A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF DIGITAL NOMAD RESEARCHES

DİJİTAL GÖÇEBE ARAŞTIRMALARININ BİBLİYOMETRİK ANALİZİ

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ÖZ

Dijital göçebeler yerleşik yaşam tarzını, belirli mesai saatlerini ve mekâna bağımlı çalışma düzenini reddederek gelirlerini genellikle dijital teknolojilerden yararlanarak sağlayan kozmopolit kişilerdir. Bilgi, internet ve yeni medya teknolojilerinde yaşanan gelişmeler neticesinde dijital göçebelerin sayısı her geçen gün artmaktadır. Yaşam tarzlarını ve lokasyonlarını işe değil, yaşam tarzlarına göre belirleyen göçebeler ekonomi, turizm, teknoloji ve toplumsal alanlar başta olmak üzere multidisipliner çalışmalara konu olmaktadır.

Bu makale, Scopus veri tabanında yayınlanmış olan dijital göçebelere yönelik çalışmaların bibliyometrik bir analizini sunmaktadır. VOSviewer programı kullanılarak elde edilen verilere göre 44 çalışma incelenmiş olup bu çalışmalara ait anahtar kelimeler, atıf sayıları, yayın yapan ülkeler ve yazarlar, çalışmaların yayınlandıkları dergiler gibi değişkenler analiz edilmiştir. Yeni bir çalışma ve girişimcilik modeli, yeni bir turist tipolojisi ve daha kapsamlı şekilde ele alırsak yeni bir yaşam tarzı olarak ortaya çıkan dijital göçebelerin bugün ve gelecekteki öneminin anlaşılması bu çalışmanın amacını oluşturmaktadır.

ABSTRACT

Digital nomads, making their livelihood using digital technologies, are cosmopolitan people who refuse to live settled lifestyles and to work in fixed office conditions. In recent years the number of digital nomads has been increasing because of developments in the internet and alternative media sources. Nomads, who determine their lifestyles and locations according to this life perspective rather than to their profession, have been the subject of various multidisciplinary studies, especially in economy, tourism, technology, and social fields. This article presents a bibliometric analysis of studies on digital nomads indexed in the Scopus database. In light of the data from the VOSviewer program, 44 studies were examined, and the variables such as authors, keywords, citations, countries, journals were analyzed. The current study aims to reveal the significance of digital nomads emerging as a new professional entrepreneurship model, a new tourist typology, and, principally, an alternative lifestyle.

Introduction

The developments in communication and transportation technologies have brought dynamism to people's lifestyles and led them to move more frequently. Once, while people lived in a relatively limited environment, today, the world has become a place where temporal and spatial limitations have faded, and information and communication have become fluid. The real world and digital content are blended through digitalization to develop tourists' experiences and higher tourism revenues. Mobile devices, internet connection, and social media have accelerated the digital travel revolution and transformed the tourism industry in recent years (Law et al., 2018; Adeola and Evans, 2019; Saura et al., 2020; Hojeghan and Esfangareh, 2011). The Internet and social media enable online and offline access, which is necessary for tourism destinations, services, and products to compete globally (Buhalis, 2003). Through digitalization, while tourists share their tourism experiences online on social networks, tourism stakeholders use social media tools to maintain their promotional and marketing activities, increase brand awareness, and grow the number of current and potential customers. Tourism is a large industry encompassing hotels, destinations, travel agencies, and tourists, both numerically and financially. Tourism, which is a leisure activity, is a prominent component of national, international, and global economies (Benyon et al., 2014: 521).

New media technologies, digitalization, and globalization, there has been an increase in the number of studies on the digital nomad concept, which has emerged in recent years. In their futuristic paper on digital nomads, Makimoto and Manners (1997) advocated the idea of a globalized world where new technologies, new working arrangements, and entrepreneurial practices would radically change people's lives. While the flexibility and mobility that digital nomadism promises are an attractive lifestyle for digital workers, this lifestyle also brings with it various challenges for those who demand a balance between freedom and stabilization (Richter and Richter, 2020: 79). As a result of the effects of digitalization and globalization, entrepreneurs, freelancers, and other staffers have started to change their perspectives on work and devote more time to their private lives by refusing to work intensively in fixed workplaces and hours (Hensellek and Puchala, 2021). With digitalization, working styles such as flexible working, remote working, freelance working, as opposed to working full-time in an office, have become increasingly popular. Companies increasingly collaborate with remote workers and digital nomads, as they usually cost less than full-time employees (Frey, 2013: 46). Digital nomads use novel communication technologies for their livelihood and, generally, live by traveling like traditional nomads. Such staffers can work from anywhere (home, cafe, library, beachside, etc.) without traditionally being attached to a single home or workplace (Orel, 2019). A digital nomad differs from a tourist, a freelancer, or even a traveler, and the term represents more generally a lifestyle. People who prefer this lifestyle redefine their life by pursuing jobs that enable global travel, flexible working hours, and getting away from the traditional office environment (Schroeder: 2016).

The current research examined the studies titled "digital nomad" and "digital nomadism" published in Scopus, one of the largest and most reliable databases, and used a bibliometric method based on content organization analysis to obtain and process data (Wallin, 2005). The "VOSviewer" software was used to evaluate the bibliometric analysis and visualize the data. This study aimed to reveal the available research on digital nomads in the literature and guide future studies.

Conceptual Framework

Digital nomads are people who can work anytime and anywhere when there is digital infrastructure without the limitations of space and time (Blatt & Gallagher, 2013). Depending on information and communication technologies, digital nomads work in different jobs and locations to maintain their lifestyles. Digital nomads generally carry out free-time and flexible jobs such as internet technologies-based blogging, web designer, graphic design, software engineering, social media management, digital marketing (Hermann and Paris, 2020: 332). The global spread of technology and information infrastructures and changing working norms have raised the popularity of digital nomadism. However, the digital nomadism definition does not include everyone who conducts their business on the internet and works without being bound to a particular place. The most distinctive feature of digital nomads is working while traveling or traveling while working. Digital nomads' private and business lives are intermingled because of their option to travel and work together. These people are also global travelers with a constant desire to explore different places. Digital nomads who frequently travel to domestic or abroad destinations choose their destinations according to their entertainment and lifestyle expectations, regardless of their job (Thompson, 2018: 3). While choosing their own lifestyle, work activities,

and stations, they usually prefer tropical regions or remarkable places suitable for their hobbies such as surfing, hiking, backpacking, and skiing. The smart technological devices enable digital nomads to work in cafes with free Wi-Fi and in coworking spaces providing individual desk and office facilities. Unlike tourists, digital nomads have to continue to work while traveling and constantly balance their travel and professional life (Nash et al., 2018).

Some researchers predict that the increase in the number of digital nomads will continue and exceed 1 billion in the next 15-20 years (Wiranatha et al., 2020). Digital nomads defying the classical working rules act with the desire to live a free life (Haking, 2017). In contrast to the limited times and routes of typical business trips, digital nomadism offers more freely travel opportunities during the business. Digital nomadism, which has become an increasingly popular topic in academic fields, is portrayed in the media as a liberating, attractive, and alternative lifestyle against the concept of routine work (Aroles et al., 2020: 115). Digital nomads use platforms such as Nomad List to determine where to travel. These platforms list cities worldwide with filtering features such as quality of life, cost, internet speed (Cook, 2020: 356). In this way, digital nomads can determine the locations they will travel to, consult the experiences of other digital nomads like themselves, and develop new business and travel ideas by meeting them. Globalization and digitalization play a critical role in forming modern and trendy identities, new business lines, and alternative lifestyles. New communication technologies, such as mobile internet, artificial intelligence, cloud technology, and social media, promise location-independent work and new business areas (Ens et al., 2018). Digital nomadism has become popular in social and traditional media over the past few years. Along with creating their professional identities and prestige, nomads commodify their work, travel, and life experiences by actively using social media (Bonneau & Aroles, 2021: 158). This situation raises social media users' interest in the digital nomadic lifestyle.

Most digital nomads are usually from the new generation trying to blur the boundaries of their work and life by utilizing technologies to live both their work and private lives as advantageously as possible (Thompson, 2019). Becoming a digital nomad requires affordable, intelligent, and portable devices to run the business. In addition, wireless internet connection and cloud systems are necessary to send, receive and archive digital files. These technologies allow digital nomads to act regardless of space and time (Milošević, 2020: 3). As a new concept, digital nomads divide into three distinct types. The first group is individuals employed by international companies and working remotely. The second and most common type are freelancers handling flexible jobs. The third and last type are start-up entrepreneurs (David, 2016). Digital nomads can work flexibly without meeting with customers or employers face-to-face. They always manage their time themselves. Nomads who desire time and location independence can plan their own lifestyles (Müller, 2016: 345). Digital nomads -a tourist type by some researchers but a worker style by others- provide economic, social, and cultural contributions to the destinations they travel to (Hall et al., 2019: 447). Digital nomadism is a new example of an economic activity that challenges traditional production and consumption patterns and a cultural phenomenon of a modern traveler typology (Wang et al., 2018: 9). In addition, they can be considered as a technological and mediatic phenomenon due to their dependence on new media technologies and social networks.

Methodology

The bibliometric analysis is the application of the statistical methods identifying qualitative and quantitative changes in a particular research topic, revealing the profiles of publications related to the research topic, and detecting trends within a discipline (De Bakker et al., 2005). Bibliometric analysis can analyze studies through various variables, revealing their profiles. The findings and analyses obtained from the bibliometric research play a significant role in guiding future studies on the subject (Bulut and Demirel İli, 2022: 81). Globally accepted scientific databases such as Scopus and Web of Science have partially made it easier to obtain large-scale bibliometric data. Bibliometric software such as Gephi, Leximancer, and VOSviewer help analyze and visualize such data. Hence, interest in bibliometric analysis studies has been increasing lately (Donthu et al., 2021: 286). In recent years, bibliometric analyses -employing VOSviewer software- have been conducted on various scientific fields such as Bioenergy (Soegoto et al., 2022), COVID-19 (Hamidah et al., 2020), Science and Technology (Jeong and Koo, 2016), e-Sports (Büyükbaykal and İli, 2020), Agriculture (Kulak et al., 2019), Ornithology (Çelik et al., 2021), Sustainability in Tourism (Garrigos-Simon et al., 2018), Social Media (Noor et al., 2020). The free VOSviewer software generates maps for keywords, citations, collaborations, and countries. VOSviewer program offers a viewer that allows an examination of bibliometric maps in all details (Van Eck and Waltman, 2010: 524).

The current study has used the Scopus database to reveal scientific studies on digital nomads. Created by Elsevier Publishing House for the researchers in 2004, Scopus is one of the largest databases worldwide and includes different disciplines, such as social sciences, natural sciences, and educational sciences (Taşkın et al., 2016: 9). In the analysis dated 13 February 2022, conducted in the Scopus database, the current study found 45 scientific studies containing the "digital nomad" and "digital nomadism" words in their headings. The obtained studies were analyzed in terms of date, language, category, country, source, and citation, and the data were tabulated. Later, countries, frequent keywords, citations, terms, and authors were visualized through VOSviewer 1.6.15 version.

The study has some limitations: In this study, the researchers analyzed only the Scopus database data dated 13 February 2022. No data later than this date could be evaluated. The future data from different databases can result in different results. In addition, the 45 scientific studies obtained were only scanned as "title." The current research has revealed the notable countries, keywords, citations, authors, and terms in the studies on the digital nomads, determined the current status of the literature related to the concept, and aimed to guide future studies.

Findings and Results

The analysis of the Scopus database dated 13 February 2022 yielded 45 scientific studies on digital nomadism. Because one of these studies was erratum, the evaluation covered 44 studies, including 26 articles, 11 conference proceedings, three compilations, two book chapters, one book, and one editorial. This study presented the term, citation, country, publication language data of the 44 studies on digital nomads as visuals and tables.

Figure 1. Distribution of Studies on Digital Nomads by Years

Figure 1 shows the distribution of studies on digital nomads screened in the Scopus database by years. The first published study on this subject was in 2006. Until 2017, few studies on digital nomads were published. However, there has been a significant increase in study numbers (38) in the last five years. There was a sharp decline in 2022 because the data analysis was carried out on 13 February 2022, and the evaluation of later studies was not possible.

Table 1. Distribution of Studies on Digital Nomads by Authors

Authors	Number of Documents
Schlagwein, D.	6

Cecez-Kecmanovic, D.	5
Sutherland, W.	4
Jarrahi, M.H.	4
Wang, B.	3
Erickson, I.	3
Nash, C.	2
Lee, A.	2
Toombs, A.L.	2
Orel, M.	2

Source: Compiled from the Scopus database.

Table 1 shows the studies on digital nomads according to the number of publications. Daniel Schlagwein from the University of Sydney is in the first place (6) and followed by Dubravka Cecez-Kecmanovic from the University of New South Wales (5), Mohammad Hossein Jarrahi from the University of North Carolina (4), Will Sutherland from the University of North Carolina (4), Ingrid Ericson from Syracuse University (3), Blair Wang from the University of New South Wales (3), Ahreum Lee from the University of Eastern Finland (2), Evyn Caleece Nash from the University of North Carolina (2), Austin Lewis Toombs from Purdue University (2) and Marko Orel from the University of Prague (2). The remaining authors contributed to the field with 1 study each. In addition, 43 of the 44 academic studies on digital nomads were in English and 1 in German.

Table 2. Range of Studies on Digital Nomads by Country

Country	Number of Documents
Australia	10
USA	9
Russian Federation	3
UK	3
Czechia	3
Finland	3
Austria	2

Source: Compiled from the Scopus database

Among the 44 studies indexed in Scopus on digital nomads, the highest number of publications was in Australia (10) followed by the USA (9), Russian Federation (3), UK (3), Czechia (3), Finland (3), Austria (2). Brazil, Canada, France, India, Netherlands, China, Germany, Japan, Turkey, Malaysia, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Singapore, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Poland, New Zealand have only one study each. In general, digital nomad studies were not from a specific region but various continents and countries of the world.
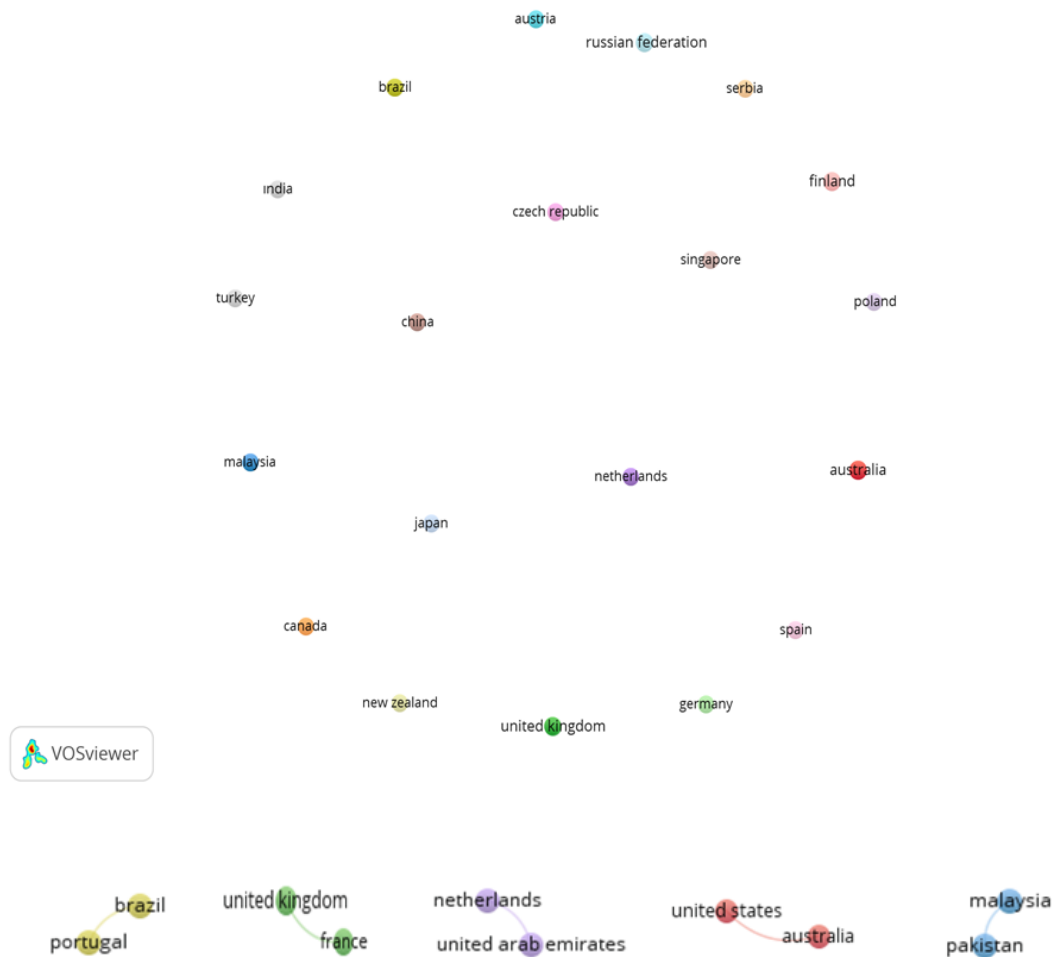
Figure 2. Distribution of Studies on Digital Nomads by Country

The analysis showed that 44 scientific studies published on digital nomads were made by 25 countries. In the analysis comprising 20 clusters, 5 clusters conducted research with bilateral cooperation, and the remaining 15 countries worked alone. As seen in Figure 2, Brazil and Portugal, UK and France, Netherlands and United Arab Emirates, USA and Australia, and Malaysia and Pakistan were countries working together; the remaining countries carried out their studies independently.

Table 3. Distribution of Studies on Digital Nomad by Fields

Subject Area	Number of Documents
Social Sciences	25
Computer Sciences	24
Business, Management, and Accounting	13
Psychology	4
Arts and Humanities	4
Engineering	3
Decision Sciences	2
Economics, Econometrics, and Finance	2
Environmental Science	1

Source: Compiled from the Scopus database.

In Table 4, more than half of the studies on digital nomads have been carried out in social sciences and computer sciences. In addition, the fact that digital nomadism has been handled in many fields such as business, management and accounting, psychology, arts and humanities, engineering proves that the concept is multidisciplinary.

Table 4. Keyword Distribution in Studies on Digital Nomads

Keywords	Frequency	Total Link Strength
Digital Nomads	14	69
Digital Nomadism	13	61
Digital Work	11	54
Remote Work	4	32
Gig Economy	4	18
Digital Nomad	3	13
Co-working	3	12
Knowledge Work	2	18
Future of Work	2	16
COVID-19	2	15

Source: Compiled from the Scopus database.

In recent years, keyword mining in databases has become a common practice (Agrawal et al., 2002). Table 5 shows the keywords sorted by frequency of use, obtained from 44 scientific studies on digital nomads indexed in Scopus. Since the keywords were numerous in the studies on digital nomads, the keywords were filtered, and the most frequently used keywords with the highest total link strength were evaluated. Total link strength reveals the number of connections of each element with others and the total strength of the links, respectively (Van Eck and Waltman, 2020: 6). According to the data obtained, the most frequently used keywords were digital nomads (14), digital nomadism (13), and digital work (11). These words were followed by the keywords "remote work, gig economy, digital nomad, co-working, knowledge work, future of work, and COVID-19." The frequent use of the keywords "gig economy, co-working, remote work, knowledge work, and future of work" revealed the close relationship between digital nomadism and the economy. In addition, the relationship between the novel COVID-19 and digital nomadism has also been investigated. The evaluation of the total link strength of the keywords revealed that the keyword "digital nomads" ranked first with 69 different keyword combinations. The keyword "digital nomadism" was in 61 keyword combinations. In summary, it has been determined that the studies have dealt with digital nomadism as a new economy and business model, a way of working remotely and digitally, and a lifestyle, so the concept has been the subject of multidisciplinary studies.

Figure 3. Distribution of Studies on Digital Nomad by Keywords

In Figure 3, the circle sizes show the volume of usage of the keywords, the circle colors show the keywords used together, and the lines between the circles show the correlation between the keywords. Relationality defines the frequency of co-emergence of the determined bibliometric data. In this context, words with high relationality appear on the network map of the VOSviewer program. Those with low relationality are excluded or hardly seen because they are ineffective. Keywords with high relationality represent specific topics, while those with low relationality do not represent any particular subject since they have overall meanings (Güney et al., 2020: 166). As seen in Figure 3, out of 158 keywords used in studies on digital nomads, 18 clusters and 130 co-occurrent keywords were determined in the relationship network map. Keywords such as digital nomads, digital nomadism, digital work, gig economy, remote work, co-working, and mobility came to the fore on the visual map.

Figure 4. Distribution of Keywords in Studies on Digital Nomad by Years

In Figure 4, which shows the distribution of keywords in research on the concept of digital nomadism by years, the most frequently used keywords have risen as of 2019. In addition, the keywords related to the global-effective and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have been included in studies since 2020. Researchers have carried out many multidisciplinary studies on the COVID-19 pandemic in the field of education (Daniel, 2020), agriculture (Siche, 2020), economy-politics (Boettke and Powell, 2021), sports (Yeo, 2020), tourism (Jones and Comfort, 2020), social media (Goel and Gupta, 2020), etc. With COVID-19, flexible remote working practices have been experienced more frequently. In the digital world we live in, the continuous development of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, the internet of things (IoT), virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), blockchain has caused new business models and lifestyles. Due to the digitalization of most existing jobs, the widespread use of new media technologies and social media, and the digital transformation of companies and users, digital nomads organize their working hours, working areas, and private lives independently instead of working depending on fixed places and working hours. The COVID-19 pandemic has had companies and workers rehearse the future business models and reshape the working patterns.

Figure 5. Distribution of Citations to Authors Studying on Digital Nomad

Figure 5 shows the distribution of the citations to authors working on digital nomads. The analysis has revealed that the authors named M. H. Jarrahi and W. Sutherland are in the first place with four publications and 102 citations each. They are followed by I. Reichenberger with one work and 47 quotations, D. Schlagwein with six studies and 43 quotations, and I. Ericson with three studies and 35 quotations.

Figure 6. Distribution of Citations to Collaborative Authors Studying on Digital Nomads

As a result of the analysis, it was found that Jarrahi and Sutherland, who had four publications and 102 citations each, were collaborative authors in their studies on digital nomads. In addition, Reichenberger, alone, had one research and got 47 citations to her work. Schlagwein, who had six studies and 43 citations, published one study alone, while the remaining studies were with co-authors such as Cecez-Kecmanovic, Cahalane, Wang.
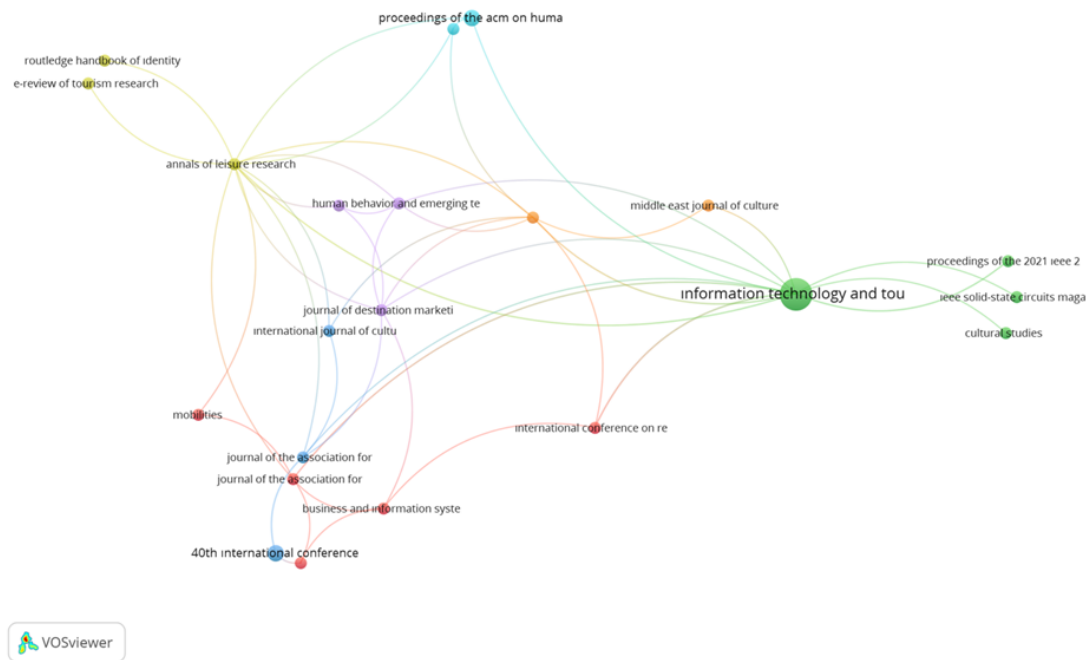

Figure 7. Distribution of Studies on Digital Nomads by Sources

Figure 7 shows that "Information Technology and Tourism" is the magazine that gives the most coverage to digital nomad studies with eight publications. It has been determined that these eight publications in this journal received 44 citations in total. In addition, two conference papers were published at the "40th International Conference on Information Systems." These publications have been cited eight times in total. Furthermore, the study published by Reichenberger in the Annals of Leisure Research magazine was the only study published on digital nomads in this journal and ranked first with 47 citations.

Conclusion

In the digitalization process, through the widespread mobile devices and internet uses, working styles, business models, and lifestyles have changed in many areas. The current study addresses topical digital nomadism that has frequently been the subject of research in recent years. With the COVID-19 pandemic, "Working from Home" and "Remote working" concepts have come to the fore more frequently, and the interest in digital nomads has increased. Digital nomads significantly differ from other employee and tourist typologies in their entrepreneurial spirit, frequent travel, and intensive internet and new media technology utilizations in business. Digital nomads who balance their work and private lives make decisions about their travel destinations according to their own hobbies and wishes. This situation allows digital nomads to move flexibly and autonomously without being tied to fixed working hours and offices. As well as preferring to co-work and co-live in particular spaces, digital nomads choose to live and work independently and may cause the destinations, tourism stakeholders, businesses, and even social life to reshape.

Several countries, regarding these people as a significant tourist potential, create co-working spaces and activities, bring regulations, and provide various opportunities for digital nomads traveling to discover new

places, learn new cultures and languages, meet new people, and create new job opportunities. These countries offering sunny beaches, affordable living conditions, and areas isolated from COVID-19 compete for the new generation of remote workers and digital nomads to mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic and make up for the number of lost visitors. Many countries, such as Estonia and Barbados, have made some arrangements, especially visa exemptions, to attract digital nomads to their countries (Bacchi, 2020). For instance, Bali island of Indonesia has received many awards as a digital nomad-friendly destination on various websites. Digital nomads are a new market that attracts the attention of many countries. The authorities at destinations help digital nomads decide where to settle through the opportunities such as convenient facilities, transportation, workspaces, cheap accommodations, and activities (Prabawa and Pertiwi, 2020).

Digital nomads are people who benefit from portable information and communication technologies and the widespread internet network, can work from anywhere they want, and spare more time for themselves and explore the world (Mancinelli, 2020: 418). Digital nomads, who oppose settled life and standard working patterns, frequently benefit from new media technologies. They determine their jobs, work areas, destinations, travel, and accommodation options, especially through new media technologies. In addition, they use various websites, applications, and social media to communicate with other digital nomads and benefit from their experiences and advice, cooperate, share working and living spaces. Especially with the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, many companies and employees globally have experienced the remote / gig work model. Some crises and emergencies create opportunities for new business, study, travel, and accommodation models and lead to innovations (Adams, 2021). Shifting to remote working due to the pandemic has inspired many businesses to think of the opportunity to work remotely. Employees and companies have assessed innovations in remote working arrangements and plans. The current process has reinforced the trend of digital nomadism around the world. Businesses that are hesitant to digital nomadism supporters are more flexible now due to their experiences. The trend towards working types such as the gig, hybrid, remote work / work from home is increasing day by day. (MBO Partners, 2021). While in the past, traditional nomads were seen as a threat to the modern state and its regulations, today many countries, including Iceland, Croatia, Dubai, Malta, are actively trying to attract remote-working people and digital nomads by providing new opportunities. Crossing the boundaries of local, regional, and national dependencies and identities, digital nomads now appear as an economic opportunity and commodity (Busuttil, 2021).

Reccomendations

The current paper aims to describe digital nomads, who are entrepreneurs and travelers with different life and working styles from different perspectives to provide a better understanding, and thus offer suggestions for future work. As a result of the analysis, it has been determined that the studies on digital nomads were generally in the economy and tourism fields. Although Digital nomads have interactions in these areas, future studies should look from different perspectives, such as culture, society, and communication. Future studies that will probe digital nomads' consumer practices, travel patterns, social media relationships, difficulties, and economic, sociological, cultural, and digital connections from different perspectives, such as cosmopolitan citizenship, will help present more data about their lifestyles.

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GENİŞLETİLMİŞ ÖZET

Bu çalışma, dijitalleşme ile birlikte popüler bir araştırma alanı haline gelen dijital göçebelere yönelik Scopus veri tabanında yer alan bilimsel çalışmaların bir derlemesini oluşturmak ve gelecekte yapılacak çalışmalara öneriler sunmayı amaçlamaktadır. Dijital göçebeler, birçok araştırmacı ve insan tarafından merak duyulan ve ilgi gören bir kavram haline gelmiştir. Yerleşik yaşam tarzını reddeden, çalışma saatlerini, seyahat edecekleri ve çalışacakları destinasyonları kendileri belirleyen dijital göçebeler, özgür ve kâşif ruhuna sahip kozmopolit bireylerdir. Bu çalışma ile birlikte, bir girişimci, gezgin, çalışma şekli, yaşam tarzı ve fenomen gibi çeşitli şekillerde nitelendirilen dijital göçebelere yönelik yapılan çalışmalar, bibliyometrik analiz yöntemi ile incelenmiştir.

Dijitalleşme ve küreselleşmenin etkileri sonucunda girişimciler, serbest çalışanlar ve diğer çalışanlar, mekâna bağımlı ve düzenli çalışma saatlerini geride bırakmaya ve yoğun çalışma saatlerinden ziyade özel hayata daha fazla vakit ayırabilmek adına beklentilerini değiştirmeye başlamıştır (Hensellek ve Puchala, 2021). Dijital göçebeler için aynı anda hem seyahat etme hem de çalışma seçeneği nedeniyle iş ve özel hayatları birbirine karışmaktadır. Onlar aynı zamanda sürekli olarak yeni yerleri keşfetme isteği olan küresel gezginlerdir. Gerek yerel gerekse uluslararası sık sık seyahat eden dijital göçebeler, destinasyon seçimlerini işe göre değil eğlence ve yaşam tarzı beklentilerine göre seçmektedir (Thompson, 2018: 3). Bazı araştırmacılar, önümüzdeki 15-20 yıl içinde dijital göçebelerin sayısındaki artışın devam edeceğini ve 1 milyarın üzerine çıkacağını ön görmektedir (Wiranatha vd., 2020). Dijital göçebeler klasik çalışma saatleri, sınırlı boş zaman ve coğrafi mekanlara bağımlılık gibi dayatılan kurallara karşı çıkarak kendi istekleri doğrultusunda özgür hareket edebildikleri bir yaşam sürme arzusuyla hareket eder (Haking, 2017). Yeni yerler keşfetmek, yeni kültürler ve diller öğrenmek, yeni insanlar tanımak, yeni iş fırsatları oluşturmak gibi amaçlar doğrultusunda seyahat eden dijital göçebelere yönelik ortak çalışma alanları ve etkinlikler oluşturan, düzenlemeler getiren ve çeşitli olanaklar sağlayan ülkeler dijital göçebeleri önemli bir potansiyel olarak görmektedir. Güneşli plajlar, ucuz yaşam ve Covid-19'dan izole alanlar öneren ülkeler, pandeminin olumsuz etkilerini azaltmak ve kaybedilen ziyaretçileri telafi etmek amacıyla yeni nesil uzaktan çalışanlar ve dijital göçebeler için rekabet etmektedir. Estonya'dan Barbados'a kadar birçok ülke, ekonomilerini geliştirmek amacıyla dijital göçebeleri kazanmaya yönelik başta vize muafiyetleri olmak üzere çeşitli düzenlemeler yapmaktadır (Bacchi, 2020).

13 Şubat 2022 tarihinde Scopus veri tabanından elde edilen veriler doğrultusunda, o tarihe kadar yayınlanmış olan çalışmaların başlıklarında "digital nomad" ve ''digital nomadism" kelimelerini içerecek şekilde bir filtreleme yapılmış ve dijital göçebelere yönelik 44 çalışmaya ulaşılmıştır. Bu çalışmalar, ülkelere göre dağılım, yayın dilleri, atıf sayıları, anahtar kelimelere göre dağılım, çalışma alanlarına göre dağılım şeklinde çeşitli kategorilerde VOSviewer programı aracılığıyla analiz edilerek bulgular görseller ve tablolar olarak sunulmuştur. Dijital göçebe kavramı doğrultusunda elde edilen 44 çalışmanın 26'sı makale, 11'i konferans bildirisi, 3'ü derleme, 2'si kitap bölümü, 1'i kitap ve 1'i editöre mektup şeklinde yayınlandığı tespit edilmiştir. Ayrıca dijital göçebelere yönelik yapılan çalışmaların toplamda 25 ülke tarafından ele alındığı ve çalışmaların genellikle sosyal bilimler ve bilgisayar bilimleri alanlarında yayınlandıkları görülmüştür. Çalışmalar incelendiğinde bir serbest zamanlı çalışma modeli, yeni bir gezgin türü veya yeni bir girişimci modeli olarak farklı yaklaşım ve tanımlamaların yapıldığı dijital göçebe kavramı, Schroeder'in de ifade ettiği gibi (2016), daha geniş kapsamlı olarak yeni bir yaşam tarzı olarak ön plana çıkmaktadır. Çevrim içi çalışmak ve dijital teknolojilerden yararlanmanın yanı sıra dijital göçebeleri farklılaştıran en önemli nokta sürekli seyahat ederek yeni yerler keşfetme arzusudur.

Bu çalışmada, verilerin yalnızca Scopus veri tabanından alınmış olması ve analizlerin yapıldığı 13 Şubat 2022'ye kadar olan yayınların analize tabi tutulması ve bu tarihten sonraki yayınlanacak olan çalışmaların değerlendirmeye alınamayacak olması sebepleri araştırmanın sınırlılıklarını oluşturmaktadır. Farklı veri tabanlarından ve ileriye yönelik yapılacak analizler neticesinde erişilebilecek veriler değişkenlik gösterebilmektedir. Ayrıca analize tabi tutulan 44 bilimsel çalışma yalnızca ''başlık'' olarak taranmış ve sınırlandırılmıştır. Yapılan bu çalışma kapsamında dijital göçebe alanındaki yayınlarda ön planda olan ülkeler, anahtar kelimeler, atıflar, yazarlar ve terimler ortaya konulmuş ve bu sayede kavram ile ilgili literatürün güncel durumu belirlenerek, ileride yapılacak çalışmalar için bir rehber niteliğinde olması amaçlanmıştır.