

# 30 years of "International Journal of Behavioral Development": Thematic orientation, internationality and impact of publications since its inception - A bibliometric study

Inspired by the 1990 analysis by Schoepflin and Müller-Brettel, the scientific output of the International Journal of Behavioral Development is bibliometrically traced for the past 30 years. Bibliometric data was collected using the PsycINFO and Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) databases. The fields APA-thesaurus descriptors, classification code, age group (all PsycINFO), country, and number of citations (all SSCI) were used. Information on author affiliations was obtained online from the original articles. For 1978-2007, PsycINFO lists 1185 articles and SSCI lists 1174 articles for the IJBD, due to differing document type classifications. Figure 1 shows the relative percentages of the most frequently used descriptors over the course of time. Figure 2 does the same for age groups. 27% of the IJBD articles are not classified as Developmental Psychology. These are classified as shown in Figure 3.

3086 Authors have contributed to IJBD from 1978-2007. The number of IJBD articles written by authors from more than one country has been constantly rising since 1978, especially during the last ten years. The number of authors per article also has a rising trend (average 2 in the 1980's; 3 in the 2000's).

In Table 1, articles with authors from more than one country are listed with the collaborations for the most internationally active countries. In total, there are 221 multinational articles written by 920 authors from 52 countries. About 80% of the authors are from the countries in Table 1.

Table 2 traces the citation rates (impact) for the most productive countries through the publication years of the IJBD. Citation counts are cumulative here, so older articles have a greater chance of higher values. Uncitedness is comparably low and ranges from 7%-16%. The h-index for the total articles ranges from 8-27. Table 3 shows, where the citations come from.

## Conclusion

The literature percentages of descriptors and age groups were compared to developmental psychology literature in PsycINFO. The most frequent themes in IJBD are over the PsycINFO percentage. Noticeable is a decline in the cognitive field and rises in cross-cultural differences and childhood development.

Interdisciplinary connections of the IJBD focus on the broad category of social processes and social issues, educational psychology, and clinical psychology. With about 20% of multinationality authored articles, the IJBD is internationally well linked.

Total citation rates have increased since 1990, and also those comparable to the findings of Schoepflin and Müller-Brettel in time since publication, are considerably higher.

## References

Schoepflin, U. & Müller-Brettel, M. (1990). International Journal of Behavioral Development: Scope and Trends. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 13, 393-406.

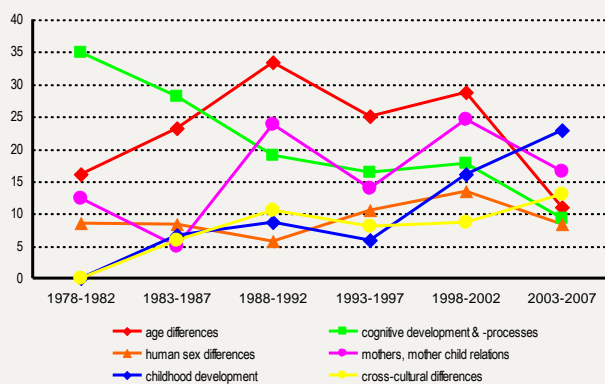


Fig. 1: Percentages of the most frequently uses APA-Thesaurus terms in IJBD from 1978-2007 (PsycINFO, cc=28).

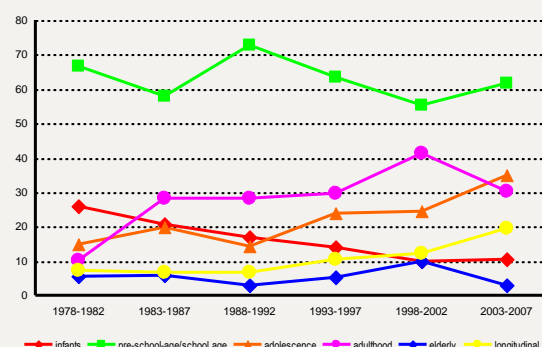


Fig. 2: Percentages of age groups in IJBD from 1978-2007 (PsycINFO, cc=28).

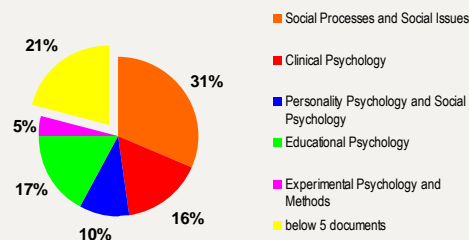


Fig. 3: Percentages of non-developmental psychology literature in IJBD (PsycINFO).

Table 1: Articles with international co-authorship (countries with most international cooperations).

1978-2007	# articles	U.S.A.	CAN	GER	PRC	IL	NL	UK	JP	SWE	IT
U.S.A.	143	-	23	21	12	13	7	10	14	11	5
Canada	42	23	-	5	12	2	2	3	1	1	4
Germany	38	21	5	-	2	1	3	4	2	0	1
Peoples Rep. China	24	12	12	2	-	0	0	1	0	0	2
Israel	22	13	2	1	0	-	4	3	1	0	1
Netherlands	28	7	2	3	0	4	-	3	1	2	2
United Kingdom	32	10	3	4	1	3	3	-	1	1	3
Japan	18	14	1	2	0	1	1	1	-	0	1
Sweden	17	11	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	-	1
Italy	13	5	4	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	-

Table 2: Citations rates for six timespans and total citation rates for the ten most productive countries (SSCI, articles only).

Citation Rates	1978-1982	1983-1987	1988-1992	1993-1997	1998-2002	2003-2007	Total citation rate
U.S.A.	11.3	13.1	16.6	12.1	9.3	3.8	9.9
Canada	11.6	24.1	15.2	10.7	11.7	3.9	10.5
United Kingdom	14.6	15.6	13.9	10.5	8.7	1.4	9.9
Germany	15.9	9.0	20.2	16.9	9.1	2.9	9.9
The Netherlands	13.7	7.1	16.5	9.3	7.4	2.8	7.6
Israel	10.9	5.0	11.3	12.9	6.9	1.2	6.8
Australia	5.9	8.4	8.3	11.4	4.1	5.1	7.1
Peoples Rep. China	0.0	2.7	0.0	6.0	12.8	3.6	7.6
Sweden	8.6	17.0	13.8	12.2	7.7	3.2	8.6
Italy	2.0	6.6	4.5	6.1	3.9	1.3	4.6

Table 3: Articles and the countries citing them for the ten most productive countries (SSCI, articles only).

1978-2007	# articles	U.S.A.	CAN	UK	GER	NL	IL	AUS	PRC	SWE	IT
U.S.A.	514	2807	417	281	302	162	96	116	91	75	63
Canada	148	631	412	120	60	63	34	38	62	27	40
United Kingdom	104	456	110	229	54	42	8	42	20	13	15
Germany	88	352	60	48	242	50	18	36	10	14	11
The Netherlands	77	211	34	35	31	158	40	8	3	8	14
Israel	61	159	28	37	14	29	135	11	1	8	5
Australia	45	127	31	25	15	9	8	90	7	4	12
Peoples Rep. China	41	113	40	13	6	5	6	9	80	2	5
Sweden	39	143	16	21	15	6	9	3	2	84	9
Italy	36	47	24	20	4	8	4	6	4	0	38