



Review of Studies in the Field of Sports Management and a Comparison with Türkiye

İlhan Gözen¹ 

¹Gazi University, Faculty of Sport Sciences, Ankara-Türkiye, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4682-967X>, gozen.edu@gmail.com

Corresponding Author: gozen.edu@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to examine the bibliometric analysis of articles on sports management in the Web of Science (WoS) database, to reveal the perspective on sports management and to make a comparison specific to Türkiye. Firstly, 670 research articles on sports management were accessed from the WoS database and the data were analysed with the VOSviewer package program. As a result of the analysis, when the distribution of articles on sports management by years was examined, data was obtained as of 1992 and publications were seen to peak in 2021, and parallel declines were seen in publications in 2022 and 2023. According to the examination of citation data related to the subject of sports management, the most cited article with 137 citations "Sport-based entrepreneurship: Towards a new theory of entrepreneurship and sport", the most cited researcher with 3 publications and 166 citations "Ratten, Vanessa", the journal with the most publications (3) "Retos-nuevas Tendencias en Education Fisica Deporte", the journal with the most citations (137) "International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal", the institution with the most publications (2) "Deakin Grad Sch Business", and the institution with the most citations (137) was "Duquesne Univ". The highest level of collaboration between institutions was seen between "Karamanoğlu Mehmet Bey University" and "Rmit Univ". When looking at the countries with the most publications and citations, Spain was the country with the most publications (87) and the USA was the country with the most citations (616). In the common keyword network, the densest cluster with 5 keyword networks was the yellow cluster and the sparsest cluster with 2 keyword networks was the brown cluster. In the co-citation network of the authors, the densest red clusters were found with 12 clusters, and the least dense turquoise clusters were found with 3 clusters. As a result, it has been seen that there are many studies on sports management and that interest in the subject has increased. When looking at Türkiye specifically, it is seen that it ranks 5th among the countries with the most publications, with 29 publications and 100 citations. In line with the content analysis, it was concluded that there were many publications in the field of sports management in Türkiye, but they did not have sufficient impact in terms of content and scope.

Keywords: Sports management, Common keyword, Dense cluster, Co-citation

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, sports are an important element that enables people to live healthy, quality, and balanced lives. Sports is also an area of activity that is good for people's psychological, mental, and spiritual health. Sports and their operations are used as a soft power element that triggers social dynamics and covers a multifunctional area with a large economic value. In recent years, social media platforms and developing sports technologies have increased the quality of sports goods and services, bringing

success and quality in sports to the highest level. Sport, which also takes cultural interaction between societies to the highest level, has entered all areas of life today (Ekmekçi, Ekmekçi & İrmış, 2013).

When we look at the legal regulations regarding sports and their operations in Türkiye, sports services are clearly stated in the 1982 Constitution. The 1982 Constitution gave the state the duty to establish sports infrastructure, enable its citizens to do sports, and open sports facilities. However, when we look at the processes and dynamics of fulfilling this responsibility, we see that politics and sports are

in a mutually beneficial relationship, and sports services and investments are supported according to political understanding and fandom. As in modern societies, the Turkish state must make sports an area that is completely independent from the public. In addition, the private sector should be encouraged, the concept of sponsorship should be developed and supported, and investments and incentives should be made in a fair, transparent, and auditable manner (Devecioğlu, 2005; Shiakou, et. al., 2025; Yılmaz, Genç & Safi, 2023).

When we look at the education process of sports in Türkiye, it is apparent that there is a comprehensive education process aimed at educating both students and academic staff through the education given in sports high schools, sports colleges, and sports faculties. When it comes to the subject of our study, which is sports management, as a high-potential field with different educational areas and all its structure and functionality; it is an educational field that educates students, trains well-equipped technical and managerial staff for private and public institutions, contributes to sports and their operations and science, and has positive effects on the society to be healthy and dynamic (Kurtipek, Güngör, Esentürk, İlhan & Yenel, 2020; Sevilmiş & Yıldız, 2022; Lera-López & Rapún-Gárate, 2005).

As can be seen, the active and high-quality education provided by the field of sports management and the training of well-equipped personnel has a positive impact on the spread of sports to the grassroots. At the same time, sports management education and training fields pave the way for sports to be done more consciously, to achieve global sports success, to organize quality sports organizations, and to build modern sports facilities, as in modern societies (Kahwa, Gargalianos & Yfantidou, 2021; Kurtipek, Güngör, Esentürk, İlhan & Yenel, 2020).

Students who graduate from sports management prepare themselves for the next stage in areas that require experiential development, such as internships and workers in related workplaces and public areas (Howes & Rode, 2024; Tolukan, Yıldız & Etlioğlu, 2024). Schwab, Dustin, Legg, Timmerman, Wells, & Arthur-Banning (2013) in their study addressed students about the richness of field-specific business lines in sports management and emphasized that sports business and operations should not be in conflict with similar fields such as tourism, culture, fine arts, dance and music, and that sports should work in harmony, rhythm, and coordination with these soft power elements.

Again Schwab, Legg, Tanner, Timmerman, Dustin, & Arthur-Banning, (2015) emphasized in their study that students in the field of sports

management play a key role in sports and their operations and that students who graduate from the field of sports should be prepared according to new understanding and technologies in our changing and developing world. It has been stated that an educational model that serves all these understandings and innovations should be developed.

As stated above, sports management plays a key role in making sports more conscious and creating a healthier society. In societies where conscious and quality sports are practiced a peaceful understanding, love, and respect are prioritized. In addition, sports have an important role in building a healthy generation and a tolerant and honest society (Eliason et al., 2023; Oje & Zeimers, 2025; Sunay, 1998).

This study aims to emphasize the importance of sports management, reveal the scope and effects of academic studies on sports management, compare the effects of studies conducted specifically in Türkiye, and produce data that will contribute to the studies of academics in sports management. Therefore, it has become necessary to examine the academic studies related to sports management that have been conducted in the WoS database until today. In this research review; the distribution of studies related to sports management by years, the most published and cited articles, the researchers with the most publications and citations, the journals with the most publications and citations, institutions with the most publications and citations, co-author analysis, the countries with the most publications and citations, author common word analysis and co-citation analysis were examined, some data were reached and obtained data is presented visually below.

METHOD

Research Model

In this research, bibliometric analyses of 670 research articles related to sports management published in the WoS database were conducted. Gholampour, Noruzi, Gholampour & Elahi (2019) stated in their study that there are many ways and methods in the world in terms of research models, and one of these ways and methods is bibliometric analysis. The bibliometric method aims to reveal the distribution of the study over the years, the trend aspects of the study, and the impact it has left. In other words, the bibliometric analysis method reveals the relationship between authors, institutions, and countries within academic studies (Small, 1999). When viewed from another perspective, bibliometric analysis is an analysis

method that aims to reveal the academic world equivalent of the studies, namely the number of citations, citation average, distribution by years, author, words, and common collaboration network in terms of descriptive and performance effects (Al vd., 2010). In another definition, bibliometric analysis is a method that reveals the characteristics of publications on certain subjects comprehensively, rather than revealing the statistical significance of the mathematical data obtained (Pritchard, 1969).

Data Collection Tools

In creating the data, some classifications were made in the studies to be added to the research and some keywords were taken as criteria. Then, the date range, document type, and study area were determined. In the next stage, the keyword "sports management" was written, and while no criterion was determined as the starting year for the date range, 2023 was taken as the end date. Among the document scanning types, only articles were taken

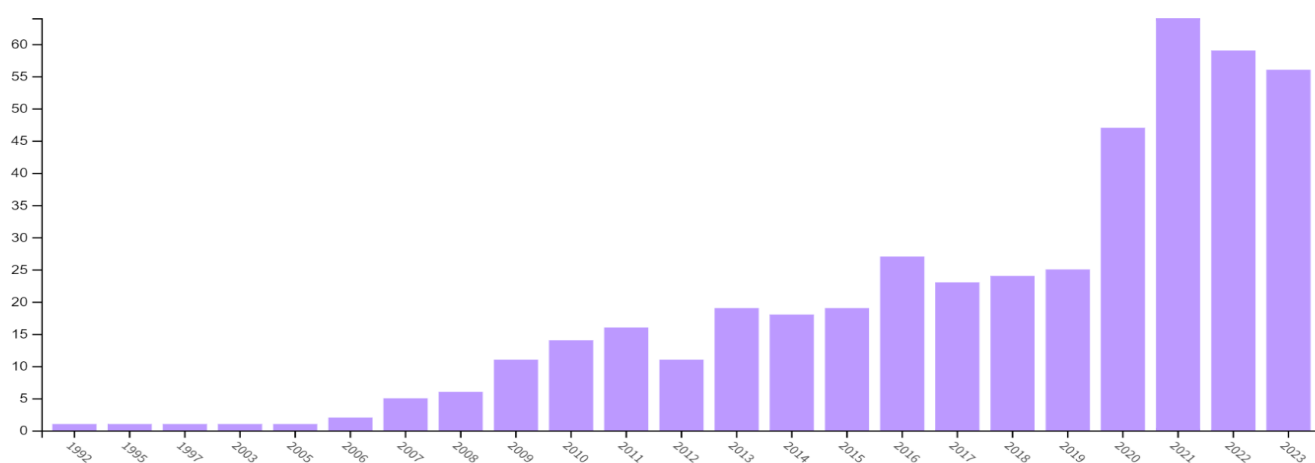
Data Analyses

As the first step in obtaining the analyses of this study; the distribution of research articles related to the subject of sports management in the Web of Science (WoS) database by years was examined, and in the second step; citation analysis, co-author

into consideration. The reason for using articles as a basis is that the content of other types of documents was not reachable. The scanning process was initiated by typing the keyword "sports management" into the WoS database and marking the "topic" research field to scan the data. After the scanning process, 670 articles were reached. In the next step, the data were transferred to the computer in "plain text file" format, and the data of the study were obtained. At the end of the study, the data obtained as a result of the classifications and criteria determined from the WoS database were mapped and visualized. When it comes to the limitation of the study, obtaining the data only from the WoS database, determining the sports/management fields in the field limitation of the research, selecting only articles from the academic studies conducted, and finally not classifying the content such as the methods used in the studies, gender of the author and sample group are other limitations of our study.

analysis, co-citation analysis and keyword analysis of the articles related to the field were performed to obtain bibliometric data. In the third step, some networks and maps were created based on the results obtained from the bibliometric data, and the mapping of the obtained data was provided (Van Eck & Waltman, 2014; 2019).

Distribution of Articles on Sports Management by Years: In this research, the distribution of studies related to sports management by years was examined and analyzed according to the results of the data obtained from the WoS database. The findings of the research are shown in graph 1 below.



Graph 1. Distribution of Sports Management Studies by Years: When Graph 1 is examined, it is seen that the first publication on sports management in the WoS database was in 1992. While looking at the data between 1992 and 2005, there was no significant increase in the number of publications, and parallelism was observed in the number of

publications between these years. There were gradual and serious increases starting from 2007 until 2011. Although there was a slight decrease in the increase rate in 2012, there was a significant increase again in 2013. A very slight decrease was observed in 2014, and it rose back to 2013 levels in 2015. There was a big increase in 2016 and a small decrease in publications in 2017. There were gradual

increases in 2018 and 2019, a very large increase was observed in 2020, and the real peak was seen in 2021. Finally, very slight gradual declines were observed in 2022 and 2023.

Most Cited Articles on Sports Management:

According to the data obtained from the WoS database, information about the top 15 most cited articles on sports management is shown in Table 1

Table 1. Most Cited Articles

	Article name	Total citations	Citation average
1	"Ratten, V. (2011). Sport-based entrepreneurship: Towards a new theory of entrepreneurship and sport management. <i>International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal</i> , 7, 57-69."	137	9,79
2	"Breitbarth, T., & Harris, P. (2008). The role of corporate social responsibility in the football business: Towards the development of a conceptual model. <i>European Sport Management Quarterly</i> , 8(2), 179-206."	136	8
3	"Ji, S., Wan, C., Wang, T., Li, Q., Chen, G., Wang, J., ... & Chen, X. (2020). Water-resistant conformal hybrid electrodes for aquatic enduring electrocardiographic monitoring. <i>Advanced Materials</i> , 32(26), 2001496."	129	25,8
4	"Yang, H., Ji, S., Chaturvedi, I., Xia, H., Wang, T., Chen, G., ... & Chen, X. (2020). Adhesive biocomposite electrodes on sweaty skin for long-term continuous electrophysiological monitoring. <i>ACS Materials Letters</i> , 2(5), 478-484."	95	19
5	"Herm, S., Callsen-Bracker, H. M., & Kreis, H. (2014). When the crowd evaluates soccer players' market values: Accuracy and evaluation attributes of an online community. <i>Sport Management Review</i> , 17(4), 484-492."	77	7
6	"Yu, Z., & Wu, P. (2021). Water-resistant ionogel electrode with tailorable mechanical properties for aquatic ambulatory physiological signal monitoring. <i>Advanced Functional Materials</i> , 31(51), 2107226."	63	15,75
7	"Li, T., Sun, J., & Wang, L. (2021). An intelligent optimization method of motion management system based on BP neural network. <i>Neural Computing and Applications</i> , 33, 707-722."	49	9,8
8	"Anderson-Butcher, D., Riley, A., Amorose, A., Iachini, A., & Wade-Mdivanian, R. (2014). Maximizing youth experiences in community sport settings: The design and impact of the life sports camp. <i>Journal of Sport Management</i> , 28(2), 236-249."	46	4,18
9	"Wilson, B., Stavros, C., & Westberg, K. (2008). Player transgressions and the management of the sport sponsor relationship. <i>Public Relations Review</i> , 34(2), 99-107."	44	2,59
10	"Nweke, H. F., Teh, Y. W., Mujtaba, G., Alo, U. R., & Al-garadi, M. A. (2019). Multi-sensor fusion based on multiple classifier systems for human activity identification. <i>Human-centric Computing and Information Sciences</i> , 9, 1-44."	42	7
11	"Breitbarth, T., Hovemann, G., & Walzel, S. (2011). Scoring strategy goals: Measuring corporate social responsibility in professional European football. <i>Thunderbird International Business Review</i> , 53(6), 721-737."	41	2,93
12	"Jones, P., & Jones, A. (2014). Attitudes of sports development and sports management undergraduate students towards entrepreneurship: A university perspective towards best practice. <i>Education+ Training</i> , 56(8/9), 716-732."	38	3,45
13	"Nuviala, A., Grao-Cruces, A., Pérez-Turpin, J. A., & Nuviala, R. (2012). Perceived service quality, perceived value and satisfaction in groups of users of sports organizations in Spain. <i>Kinesiology</i> , 44(1.), 94-103."	38	2,92
14	"Hammerschmidt, J., Eggers, F., Kraus, S., Jones, P., & Filser, M. (2020). Entrepreneurial orientation in sports entrepreneurship- A mixed methods analysis of professional soccer clubs in the German-speaking countries. <i>International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal</i> , 16, 839-857."	33	6,6
15	"León-Quismondo, J., García-Unanue, J., & Burillo, P. (2020). Best practices for fitness center business sustainability: A qualitative vision. <i>Sustainability</i> , 12(12), 5067."	33	6,6

When Table number 1 is examined, it is seen that the most productive article with 137 citations and a

citation average of 9.79 is the study titled "Sport-based entrepreneurship: Towards a new theory of

entrepreneurship and sport management" (Ratten, V. 2011). This study aims to develop a theory of entrepreneurship in sports management by investigating the relationship between entrepreneurship and sports. It is noteworthy that "Water-resistant conformal hybrid electrodes for aquatic enduring electrocardiographic monitoring" (Ji, S., Wan, C., Wang, T., Li, Q., Chen, G., Wang, J.,

... & Chen, X. 2020) ranks first in the citation ranking with 129 publications and an average of 25.8 citations.

Researchers with the Most Publications and Citations on Sports Management: Considering the data obtained from the WoS database, the data of the top 15 researchers who published the most on sports management are shown in table 2.

Table 2. Researchers with the Most Publications

	Author	Number of Publications	Number of Citations
1	Ratten, Vanessa	3	166
2	Dominteanu, Teodora	2	1
3	Fernandez-Gavira, Jesus	2	1
4	Galvez-Ruiz, Pablo	2	1
5	Gonzalez-Serrano, Maria Huertas	2	4
6	Grimaldi-Puyana, Moises	2	1
7	Jesus Sanchez-Oliver, Antonio	2	1
8	Jones, Amanda	1	38
9	Jones, Paul	1	38
10	Farias, Gelcemar Oliveira	1	2
11	Nascimento, Juarez Vieira	1	2
12	Ouinaud, Ricardo Teixeira	1	2
13	Gotovic, Tea	1	4
14	Popovic, Toni	1	4
15	Relja, Renata	1	4

When looking at the data in Table number 2, in the ranking of researchers with the most articles in the field of sports management, "Ratten, Vanessa" ranked first as the most productive author with an average of 3 publications and 166 citations. According to the table, other researchers with 2 publications are; "Dominteanu, Teodora", "Fernandez-Gavira, Jesus", "Galvez-Ruiz, Pablo", "Gonzalez-Serrano, Maria Huertas", "Grimaldi-

Puyana, Moises" and "Jesus Sanchez-Oliver, Antonio", respectively, while the publication numbers of other researchers are limited to 1.

According to the results obtained from the WoS database, information about the top 15 most cited researchers in sports management is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Most Cited Researchers

	Author	Number of publications	Number of Citations
1	Ratten, Vanessa	3	166
2	Breitbarth, Tim	1	136
3	Harris, Phil	1	136
4	Li, Tuojian	1	49
5	Sun, Jinhai	1	49
6	Wang, Lie	1	49
7	Jones, Amanda	1	38
8	Jones, Paul	1	38
9	Celik, Talip	1	27
10	Mergan, Baris	1	27
11	İlkin, Mehmet	1	27
12	Chan, Chu-Chen	1	14
13	Chen, Su-Ching	1	14
14	Liao, Tsung-Yao	1	14
15	Lin, Yu-En	1	14

When looking at the data in Table number 3; "Ratten, Vanessa" ranks first as the researcher with

the most citations in the field of sports management with 166 citations. When looking at the citation

average, "Breitbart" came in second with 136 citations, and again "Tim and Harris, Phil" came in third with 136 citations. Although the authors have

only 1 publication related to sports management, the fact that they have an average of 136 citations shows that they have a quality publication.

Journals with the most Publication and Citations on Sports Management: According to the data obtained from the WoS database, information about the top 15 journals that published the most on sports management is shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Journals with the most Publications.

	Journal name	Number of publications	Number of citations
1	"Retos-nuevas Tendencias en Education Fisica Deporte Recreation"	3	2
2	"Thunderbird International Business Review"	2	29
3	"Economics & Sociology"	2	4
4	"Metalurgia International"	2	1
5	"Sport Tk-revista Euroamericana de Ciencias del Deporte"	2	1
6	"Sustainability"	2	4
7	"International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal"	1	137
8	"Education and Training"	1	38
9	"Movimento"	1	2
10	"Cogent Business & Management"	1	3
11	"European Sport Management Quarterly"	1	136
12	"Gander in Management"	1	2
13	"Journal of Career Development"	1	14
14	"Neural Computing & Applications"	1	49
15	"Pakistan Journal of Medical & Health Sciences"	1	27

When looking at the data in Table number 4; "Retos-nuevas Tendencias en Education Fisica Deporte Recreation" ranks first as the journal with the most publications in sports management with 3 articles. The journals with 2 publications are "Thunderbird International Business Review", "Economics & Sociology", "Metalurgia International", "Sport Tk-revista Euroamericana de Ciencias del Deporte", and "Sustainability". One of the striking findings of the research is the "International

Entrepreneurship and Management Journal" with 137 citations despite having only 1 publication, and the "European Sport Management Guarantee" with 136 citations.

According to the results obtained from the WoS database, the results of the top 15 most cited journals related to sports management are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Most Cited Journals

	Journal name	Number of citations	Number of publications
1	"International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal"	137	1
2	"European Sport Management Quarterly"	136	1
3	"Neural Computing & Applications"	49	1
4	"Education and Training"	38	1
5	"Thunderbird International Business Review"	29	2
6	"Pakistan Journal of Medical & Health Sciences"	27	1
7	"Journal of Career Development"	14	1
8	"Economic & Sociology"	4	2
9	"Sustainability"	4	2
10	"Revista Iberoamericana de Ciencias de la Actividad Fisica y el Deporte"	4	1
11	"Cogent Business & Management"	3	1
12	"Retos-nuevas Tendencias en Education Fisica Deporte Recreation"	2	3
13	"Movimento"	2	1
14	"Gander in Management"	2	1
15	"Polish Journal of Management Studies"	2	1

When the data of Table number 5 are examined, "International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal" ranked first as the most cited journal with 137 citations. The second journal with 136 citations was "European Sport Management Quarterly", the third journal with 49 citations was "Neural Computing & Applications", the fourth journal with

38 citations was "Education and Training" and finally the fifth journal with 38 citations was "Thunderbird International Business Review". By examining these journals, it can be said that they are the most productive and influential journals related to sports management, as they are ranked first in terms of the number of publications and citation averages.

Institution with the Most Publication and Citations: When the results of WoS data are

examined, information about the top 15 institutions that have published the most and received the most citations on sports management is shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Institution with the Most Publication and Citations

	Institution Name	Number of articles	Number of citations		Institution Name	Number of citations	Number of articles
1	Deakin Grad Sch Business	2	29	1	Duquesne Univ	137	1
2	Bucharest Acad Econ Studies	2	1	2	Univ Otago	136	1
3	Univ Pablo de Olavide	2	1	3	Shandong Univ	49	1
4	Univ Seville	2	1	4	Univ Plymouth	38	1
5	Duquesne Univ	1	137	5	Univ South Wales	38	1
6	Univ Fed Santa Catarina	1	2	6	Deakin Grad Sch Business	29	2
7	Univ Plymouth	1	38	7	Dept Phys Educ & Sports	27	1
8	Univ South Wales	1	38	8	Fac Sport Sci	27	1
9	Univ Split	1	4	9	Natl Dong Hwa Univ	14	1
10	Chaoyang Univ Technol	1	2	10	Natl Taiwan Normal Univ	14	1
11	Contraloria Gen Republ Guibdo	1	1	11	Univ Split	4	1
12	Cricket Australia	1	2	12	Molde Univ Coll	4	1
13	Dept Phys Educ & Sports	1	27	13	Univ Cent Lancashire Uçlan Cyprus	4	1
14	Fac Sport Sci	1	27	14	Univ Valencia	4	1
15	Kasetsart Univ	1	3	15	Univ Valladolid	4	1

By examining Table number 6, the most productive institutions are seen as "Deakin Grad Sch Business", "Bucharest Acad Econ Studies", "Univ Pablo de Olavide" and "Univ Seville" with two articles each. When the institutions are examined in terms of the number of citations; the institution with the most citations is detected as "Duquesne Univ" with 137 citations. "Univ Otago" with 136 citations is in the second place, "Shandong Univ" with 49 citations in the third place, "Univ Plymouth" and "Univ South Wales" with 38 citations in the fourth and fifth places, "Deakin Grad Sch Business" with 29 citations in the sixth place. The strong collaboration network of 13 institutions is shown in Figure 1.

sixth place, "Dept Phys Educ & Sports" and "Fac Sport Sci" with 27 citations in the seventh and eighth places.

Co-Author Analysis Institutions Publishing on Sports Management: There have been reached to 648 institutions that made publications related to sports management when the results of the data obtained from the WoS database were examined and by applying 2 publication criteria to the institutions that made publications, the 13 institutions with the strongest collaboration emerged.

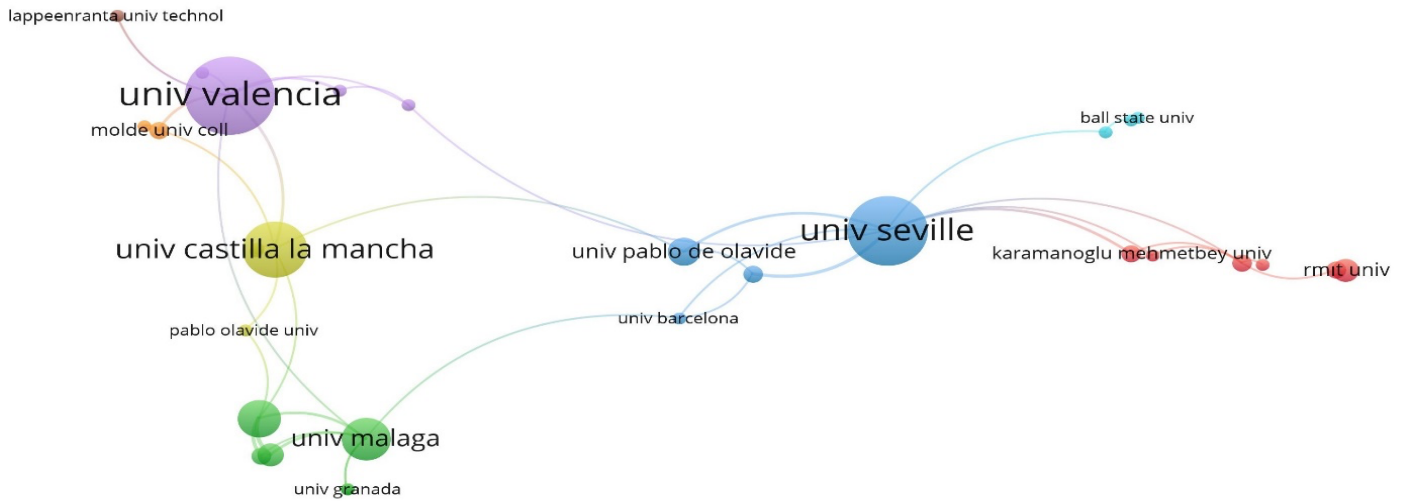


Figure 1. Strong Inter-Institutional Collaboration Network

When Figure 1, which presents the strong collaboration networks of the institutions, is examined, 13 institutions have been reached. It is seen that these 13 institutions, with strong collaboration between them, are shown in 7 different color clusters. Among the 7 different colored clusters, three different colored clusters stand out. It is seen that the highest collaboration is between the red clusters "Karamanoğlu Mehmet Bey University"

and "Rmit Univ". It is noteworthy that a Turkish University is among the intense collaboration of institutions of the same color.

Countries with the most Publications and Citations on Sport Management: When the results obtained from the WoS database are examined, information about the top 15 countries with the most publications and most citations on sports management is shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Countries with the Most Publications and Citations

	Country Name	Number of articles	Number of citations		Country Name	Number citations	Number of articles	of
1	Spain	87	385	1	ABD	616	55	
2	ABD	55	616	2	Spain	385	87	
3	China	49	373	3	China	373	49	
4	Brazil	37	41	4	Singapore	237	4	
5	Türkiye	29	100	5	New Zealand	214	5	
6	Iran	22	15	6	Australia	191	21	
7	Australia	21	191	7	Germany	174	10	
8	Portugal	18	65	8	England	130	16	
9	Colombia	17	18	9	Türkiye	100	29	
10	England	16	130	10	Switzerland	97	7	
11	Russia	12	7	11	Wales	79	3	
12	Germany	10	174	12	Qatar	74	3	
13	Canada	9	40	13	Portugal	65	18	
14	France	8	48	14	Pakistan	52	5	
15	Switzerland	7	97	15	Denmark	49	4	

By analyzing the results of Table number 7, it is seen that Spain is the most productive country with 87 publications. According to the productivity numbers listed from top to bottom; the USA with 55 publications, China with 49 publications, Berazil with 37 publications, Türkiye with 29 publications, Iran with 22 publications, Australia with 21 publications, Portugal with 18 publications, Colombia with 17 publications, England with 16 publications, Russia with 12 publications, Germany with 10 publications, Canada with 9 publications, France with 8 publications and Switzerland with 7 publications are

detected. In terms of citations, the USA stands out as the most influential country with 616 citations. When listed from top to bottom according to the number of citations; Spain with 385 citations, China with 373 citations, Singapore with 237 citations, New Zealand with 214 citations, Australia with 191 citations, Germany with 174 citations, England with 130 citations, Türkiye with 100 citations, Switzerland with 97 citations, Wales with 79 citations, Qatar with 74 citations, Portugal with 65 citations, Pakistan with 52 citations and Denmark with 49 citations are the notable countries.

Author Common Keyword Analysis Related to Sports Management: According to the results of the data obtained from the WoS database, a total of 1394 different author keywords were reached. Using keywords related to sports management at least 5

times was taken into consideration as criteria which led to the emergence of 23 different keywords. Common keyword networks related to sports management are shown in Figure 2.

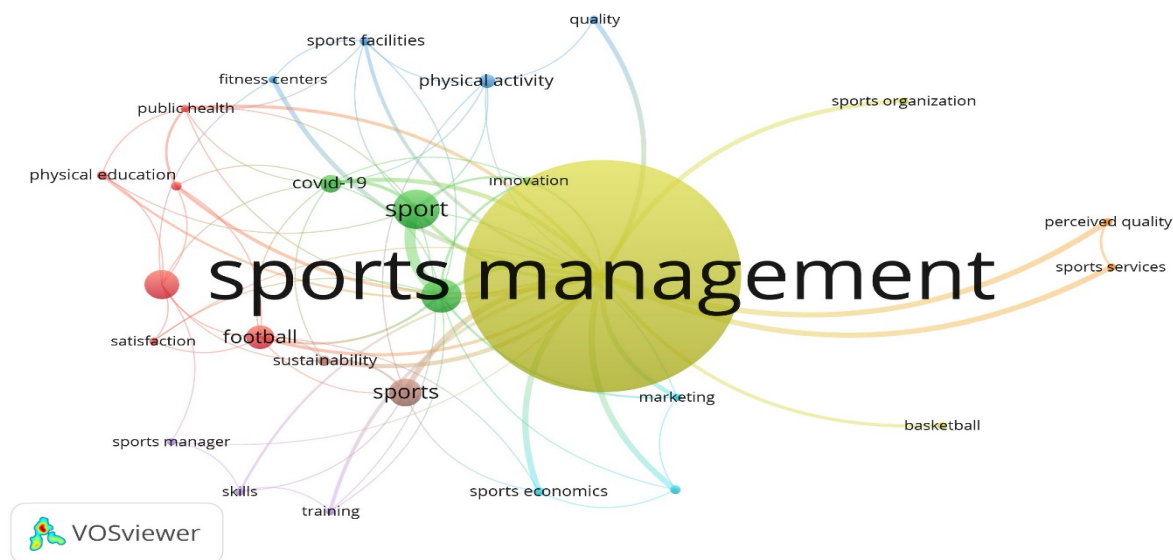


Figure 2. Sports Management Common Keyword Network

Looking at the data in Figure 2, which shows the most used keyword networks by writers on the subject of sports management, there were reached to 23 keywords which are the most used keywords by writers on the subject of sports management, and 5 keywords stood out in the yellow cluster, which is the densest cluster. The prominent keywords in the yellow cluster were; "Sports management", "Basketball", "Sports services", "Perceived quality" and "Sports organization". When the brown clusters, which are the least ones were examined, two keywords; "Sports" and "Sustainability" stood out.

Author Co-Citation Analysis Related to Sports Management: In the author co-citation analysis conducted according to the results of the data obtained from the WoS database, 12951 authors were detected. Ten citation criteria were determined regarding the subject of sports management, and as a result, 53 researchers were reached. Author co-citation networks of researchers are shown in Figure 3.

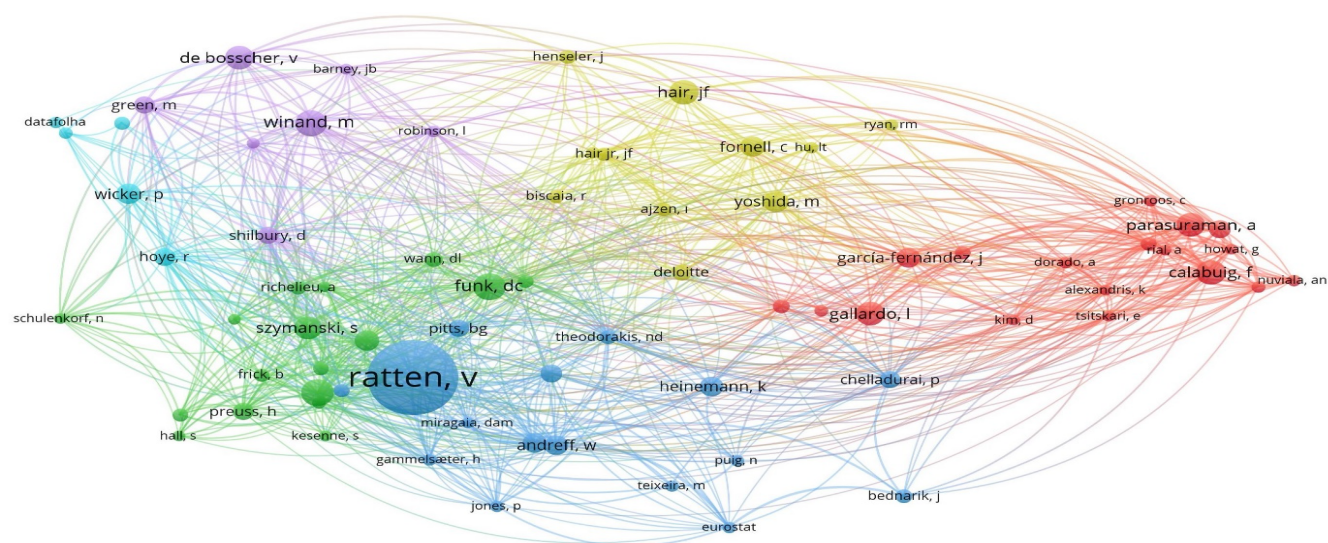


Figure 3. Co-Citation Network of Authors

Figure 3 includes co-citation network information of authors related to sports management. The data consists of 6 cluster groups with different colors. The noteworthy red clusters with the highest density are; "Gallardo, I, Garcia-Fernandez, J, Kim, D, Dorado, A, Alexandris, K, Tsitskari, E, Gronroos, C, Parasuraman, A, Rial, A, Howat, G, Calabuig, F, Nuviala, AN". In the turquoise-colored clusters where the density is lowest; "Wicker, P, Hoye, R, Dafafolha" are located. Co-cited researchers are in the same cluster and closer to each other. The authors in the yellow and green clusters are located in the middle of their 6 different colored clusters, indicating that they are in close collaboration with other clusters.

DISCUSSION

This study aims to conduct a bibliometric analysis of research articles on sports management in the Web of Science database and to reveal the perspective on sports management, and the scope and effects of studies conducted specifically for Türkiye. As a result of the literature review and analysis, some data were obtained. When Graph 1 was examined, it was seen that the first publication on the subject of sports management in the WoS database was in 1992. When the data between 1992 and 2005 were examined, there was no significant increase in the number of publications, and parallelism was observed in the number of publications between these years. There were gradual and serious increases starting from 2007 until 2011. Although there was a slight decrease in the increase rate in 2012, there was a significant increase again in 2013. A very slight decrease was observed in 2014, and it rose back to 2013 levels in 2015. There was a big increase in 2016 and a small decrease in publications in 2017. There were gradual increases in 2018 and 2019, a very large increase was observed in 2020, and the real peak was seen in 2021. Finally, very slight gradual declines were observed in 2022 and 2023 (Graph 1).

When we look at academic studies in the field of sports management in Türkiye, we come across theses written in the field of sports management in the Turkish YÖK national thesis center since 2000. As we approach the present day, it is seen that there has been a significant increase in the number of theses specific to the field of sports management, and the distribution of theses written in the field of sports management has been balanced over the years. In addition, it is seen that there was a significant increase in the number of theses in 2018 and 2019, and according to the national thesis center data in 2019, the rate of theses written specifically for the field of sports management was 27% (Biricik, 2020).

When the first table is analyzed according to the data obtained from the WoS database, it is seen that the most cited article with 137 citations and an average of 9.79 citations is the study titled "Sport-based entrepreneurship: Towards a new theory of entrepreneurship and sport management" (Ratten, V. 2011). This study aims to develop a theory of entrepreneurship in sports management by investigating the relationship between entrepreneurship and sports. It is noteworthy that "Water-resistant conformal hybrid electrodes for aquatic durable electrocardiographic monitoring" (Ji, S., Wan, C., Wang, T., Li, Q., Chen, G., Wang, J., ... & Chen, X. 2020) ranks first in the citation ranking with 129 publications and an average of 25.8 citations. At the same time, in Ratten's (2011) study it was reported that entrepreneurship is necessary to increase competition in sports management and that entrepreneurship in sports management is not at the desired level (Table 1).

When the content of the data obtained in bibliometric studies is compared with the studies conducted in Türkiye, it is seen that a lot of work has been done on sports management. Yavuz, Mirzeoğlu & Kaymakçı (2018) revealed in their study the areas in which sports management subjects are covered. When the data of the article they wrote about academic studies in the field of Sports Management in Türkiye is examined; it is seen that the following topics come to the fore in the field of "organizational behavior (28%), Sports Management and Organization (27%), Sports Economics and Marketing (15%), Leadership and Managerial Competence (14%), Education (5%), Social Studies (5%), Media and Communication (4%), and Local Governments (2%)".

Pitts & Pedersen (2005) examined the ways and methods of research on sports management and reached some conclusions. According to the results obtained; it was stated that 233 of the studies written by 435 authors were conducted within the scope of empirical research and the subject areas covered the fields of Management and Organization Skills, Marketing in Sports and social media, and Sports Business.

When Table number 2 was analyzed according to the data obtained from the WoS database, "Ratten, Vanessa" ranked first as the most productive author with 3 publications related to sports management with an average of 166 citations. According to the table, other researchers with 2 publications were "Dominteanu, Teodora", "Fernandez-Gavira, Jesus", "Galvez-Ruiz, Pablo", "Gonzalez-Serrano, Maria Huertas", "Grimaldi-Puyana, Moises" and "Jesus Sanchez-Oliver, Antonio". The number of

publications of other researchers was limited to 1 (Table 2).

According to the examination of studies conducted in Türkiye, it is seen that the authors' studies do not receive enough attention internationally and they are not at the forefront in terms of being cited. A few important issues stand out as reasons for this. When the literature and quantitative data of the studies are examined, it is seen that many studies contain similar and close results and that results specific to the field of sports management are not of high quality and comprehensive enough to contribute to science. It was observed that the studies were mostly prepared according to the quantitative paradigm design, a survey was used as the data collection method, and the method of being easily accessible was adopted in the sample group selection. This situation prevents quality and effective publications in the international arena and brings about scientific doubt (Yavuz, Mirzeoğlu & Kaymakçı, 2018).

When the third Table is analyzed according to the data obtained from the WoS database, "Ratten, Vanessa" ranks first as the researcher with the most citations in the field of sports management with 166 citations. When looking at the citation average, "Breitbarth" came in second place with 136 citations, and "Tim and Harris, Phil" came in third place with 136 citations. Although the authors have only 1 publication related to sports management, the fact that they have an average of 136 citations shows that they have a quality publication (Table 3).

In a study conducted by Atalay (2017), similar conclusions have been reached regarding the reasons why authors and articles in Türkiye do not create enough impact in scientific studies. When the statistical data of the studies conducted in the field of sports management were examined, it was stated that some articles were problematic in terms of scientific evaluation. In particular, it was viewed that no clear and understandable information was provided regarding the research method used in 48 studies, the research design used in 41 studies, and the sampling method used in 40 studies. In field-specific studies, central areas such as athletes, coaches, federations, and ministries and their easy accessibility were generally taken as criteria as the sample group, and it was observed that a survey and semi-structured interview form were used as data collection tools.

By analyzing the fourth Table it can be said that according to the data obtained from the WoS database; "Retos-nuevas Tendencias en Education Fisica Deporte Recreation" ranks first as the journal with the most publications in sports management with 3 articles. The journals with 2 publications are

"Thunderbird International Business Review", "Economics & Sociology", "Metalurgia Internacional", "Sport Tk-revista Euroamericana de Ciencias del Deporte", and "Sustainability". One of the striking findings of the research is that "International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal", despite having only 1 publication received 137 citations, and "European Sport Management Guarantee" contains 136 citations (Table 4).

According to the data obtained from the WoS database, the data in Table number 5 shows that; "International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal" ranked first as the most cited journal with 137 citations. The second journal with 136 citations was "European Sport Management Guaterly", the third journal with 49 citations was "Neural Computing & Applications", the fourth journal with 38 citations was "Education and Training" and finally the fifth journal with 38 citations was "Thunderbird International Business Review". When the journals are examined, it is seen that they are the most productive and influential journals related to sports management, as they are placed near the top in terms of the number of publications and citation averages (Table 5).

As can be seen, the international studies are of very high quality in terms of content, scope, and method, and therefore have had a great impact. When looking at the studies conducted in the field of sports management in Türkiye, Atalay (2017) in his or her study stated that the correct answers were not received to the questions regarding data acquisition, analysis, method, purpose, and, scope in the studies conducted in the field of sports sciences in Türkiye, and he or she also stated that researchers did not use the correct research methods according to the scope and content of the studies and that this situation affected the quality of the research in Türkiye negatively. In addition, it has been explained that the acceleration of studies on sports management and its operations in the national and international academic world and the emergence of quality publications depend on the more understandable and comprehensive use of research methods.

Data supporting the above results were also obtained in another study. When the studies conducted in sports management were evaluated in terms of content and scope, it was observed that there were some methodological deficiencies (Tuncel, 2008).

When the data in Table number 6 was analyzed according to the data obtained from the WoS database, the most productive institutions stood out as "Deakin Grad Sch Business", "Bucharest Acad Econ Studies", "Univ Pablo de Olavide" and "Univ

Seville" with two articles each. When the institutions were examined in terms of the number of citations; the institution with the most citations was "Duquesne Univ" with 137 citations in the first place, "Univ Otago" with 136 citations in the second place, "Shandong Univ" with 49 citations in the third place, "Univ Plymouth" and "Univ South Wales" with 38 citations in the fourth and fifth places, "Deakin Grad Sch Business" with 29 citations in the sixth place, "Dept Phys Educ & Sports" and "Fac Sport Sci" with 27 citations in the seventh and eighth places (Table 6).

When the first Figure, which presents the strong collaboration networks of the institutions, is examined, 13 institutions have been reached. It is seen that these 13 institutions, where there is strong collaboration between them, are shown in 7 different color clusters. Among the 7 different colored clusters, three different colored clusters stand out. It is seen that the highest collaboration is between the red clusters which are "Karamanoğlu Mehmet Bey University" and "Rmit Univ". It is noteworthy that a Turkish University is among the intense collaboration between institutions of the same color (Figure 1).

By examining Biricik's (2020) study conducted in the field of sports management in Türkiye, it is reported that in the comparison of foundation and state universities in studies specific to sports management, public universities conducted more studies in sports management than foundation universities. It was also determined that most studies conducted in sports management belonged to Selçuk University.

When the data in Table number seven was analyzed according to the data obtained from the WoS database, Spain stood out as the most productive country with 87 publications. When listed from top to bottom according to productivity numbers; the USA with 55 publications, China with 49 publications, Berazil with 37 publications, Türkiye with 29 publications, Iran with 22 publications, Australia with 21 publications, Portugal with 18 publications, Colombia with 17 publications, England with 16 publications, Russia with 12 publications, Germany with 10 publications, Canada with 9 publications, France with 8 publications and Switzerland with 7 publications were detected. In terms of the number of citations, the USA stood out as the most influential country with 616 citations. When listed from top to bottom according to the number of citations; Spain with 385 citations, China with 373 citations, Singapore with 237 citations, New Zealand with 214 citations, Australia with 191 citations, Germany with 174 citations, England with 130 citations, Türkiye with 100 citations, Switzerland with 97 citations, Wales with 79 citations, Qatar with

74 citations, Portugal with 65 citations, Pakistan with 52 citations and Denmark with 49 citations are detected (Table 7).

When the data in the second Figure was analyzed according to the data obtained from the WoS database, the 23 most used keywords by the authors related to sports management were reached and 5 keywords came to the fore in the yellow cluster, which is the most dense cluster. The prominent keywords in the yellow cluster were; "Sports management", "Basketball", "Sports services", "Perceived quality" and "Sports organization". When the brown clusters, which are the least ones were examined, two keywords; "Sport" and "Sustainability" stood out (Figure 2).

Finally, when the data in Figure three was analyzed according to the data obtained from the WoS database, co-citation network information of authors related to the subject of sports management was obtained. The data consists of 6 cluster groups with different colors. The authors in the red cluster with the highest density are; "Gallardo, I, Garcia-Fernandez, J, Kim, D, Dorado, A, Alexandris, K, Tsitskari, E, Gronroos, C, Parasuraman, A, Rial, A, Howat, G, Calabuig, F, and Nuviala, AN". The authors in the turquoise clusters with the lowest density are "Wicker, P, Hoye, R, Dafafolha". Co-cited researchers are in the same cluster and closer to each other. The authors in the yellow and green clusters are in the middle of the 6 different colored clusters, indicating that they are in close collaboration with other clusters (Figure 3).

Bal & Pepe (2016) made some inferences in their study in the papers presented at the International Sports Sciences Congress held in Türkiye. It has been explained that the papers presented in the field of sports at congresses generally cover psycho-social areas and the findings are generally based on quantitative data.

As can be seen from the results obtained from the studies conducted in sports management, information management, the use of technology in sports and its operations, and the systematic and accurate acquisition of data contribute greatly to the academic world as added value. What is important here is that the digital and intelligent systems used to access information should reproduce information and contribute to the field of sports management (Bayter & Alaca, 2014). As a result, this study aims to emphasize the importance of sports management, reveal the scope and effects of academic studies on sports management, make a comparison with studies conducted specifically in Türkiye, and produce data that will contribute to the studies of academics in the field of sports management.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the analysis and findings, it has been seen that many journals, institutions, and authors in the international arena have conducted studies on the subject of sports management and have come to the fore with their citation averages. In this study, in which we aimed to reveal the distribution and effects of studies conducted in the field of sports management over the years, it was seen that there were many publications in the field of sports management in Türkiye, but sufficient impact was not demonstrated in terms of content and scope. Another result obtained is that Türkiye needs to produce higher quality and more unique publications in the field of sports management. It is thought that increasing the number and quality of academic studies on sports management in Türkiye will bring global awareness and productivity.

Author Contributions

The author conducted the study using the bibliometric analysis method, undertaking a thorough examination and organization of the material, and finalized the work by incorporating feedback and suggestions from expert academics. The author has read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Data Availability Statement

The data obtained from the bibliometric analysis method are available from the author upon request.

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Conflicts of Interest

The author unequivocally assert that this research was undertaken while devoid of any commercial or financial affiliations that might be perceived as potential conflicts of interest.

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