate that scientific production is concentrated especially in regions of a more tourist nature, in line with previous studies (e.g. López-Bonilla and López-Bonilla, 2008; Albacete-Sáez and Fuentes-Fuentes, 2010; Vargas, 2011a; Albacete, Fuentes and Haro-Domínguez, 2013).

The ranking of authors is clearly led by J.L. Nicolau (University of Alicante), especially with regard to the number of papers published, with 26 articles published in Scopus, as well as for getting the largest number of articles published in JCR journals classified in the Q1 quartile among all prolific authors, with 10 articles. But he is also the author that more publications have achieved in journal specialised in tourism and hospitality. The second place in the ranking is occupied by J. Rosselló (University of the Balearic Islands), with 21 published works, eight of them being JCR publications. In the third position by the number of works published in Scopus appears the first woman author, D.M. Frías Jamilena (University of Granada). There are eight women among the 32 leading prolific authors who have published in JCR.

On the other hand, three-quarters of the works have been published by two or three authors, with an average of 2.68 authors per article. These figures are somewhat high compared to the average of 2.1 authors who indicate Zhao and Ritchie (2007) in an inter-

national context. In this sense, it highlights the name of J.L. Nicolau, with an average of 1.58 authors per article in all of its publications. In the present study, the collaboration between authors and institutions is predominantly local and unidisciplinary. That is, the great majority of Spanish prolific authors publish their works with authors who belong to the same institution and the same area of scientific knowledge.

Another relevant indicator in the productivity of authors is the number of citations received by their publications. In this sense, according to the Scopus citations of the works published by the Spanish prolific authors analysed, we must distinguish four first authors who exceed half a thousand citations for their publications in JCR, which are the following: J.M. Peiró, with 633 quotations; E. Claver-Cortes, with 626 citations; J.F. Molina-Azorín, with 589 citations; J. Alegre, with 542 citations.

For future studies we could deepen the analysis of the productivity of Spanish tourism and hospitality research. For this, it would be very useful to use other bibliometric indicators, such as fractionated publication count and index h.