

ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE TROPICAL VETERINARIAN 2008 – 2012

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ABSTRACT

The articles published in the volume 26-30 (2008-2012) of the Tropical Veterinarian (TV) were subjected to some bibliometric examinations on the authors, geographical spread of both authors and the articles of the contents of the literature of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine as represented by the journal. 273 authors published severally in the 5 volumes of the tropical veterinarian. 71.9% of the publishing authors are from the South West Zone of Nigeria; the seat of the publisher of the journal, University of Ibadan. Contributions are however received from all the geographical zones of Nigeria and some from internationally located authors. 98% the periodical articles published by the T.V. were jointly authored, which conforms with the trend obtainable globally in science and technology. There is an appalling scenario in the number of the articles published in every volume as 5 articles per issue is low and calls for the attention of the editors and publishers. As an international journal interested in expounding the frontiers of knowledge in animal science and veterinary medicine, papers on the study of the literature of the subject of information science should be published.

INTRODUCTION

The significance of the study or analyses of the publications contained in any published documents, such as journals, books etc lies in the fact that it contributes to the understanding of and insight into that subject (Adewole, 2001). Okanlawon (1984) observed in his work on the characteristics of Veterinary Medical literature that an understanding of certain basic elements of the literature of the subject has many salient contributions that account for the determination of its acquisition, utilization, coverage and dispersal by the international literature agencies for bibliographic control. The need for bibliographic control in a field like Veterinary Medicine and Animal production calls for proper examination, documentation and organization. Its retrieval by information specialists such as librarians and documentalists, and scientists enhances better understanding. Analysis of information is deriving from a document a set of words that serves as a condensed representation of the information it carries. This representation may be used to identify the document, to provide access points in literature examination and search, to indicate its content, or as a substitute for the document. In a wider sense, it is functional unit involved in the transfer of information from source to user (Vickery, 2009). According to Kent (2009), analysis of documents or literature involves the perusal and selection from the documents of the literature analytic

characteristics, words that are inherently hidden, but representative of the document or publication.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The sources of data for this study were the articles and contents published by the Tropical Veterinarian; (ISSN 0794-4845) volume 36 (2008) to volume 30 (2012). The choice of (5years) was dictated by convenience and a conviction that five years publications was enough to draw reliable bibliographic conclusion. The Tropical Veterinarian (T.V) is an international Journal devoted to all aspects of health and disease of animals in the tropics. It is published by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The journal is published four times a year with its maiden issue released in 1983.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The tropical Veterinarian has an editorial team of 5-7 members made up of scientists from the publishing institution, university of Ibadan with a team of editorial advisers spread all over the globe, specialized in the veterinary medical sciences. Total of 273 authors published in the 20 issues of 5 volumes of the journal. Volume 30 (2012) has the highest number of authors of 68 that published in the journal during the publishing period. The 273 authors published severally in the 5 volumes. The least number of authors was recorded in the vol 26

(2009) where 29 authors published. The table 1 on author and publication pattern explains. This table shows a steady increase in the number of explains authors with new volume.

Geographical Spread of Authors

The development of the literature of veterinary medicine in Nigeria is due to a number of factors, some of which includes livestock farming being a major occupation of a considerable population of the citizenry. Nigeria has 9,605, 925 and 123,898,265 exotic and local chickens respectively 8,800,000 sheep and 20,750,500 goats. The northern part of Nigeria accounts for over 10,255,700 cattle etc (Akinwumi et al, 1979). These are figures that calls for the comprehensive studies of the subject discipline. Because of the relevance of the subject discipline to national development, the subject of Veterinary Medicine began to be taught in institutions located in both Northern and Southern Nigeria producing scholars in the subject field. In a comprehensive study of the literature of Veterinary Science from 10 information systems, Brodauf, et al (2007) established that clear evidence exists that veterinarian use information and idea from every parts of Europe. The geographical spread of the authors of the TV is reflected in the table 2 below. 266 articles were contributed to the TV from the 4 geographical zones of South-West (SW) Ibadan axis) South East (SE) (Nsukka axis) North West (NW) Zaria axis) and North East (NE) (Maiduguri axis). A few articles were also published from outside Nigeria. This is presented in the Table 1. 191 periodical articles representing 71.8% are from the South-West Zone, the zone of the publishers of the journal, University of Ibadan. The North West Zone, which comprise of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigerian Veterinary Research Institute, Vom-Jos, etc has 16 articles (6.1%). The others, including international authors are as shown in the table above. It is hoped that the growth of Veterinary literature as concluded by Okanlawon (1984) will continue to grow beyond borders of origin as a result of increase in the intensity of research among others.

Pattern of Authorship

The new trend in scientific publication all over the world is joint or multiple authorships than single. Finichel (1969) examines the citation patterns in information science in America and observed that more joint and multiple authored references were cited by scientists in the U.S than articles by single

author. A related study by Adewole (1998) in the Journal of Animal Production Research (JAPR) agrees with this development. 273 authors published the 91 articles published in the 5 volumes of the journal used for this analysis, with 262 (92%) of them co-authoring the articles, while only 11 authors published sole. This conforms with international best practice in scientific investigation and reporting where multidisciplinary approach is encouraged (see table 1).

Conclusion

The evidence generated in this study permits some cautious conclusion on the reliability of subject content analysis for practitioners in animal and veterinary science; and information workers, such as librarians and documentalists. The journal was able to attract article beyond the confines of its publishers geographical location, as 29% of the contributions are from outside its location. It is very important for Nigerian scientists to collaborate with peers from different locations for the advancement of the subject field. The tropical veterinarian would need to re-asses its drive for articles, as publishing between 4-5 periodical articles per issue does not augur well for a journal of its standing. The current associate editors who were eminent editors-in-chief should bring their experiences to bear on the journal. The locations of the editorial advisors should be exploited maximally to further advertise the journal.

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Table 1. Author and Publication Pattern

Vol	No of author	No of articles	Joint	Sole
26	29	10	27	2
27	55	21	51	4
28	58	20	56	2
29	63	20	61	2
30	68	20	67	1
Total	273	91	262	11

Table 2 Geographical Spread of Authors and Articles

Vol	SW	SE	NW	NE	INT	Total
26(2008)	19	2	1	8		30
27(2009)	36	10	-	2	5	53
28(2010)	38	6	7	7	-	58
29(2011)	41	9	8	5	-	61
30(2012)	57	7				64
Total	191(71.8)	34(12.7)	16(6.0)	20(7.5)	5(2.00)	266