

BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF LITERATURE ON INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE*

Somut Olmayan Kültürel Miras Konulu Alanyazının Bibliyometrik Analizi

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ABSTRACT

Intangible cultural heritage (ICH) is a set of values that have been shaped by centuries of experience and transmitted from generation to generation. There is a deep connection between cultural values and the environment in which they live, and historical and cultural heritage plays an important role in shaping these values. In this respect, the protection of societies' national identities, cultural memories, values, unique structures and, naturally, ICH elements, which are of great importance for the continuity of cultural richness, is an international responsibility and necessity. Due to its importance and scope, ICH has attracted much attention from the academy and has begun to be addressed by various disciplines. It is important to determine the perspectives from which ICH is discussed, what issues come to the fore, what problems are encountered regarding the safeguarding and transmission of ICH, and what measures can be taken to get to this point. In this context, this study aims to reveal the current state of the subject and to identify trends and future research directions by conducting a bibliometric analysis of academic studies on ICH. For this purpose, 4,568 studies on ICH in the Web of Science (WoS) database as of August 28, 2023 were examined for bibliometric analysis. Studies on ICH in the WoS database were evaluated according to various parameters (date, language and type, category, most published and most cited author, collaboration between authors, most published institutions and countries, location and index information, keywords and the relationship with sustainable development goals). The obtained data were tabulated and visualized using the VOSviewer program in the analysis section. According to the results of the research, it was determined that the studies in the field of ICH were published after 2002 due to the adoption of the Convention, and the field of study was mostly "Humanities, Multidisciplinary". The most publications on the subject were published in China with 1,101 studies, the most publications were published in the Sustainability journal with 156 studies. The relevant studies were carried out in various fields such as art, law, history, archaeology, tourism, gastronomy, religion, communication, especially "Sustainable Cities and Communities" (1,055) has been shown to have objectives that can meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Keywords

Intangible cultural heritage, bibliometrics, Web of Science, VOSviewer.

ÖZ

SOKÜM toplulukların tecrübelerinden süzülerek biçimlenmiş, nesilden nesile aktarılan bir değerler bütünüdür. Kültürel değerlerin içinde yaşadıkları çevreyle arasında derin bir bağ olup bu değerlerin şekillenmesinde tarihi ve kültürel mirasın önemli bir rolü vardır. Topluların millî kimliklerinin, kültürel belleklerinin, değerlerinin, kendilerine özgü yapılarının ve doğal olarak yeryüzündeki kültürel zenginliğin devamlılığı için ciddi önem taşıyan SOKÜM unsurlarının korunması, bu açıdan uluslararası bir sorumluluk ve gereklilik taşımaktadır. Sahip olduğu önem ve kapsam itibarıyla SOKÜM, akademinin yoğun ilgisini çekmiş ve çeşitli disiplinler tarafından ele alınmaya başlanmıştır. SOKÜM'ün hangi bakış açılarıyla ele alındığı, hangi konuların ön plana çıktığı, SOKÜM'ün korunmasına ve aktarılmasına yönelik ne gibi sorunlarla karşılaşıldığı ve bu sorunların önüne geçilmesi adına ne gibi önlemlerin alınabileceği konularının tespit edilmesi önem taşımaktadır. Bu

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doğrultuda ilgili çalışmada, Somut Olmayan Kültürel Miras (SOKÜM) konulu akademik çalışmaların bibliyometrik analizi yapılarak ilgili konuya yönelik mevcut durumu ortaya koymak, ilgili araştırmaların eğilimlerini ve gelecekteki yönelimlerini belirlemek amaçlanmıştır. Bu amaç doğrultusunda 28 Ağustos 2023 tarihi itibarıyla Web of Science (WoS) veri tabanında yer alan SOKÜM konulu 4.568 araştırma bibliyometrik analiz için incelenmiştir. Araştırma amacına uygun olarak WoS veri tabanında yer alan SOKÜM konulu akademik çalışmalar çeşitli parametreler (tarihi, dili ve türü, kategorisi, en çok yayın yapan ve en çok atıf alan yazar, yazarlar arası iş birliği, en fazla yayın üretilen kurumlar ve ülkeler, yeri ve dizin bilgisi, anahtar kelimeler ve sürdürülebilir kalkınma hedefleri ile ilişkisi) kapsamında bibliyometrik incelemeye tabi tutulmuştur. Elde edilen veriler tablolar haline getirilmiş ve analiz kısmında VOSviewer programı aracılığıyla görselleştirilmiştir. Araştırma sonuçlarına göre SOKÜM alanındaki çalışmaların sözleşme fikrinin ortaya çıkmasına bağlı olarak 2002 yılından sonra yayınlandığı ve çalışma alanının en fazla “Beşeri Bilimler, Multidisipliner” olduğu belirlenmiştir. Konu ile ilgili en fazla yayının 1.101 çalışma ile Çin’de yürütüldüğü, en fazla yayının 156 çalışma ile Sustainability dergisinde yayınlandığı, ilgili çalışmaların sanat, hukuk, tarih, arkeoloji, turizm, gastronomi, din, iletişim gibi çeşitli alanlarda yürütüldüğü, başta “Sürdürülebilir Şehirler ve Topluluklar” (1.055) olmak üzere BM Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri’ni karşılayabilecek amaçlara sahip olduğu ortaya konulmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler

Somut olmayan kültürel miras, bibliyometrik, Web of Science, VOSviewer.

Introduction

The concept of intangible cultural heritage (ICH), which was included in the literature with the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage signed by UNESCO in 2003, refers to the knowledge, experience and practices that make up societies in its most general form. Thanks to the importance and scope of its content, ICH, has the quality of a social identity and is emphasized in terms of its safeguarding and transmission to the next generations. The safeguarding of ICH, which has a distinct nature compared to natural and physical heritage such as protected areas, nature parks, and ruins, is a challenging and complex issue. Therefore, various policies need to be developed, and studies should be conducted in this area. For this reason, it is important to examine the factors that have an impact on the safeguarding and keeping ICH alive. In the era of digitalization and individualization, it is crucial to protect cultural heritage in the face of shifting social structures and changing living conditions. This requires identifying the challenges posed by these changes, proposing solutions, and offering a way forward. In this direction, it is considered necessary to examine and analyze the relevant issues by various disciplines in order to understand and make sense of the nature of cultural heritage, to ensure that it is safeguarded against the destructive effect of globalization, to create social awareness, to attract the attention of administrations and to develop suggestions for the field. The multidimensional structure of ICH also makes it possible for various disciplines to focus on this subject and to deal with it from various perspectives (Landorf, 2009: 57; Guzman et al., 2017: 193).

In accordance with the relevant articles of the 2003 convention, it is stated that studies on the identification, promotion and safeguarding of ICH elements should be carried out and scientific publications are among these studies. It is important to reveal the current situation of scientific publications and to determine the existing gaps and to fill these gaps with qualified studies, as well as fulfilling the requirements of the convention as a state party as well as cultural responsibility. In this direction, when the academic studies on ICH are examined, it is seen that these studies are carried out with the perspectives of various disciplines. In order to measure the effects and prevalence of these studies, to synthesize and analyze the academic studies, various bibliometric analyzes were conducted for ICH and its elements (Su et al., 2019; Baytok et al., 2021; Chen et al., 2022; Hou et al., 2022; Meng et al., 2022; Türkoğlu and Baydeniz, 2022; Qiu et al., 2022; Li et al., 2023;). These analyzes give an idea about which subjects ICH focuses on, in which

geographies it is studied more, and in which disciplines it is more involved. In addition, bibliometric analyzes can be used as an important tool to take more effective and efficient steps in the safeguarding of ICH and its transmission to future generations. However, as a result of the fact that these studies deal with certain databases (national databases, field indexes, SCOPUS, etc.) and journals, and come to the fore as of the publication date of the studies, it is thought that studies with the theme of bibliometric analysis should be updated with the thought that existing studies on these areas can be done. It is also a question mark in which direction the academic interest will proceed in the face of the realized and possible effects of regional and global crises on the world cultural treasure. Considering the fragile structure of ICH in the face of crises and the evolution of academic interest, it is thought that current studies should be identified and deficiencies should be determined (Türkoğlu and Aydın, 2024: 1676). Identifying these gaps is important in terms of attracting academic interest to this field and developing strategies for the subject. In this study, articles on ICH published in journals indexed internationally over the WoS database were brought together, evaluated and the data obtained were analyzed and mapped. Within the scope of the research, academic studies related to ICH in the WoS database were examined. To determine the current situation, trends, authors, topics and which disciplines these topics fall under, the preferred journals and to reveal the deficiencies and to guide further studies aimed in this article

1. Intangible Cultural Heritage and Bibliometric Analysis

In the second article of the "Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage", ICH is defined as "applications, representations, expressions, information, skills and related tools, materials and cultural spaces that communities, groups and in some cases individuals define as part of their cultural heritage" (UNESCO, 2003). Elements considered as ICH in the related definition are important in terms of safeguarding the culture they belong to and safeguarding the richness of the world cultural treasure, as they express the experiences, values, beliefs, practices and knowledge of societies. The ICH convention focuses on issues such as identifying, documenting, safeguarding, transferring cultural heritage elements, increasing social awareness and sensitivity through formal and non-formal education, promoting and transferring them; and imposes some responsibilities on member states accordingly (Oğuz, 2018: 18). When the responsibilities imposed by the ICH convention on the stakeholders, convention organs and member countries are examined, it is seen that the convention deals with various individuals and institutions, therefore each item should be emphasized and examined separately. In the 11th¹, 13th² and 14th³ articles of the Convention, conducting and encouraging scientific studies on the subject and the field are among the responsibilities imposed on the parties (Türkoğlu and Aydın, 2024: 1677). At this point, when the existing literature is examined, it is seen that ICH has been addressed in a wide variety of fields such as folklore, fine arts, tourism, economy, sociology and the problems arising in these fields have been identified. However, the intangible nature of ICH increases the importance of these studies and requires continuously addressing the problems that may lead to the loss of ICH elements in the face of rapidly developing and changing living conditions. In this context, it is of great importance to examine the studies that have been conducted to date and the existing literature in order to fill the gaps in the field and to conduct more diversified studies. In particular, research from interdisciplinary perspectives plays a critical role in developing strategies for the conservation of ICH. In this context, this study aims to identify gaps in the literature and suggest new directions for future research. It is considered necessary to carry out bibliometric analyzes in the relevant field in order to ensure the

cumulative progress required by science, to identify new ideas and perspectives, safeguarding approaches, problems and to offer solutions to these problems, and to guide further studies.

Bibliometric is a research technique that brings together the studies on a specific field, organizes the data related to these studies and evaluates them as a whole within the scope of various parameters (Daim et al., 2006: 983-984). This approach enables to see the current situation of the research area and to determine the subjects that researchers focus on, social and scientific trends, perspectives, and related issues (Cadavid-Higuaita et al., 2012: 216; Merigó et al., 2017: 2). The current status of a research field is determined by various criteria such as researchers publishing in that field and the institution they are affiliated with, the subject covered, research techniques used, journals published, collaborations between authors, interaction status based on citations (Kumar et al., 2020: 366). In addition, revealing the current situation based on the past studies on the research area helps to identify the deficiencies in the field, to develop new perspectives and research topics, and to guide future studies (Donthu et al., 2021: 285). Considering the benefits of bibliometric studies to the field, the increase in bibliometric studies in different fields is considered normal and necessary (Gaviria-Marin et al., 2018: 1657).

Until recently, it has been known that bibliometric research is based on the researcher's census and the analysis provided accordingly (Gaviria-Marin et al., 2018: 1656). However, thanks to the development of information and communication technologies, this process has been facilitated and the research has been made more comprehensive by including various criteria (Merigó et al., 2015: 421). Today, these bibliometric studies consist of two parts; performance analysis and science mapping analysis. Performance analysis aims to identify scientific activities by authors, institutions and countries and to measure the efficiency and impact of these activities. Science mapping analysis, on the other hand, is an indicator that represents the cognitive structure of the relevant research area topologically and temporally over the performance criteria of the scientific activities (Börner et al., 2003: 179; Cobo et al., 2011: 147; Ellegaard and Wallin, 2015: 1813; Baker et al., 2020: 244). The purpose of mapping and analyzing scientific knowledge is to extract information from a large number of previously published scientific research documents, visually rearrange it, and facilitate the understanding of aggregate data obtained by performing knowledge discovery (Chen, 2013: 41). These studies reveal the national and international dimensions of a subject. They are also important in terms of determining and guiding current developments, global problems, solution suggestions and innovations (Alsharif et al., 2020: 2949).

2. Methodology

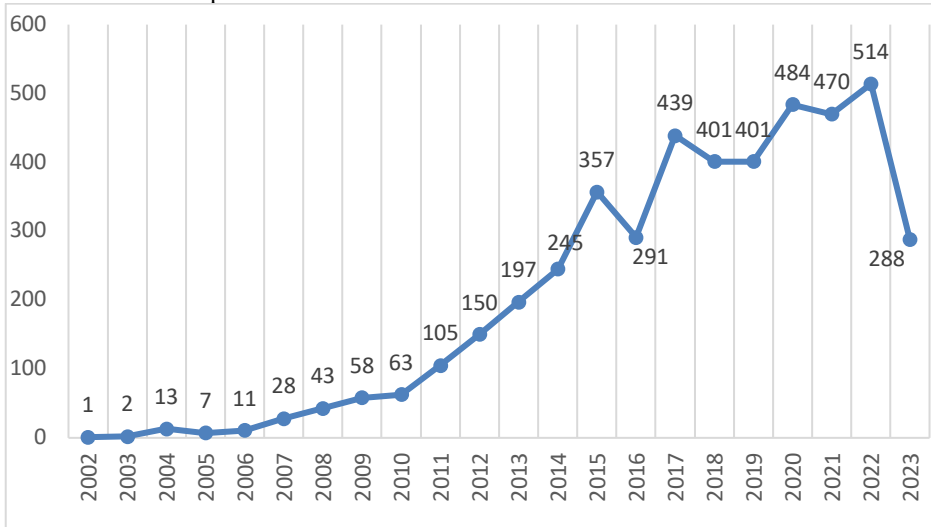
The aim of this study is to perform a bibliometric analysis of academic studies published on ICH in the WoS database and to examine within the scope of various parameters and to reveal the current situation of the relevant field. In the research, bibliometric research technique, which is one of the quantitative research methods, was used. The WoS database chosen for data collection in the study was specified as a reliable database for bibliometric research in previous systematic literature review studies. For this reason, and as a result of the scanning to reach the academic studies related to ICH in the WoS database, 4,568 academic studies were reached using the "All Fields" option and the keyword "intangible cultural heritage" on August 28, 2023. The data obtained were analyzed with the VOSviewer program and were visualized through graphics.

The study reveals the simultaneous occurrence of publications by year, keyword trends, citations, bibliographic matching, and analysis of co-authorship, countries, and

institutions. Co-authorship, co-occurrence and citation analyzes were performed in the study. Co-authorship analysis examines the relationships between authors in documents written on a particular topic. This analysis is based on the number of co-authored documents and the more documents co-authored by at least two authors, the stronger the relationship between them is considered. Co-occurrence analysis examines the relationships between studies written on a particular topic. This analysis is based on the number of documents in which the items are included. The greater the number of documents in which the two items are included, the stronger the relationship between the items. Related analysis can be used to determine the semantic structure of a topic and the relationships between elements (Wang et al., 2022: 2110). Citation analysis is used to examine the relationships between items in documents written on a topic. This analysis is based on how many times the items are quoted from each other. Relevant analysis can also be used to identify important items and relationships of a topic in the research field. In addition, citation analysis can also be used to determine with whom scientific authors are communicating and which authors are influential (Van Eck and Waltman, 2017: 526). In this direction and according to the aim of this article, publication date, publication language and publication type, category, most published and most cited author, cooperation between authors, cooperation between institutions, country, place of publication and index, keywords, topics related to sustainable development goals of the ICH related academic studies in the WoS database were subjected to bibliometric analysis within the scope of various parameters.

3. Findings

The data obtained in the study, in which the bibliometric analysis of academic publications about ICH was carried out on the WoS database, was visualized with the help of tables and graphics. Obtained findings are given below. Graph 1 displays the yearly distribution of articles published in the field of ICH.

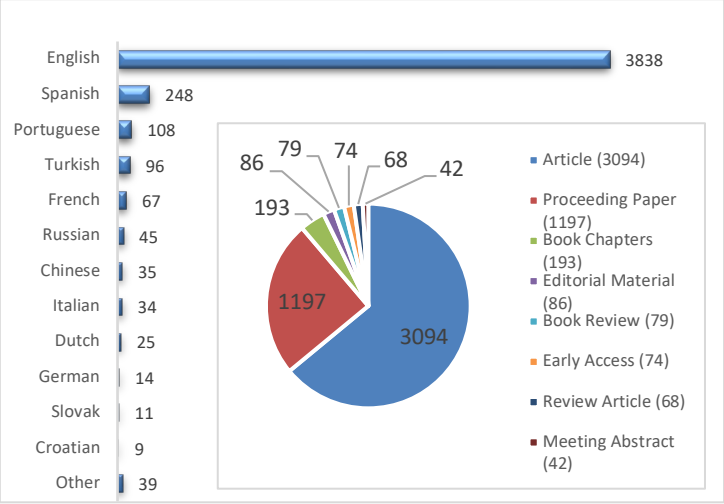


Graphic 1: Distribution of Articles Published in the Field of ICH by Years (2002-2023)

When examining Graph 1, it can be seen that the studies in the WoS database started in the year 2002. Taking into consideration that the ICH convention had been signed in 2003 and came into force in 2006, it is quite usual that the studies related to the topic started in the year 2002, at the time of laying the foundations for the ICH. Moreover, after

the convention took effect in 2006, the number of studies related to the topic increased due to the emergence of positive and negative implications.

In Graph 2, data about the publication language and publication type of academic studies published in the field of ICH is displayed.



Graphic 2: Types of Researches in the Field of ICH and Languages of Publication

Examining Graph 2, it can be observed that the most used language in studies on ICH published in the WoS database is English (3,838). While Spanish (248), Portuguese (108) and Turkish (96) came second, third and fourth, respectively. In total, the studies are written in 27 different languages. The studies are mostly published as articles (3,094) and proceeding papers (1,197).

In Graph 3 the categorical ranking of WoS Studies in the field of ICH is displayed.



Graphic 3: Categories of Researches in the Field of ICH

Among the 177 research categories in the field of ICH on WoS database, the 10 most categories are displayed in the related graph. “Humanities, Multidisciplinary” (800), “Social Sciences Interdisciplinary” (424) and “Hospitality Leisure Sport Tourism” (323) categories came first, second and third respectively. Furthermore, it is observed that ICH

related studies were conducted in many different areas such as computer, art, architecture, archeology, history, law, geography, economy, music, religion, gastronomy, literature and handicrafts.

In table 1, the first 15 of the authors with the most studies in the field of ICH and most referred authors are displayed.

Author Name	Number of Studies	Author Name	Number of References
Salem Benferhat	22	F. Xavier Medina	1,037
Marc Jacobs	16	Anna Bach-Faig	1,036
Mu Zhang	15	Iluis Serra-Majem	1,036
Carmine Gambardella	14	Greg Richards	907
Yuan Liu	14	Marilena Vecco	504
Athanasios Voulodimos	14	Timothy J. Lee	187
Nikolaos Doulamis	13	Nikos Grammalidis	169
Nikos Grammalidis	13	Kosmas Dimitropoulos	144
Tomas Lopez-Guzman	13	Marta Bottero	144
Anastasios Doulamis	12	Alessandra Oppio	141
Sara Gwendolyn Ross	12	Mu Zhang	140
Jorijn Neyrinck	11	Xi Li	112
Karim Tabia	11	Minoo H. Esfehani	111
Lufang Zhang	11	Athanasios Voulodimos	108
Kosmas Dimitropoulos	10	Nikolaos Doulamis	103

Table 1. Research numbers of the authors studying in the field of ICH and number of references

The three authors with the most studies related to the ICH are Salem Benferhat (22), Marc Jacobs (16), Mu Zhang (15); while the three most referred authors are F. Xavier Medina (1,037), Anna Bach-Faig (1,036) and Iluis Serra-Majem (1,036). Specifying the authors with the most ICH related works and most referred authors will surely help people who are going to study in this field.

In figure 1, the distribution of ICH-related studies published in the WoS database by co-authors is displayed.

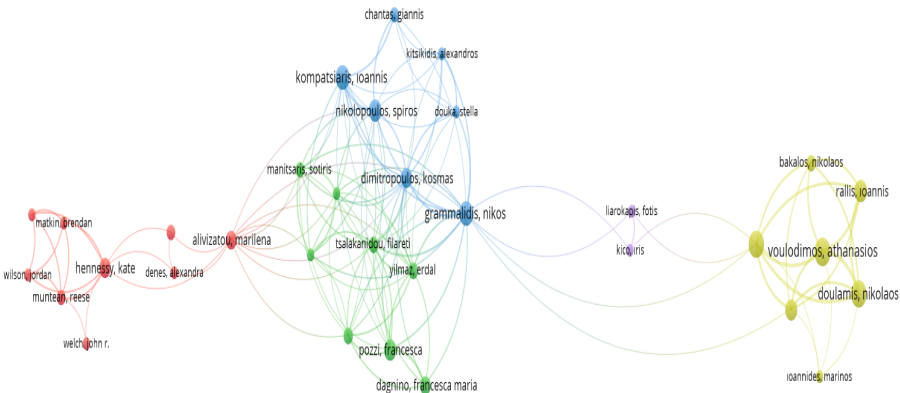


Figure 1: Distribution of ICH-Related Studies by Co-Authors

There are 8,589 authors who have studies in the field of ICH on WoS database. 327 authors who have at least 3 studies included in the analysis and a co-authorship network have been detected among 33 of them. “Kate Hennessy, Reese Muntean”, “Nikos Gram-

malidis, Kosmas Dimitropoulos, Ioannis Kompatsiaris”, “Athanasios Voulodimos, Nikolaos Doulamis” shine out as the leading number of co-authorships, in their own fields. Colors in the figures represent clusters of authors and collaborative collaborations, while the size of the circles represents the frequency of work by the authors, and the lines between the circles represent the links between the authors.

In table 2, institutions with the greatest number of studies in the field of ICH is displayed.

Name of the Institution	Number of Studies	Name of the Institution	Number of Studies
University of London	67	Griffith University	23
Centre National De La Recherche Scientifique (Cnrs)	47	Universidad de Cordoba	23
Udice French Research Universities	44	Universidade de Lisboa	22
Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche CNR	37	Jiangnan University	21
CIVIS A European Civic University	34	University of California System	21
Polytechnic University of Milan	34	University of Naples Federico	21
University College London	30	Chinese Academy of Sciences	20
Zhejiang University	30	National Technical University of Athens	20
Polytechnic University of Turin	28	Sapienza University Rome	20
University of British Columbia	25	University of Sevilla	20

Table 2. Institutions with the most number of studies in the field of ICH

In table 2, institutions with the most number of studies are shown. Among them are the University of London (67), Centre National De La Recherche Scientifique (Cnrs) (47) and Udice French Research Universities (44) luster. In figure 2, distribution of ICH-related studies by co-authored institutions is mapped.

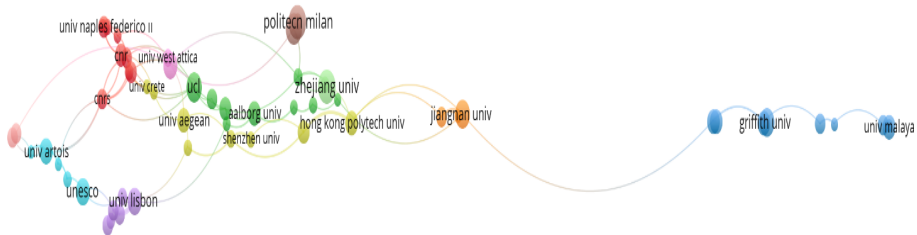


Figure 2: Distribution of ICH-Related Studies by Co-Authored Institutions

3,650 institutions have been determined in which 8,589 authors are studying in the field of ICH. Among the institutions that produce at least 5 publications, 72 institutions with high network load have been evaluated and collaboration between 59 of them is discovered. Among these institutions which are gathered in 9 different groups, “College of Natural Resources, Politecn Torino, National Technical University of Athens, Artois University, The University of British Columbia, The Cnrs, The Centre for Research & Technology, Hellas, University of Lisbon, Zhejiang University, Jiangnan University” comes forth. In figure 3, the countries with publications related to ICH are specified and mapped.

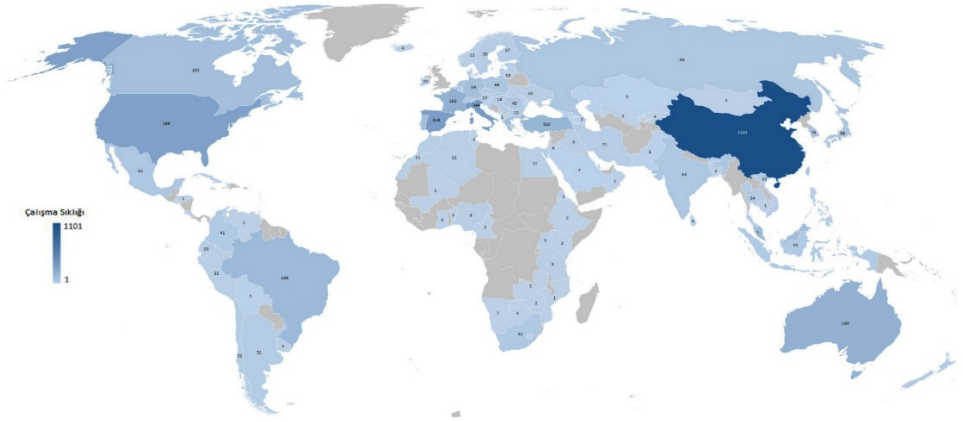


Figure 3: Countries with publications in the field of ICH

The colors in the map in figure 3 darkens according to the frequency of the studies. In this respect, countries with at least 1 and at most 1,101 publications are indicated in different shades. According to the map, China (1,101) significantly differs from others which produce studies related to ICH. Italy (344), Spain (319), USA (295), UK (278), France (182), Australia (180), Türkiye (162), Brazil (135) and Greece (116) are other important countries with the number of publications.

In figure 4, the relationship network between the countries where publications are made in the field of ICH is displayed.

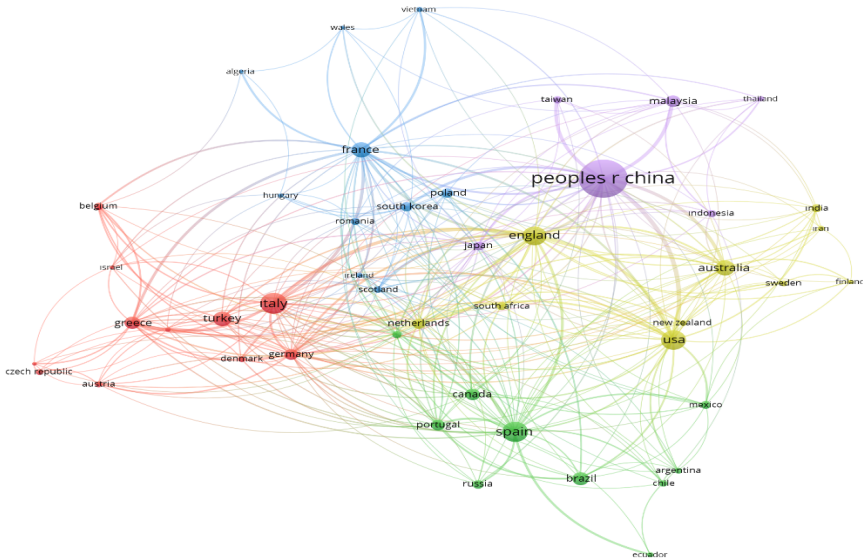


Figure 4: Relationship network between the countries with ICH related publications

Among 162 countries where academic studies on ICH have been carried out, 47 countries with at least 10 publications and stand out according to the relationship network are included in the map. The results obtained have parallels with the numbers shown in figure 3. Within this context, researchers in China, Italy, Spain, UK, USA and France are more likely to take part in co-authored studies with researchers in other countries.

Figure 5 is the co-word relationship map for keywords which are used in the studies on ICH in the WoS database. 11,211 keywords had been used in these studies. In figure 5, only 79 keywords which have at least 15 recurrences are included in order to highlight the topics and the keywords. In this respect, “intangible cultural heritage” (849), “cultural heritage” (447), “intangible heritage” (278), “heritage” (199), “UNESCO” (176), “tourism” (112), “culture” (84), “authenticity” (76), “cultural tourism” (75), “sustainability” (74), “china” (74), “sustainable development” (70), “cultural landscape” (57), “memory” (55) keywords stand out as the most frequently used keywords.

In table 4, information regarding the relation between the studies in the ICH field and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals are displayed.

Sustainable Development Goals	Number of Studies
11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities	1,055
03 - Good Health and Well-Being	267
04 - Quality Education	224
15 - Life On Land	210
05 - Gender Equality	143
13 - Climate Action	133
02 - Zero Hunger	82
09 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	68
01 - No Poverty	50
14 - Life Below Water	31
16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	30
12 - Responsible Consumption and Production	27
10 - Reduced Inequalities	25
06 - Clean Water and Sanitation	19
08 - Decent Work and Economic Growth	12
07 - Affordable and Clean Energy	8

Table 4. The Relation between the studies in the ICH field and UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

The UN member states have put forward UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in order to ensure development on issues that constitute problems at the global level in terms of human life and the future of the world. The fact that the ICH reflects the identity of societies, makes it possible to find common grounds with the Sustainable Development Goals. The relation between the topics and the approaches of the ICH themed academic studies in the WoS database and these goals are specified. Examining the table, “Sustainable Cities and Communities” (1,055), “Good Health and Well-Being” (267), “Quality Education” (224) and “Life On Land” (210) constituting top 5, the WoS database relates 2,384 of the total 4,568 ICH themed studies with 16 Sustainable Development Goals.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study provides a bibliometric analysis of academic research on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) indexed in international databases. The findings reveal that studies on ICH first emerged in 2002, coinciding with the adoption of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003 and its enforcement in 2006. The steady increase in publications over time, particularly surpassing 300 articles per year since 2015, underscores the growing academic and interdisciplinary interest in this field. This upward trend aligns with the increasing global awareness of the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage amid contemporary challenges such as globalization, climate change, and socio-political conflicts. Interdisciplinary studies on ICH should be intensified. It is suggested that ICH, especially in tourism literature, should focus on "tradition" instead of "product" focused studies. When the subjects of studies on ICH are examined,

it is seen that more space should be given to regional, national and international crises. COVID pandemic, Ukraine-Russia War, February 6, 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes and similar events are closely related to ICH.

As seen in Graph 3, the studies on ICH are mostly published in the field of "Humanities, Multidisciplinary" and covers a wide range of areas such as social sciences, accommodation, entertainment and tourism, anthropology, education, folkloristics and environment. This situation reveals the multidimensional structure of ICH and shows that the area is suitable for studies and perspectives in various fields such as art, law, history, archeology, tourism, gastronomy, religion and communication. The fact that the keywords used in the studies on ICH in various disciplines focus on "cultural heritage, intangible cultural heritage, heritage" shows that the research directly deals with ICH. Furthermore, it is concluded that the issues of safeguarding and education are also touched upon at a certain level. When the relation between ICH and contemporary topics are examined based on the keywords, one can say that there are academic studies about the ICH versus global events such as the Covid-19 pandemic, wars and climate change.

As a result of the analyzes made, the current status of the studies published in the international literature related to ICH, the authors and institutions that work the most and have scientific cooperation in the field are revealed. These results guide and provide ideas for researchers who work and want to work in the field. Based on these outputs, researchers can carry out studies on areas of interest and gaps in the field of ICH. In this way, it is possible to carry out studies on the safeguarding of ICH, its transmission to future generations, providing social awareness and sensitivity, and the different aspects of ICH elements as well as the approaches of the stakeholders on this issue. In addition, considering the limitations of the research, it is possible to develop suggestions for future studies. In this research, the Web of Science database was used and examining other databases such as Scopus and Google Scholar, searching national and other international indexes will make it possible to reach national and international trends on ICH. It is thought that a comparative analysis of the research on ICH in different countries or regions will reveal the differences in ICH in different cultures or regions. Examination of the application areas of the researches on the related subject will reveal how the subject of ICH is applied and in which areas it is used. At the same time, making a historical analysis of the research on ICH will reveal when and how the subject emerged and how it changed. In addition, the analysis was made only for written sources and other sources were not included. For this reason, it may be recommended to use different data sources for future research, to make comparative country or region analyzes, to examine the application areas, to make a historical analysis, to examine the factors affecting ICH, and to evaluate the effects, results and importance of the studies carried out.

In conclusion, the safeguarding and management of ICH remain critical in preserving cultural identity and promoting sustainable development. This study highlights the value of bibliometric analyses in identifying research trends, gaps, and opportunities. By adopting the recommendations outlined above, future research can contribute to a deeper understanding of ICH, its significance, and its potential to address contemporary global challenges.

NOTES

1. Each State Party shall take the necessary measures to ensure the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory.
2. Each State Party shall endeavor to foster scientific, technical and artistic studies, as well as research methodologies, with a view to effective safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, in particular the intangible cultural heritage in danger.

3. Each State Party shall endeavor, by all appropriate means, to capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, in particular management and scientific research.

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