

**International Publishing by Egyptian Researchers in
Library and Information Science (LIS); A Bibliometric
Analysis (2013–2022)**

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Abstract:

The study investigates the international publishing trends of Egyptian researchers in Library and Information Science (LIS) over the period of 2013 to 2022. It identifies prolific authors, analyzes affiliations, explores publication types, examines open-access trends, and highlights top publishers and journals. A bibliometric analysis was conducted using the Web of Science Core Collection database to analyze the dataset. The findings indicated a low level of international productivity; over a ten-year period, 128 documents were published internationally, with 110 of them being scientific papers. South Valley University was the most productive university, with 14.84% of all articles produced, while Assiut University was the least productive with 3.13%. The year 2021 was the most productive in the field of libraries and information science in Egypt, the year 2020 came

next. Mansour E., who has 19 publications, was considered to be the most productive author. The researchers published at a variety of journals, with the majority of articles appearing in the "Scientometrics" journal. The results revealed that scientific articles dominate the publication landscape, signifying a focus on peer-reviewed research. Encouragingly, there is a growing trend toward open-access publications. The value of the study lies in being the first bibliometric study that presents a comprehensive view of international publishing in library and information science in Egypt. The findings provide valuable results into international publishing trends, offering useful information for future research efforts and decision-making.

Keywords:

LIS Research, Bibliometric analysis, International Publishing, Library and information science, Academic Publishing.

1. Introduction:

International publishing refers to the process of producing, distributing, and disseminating content beyond national borders. It involves the coordinated efforts of authors, editors, publishers, distributors, and marketers from different countries and regions to create world-language content intended for a global audience, aiming to bridge gaps between diverse societies and facilitate the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and perspectives on a worldwide scale. Therefore, the international publishing of academic research has become a critical indicator for university ranking. The number of research studies published in international journals serves as a key metric for a university's progress in rankings and its commitment to scientific research (Zedan, 2021). It has a dual benefit, not only for the improvement of university rankings but also for researchers themselves (Abd-Elaziz, 2015). It shapes both the reputation of individual researchers and the prestige of the institutions to which they are affiliated (Serpa, 2021), including researchers from countries where English is not the primary language (Ramírez-Castañeda, V., 2020).

Despite the importance of international publishing, the majority of Arab researchers tend to publish their research in local and Arabic journals, which have become the dominant outlets for their work (Hanafi, 2011). According to Amanda et al. (2016), libraries, LIS departments, and faculty members in the Arab world tend to primarily use Arabic as the language of instruction and research, which may contribute to the limited publication of their research in English or other foreign languages. At the same time, the Egyptian researchers face a special challenge in terms of publishing their research and gaining international recognition. They have a strong need to publish their work in English-language journals so that their research can reach a broader

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audience and gain greater visibility on a global scale (Curry & Lillis, 2004; Meng, 2015).

In recent years, researchers in Egypt have faced growing pressure to publish their work internationally rather than in local journals (Abd-Elaziz, 2015). According to a report issued by SCIMAGO in April 2022, Egypt ranked 28th globally in 2020. This marks a significant improvement in the global ranking of Egypt's research organizations compared to the previous year (Egypt today, 2023). This trend reflects the increasing importance placed on international recognition and visibility in the academic community, as well as the need for universities to demonstrate their commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and contributing to the global community.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the international productivity of Egyptian researchers in the field of library and information science during the past decade by answering the following questions:

- How many publications were produced internationally by Egyptian researchers over the past ten years?
- Which universities had the highest productivity in LIS international publishing?
- Who are the most prolific Egyptian authors in LIS International Publishing?
- What types of publications were published internationally by the study sample?
- Which publisher and journal are most preferred for publishing by the study sample?
- What are the most highly cited publications over the past ten years?

2. Literature Review

Searching both the Arabic and the English literature revealed that the study of international publishing trends in the field of libraries and information science has received increasing attention in recent years. Previous studies have aimed to understand the patterns and trends of international publishing in this field, including authorship patterns, collaboration networks, impact factors, and the influence of various factors such as geographic location, institution type, and funding sources.

2.1 Bibliometric studies of LIS research:

There are many bibliometric studies that dealt with quantitative and qualitative analysis of international research in the field of library and information. Onyanha (2007) investigated the productivity and impact of library and information science (LIS) research in Africa. The study utilized Web of Science and EBSCO Online as data collection sources, and it revealed that the impact of LIS literature in the region is significantly lower compared to other social science disciplines. A similar study by Mukerjee (2010) analyzed the library and information science papers published by Asian countries in journals indexed by the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) between 2001 and 2007. The study revealed a doubling of the publication growth rate over the course of the study period, indicating an increase in the contribution made by Asian scholars to the international LIS literature and a rise in the quality of their research.

Wang (2011) conducted a survey that focused on the research output of Chinese authors in the field of library and information science between 1979 and 2009. The study included an international comparison of research output between China and other major Asian countries, such as India, Japan, and Korea.

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The findings showed that China has become the leader in research productivity in the field, with an upward trend in publications and high representation in top subject areas and journals compared to other major Asian countries. Yun et al. (2015) investigated the growth rates of global publications in the LIS field produced by Chinese professionals. The findings revealed that a total of 18,37 research articles were published between 2003 and 2012, with a significant growth rate of 11.37 percent in 2009. The study also highlighted an increasing trend of self-citation, with an average rate of 38.56%. "Article" was identified as the most popular publication type among LIS researchers. A study conducted by Garg and Sharma (2017) analyzed 2,428 research papers on library and information science in India published between 2004 and 2015 using the Indian Citation Index. The study found that academic institutions contributed approximately 86% of the papers.

In a recent study, Kappi and Biradar (2022) conducted a comparative analysis of the scholarly research output in the field of library and information science in India and South Korea using the Web of Science database. The bibliographic data of LIS published documents during 2001-2020 were retrieved, and the results indicated that South Korea had the highest overall output of LIS research publications during the last two decades. The study also showed that South Korean LIS researchers' output has increased rapidly.

2.2 LIS research in Egypt and Arab countries:

A comprehensive review of the literature was conducted by Amanda et al. (2016) to provide an overview of the LIS field in the Arab world. The study aimed to identify research both about the Arab world and carried out by researchers from the region, and to investigate the research topics and collaboration patterns of these scholars. The literature review was conducted from 2004 to 2013. The study found that Arab authors tend to publish their work in regional, primarily Arabic-language journals. These publications are often single-author efforts, with scholars from Egypt and Saudi Arabia being the most common contributors. Another study by Abdelmawla (2018) evaluated Arab researchers' contributions to international scientific publishing in LIS field based on the Web of Science Core Collection database from 1900 to 2014. The findings showed that over 114 years, just 584 articles were published. Most of the Arab contributions are made by foreign researchers. Shehata and Eldakar (2018) explored the academic international writing behaviour of Egyptian scholars in the social sciences. The findings showed that Egyptian social science academics prefer regional publishing. The number of scholars who publish abroad is quite small. Language limitations were one of many obstacles faced by academics attempting to publish globally.

Zedan (2021) explored the factors contributing to the low rate of international scientific publishing among faculty members in the social sciences at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University. The results showed a range of reasons for the decline in international publishing, including the extended time frame for peer review procedures (with a response rate of 89.9%) and the non-recognition of Arabic as a language for publishing in internationally indexed journals (with a response rate of 82.4%). An earlier study by Siddique, N. et al. (2023) investigated the

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dynamics and state of LIS research in the Arab region published between 1951 and 2021 based on the Elsevier Scopus database. The results of the study have highlighted an upward trend in the growth of the publications, especially in the past four years. The findings showed that the largest number of studies were published in 2020.

The previous studies provide valuable insights into the international publishing trends in the field of libraries and information science and demonstrate the importance of understanding these trends in order to assess the impact of researchers in this field. whereas none of these studies have analyzed the LIS research in Egypt. This study aims to address this gap by conducting a quantitative analysis using the WOS database during 2013–2022. more specifically, the annual performance of research growth, authors, institutions, publishers, journals, and highly cited papers.

3. Methodology

The study employed bibliometric methodology to answer the research questions. The dataset was collected from the Web of Science Core Collection database. The sample included all 25 Egyptian public universities' outputs from 2013 to 2022. Private universities were excluded from the scope of the analysis. Results related to Egyptian Knowledge Bank (EKB) were also excluded from affiliation because it is not an Egyptian university but rather a digital library available to Egyptian researchers.

The following advanced search strategy was applied, which comprised searching by three limiters in the search bar (Web of Science category AND publication date AND affiliation):

((WC=(Information Science & Library Science)) AND DOP=(2013-01-01/2022-12-31)) AND OG=(Alexandria

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University OR Assiut University OR Cairo University OR Beni Suef University OR Benha University OR Ain Shams University OR Al Azhar University OR Aswan University OR Menofia University OR Helwan University OR Minia University OR Kafrelsheikh University OR Tanta University OR Damietta University OR Mansoura University OR South Valley University Egypt OR Fayoum University OR Zagazig University OR Sohag University OR University of Sadat City OR Suez Canal University OR Damanhour University)

4. Results

The results showed a total of 128 documents published internationally by LIS Egyptian researchers within the last ten years. The distribution of these documents by year, affiliations, authors, types, open access, publishers, journals, and the most cited papers are covered in the following section:

4.1 Publications by Year

Figure 1 shows the dramatically increasing number of papers from 2013 to 2022:

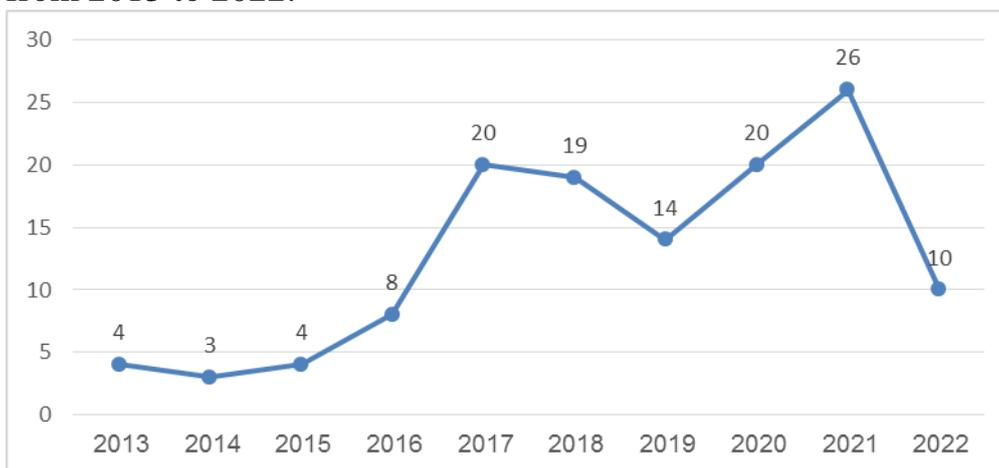


Figure 1 Number of publications by year (Source: Web of Science, access in Jan 2023)

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The findings indicated a low level of international productivity from 2013 to 2022. Researchers from Egypt published only four articles in 2013, which is 3.13 percent of all publications published during the study period. In 2016, this number climbed to 8, with a percentage of 6.25% of all publications. 26 publications, or 20.31% of the total number of publications, were the most international publications in the study sample in 2021, with a modest increase in 2022.

The observed year-over-year growth in the number of publications can be attributed to the promotion criteria for faculty members in Egyptian universities. According to these criteria, researchers who publish in international peer-reviewed journals with high impact factors receive a favourable evaluation during the promotion process to higher academic degrees. Publications in Q1 or Q2 journals are considered highly prestigious and are not subject to further evaluation. Additionally, this incentivizes researchers to prioritize international publishing as a means of increasing their visibility and reputation. These factors are likely to contribute to the upward trend in the number of international publications by Egyptian researchers over the coming years.

It is important to note that the results are based on the number of publications alone and don't take into account the quality or impact of the research. Further analysis of the results, such as assessing the impact of research or analyzing research areas in which Egyptian researchers make significant contributions, would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the state of scientific research in Egypt.

4.2 Publications by Affiliations

The study examined the distribution of productivity according to affiliation, and the results were as shown in Figure 2:

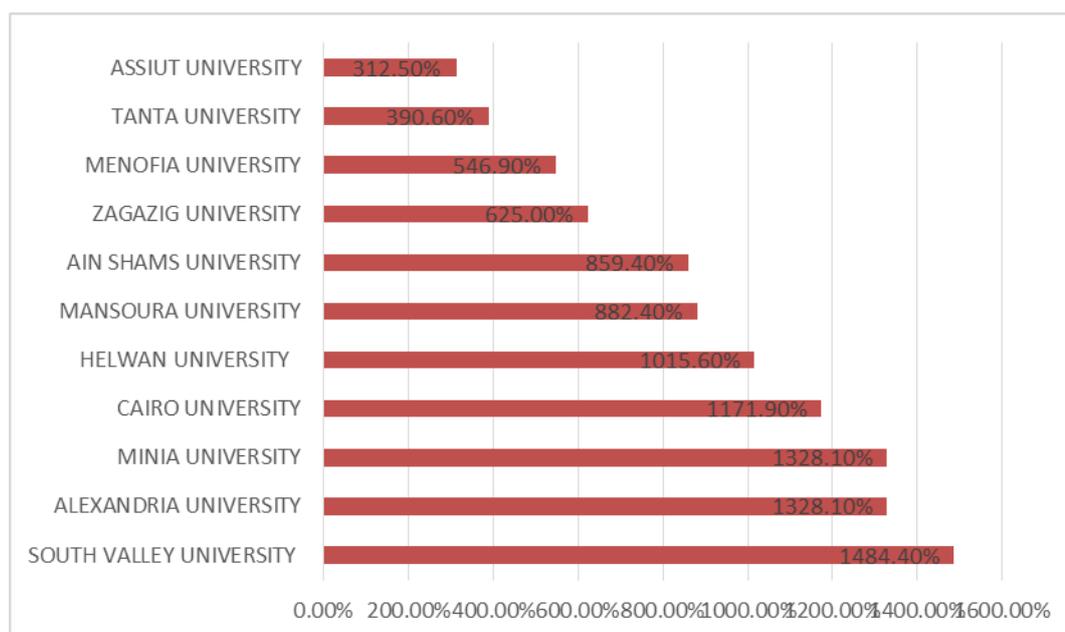


Figure 2 Number of publications by Affiliation

The study's findings show a significant difference in affiliations. South Valley University had the highest number of publications, with 14.84% of the total, followed by Alexandria University and Minia University with 13.28% each. Cairo University and Helwan University also had notable levels of productivity, with 11.72% and 10.16% of the total publications, respectively. On the other hand, Assiut University had the lowest level of productivity, with only 3.13% of the total publications, followed by Tanta University and Menoufia University. These findings suggest that there are disparities in research capacity and output among Egypt's universities and that more efforts are needed to

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4.3 Number of publications by authors

Table 1 lists the top ten LIS Egyptian researchers in international publishing based on their publication outputs, as sourced from the Web of Science database:

**Table 1 publications by Authors and their Affiliation
(Source: Web of Science, access in Jan 2023)**

Authors	Num	%	Affiliation
Mansour, Essam	19	14.84	South Valley Univ.
Shehata, Ahmed Maher	12	5.47	Minia Univ.
Fathalla, Said	8	6.25	Alexandria Univ.
Elsayed, Amany	5	3.91	Helwan Univ.
Ali, Mona Farouk	4	3.13	Helwan Univ.
Ibrahim, Bahaa	4	3.13	Cairo Univ.
Abdel-Basset, Mohamed	3	2.34	Zagazig Univ.
Badran, Mona Farid	3	2.34	Cairo Univ.
Eid, Riyadh	3	2.34	Tanta Univ.
Eldakar, Metwaly	3	2.34	Minia Univ.

The findings show that Essam Mansour from South Valley University is the most productive researcher, with 19 publications and a contribution of 14.84% of the total number of publications. Ahmed Maher Shehata from Minia University is the second most prolific author with 12 publications, making up 5.47% of the total. Said Fathalla from Alexandria University has 8 publications, accounting for 6.25% of the total. Amany Elsayed from Helwan University has 5 publications (3.91%), while Mona

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Farouk Ali from Helwan University, Bahaa Ibrahim from Cairo University, and Riyadh Eid from Tanta University have 4, 4, and 3 publications, respectively. Mohamed Abdel-Basset from Zagazig University and Mona Farid Badran from Cairo University have 3 publications each. Finally, Metwaly Eldakar from Minia University also has 3 publications.

It should be noted that some authors were excluded from the list generated by the Web of Science database because it appeared through the search for those authors that they were not affiliated with Egyptian universities. Also, the number of publications of the researcher (Shehata AMK) was included with the researcher (Shehata A) because it turned out that they were the same person, so the total of what he published during the study period is 12 research papers. These results could provide valuable insights for researchers looking to identify key contributors in the field of library and information science in Egypt.

4.4 Publications by Types

Figure 3 shows the distribution of international productivity according to types of publications. The result indicated that the most common document type published by the sample was scientific articles, with 110 publications accounting for 85.94% of the total. Proceedings papers were the second most common document type, accounting for 10.16% of the total with 13 publications. Early access articles accounted for 7.81% of the total as well. The number of editorial materials and review articles was relatively low, with three and one publications accounting for 2.34% and 0.78%, respectively, of the total. These findings show that scientific articles are the most common form of scientific output for the sample, emphasizing the importance of presenting research findings in a peer-reviewed and easily accessible format.

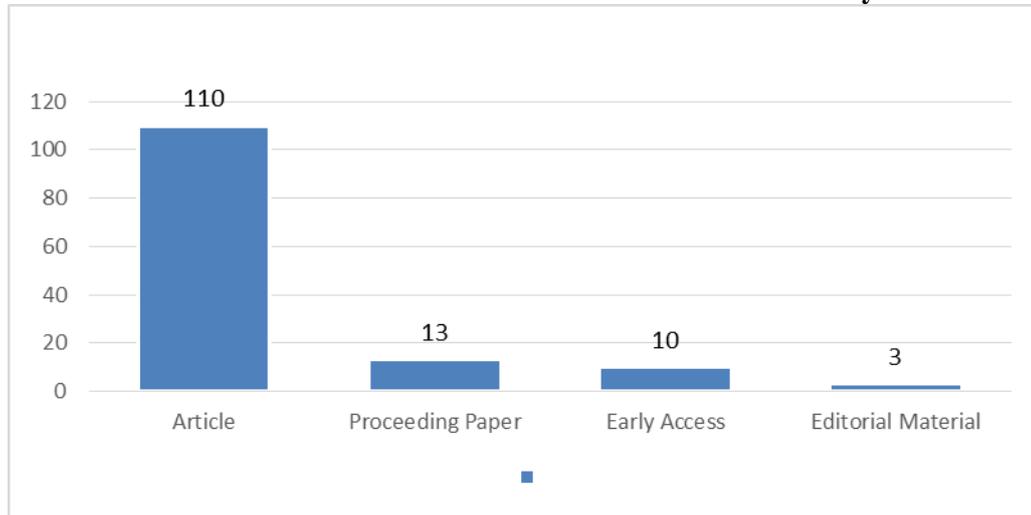


Figure 3 Number of publications by Types (Source: Web of Science, access in Jan 2023)

4.5 Publications by Open Access

The distribution of open access publication status was examined in this bibliometric study. Figure 4 shows that the majority of the publications (17.96% of the total) were categorized as "All Open Access." Additionally, the "gold" open access category accounted for 1.56% of the publications, while the "gold hybrid" category represented 3.91%. "Free to Read" and "Green Published" categories accounted for 3.91% and 4.69%, respectively. The "Green Accepted" category represented 3.13% of the publications, and "Green Submitted" accounted for 4.69%. These findings indicate that there is a growing trend in the field toward open-access publication.

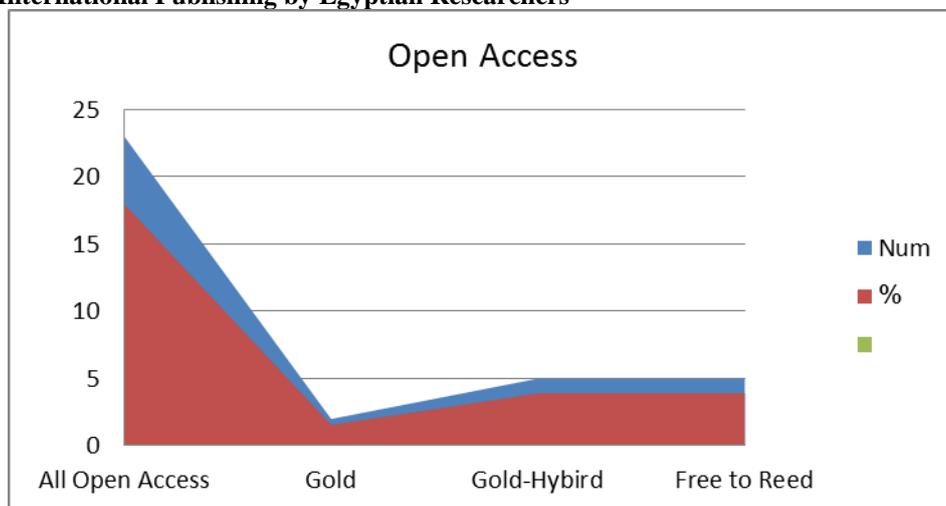


Figure 4 Number of publications by Open Access (Source: Web of Science, access in Jan 2023)

4.6 Publications by Publishers

Table 2 shows the top ten most preferred publishers among the study sample. The findings showed that Egyptian researchers affiliated with public universities have published their intellectual productivity with a wide range of publishers. Elsevier, Oxford University Press, and Springer Nature are among the most frequent publishers, with smaller publishers such as Igi Global and Analytic Publ Co. also present. Emerald Group Publishing and Sage have published the most publications in the sample, with 30 and 27 documents, accounting for 23.44% and 21.09% of total publications, respectively. Other publishers, such as Taylor & Francis and Wiley, have published fewer publications, with 10 and 4 documents, respectively, accounting for 7.81% and 3.13% of the total. The results reveal the variety of publication outlets available to researchers in the field of information science and library science.

Table 2 Number of publications by Publishers (Source: Web of Science, access in Jan 2023)

Publishers	Num	%
Emerald Group Publishing	30	23.44
Sage	27	21.09
Elsevier	21	16.41
Springer Nature	20	15.63
Taylor & Francis	10	7.81
Wiley	4	3.13
Analytic Publ Co	3	2.34
Igi Global	3	2.34
Oxford Univ Press	3	2.34
Acad Conferences Ltd	2	1.56
IEEE	2	1.56
Univ Malaya, Fac Computer Science & Information Tech	1	0.78
World Scientific	1	0.78
Walter De Gruyter	1	0.78

4.7 Publications by Journals

Table 3 shows the top ten most preferred journals by the study sample. The findings reported that the majority of the publication titles in the analyzed dataset belong to the "Scientometrics" journal, with a contribution of 10.16% from the total number of publications and a Q2 rank with an impact factor of 3.80. "Information Development" followed closely with 10 publications and a 7.81% share, holding a Q2 rank and an impact factor of 2.08. "Journal of Librarianship and Information Science" came in third with 7 publications, a 5.47% share, and a Q2 rank with an impact factor of 1.82. "Journal of Librarianship and Information Science" came in third with 7 publications, a 5.47% share, and a Q2 rank with an impact factor of 1.82. The list also contains well-known journals such as the "Journal of Knowledge Management" with 4 publications and a 3.13% share,

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maintaining a Q1 rank and an impact factor of 8.69, and the "International Journal of Information Management" with 5 publications, a 3.91% share, and a Q1 rank.

Table 3 Number of publications by Journals (Source: Web of Science, access in Jan 2023)

Journals	Num	%	2021 Rank	2021 JIF
Scientometrics	13	10.16	Q2	3.801
Information Development	10	7.81	Q2	2.079
Journal of Librarianship and Information Science	7	5.47	Q2	1.820
IFLA Journal	6	4.69	Q3	0.25
Information processing & Management	6	4.69	Q1	7.466
International Journal of Information Management	5	3.91	Q1	18.958
Journal of Information & Optimization Sciences	5	3.91	Q2	0.57
Lecture Notes in Computer Science	5	3.91	Q4	0.402
Global Knowledge Memory and Communication	4	3.13	Q2	0.37
Journal Of Knowledge Management	4	3.13	Q1	8.689

4.8 The most cited papers

Based on the papers with the highest citations, the results shown in Table 4 list the top ten most cited papers published by the study sample over the last ten years, as retrieved from Web of Science:

Table 4 The most cited papers (Source: Web of Science, access in Jan 2023)

Title	author	Citation Number
A review of volunteered geographic information quality assessment methods	Senaratne, H; Mobasher, A; Haklay, M	237
Predicting e-readiness at firm-level: An analysis of technological, organizational and environmental (TOE) effects on e-maintenance readiness in manufacturing firms	Aboelmaged, MG	119
Knowledge management and business performance: global experts' views on future research needs	Heisig, P; Suraj, OA; Easa, NF	79
Financial crisis prediction model using ant colony optimization	Uthayakumar, J; Metawa, N; Lakshmanaprabu, SK	59
Social media in Egyptian government websites: Presence, usage, and effectiveness	Abdelsalam, HM; Reddick, CG; (...); Al-shaar, A	59
The Use of Academic Social Networks Among Arab Researchers: A Survey	Elsayed, AM	52
Machine learning based customer meta-combination brand equity analysis for marketing behavior evaluation	Xu, Z; Zhu, GY; Zhou, QY	43
Organizational learning, knowledge management capability and supply chain management practices in the Saudi food industry	Attia, A and Eldin, IE	40
Correlation among top 100 universities in the major six global rankings: policy implications	Shehatta, I and Mahmood, K	40
Quantum-Inspired Blockchain-Based Cybersecurity: Securing Smart Edge Utilities in IoT-Based Smart Cities	Abd El-Latif, AA; Abd-El-Atty, B; Peng, JL	39

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The findings show that the top-cited paper, "A review of volunteered geographic information quality assessment methods" by Senaratne, Mobasher, and Haklay, has received 237 citations. The second most highly cited paper, "Predicting e-readiness at firm-level: An analysis of technological, organizational, and environmental (TOE) effects on e-maintenance readiness in manufacturing firms," by Aboelmaged, has received 119 citations. The third most highly cited paper, "Knowledge management and business performance: global experts' views on future research needs," by Heisig, Suraj, and Easa, has received 79 citations. The remaining 7 papers have been cited between 40 and 59 times. These findings shed light on the most highly regarded and influential works in the field and can help guide future research efforts.

5. Conclusion

The results of this bibliometric analysis of Egyptian researchers' international publishing from 2013 to 2022 showed a low level of international scientific productivity, with 128 total publications. The study found that the number of international publications by Egyptian researchers has increased over the past decade, with a modest increase in 2022. The distribution of scientific productivity varied greatly among the 25 public universities in Egypt, with South Valley University having the highest number of publications. The results also showed disparities in research capacity and output among Egypt's universities and highlighted the need for more efforts to promote research productivity and address disparities in research output. The findings propose that the promotion criteria for faculty members in Egyptian universities and the incentives for international publishing likely play a role in the growth of international publications by Egyptian researchers. The study provides useful insights for decision-makers and institutions interested in increasing

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scientific productivity and addressing disparities in research
output in Egypt.

6. Recommendations

Based on the results of the study, the following recommendations can be suggested to enhance the scientific productivity of Egyptian researchers at public universities in the field of LIS:

- Encourage collaboration between universities: encouraging researchers from different universities to work together can help increase the number of articles published. This can also increase the visibility of Egyptian research in the international community.
- Support for training and capacity building: Providing training and capacity building for researchers can help improve their research skills and knowledge. This can result in increased productivity and improve the quality of research.
- Incentives for publishing in international journals: To encourage researchers to publish their work in international journals, incentives such as financial rewards or recognition can be provided.
- Encouraging interdisciplinary research: Encouraging interdisciplinary research can help researchers explore new areas and produce more impactful research.

Overall, the implementation of these recommendations can help to improve the scientific productivity of Egyptian researchers and increase the visibility of their work in the international community.

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