



A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF STUDIES ON DISASTER JOURNALISM USING VOSVIEWER

AFET HABERCİLİĞİ ÜZERİNE YAPILAN ÇALIŞMALARIN VOSVIEWER İLE BİBLİYOMETRİK ANALİZİ

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the academic literature on disaster journalism through bibliometric analysis. In this context, a search conducted on the Web of Science database on August 18, 2025, using the keywords "Disasters journalism," yielded 117 academic publications published between 1987 and 2025. The obtained data were analyzed using VOSviewer software. According to the analysis results, it was determined that the highest number of publications on disaster journalism occurred in 2010 and 2019. The vast majority of these studies consist of articles, and it was found that most were published in English. It was observed that the most frequently used keyword is "journalism." The relevant publications are predominantly situated in the field of "communication, social interdisciplinary," and Cardiff University stands out among the institutions with the highest number of publications in this area. Furthermore, the journal *Journalism Practice* emerged as both the most prolific and the most cited publication outlet. In the author-based analysis, Karin Wahl-Jorgensen was identified as the author with the most extensive collaboration network, while Alfred Hermida was found to be the most cited author. At the country level, the USA and England were identified as the most productive countries in terms of publication volume, citation counts, and international collaboration, thereby making significant contributions to the literature in the field of disaster journalism.

Keywords: Disasters Journalism, Bibliometric Analysis, Web of Science, Vosviewer.

Öz

Bu çalışma, afet haberciliği üzerine mevcut akademik literatürü bibliyometrik analiz yöntemiyle incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Bu kapsamda, 18 Ağustos 2025 tarihinde Web of Science veri tabanında "Disasters journalism" anahtar kelimeleri kullanılarak yapılan tarama sonucunda, 1987-2025 yılları arasında yayımlanmış 117 akademik yayına ulaşılmıştır. Elde edilen veriler VOSviewer yazılımı aracılığıyla analiz edilmiştir. Analiz sonuçlarına göre, afet haberciliği alanındaki yayınların en yoğun olduğu yılların 2010 ve 2019 olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Söz konusu çalışmaların büyük bir çoğunluğunu makalelerin oluşturduğu ve yayın dilinin ağırlıklı olarak İngilizce olduğu saptanmıştır. En sık kullanılan anahtar kelimenin "journalism" (gazetecilik) olduğu gözlemlenmiştir. İlgili yayınların temel olarak "iletişim, disiplinlerarası sosyal bilimler" alanında yoğunlaştığı ve Cardiff Üniversitesi'nin bu alanda en fazla yayın yapan kurum olarak ön plana çıktığı belirlenmiştir. Ayrıca, *Journalism Practice* dergisi hem en üretken hem de en çok atıf alan yayın organı olarak öne çıkmıştır. Yazar bazlı analizde, Karin Wahl-Jorgensen en geniş iş birliği ağına sahip yazar olarak tanımlanırken, Alfred Hermida'nın en çok atıf alan yazar olduğu saptanmıştır. Ülke düzeyinde ise ABD ve İngiltere; yayın hacmi, atıf sayıları ve uluslararası iş birliği açısından en üretken ülkeler olarak belirlenmiş ve bu bağlamda afet haberciliği literatürüne önemli katkılarda buldukları sonucuna varılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Afet Haberciliği, Bibliyometrik Analiz, Web of Science, Vosviewer.



INTRODUCTION

Natural disasters have profoundly affected societies throughout human history, often resulting in devastating consequences. Today, factors such as climate change, rapid urbanization, and increasing population density intensify both the frequency and the impact of disasters, thereby rendering disaster journalism even more critical. In this context, disaster journalism assumes vital functions, including informing the public during crises, raising awareness, mitigating risks, and strengthening social solidarity. The media is expected to fulfill these functions by issuing warnings prior to disasters, providing accurate and reliable information during disasters, and monitoring recovery processes in the aftermath.

Beyond conveying the occurrence of a disaster to the public, disaster journalism also bears responsibility for amplifying the voices of affected individuals, communicating their appeals, and directing public attention toward disaster-stricken areas. However, during challenging periods such as disasters, the media confronts a range of problems, including ethical dilemmas, misinformation and information disorder, the risks associated with sensationalized reporting, and post-disaster trauma experienced by both journalists and survivors. These challenges heighten the need for academic research in the field of disaster journalism and make it necessary to systematically evaluate knowledge production in the area. Accordingly, this study seeks to present an overview of scientific publications addressing disaster journalism and to examine these publications systematically through bibliometric analysis. Based on studies indexed in the Web of Science database, the analysis aims to reveal the trajectory of academic interest in disaster journalism, its developmental process, and prevailing research trends. Reviews of the literature indicate that the topic has attracted increasing attention from researchers and has diversified through an interdisciplinary approach. Therefore, systematically assessing the field's position in the literature through visual mapping techniques is important both for interpreting the current state of scholarship and for offering new directions for future studies.

This study not only compiles the existing literature but also aims to provide a methodological contribution to the field through findings generated via VOSviewer software. The results enable the identification of the geographic and institutional distribution of academic productivity, patterns of author collaboration, the most highly cited studies, and prominent thematic areas. Within this framework, the findings facilitate the development of recommendations for future research on disaster journalism. Thus, this study both offers a methodological contribution to the literature and establishes an evidence-based foundation for scholarship on disaster journalism.

DISASTER JOURNALISM

Numerous definitions of the concept of disaster have been formulated by various institutions and disciplines. Some of these definitions are as follows: (Türk Dil Kurumu Sözlüğü, 2025) defines disaster as the destruction caused by various natural phenomena. Offering a more comprehensive approach compared to the TDK, the (AFAD, 2025) defines disaster as the result of natural, technological, or human-induced events that cause physical, economic, and social losses for all or part of society, halt or disrupt normal life and human activities, and exceed the affected community's capacity to cope using its own resources. The glossary emphasizes that disaster refers to the resulting consequences rather than the event itself. In the disaster terminology of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), disaster is described as a situation characterized by human, material, economic, and environmental losses that results from exposure to hazardous events, vulnerability to these events, and their interaction, leading to serious disruption in the functioning of society. The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (EM-DAT, 2023) has established certain quantitative criteria for an event to be recorded as a disaster. Accordingly, for an event to be classified as a disaster, at least one of the following criteria must be met: the loss of life of 10 or more people as a result of the event, 100 or more people being affected, the declaration of a state of emergency due to the event, or a request for international assistance.

Disasters are predominantly classified according to their origins, their relationship with technology, and human influence. According to one widely accepted classification, disasters are divided into two main categories: natural disasters and technological or human-induced disasters (Erkan, 2010; Dönertaş,

2006; Kadioğlu, 2011; Yavuz, 2014; Kanlı & Ünal, 2011) addresses disasters through a tripartite classification: natural, technological, and human-induced. (Shaluf, 2007), on the other hand, examines disasters under three headings: natural, man-made, and hybrid disasters. In this classification, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that occur beyond human control are considered natural disasters; events arising in air, sea, and land environments as a result of human decisions and practices are classified as man-made disasters; and situations in which both human activities and natural processes play a role—such as environmental degradation resulting from deforestation—are evaluated as hybrid disasters. According to EM-DAT's 2024 Disaster Review Report, 393 disaster events were recorded worldwide in 2024. These disasters resulted in a total of 16,753 deaths, with approximately 167.2 million people affected.

Communication activities conducted during disasters constitute a critical component of disaster management across its phases: preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Within this framework, journalists and news organizations bear significant responsibilities in protecting individuals from disasters and their potential adverse consequences, as well as minimizing potential damages. Chief among these responsibilities are the timely and accurate communication of pre-disaster warnings to the public and the comprehensive reporting of events to inform the public when disasters occur (Houston, Schraedley, Worley, Reed, & Saidi, 2019). Various communication tools are employed in this information dissemination process, enabling individuals and communities to obtain information about events occurring both in their immediate surroundings and in distant regions. Publications produced before and after disasters are of great importance for informing society, bringing the concepts of disaster journalism or disaster broadcasting to the forefront (Koluman, Özşirin, & Aslan, 2024). Disaster journalism refers to the process of gathering and presenting news and information about natural and human-induced events that have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur in the future. This type of journalism becomes active immediately before, during, and immediately after an event. In such situations, the most common function of disaster journalism is to alert the public and report on developments (Houston, Schraedley, Worley, Reed, & Saidi, 2019). The media and communication field plays an important role in disaster management by sharing disaster-related information with the public. In this context, the media makes numerous contributions, including educating the public about disasters, drawing attention to high-risk areas, issuing timely warnings and alerts, reporting disaster events, compiling and communicating information about affected areas, supporting rescue and relief operations, disseminating information related to public safety, informing and alerting relevant authorities and government officials, and providing information about volunteers and aid organizations (Chaturvedi & Shah, 2023).

Disaster journalism stands out as a specialized field of practice in terms of news production, adherence to ethical principles, and evaluation of societal impacts. Today, the increasing number and impact of disasters, coupled with rapid developments in media technologies, are significantly transforming how news is produced, disseminated, and consumed. Particularly during crisis periods, the need for accurate, rapid, and reliable information is growing; this situation renders the responsibilities of media organizations and journalistic practices more visible and subject to debate. In this context, disaster journalism is not merely about announcing events that have occurred; it also serves a critical function in informing and guiding public opinion, supporting crisis management processes, and strengthening social solidarity (Acar & Kavuran, 2025).

METHOD

The purpose of this study is to examine the literature on disaster journalism through bibliometric analysis. The term *bibliometrics* was introduced in the 1930s by the Belgian documentalist Otlet and was later reintroduced and popularized by Pritchard in 1969 (Passas, 2024). Bibliometric analyses offer a quantitative approach for identifying, evaluating, and monitoring published scientific works. By developing a systematic, transparent, and replicable review process, this method has the potential to enhance the quality of research. Bibliometric analysis directs researchers toward the most influential studies and contributes to conducting effective literature reviews by mapping a research field in a manner that is independent of subjective biases (Zupic & Cater, 2014).

The first known bibliometric study on the subject is Campbell's work, *Theory of the National and International Bibliography*, published in 1896. In this study, Campbell employed mathematical and statistical methods to classify different categories and to reveal their distributions (Sengupta, 1992). In recent years, there has been increasing interest not only in quantitative data but also in qualitative dimensions, such as the implications of bibliometric analyses for research evaluation. The resulting data are interpreted in various ways, based on different derivatives of the h-index, comparable performance indicators, and the importance attributed to publishing in journals with high impact factors. In evaluation processes, the number of co-authored publications and the level of international collaboration are often taken into account. Moreover, bibliometric methods have become an increasingly decisive tool in the ranking of research units and institutions (Ellegaard & Wallin, 2015).

In the methodology section of the study, the variables considered within the scope of bibliometric analysis, the data collection techniques, and the analytical procedures are explained in detail. Accordingly, each stage was examined with due rigor, providing a comprehensive understanding of the overall process.

Variables

In this study, international publications addressing the topic of disaster journalism were comprehensively examined. The study encompasses two fundamental variables: disaster and disaster journalism/disaster reporting. However, since disaster journalism constitutes the primary focus of the research, this subject was evaluated through a holistic approach. Within the scope of the study, publications meeting the specified criteria from among those published between 1987 and 2025 were selected, and bibliometric analysis was applied to the data obtained from these publications. As a result of the analyses conducted, the current state of research in the field of disaster journalism, its fundamental characteristics, and prevailing trends in the field were revealed.

Data Collection Method

In order to identify international research on disaster journalism, a comprehensive search was conducted on 18 August 2025 using the globally recognized Web of Science database. As bibliographic databases constitute the primary source of publication metadata and citation indicators, their importance has increased progressively. Web of Science (WoS) is considered one of the most comprehensive data sources in this field, as it was among the first international indexing services. Over time, it has become a highly influential bibliographic data source used for journal selection, research assessment, bibliometric analyses, and a wide range of related purposes (Pranckute, 2021). Its extensive coverage of publications in the social sciences was a key factor in its selection for the present study.

The WoS database is also valuable for providing robust access to interdisciplinary research through indexes such as the Science Citation Index (SCI), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI), and the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI).

To retrieve international publications themed around disaster journalism, the “topic” search option in the Web of Science database was used; this option covers titles, abstracts, and keywords. During the search process, the keyword “disasters journalism” was employed. The decision to rely exclusively on the Web of Science database was based on its ability to provide access to peer-reviewed academic publications with high impact, its reliable filtering and analytical capabilities that facilitate systematic reviews, and its structure that enables the tracking of interdisciplinary research—making it an appropriate platform for the study of disaster journalism.

No temporal restriction was imposed in the search, and an attempt was made to access all relevant publications. However, since all retrieved records for this study were published between 1987 and 2025, the analyses were consequently focused on this period. This choice was informed by the observation that research on disaster journalism has been conducted since the 1980s, albeit in limited numbers, and that publication counts increased notably in certain years. The reasons underlying these period-specific increases are also considered worthy of further investigation.

As a result of the search, a total of 117 scientific publications in the field of disaster journalism were identified. These publications were examined in detail and tabulated according to criteria including publication year, document type, language, country and institutional affiliations, research areas, source titles, citation counts, and the distribution of publications and citations by year. In the bibliometric analysis, only records indexed in Web of Science that contained complete bibliographic data were included; publications with missing metadata were excluded. It should be noted, however, that because the Web of Science database is continuously updated and new publications are regularly added, search results obtained using the same keywords may vary across different points in time and among different researchers. Accordingly, even when similar data collection procedures are employed, variations in the resulting dataset may occur.

Data Analysis

To examine international publications on disaster journalism from a bibliometric perspective and to present the findings visually, VOSviewer—an open-access and freely available software—was employed. After the data were downloaded from the Web of Science database, they were imported into the software. Prominent authors, countries, and sources within the international literature on disaster journalism were identified using the “Co-authorship,” “Co-occurrence,” and “Citation” analysis modules (Acar, 2026). Accordingly, the most frequently used keywords, the researchers and countries with the most intensive collaboration networks, and the most highly cited authors, journals, and countries were determined. Ultimately, scientific publications in the field of disaster journalism were examined and presented comprehensively in line with the selected parameters and analytical procedures.

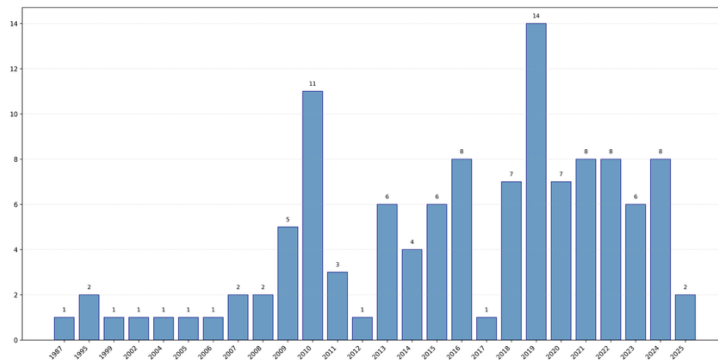
FINDINGS

The findings obtained in this study, which presents a bibliometric analysis of research on disaster journalism, are reported through tables, figures, and graphs. In this regard, the year-by-year distribution of studies published between 1987 and 2025 is presented in detail in Figure 1. An examination of the dataset, comprising a total of 117 publications, indicates that the volume of publications does not exhibit a steady upward trend over time; rather, it displays a fluctuating pattern. The most productive year was 2019, during which 14 publications were produced. This was followed by 2010 (11 publications) and the years 2016, 2021, 2022, and 2024 (8 publications each). Notably, the fact that 32 publications were produced in the last five years (2021–2025) suggests that disaster journalism continues to attract sustained interest within contemporary academic scholarship.

It is also evident that the period between 1987 and 2009 was characterized by a limited number of publications, while the number of studies increased markedly from 5 in 2009 to 11 in 2010. This fluctuation in publication output is considered to be directly associated with period-specific developments and major disaster events. Similarly, 2019—the year with the highest publication count—may be interpreted as a period in which particular disasters stimulated academic production. The relative increase in publication output after 2019 further indicates that scholarly work on the topic has gained momentum.

Overall, the year-by-year distribution of publications indicates that research on disaster journalism has been concentrated in particular periods, and this concentration should be understood in relation to natural disasters that occurred during those years. It can be argued that scholarly interest has intensified in recent years and that this interest has been reflected in the literature in connection with disaster events. Considering this trend, it is anticipated that an increase in the frequency of disasters will correspondingly lead to a quantitative increase in academic publications in the field of disaster journalism.

Figure 1. Distribution of publications by year

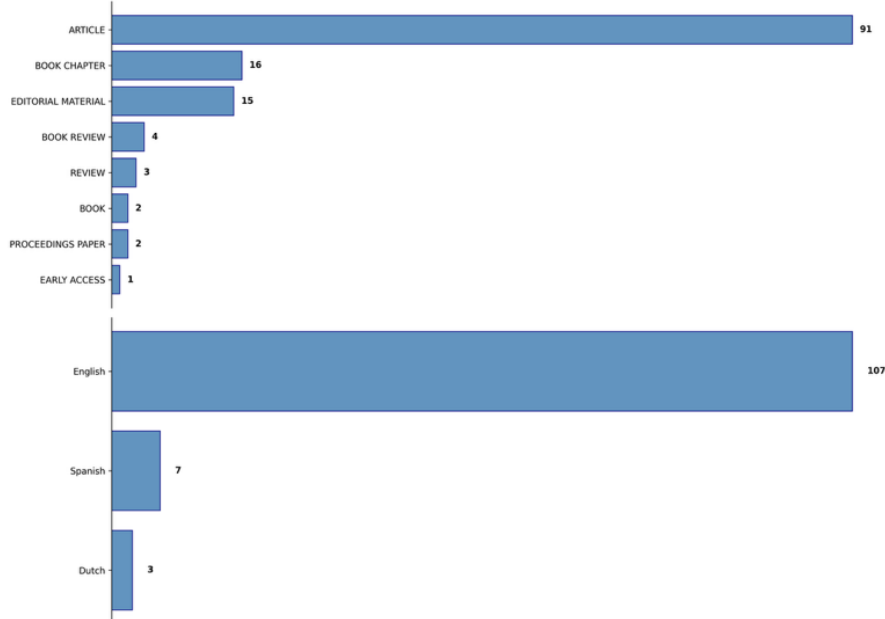


(Compiled by the author using the Web of Science database.)

Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of the examined studies according to publication types and languages. In the table analyzing a total of 117 publications, when the distribution by type is examined, it is evident that article-type publications are predominant (n=91). This indicates that research on disaster journalism is largely published in peer-reviewed academic journals and that the field is systematically addressed within the scientific community. Moreover, the presence of 16 book chapters and 15 editorial materials demonstrates that theoretical frameworks and editorial contributions also hold considerable weight in the field. Other types such as book reviews (n=4), reviews (n=3), books (n=2), proceedings papers (n=2), and early access (n=1), although represented to a more limited extent, suggest that the topic is discussed across various academic platforms and approached from an interdisciplinary perspective.

From the perspective of publication language, it has been determined that the vast majority of studies were written in English (n=107), while the remainder were published in Spanish (n=7) and Dutch (n=3). The markedly high proportion of English-language publications indicates that research is conducted on an international scale and that the findings obtained gain broader visibility within global academic circles. On the other hand, studies produced in Spanish and Dutch reveal that interest in disaster journalism exists in different linguistic and national contexts as well, pointing to the geographical and linguistic diversity of the field.

Figure 2. Publication Types and Publication Languages



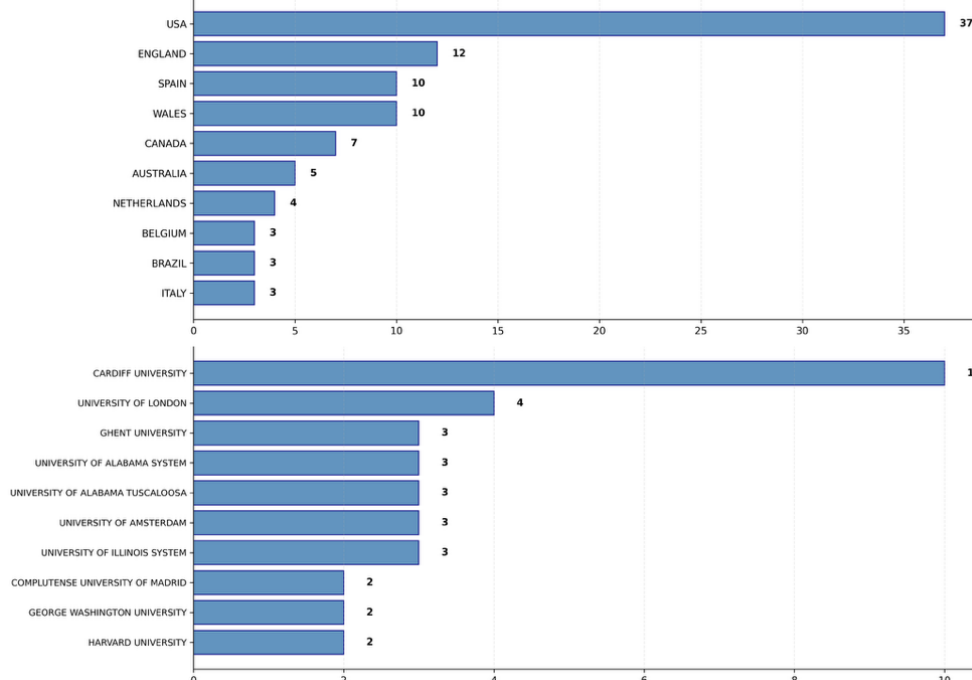
(Compiled by the author using the Web of Science database.)

Figure 3 presents the distribution of international publications on disaster journalism by countries and institutions. With regard to country distribution, the United States (USA) clearly ranks first with 37 publications. The fact that it is followed by the United Kingdom (n=12), Spain (n=10), and Wales (n=10) indicates that scholarly output in disaster journalism is largely centered in the Anglo-Saxon world and Western Europe. It is also evident that Canada (n=7), Australia (n=5), and the Netherlands (n=4), as well as Belgium, Brazil, and Italy (each n=3), make noteworthy contributions to the field. Overall, this distribution suggests that the disaster journalism literature is shaped predominantly along a North American and European geographic axis, while also incorporating limited yet visible contributions from Latin America and Southern Europe.

At the institutional level, Cardiff University stands out as the most productive institution, with 10 publications. It is followed by the University of London (n=4) and several institutions with three publications each, namely Ghent University, the University of Alabama System, the University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, the University of Amsterdam, and the University of Illinois System. In addition, institutions such as Complutense University of Madrid, George Washington University, and Harvard University are represented with two publications each. This pattern suggests that disaster journalism research tends to cluster around specific institutions, particularly universities in the United Kingdom and the United States, which appear to function as key research hubs in the field.

In general terms, the findings presented in Figure 3 indicate that knowledge production in disaster journalism is concentrated within particular countries and institutions. This concentration appears to be associated with both linguistic factors (the predominance of English) and institutional infrastructures (e.g., schools of communication, media studies centers, and disaster and risk research institutes). These results imply that a number of major academic centers play a formative role in shaping the development of the field, while at the same time, contributions from different continents reveal an increasingly diverse and internationalized research agenda.

Figure 3. Most Productive Countries and Institutions



(Compiled by the author using the Web of Science database.)

Figure 4 presents the distribution of studies on disaster journalism in terms of both subject areas and the sources in which they were published. An examination of the subject areas indicates that the “Communication” category is clearly dominant, contributing most substantially to the literature with a total of 81 publications. This finding suggests that disaster journalism research is primarily situated

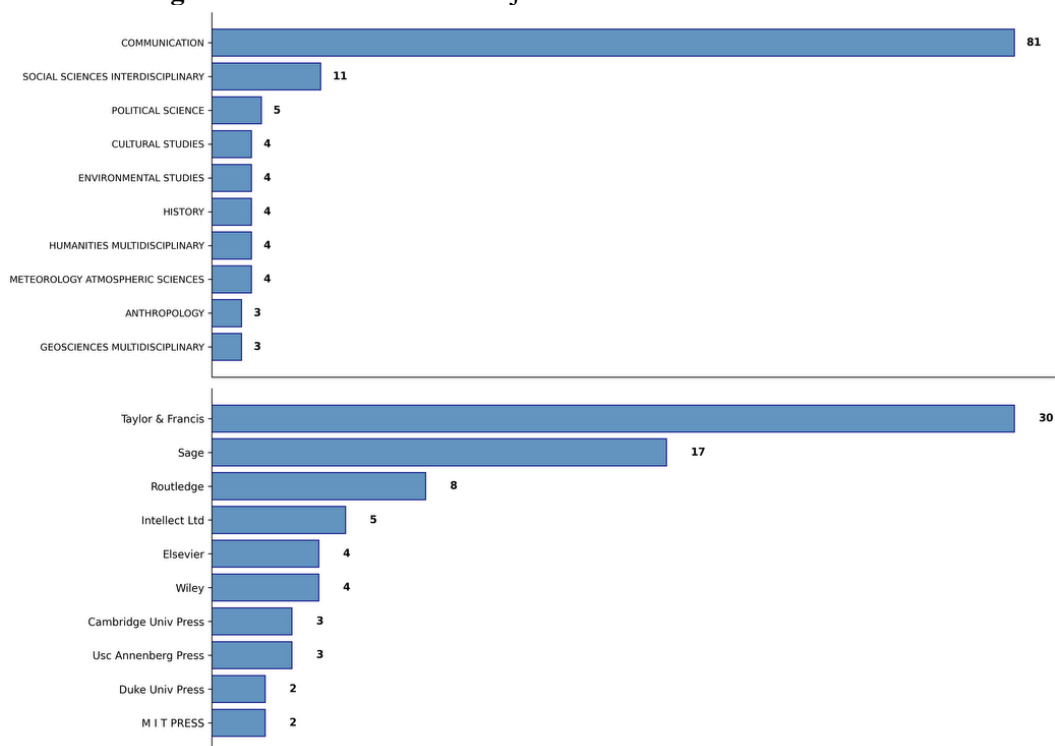


within the discipline of communication; accordingly, the field’s theoretical and methodological foundations largely draw on media and communication studies. In addition, a notable number of publications appear in areas such as “Social Sciences Interdisciplinary” (n=11), “Political Science” (n=5), “Cultural Studies” (n=4), “Environmental Studies” (n=4), “History” (n=4), “Humanities Multidisciplinary” (n=4), and “Meteorology Atmospheric Sciences” (n=4). The representation of “Anthropology” (n=3) and “Geosciences Multidisciplinary” (n=3) further demonstrates that disaster journalism is not confined to a media and communication perspective; rather, it is approached within an interdisciplinary framework that also encompasses socio-cultural, historical, and environmental contexts.

With respect to publication sources, Taylor & Francis emerges as the leading outlet, with 30 publications. It is followed by Sage (n=17) and Routledge (n=8), while publishers such as Intellect Ltd (n=5), Elsevier (n=4), Wiley (n=4), Cambridge University Press (n=3), and USC Annenberg Press (n=3) also display notable visibility in the field. Moreover, the presence of prestigious academic presses such as Duke University Press and MIT Press, each represented by two publications, indicates that disaster journalism research has also secured a place within internationally recognized and reputable publication venues.

Overall, the evidence presented in Figure 4 suggests that disaster journalism scholarship is characterized by a dual orientation: it is strongly communication-focused, while simultaneously developing as a multidisciplinary research area spanning the social sciences, the humanities, and environmental sciences. The distribution of publishers further implies that these studies are disseminated predominantly through well-established, international, peer-reviewed publishing houses, indicating that the disaster journalism literature rests on a robust foundation in terms of both academic legitimacy and global visibility.

Figure 4. Most Productive Subject Areas and Publication Sources



(Compiled by the author using the Web of Science database.)



Figure 5 presents the publications with the highest level of scholarly impact in the field. Citation counts are widely regarded as a key indicator of a publication's visibility within the academic community and the magnitude of its contribution. The total number of citations received by the top 10 most-cited publications in disaster journalism is 1,481, indicating that these studies have exerted substantial influence and are frequently referenced in the literature.

The most highly cited study is Hermida's (2010) article, published in *Journalism Practice*, entitled "Twittering the News: The Emergence of Ambient Journalism" (n=659). By examining the integration of social media into news production processes and introducing the concept of "ambient journalism," this work offers a pioneering perspective on the transformation of journalism in the digital age. The second most-cited publication is An and Gower's (2009) article in *Public Relations Review*, "How Do the News Media Frame Crises? A Content Analysis of Crisis News Coverage" (n=232). This study constitutes a foundational reference that investigates how crisis news is framed in the media through content analysis. In third place is Le Masurier's (2015) article in *Journalism Practice*, "What is Slow Journalism?" (n=130), which foregrounds the notion of "slow journalism" as an alternative to the accelerated news cycle and provides a critical assessment of the quality of journalistic practices. The fourth-ranked work is Tandoc, Jenkins, and Craft's (2019) article in *Journalism Practice*, "Fake News as a Critical Incident in Journalism" (n=104), which addresses the effects of fake news on the journalistic profession and discusses critical challenges facing journalism in an era of digital disinformation. In fifth place is Benson's (2018) article in *Journalism*, "Can Foundations Solve the Journalism Crisis?" (n=86), offering an important discussion of the role of philanthropic foundations in responding to financial crises in the journalism sector. The sixth most-cited study is Sood, Stockdale, and Rogers' (1987) article in *Journal of Communication*, "How the News Media Operate in Natural Disasters" (n=66), one of the earliest and most foundational contributions to the disaster journalism literature and a pioneering analysis of how news media operate during natural disasters. In seventh place is Cottle's (2014) article in *Media, War and Conflict*, "Rethinking Media and Disasters in a Global Age: What's Changed and Why It Matters" (n=64), which reassesses the relationship between media and disasters in a global age and addresses transformations in the field from a critical perspective.

The eighth and tenth positions include García-Avilés' (2021) and Papadopoulou and Maniou's (2021) articles in *Digital Journalism*, respectively titled "Journalism as Usual? Managing Disruption in Virtual Newsrooms during the COVID-19 Crisis" (n=49) and "'Lockdown' on Digital Journalism? Mapping Threats to Press Freedom during the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis" (n=44). These studies examine the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on journalistic practices and press freedom, thereby engaging with contemporary issues in disaster journalism during the pandemic period. In ninth place is Mythen's (2010) article in *Journal of Risk Research*, "Reframing Risk? Citizen Journalism and the Transformation of News" (n=47), which provides an important account of how citizen journalism has reshaped risk perceptions in news production.

Overall, the evidence presented in Figure 5 indicates that the most-cited works in disaster journalism cluster around timely and critical themes, including digital transformation, social media, crisis communication, fake news, slow journalism, and the pandemic. The fact that the majority of these publications were produced in 2010 or later further suggests that the field has developed rapidly over the past fifteen years and has been shaped by new dynamics associated with the digital era. At the same time, the continued high citation count of Sood, Stockdale, and Rogers' (1987) study indicates that one of the foundational cornerstones of the disaster journalism literature was established early on and that this work continues to serve as an enduring reference point in the field.

Figure 5. Most Cited Publications

	Publication Title	Author	Source	Publication Year	Citations
1	Twittering the News: The Emergence of Ambient Journalism	Hermida, A	Journalism Practice	2010	659
2	How Do the News Media Frame Crises? A Content Analysis of Crisis News Coverage	An, SK; Gower, KK	Public Relations Review	2009	232
3	What Is Slow Journalism?	Le Masurier, M	Journalism Practice	2015	130
4	Fake News as a Critical Incident in Journalism	Tandoc, EC; Jenkins, J; Craft, S	Journalism Practice	2019	104
5	Can Foundations Solve the Journalism Crisis?	Benson, R	Journalism	2018	86
6	How the News Media Operate in Natural Disasters	Sood, R; Stockdale, G; Rogers, EM	Journal of Communication	1987	66
7	Rethinking Media and Disasters in a Global Age: What's Changed and Why It Matters	Cottle, S	Media, War and Conflict	2014	64
8	Journalism as Usual? Managing Disruption in Virtual Newsrooms during the COVID-19 Crisis	García-Avilés, JA	Digital Journalism	2021	49
9	Reframing Risk? Citizen Journalism and the Transformation of News	Mythen, G	Journal of Risk Research	2010	47
10	'Lockdown' on Digital Journalism? Mapping Threats to Press Freedom during the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis	Papadopoulou, L; Maniou, TA	Digital Journalism	2021	44
				Total Citations	1481

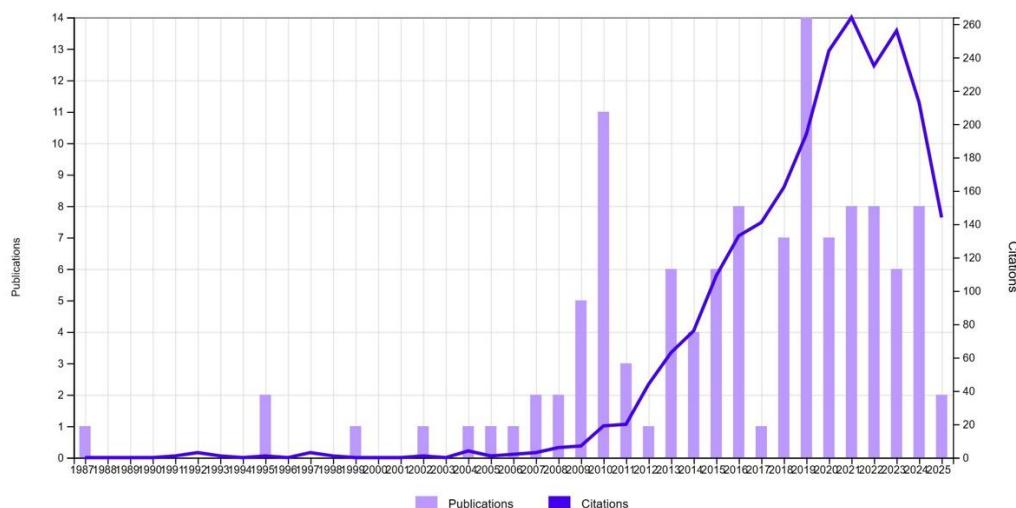
(Compiled by the author using the Web of Science database.)

Figure 6, covering the period between 1987 and 2025, illustrates the distribution of publication and citation counts in the field of disaster journalism. Findings obtained from the Web of Science database reveal that the first publication in this field dates back to 1987. However, until the early 2000s, both publication and citation counts followed a relatively low and irregular trajectory.

With the onset of the 2000s, academic interest in disaster journalism began to rise, with an increasingly evident upward trend in the number of publications. Parallel to this growth, a remarkable surge in citation counts occurred as of 2010. This situation indicates that the studies produced during this period did not only increase quantitatively but also achieved higher levels of scientific visibility and impact.

According to Figure 6, the number of publications on disaster journalism reached its peak in 2019. Conversely, the fact that the highest citation count was recorded in 2021 suggests that studies published in 2019 and earlier have gained more citations over time, establishing themselves within the literature and indicating that the field has entered a process of theoretical and methodological maturation. This trend implies that disaster journalism is becoming an increasingly central research area within both communication studies and the literature on disaster management and risk communication, while simultaneously attracting interdisciplinary interest.

Figure 6. Graph Showing the Distribution of Publications and Citations by Year



(Compiled by the author using the Web of Science database.)

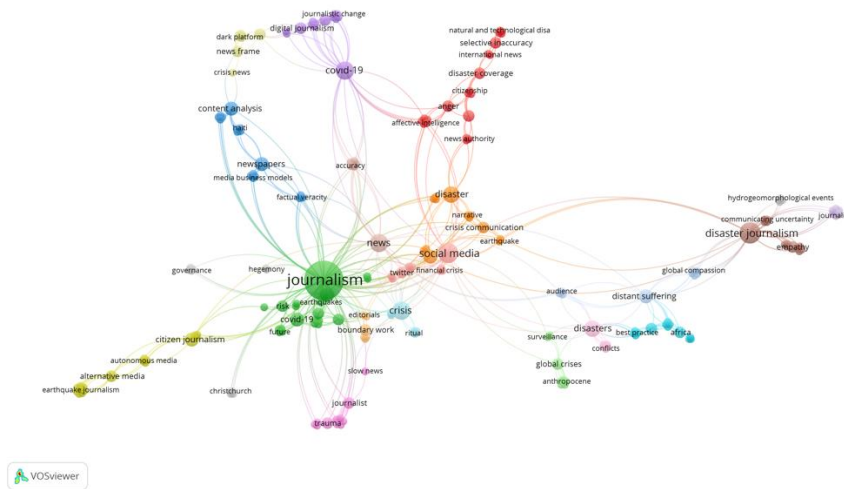
Figure 7 presents a keyword network map that depicts the co-occurrence relationships among concepts used in the disaster journalism literature. In this network, generated using VOSviewer, nodes represent keywords, while the links (edges) between nodes indicate the frequency with which these terms are used together within the same publications. Node size reflects the prevalence of a given keyword in the literature, and colors denote clusters composed of concept groups that are more frequently associated with one another.

At the center of the network, the relatively larger node labeled “journalism” constitutes the core concept of the disaster journalism literature. The keywords positioned around this concept provide important cues as to the theoretical and thematic axes along which the field is structured. The clusters differentiated by distinct colors demonstrate that disaster journalism intersects with multiple subfields—ranging from communication studies and journalistic practices to crisis and risk communication, societal impacts, digital/online media environments, and public policy.

The degree of centralization of the keywords and the density of inter-cluster connections indicate that disaster journalism research concentrates around a limited set of key concepts, while simultaneously exhibiting an interdisciplinary character. The connections extending from the central “journalism” node to surrounding clusters show that the field is not confined to the production and presentation of news; rather, it encompasses a multilayered research agenda that includes audiences, the public sphere, policy-making, technological transformation, and ethical responsibility. This network structure makes it academically visible that, over time, the disaster journalism literature has become increasingly fragmented yet correspondingly richer in thematic diversity, bringing together different research traditions—such as media studies, disaster management, and risk communication—on a shared conceptual ground organized around the notion of journalism.



Figure 7. Keyword Network



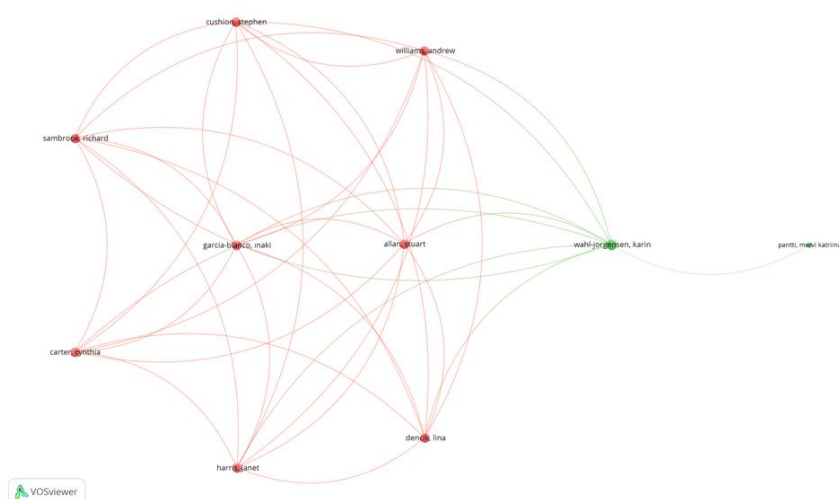
(Compiled by the author using the Web of Science database.)

Figure 8 presents the collaboration network of authors who have produced the highest number of co-authored publications in the field of disaster journalism. In the map, nodes represent authors, while links indicate co-authored works produced jointly by these authors. Node size reflects an author’s number of co-authored publications and their relative centrality within the network, whereas colors denote clusters of authors who collaborate more intensively with one another.

On the left side of the map, the cluster shown in red constitutes the core group characterized by the most intensive collaboration. Within this cluster, authors such as Allan, Stuart, Garcia, Blanco, Richard, and Williams are connected through multiple and frequent ties. The high number of reciprocal links among these authors suggests a long-standing and stable co-publication practice. This structure indicates the presence of an influential research core in the disaster journalism literature, particularly in relation to theoretical frameworks and conceptual debates.

On the right side of the map, a comparatively smaller cluster is displayed in green. At the center of this cluster are Wahl-Jorgensen and Karin. These authors are also connected to members of the red cluster. This pattern indicates that Wahl-Jorgensen and Karin not only occupy central roles within their own working group but also function as bridging authors between the green cluster and the core author group represented by the red cluster. In this way, the transfer of knowledge and methodological approaches across different research communities becomes possible, contributing to greater integration within the literature.

Figure 8. Network Map of the Most Collaborating Authors

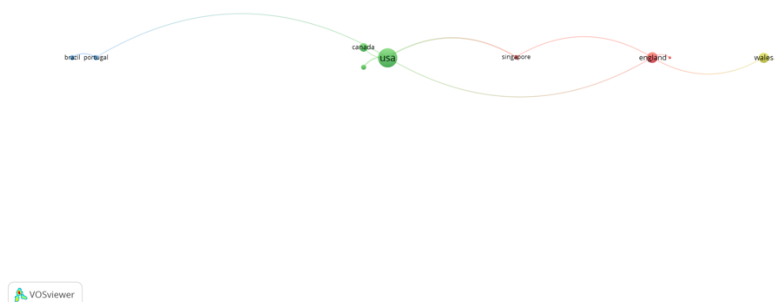


(Compiled by the author using the Web of Science database.)

Figure 9 presents the inter-country collaboration network, indicating that international embeddedness in the disaster journalism literature is characterized by a relatively sparse structure organized around center–periphery relations. The most salient finding is that the USA node occupies a central position in the network and exhibits the highest volume of collaboration. By establishing strong ties with countries such as England, Singapore, and Canada, the United States assumes a bridging and conduit role in the global flow of knowledge within the field.

The linear structure of the network and the limited number of connections demonstrate that international collaborations have, to date, tended to develop primarily through bilateral and center-oriented patterns (most often USA-centered), rather than through broad, multilateral consortia. This pattern clearly suggests that, although disaster journalism research is becoming more widespread globally, academic authority and co-production practices remain clustered around particular developed economies and key research hubs.

Figure 9. Network Map of the Countries with the Highest Collaboration



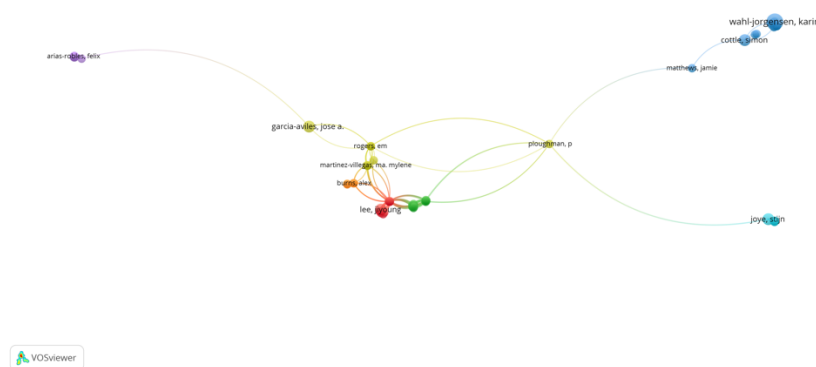
(Compiled by the author using the Web of Science database.)

Figure 10 presents a network map of the most highly cited authors in the field of disaster journalism. In the network, nodes represent authors, while links indicate co-citation and shared-citation relationships among them. Node size reflects an author’s overall citation level, and colors denote clusters of authors who are more frequently cited together.



The map reveals a structure that is concentrated particularly around Lee and Jiyoung, Burns and Alex, Martinez-Villigas, and Wahl-Jorgensen and Karin. The presence of these names as larger nodes with numerous connections indicates that they function as foundational references within the disaster journalism literature. Moreover, the network demonstrates that citation dynamics in disaster journalism are centralized around a limited number of influential authors. These core authors not only shape theoretical debates but also serve as common reference points that connect different sub-areas of research within the field.

Figure 10. Network Map of the Most Cited Authors

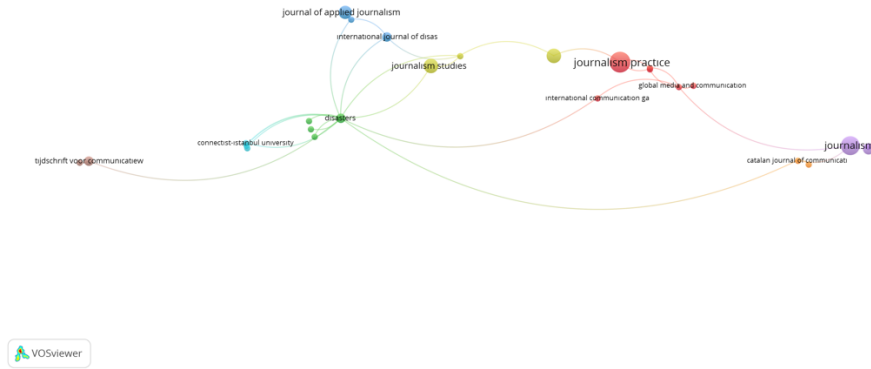


(Compiled by the author using the Web of Science database.)

Figure 11 illustrates the co-citation relationships among the journals that receive the highest number of citations in the disaster journalism literature. In the network map, nodes represent journals, while the links between nodes indicate the frequency with which these journals are cited together within the same publications. Node size reflects a journal's overall citation level, and colors denote clusters of journals that are more frequently co-cited.

The map shows that *Journalism Studies* is positioned as a central and prominent node; accordingly, journals such as *Journalism Practice* and *Disasters* also stand out through strong connections. This structure suggests that disaster journalism research is published predominantly in mainstream communication/journalism journals and that these outlets constitute the primary reference sources shaping the field's theoretical orientations. At the same time, *Disasters* appears as a particularly noteworthy node in the map. The links between *Disasters* and communication/journalism journals indicate that disaster journalism research is not confined to media and news studies; rather, it closely intersects with disaster management, humanitarian assistance, risk reduction, and development-oriented literatures. In this respect, *Disasters* emerges as a key reference source that functions as a bridge between the applied disaster management literature and the media/communication literature within the field of disaster journalism.

Figure 11. Network Map of the Most Cited Sources

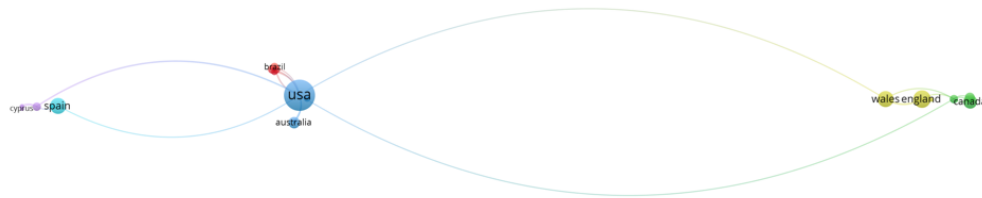


(Compiled by the author using the Web of Science database.)

Figure 12 depicts the co-citation network of the most highly cited countries in the field of disaster journalism. In the network, nodes represent countries, while the links between nodes indicate how frequently publications originating from these countries are cited together within the same works. Node size corresponds to the overall citation level, and colors denote clusters of countries characterized by denser co-citation relationships.

The positioning of the USA as the largest and most central node indicates that a substantial share of the most highly cited—and foundational—references in the disaster journalism literature originate from the United States. The links showing that U.S.-based studies are frequently co-cited with those from Western European countries (e.g., England) as well as countries from other regions demonstrate that the USA functions as a primary hub of knowledge production and circulation in the field. The network’s generally linear and sparse structure suggests that highly cited works are concentrated around a limited number of countries, implying a pronounced citation hierarchy within the disaster journalism literature. This pattern indicates, on the one hand, that the USA and a small set of countries occupy a leading position in shaping the theoretical and methodological framework of the field; on the other hand, it underscores that cross-country visibility and impact remain uneven and largely structured through center–periphery relations.

Figure 12. Network Map of the Most Cited Countries



(Compiled by the author using the Web of Science database.)

CONCLUSION

This study aimed to examine international publications in the field of disaster journalism using bibliometric methods to reveal the current state, developmental trends, and prominent actors of the research area. The evaluation conducted for the 1987–2025 period based on Web of Science data demonstrates that while the first publications in the field appeared in 1987, academic production gained significant momentum particularly from the 2000s onwards. The number of publications has generally exhibited an upward trend over the years, becoming more pronounced during the 2010–2019 period. This trend can be attributed to event-driven academic interest generated by the increasing frequency of disasters, as well as the transformation of digital journalism practices and the expansion of data access opportunities.

The fact that nearly all examined publications are in English and produced on a global scale by various countries and institutions underscores the universal importance and interdisciplinary nature of disaster journalism. An analysis of the disciplinary distribution reveals that studies are primarily clustered around communication, social sciences, and political science; however, fields such as cultural studies, environmental studies, and history also provide significant contributions to the literature. This outlook indicates that disaster journalism is no longer limited to news production processes but has evolved into a multi-layered research area intersecting with risk, crisis, societal impacts, and policy processes.

Regarding collaboration networks, the findings highlight the USA, Canada, and the United Kingdom as the leading academic hubs in the field. Additionally, countries such as Brazil and Portugal contribute to the literature. The existence of strong collaboration networks in central countries creates a decisive advantage in research capacity and international publication output. In this context, researchers in developing countries developing joint projects and co-authorship practices with these centers would be supportive in terms of both sharing methodological expertise and integrating diverse disaster contexts into the literature. This also demonstrates that disaster journalism research is a field that gains meaning under different socioeconomic and environmental conditions and necessitates comparative analyses.

Citation patterns point to a delayed effect in the publication–citation relationship. The acceleration of publications after the 2000s, followed by a significant increase in citations after 2010—reaching a peak in 2021—suggests that the field has increased its visibility by generating theoretical and methodological accumulation over time. Furthermore, the more stable course of publication numbers after 2020 indicates that disaster journalism is not limited to an agenda focused solely on the moment of disaster; rather, it is evolving toward a more integrated research orientation involving continuous themes such as the climate crisis, risk reduction, and the construction of resilient societies. The visibility of the journal *Disasters* alongside *Journalism Studies*, a core journal in the communication field, confirms this interdisciplinary intersection. This intersection suggests that addressing discussions of ethics and responsibility in journalism/communication literature together with risk reduction and resilience approaches in disaster studies/disaster management literature is conducive to producing high-quality research that resonates in both fields.

The findings reveal that despite the increase in literature production, the field is still represented by a limited number of publications and requires more in-depth and inclusive research. Accordingly, the following recommendations are proposed for future research:

- Disaster journalism studies should move beyond communication-centered approaches and be more systematically linked with fields such as disaster management, crisis, and risk communication; in-depth, context-sensitive examinations of sub-themes like earthquake journalism should be increased.
- Periodical comparisons should be conducted to explain the publication–citation relationship, and analyses should be developed to reveal the reasons behind the post-2010 citation surge (e.g., thematic maturation, methodological standardization, digitalization, the impact of large-scale disasters).

- Theoretical and applied studies addressing themes of ethics, responsibility, risk reduction, and resilience at the intersection of journalism/communication and disaster studies/disaster management should be encouraged. This approach will strengthen the potential for publication in both communication-oriented and disaster management-oriented journals.
- Considering the sparse and centralized structure of country and author collaboration networks, multi-centered research designs involving countries with high regional disaster experience should be developed, and multidisciplinary projects involving partnerships across different disciplines should be supported.
- International collaboration should be expanded beyond central countries, and more sustainable research networks should be established through data sharing and comparative analyses.

In conclusion, the disaster journalism literature is growing rapidly as a contemporary and socially significant research field. However, the findings indicate that the field has not yet reached full saturation; there is a need for studies that will increase theoretical depth, methodological diversity, and international inclusiveness. By systematically presenting the general overview of the literature, this study provides a framework that can guide future research.

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