



BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF CONSTANTINOPLE STUDIES THROUGH VOSWIEVER

Woswiever ile Konstantinopolis Çalışmalarının Bibliyometrik Analizi

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to map the studies on the concept of Constantinople. Within the scope of quantitative data, the study aims to provide researchers with a systematic summary of the existing literature on Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire for about 11 centuries, using bibliometric analysis, and to identify trends and gaps in the study of Constantinople. The unit of analysis is based on the bibliometric data of different types of works scanned in the Web of Science database and published between 1975 and 2024. When examining the distribution of 1939 works on this subject according to the years of publication, the highest concentrations are observed in 2021 (144 works), 2022 (130 works), and 2019 (107 works). The authors who published the most works are Alessandra Bravi (13 works), Judith Herrin (13 works), and Sofia Kotzabassi (10 works). The predominant types of publications are journal articles (1280), book reviews (463), and book chapters (213). In terms of research fields, History (1018), Medieval Studies (733), Art (166), Archaeology (137), and Area/Regional Studies (65) are the most represented. Regarding the distribution of publications by country, the USA (258), Russia (197), and the UK (1377) are the leading publishers. The majority of works were published in English (1067), Russian (269), and French (184). The primary indexing databases include AHCI (1033), ESCI (581), and SSCI (122). The most frequently used keywords in publications on Constantinople include Byzantium (416 repetitions), Roman Empire (127 repetitions), Old Russian (70 repetitions), and Kemalism (58 repetitions).

Keywords: art history, Byzantine Empire, Byzantine cities, Constantinople, bibliometric analysis.

Öz

Bu çalışmada, Konstantinopolis kavramı üzerine yapılan çalışmaların haritasını çıkarmak hedeflenmiştir. Çalışmada, nicel veriler kapsamında bibliyometrik analiz kullanılarak, yaklaşık 11 yüzyıl boyunca Bizans İmparatorluğu'nun başkenti Konstantinopolis'e ilişkin mevcut yazının sistemli bir özetinin araştırmacıların dikkatine su-

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nulması, Konstantinopolis ile ilgili çalışma eğilimlerinin ve boşlukların tespiti amaçlanmıştır. Analiz birimi olarak Web of Science veri tabanında taranan ve 1975-2024 yılları arasında yayımlanmış farklı türdeki eserlerin bibliyometrik verisi baz alınmıştır. Bu konu ile ilgili 1939 eserin yayım yıllarına göre dağılımına bakıldığında, en fazla 2021 (144 eser), 2022 (130 eser) ve 2019 (107 eser) yıllarında yoğunlaşma olduğu; en fazla eser veren isimlerin Alessandra Bravi (13 eser), Judith Herrin (13 eser) ve Sofia Kotzabassi (10 eser) olduğu; yayım türünün ağırlıklı olarak dergi makalesi (1280), kitap incelemesi (463) ve kitap bölümü (213) türünde olduğu; araştırma alanları açısından Tarih (1018), Orta Çağ Çalışmaları (733), Sanat (166), Arkeoloji (137) ve Alan/Bölge Çalışmaları (65) alanlarında eser verildiği ve yayımların ülkelere göre dağılımı konusunda liderliğin ABD (258), Rusya (197) ve İngiltere (1377) menşeli yayımcılarda olduğu; başta İngilizce (1067) olmak üzere Rusça (269) ve Fransızca (184) eserler yayımlandığı; AHCI (1033), ESCI (581), SSCI (122) ve endekslerde taranan yayımların ağırlıkta olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Konstantinopolis ile ilgili yayımlarda en sık kullanılan anahtar sözcüklere bakıldığında 416 tekrar ile Byzantium, 127 tekrar ile Roma İmparatorluğu, 70 tekrar ile eski Rus, 58 tekrar ile Kemalizm ifadeleri başı çekmektedir.

Anahtar Sözcükler: sanat tarihi, Bizans İmparatorluğu, Bizans şehirleri, Konstantinopolis, bibliyometrik analiz.

Introduction

Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, was founded in 324 by Constantine I on the site of the ancient Greek city of Byzantium. The new center of imperial authority consisted of the Great Palace and the Hippodrome complex located within the old city (Mango, 1991: 508). Although the city was later fortified for defense against its Thracian neighbors and enemies from Anatolia or from the sea, it had to be surrounded by walls from the earliest years (Müller-Wiener, 2001: 16). The plan of the city founded by Constantine I differs from the grid plan scheme used by the Romans in the construction of cities during their Imperial period, which envisaged main streets separated in a fan-shaped pattern and large streets cutting them. Although the most important role of Constantinople stems from the fact that it was both the capital and the residence of the Emperor, it should not be forgotten that this city was also an economic center (Müller-Wiener, 2001: 19). Many important studies have been conducted on such an important city until today. In this sense, this article aims to provide a systematic summary of Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire for nearly 11 centuries, using bibliometric analysis and to identify trends and gaps in the study of Constantinople.

There are various methods that can be used to analyze academic studies on a particular subject. Bibliometric studies have come to the forefront among these methods in recent years in many different disciplines. The term bibliometrics was first used by Pritchard (1969) (Siyavuş and Aydın, 2021: 2). Bibliometrics can be defined as a statistical analysis of data about books, journals, articles, theses and other academic publications obtained from typical databases (Kahraman, 2022: 210). It is not a stereotypical practice accepted by everyone. However, in the literature, analyses such as the distribution of research on various topics according to disciplines, countries and years, co-citation analysis, journals and authors that contribute the most to the relevant literature are frequently made. Bibliometric analysis is defined as the quantitative analysis of certain characteristics of scientific documents or publications such as the number of authors, the journal, subject, and publication information (Sarı and Delen, 2021: 182; Yalçın, 2010: 206-207; Alexandre-Benavent et al., 2018; Kahraman, 2022: 210). Bibliometric analysis method can reveal the relationship between a publication and other publications as well as quantitative and qualitative analysis of a large number of studies (Siyavuş and Aydın, 2021: 2; Raimbault, 2021: 15).

In this study, the general trend in the literature was taken into consideration and similar analyses were applied. A total of 1939 studies on Constantinople in the Web of Science database in History, Medieval Studies, Art History, Archaeology and Area/Regional Studies were analyzed. As a result of these examinations, answers were sought to questions such as the years in which studies on Constantinople, reflected in the WoS database, were concentrated in the social sciences, the faculties and universities that are prominent on an institutional basis, the most frequently covered topics, and the researchers whose ideas are most frequently consulted in academic publications. The aim of this study is to provide a better understanding of the relevant literature and to present a pioneering research for those who will conduct research on Constantinople in the future, especially in History, Medieval Studies, Art History, Archaeology and Area/Regional Studies, in order to identify the parts that are missing or need to be examined in the literature.

1. Method

In this section, the purpose of the study and the analyses conducted are given.

1.1. Purpose of the Study

As a result of the bibliometric analysis of the concept of Constantinople within the scope of History, Medieval Studies, Art/Art History, Archaeology and Area/Regional Studies as a result of quantitative data and numerical measurement indicators, it is aimed to present the studies on the concept to the attention of researchers with a holistic perspective.

1.2. Limitations

In this study, only the studies on Constantinople reflected in the Web of Science database were evaluated. While there are significant studies in many other databases, these were excluded from the scope of the study due to the lack of information and the deficiencies in conducting analyses, such as citation analysis and content analysis, in databases other than Web of Science. Compared to other databases, the Web of Science database is a citation index with much fewer deficiencies. Within the scope of our topic, an evaluation has been made on Constantinople, especially on research on History, Medieval Studies, Art History, Archaeology and Area/Regional Studies.

1.3. Data and Analysis

In this article, the VOSviewer program was preferred because it has strengths in terms of functionality in the field of Social Sciences and works more efficiently in Web of Science analysis. It is known that this program facilitates researchers to discover relationships and new concepts in the literature (Dirik et al., 2023: 173). In addition, it enables in-depth analysis of data sets due to its mapping, visualization and multidimensional analysis capabilities.

Different bibliometric analysis tools such as Google Scholar, Scopus, PubMed and NLM's MEDLINE, DBLP are used in the literature. Web of Science database was used in the current study. The selection of Web of Science database for various analyses, including bibliometric analyses, is an important factor for the reliability of research. The Web of Science database has advanced search indicators for advanced data analysis as well as various control mechanisms. In addition, this database includes high-quality and reliable studies in terms of publication ethics and provides access to a wide range of publications from many different disciplines.

On 19.06.2024, a Web of Science search with the keyword "Constantinople" in History, Medieval Studies, Art History, Archaeology and Area/Regional Studies yielded 1939 results. According to the years, 1280 jour-

nal articles, 463 book reviews, 213 book chapters, 78 early view (ongoing) studies, 62 editorial content, 18 review articles, 22 books and 9 notes were accessed from different disciplines, with the oldest being 1975 and the most recent 2024. In terms of disciplines, the majority of the studies seem to belong to the fields of History (1018), Medieval Studies (733), Art (166), Archaeology (137) and Area/Regional Studies (65). In general, there has been a gradual increase in the number of studies on the subject since the 2000s (Figure 1). The data were analyzed by author-citation-journal-country-institution and keyword analysis. As a database, the content indexed in Web of Science was taken as a criterion.

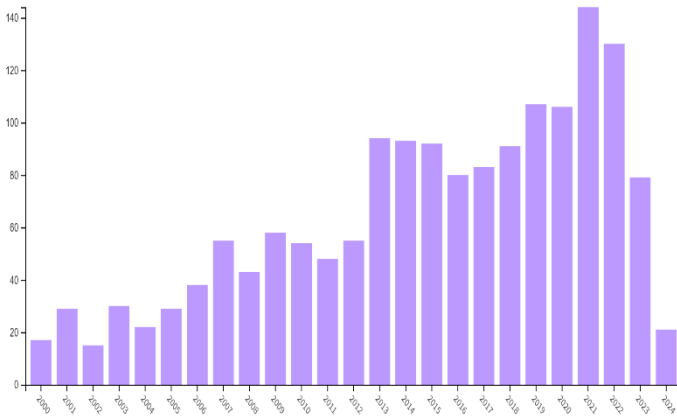


Figure 1. Distribution of studies on Constantinople in the Web of Science database according to the year range 2000-2024.

2. Findings

Under this heading, the findings of the study are presented. The results of the research process are presented under the headings of co-authorship of authors, citation of authors, citation of countries, citation of organizations, co-occurrence of author key words, bibliographic coupling of documents, bibliographic coupling of authors, co-citation of co-authors.

2.1. Co-authorship of Authors Analysis

The network map of author citation analyses with at least 1 publication and 1 citation criterion was created to determine the citation networks. In the analysis made on 11 units that were found to be interconnected, 2 clusters, 30 links and a total link strength of 729 were determined. The most cited authors were R. Bartlett with 192 citations, Bissera Pentcheva with 83 citations and I. James with 59 citations. However, these three authors are

not in the top three in terms of total link strength. Tomasz Wazny, R. H. Jordan, Rosemary Morris are in the top three in terms of total link strength. It can also be seen that the most cited authors (R. Bartlett with 192 citations, Bissera Pentcheva with 83 citations, I. James with 59 citations) are not the most connected authors. The authors who produced the most works do not appear to be among the most connected authors (Harris Jonathan, Sofia Kotzabassi and Peter Hatile respectively) (Figure 2).

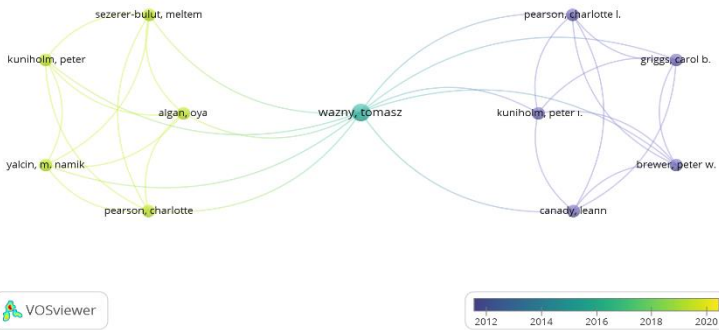


Figure 2. Co-author links showing collaboration between authors

2.2. Citation of Authors Analysis

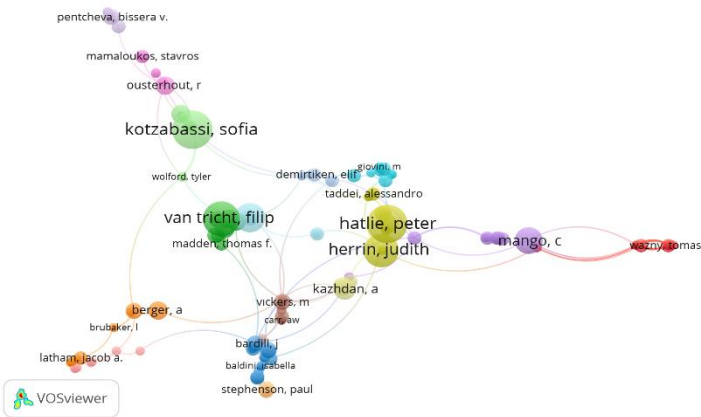


Figure 3. Citation links of authors

A network map was created for author citation analysis with the aim of identifying citation networks with at least 1 publication and at least 1 citation criteria. In the analysis made on 729 units that were found to be interconnected, 17 clusters, 280 connections and a total connection strength of

298 were determined. The most cited authors were R. Bartlett with 192 citations, Bissera V. Pentcheva with 83 citations and I. James with 59 citations. These three authors are not in the top three in terms of total link strength (Figure 3).

2.3. Citation of Countries Analysis

Forty-two correlated observation units were analysed in order to create a network map of the citations received by publications according to their country of origin under the criteria of at least 1 publication and 1 citation by a country. 13 clusters, 380 links and 1785 total link strengths were identified. The most cited countries were the USA (744 citations), the UK (289 citations) and Turkey (138 citations). In terms of total link strength, these countries are in the top three. In terms of number of publications, the ranking is as follows: USA (237 publications), UK (137 publications) and Turkey (66 publications) (Figure 4).

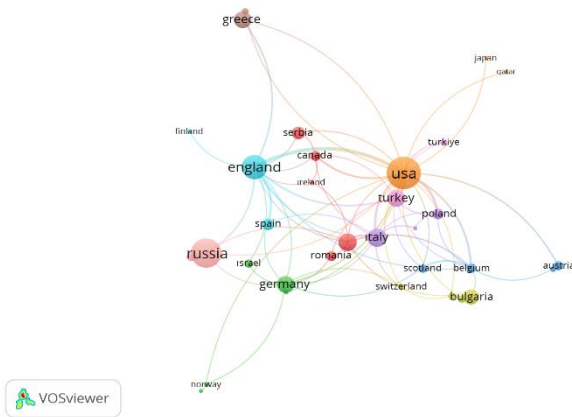


Figure 4. Citation links of countries

2.4. Citation of Organizations Analysis

In order to create a network map of inter-institutional citations, an analysis was made on 381 observation units with a relationship between them within the scope of the criteria of publishing at least 1 work by an institution and receiving 1 citation. The Russian Academy of Sciences (43 works), Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (22 works), Lomonosov Moscow State University (21 works) were represented by the most cited publications, while the address institutions of the most cited publications were Harvard University (94 citations), Stanford University (87 cita-

tions) and University of Chicago (47 citations). In total, there were 13 clusters, 118 links and a total link strength of 145 (Figure 5).

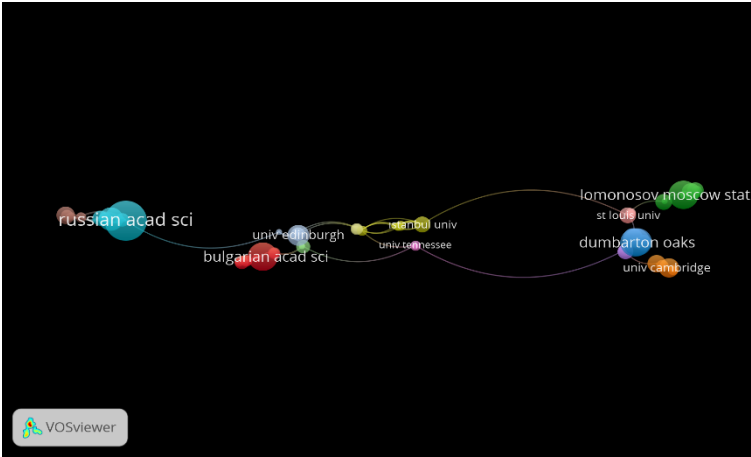


Figure 5. Attribution links of institutions

2.5. Co-occurrence of Author Key Words Analysis

When we look at the most frequently used keywords at least 5 times in publications on Constantinople, we see that Constantinople with 142 occurrences, Byzantium with 62 occurrences, Ottoman Empire with 45 occurrences, Patriarchate of Constantinople with 18 occurrences, Venice with 17 occurrences and Byzantine Empire with 16 occurrences. In terms of total link strength, the strongest expressions were Constantinople, Byzantium, Ottoman Empire and Byzantine Empire. As a result of the analysis, a total of 10 clusters, 228 links and 370 total link strengths were identified (Figure 6).

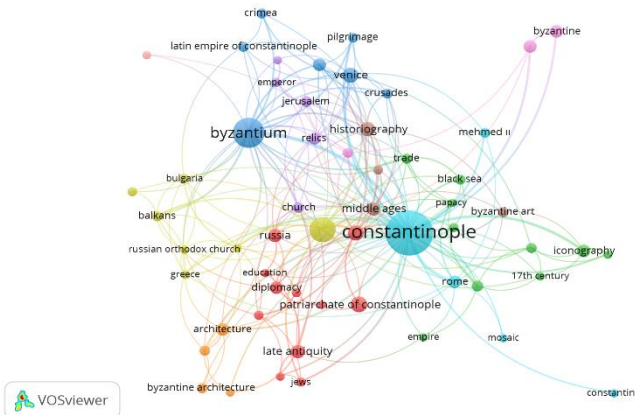


Figure 6. Most commonly used keyword links

2.6. Bibliographic Coupling of Documents Analysis

Bibliographic matching refers to the citation of a common work cited by two independent sources. According to the analysis conducted with 731 unit works selected with the criterion of having at least 1 citation and having a link between them, 25 clusters, 4069 links and 7237 total link strength were obtained. The publications with the highest number of bibliographic matches were Bartlett (2013) with 192 citations, Pentcheva (2011) with 79 citations and James (1996) with 59 citations. Works with the highest total link strength: Jonathan Harris (2017c), Flip Van Tricht (2011) and Elena Boeck (2021) (Figure 7).



Figure 7. Bibliographic matching links of the Works

2.7. Bibliographic Coupling of Authors Analysis

According to the analysis conducted with 729 units selected with the criterion of having published at least 1 work and received 1 citation, 32 clusters, 6523 links and 27088 total link strength were obtained. The authors with the highest number of bibliographic matches were R. Bartlett with 192 citations (361 link strength), Bissera V. Pentcheva with 83 citations (46 link strength) and I. James with 59 citations (120 link strength) (Figure 8).



Figure 8. Authors' bibliographic matching links

analysis of keywords in bibliometric studies has an important place in making sense of the relevant literature. The most frequently used keywords in the keyword analysis of the studies in the created data set are Byzantium, Roman Empire and old Russian words. Another feature that draws our attention as a result of our research is that the most cited authors such as R. Bartlett, Bissera V. Pentcheva, I. James are not in the top three in terms of total link strength.

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