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## Editorial: *International Journal of Management Practice*: a retrospective analysis for the future

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**Biographical notes:** Walter Vesperi obtained his PhD in Management at the University of Messina. His main research fields are knowledge transfer, entrepreneurship, human resource management and organisation theory. He is a member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of Management Practice (IJMP)*. He is the author of several scientific articles in international journals. He is a member of the regional council of the Italian People Management Association (AIDP).

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### 1 Introduction

*International Journal of Management Practice (IJMP)* is one of the main stream journal products under the banner of the esteemed publisher InderScience. It focuses on the pragmatics of informing management action/practice, translating existing theories into forms relevant, digestible and amenable to practical action, besides developing new insights by developing and examining leading edge managerial practices to enhance organisational performance. Since inception, *IJMP* has been a double-blind, peer-reviewed journal, and has been active in the areas of strategy, human resource management, small business management, etc. *IJMP*<sup>1</sup> is indexed in Scopus (Elsevier) and other scientific databases (Academic OneFile, cnpLINKer, Expanded Academic ASAP and OneFile Business). It had a CiteScore of 0.8 in 2020. Recently, several journals (Martínez-López et al., 2018; Gaviria-Marin et al., 2018; Farrukh et al., 2020) have developed bibliometric and retrospective analyses to understand contemporary research topics. In line with these journals (Burton et al., 2020; Vošner et al., 2016; Donthu et al., 2020), we propose the first retrospective scrutiny on *IJMP*. The aim of this retrospective analysis is to understand the evolution of the *IJMP* and future research trends (Schwert, 1993; Merigó et al., 2015).

To carry out the retrospective analysis, the criteria of transparency and replicability of the scientific document selection process were followed (Tranfield et al., 2003; Briner et al., 2009; Alvesson and Ashcraft, 2009; Berg et al., 2012; Merriam and Tisdell, 2015).

The methodological process consists of the following sub-phases:

- 1 *Source identification:* Scopus database has been selected as the main source of identification of the scientific documents.
- 2 *Creation of the search string:* The search string has been executed using the term '*International Journal of Management Practice*' in the 'source title' section.

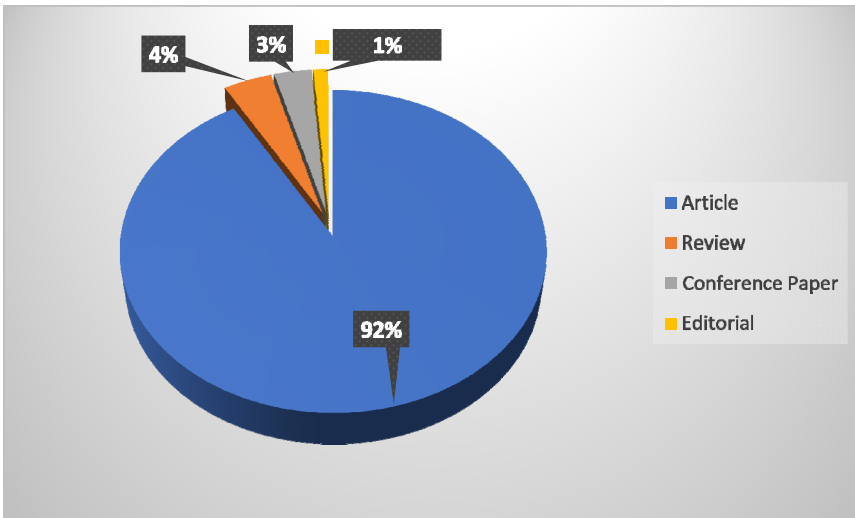
3 *Application of filter criteria:* All the scientific documents published in *IJMP* from 2004 to 2021 (first semester) have been selected through the Scopus databases. No language filter has been selected.

The final database consists of 322 scientific papers.

In the first instance, it is possible to realise the preliminary and generic reflections through descriptive statistics tools. A first observation is on the type of document.

Figure 1 shows that most (92%) of the documents published in *IJMP* are ‘articles’. A small part of them are ‘reviews’ (4%), ‘conference papers’ (3%) and finally ‘editorials’ (1%). A preliminary reflection indicates that the massive presence of articles on *IJMP* demonstrates the generic and broad coverage given the journal focusing on managerial issues. This consideration is also confirmed by the small amount of editorials published in the journal. The editorials offer moments of reflection and direction of the collected contributions.

**Figure 1** Types of documents (see online version for colours)



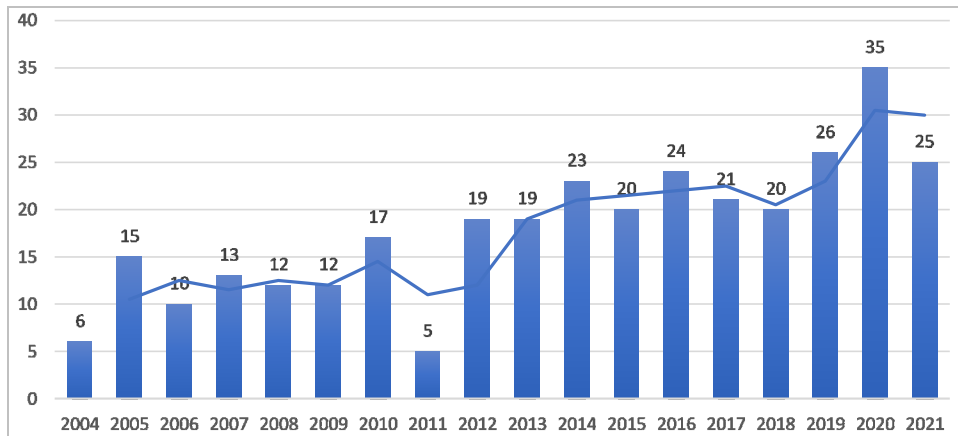
Source: Scopus database

Figure 2 highlights the growth of the publications in the journal. The quantity of articles published represents a bibliometric indicator of the changing trend in terms of publication.

The line in Figure 2 represents the two-period simple moving average (SMA). The SMA allows to understand the trends in the historical series. From Figure 2, it emerges that in the initial years – from 2004 to 2012 – *IJMP* experienced a moderate growth, when the annual average is equal to 12 articles. In the second period, however, the annual average is almost doubled (23 articles), while the year 2020 witnessed the largest number of papers. The growing number of publications over the years demonstrates the growing interest of scholars in *IJMP*.

Further analysis shows the authors who contribute to *IJMP* most. Towards this end, Devadasan, S.R. and Hooi, L.W are the major contributors. This result is also confirmed by the co-citations among the authors.

**Figure 2** Distribution of publication in *IJMP* between 2004–2021 (see online version for colours)



Source: Scopus database

**Table 1** Documents by author

Author	Documents by author	Years
Devadasan, S.R.	6	2019, 2009a, 2009b, 2008a, 2008b, 2006
Hooi, L.W.	6	2015, 2014a, 2014b, 2012a, 2012b, 2010
Muruges, R.	5	2019, 2009a, 2009b, 2008a, 2008b
Ahmed, P.K.	4	2010, 2009a, 2009b, 2005
Dotson, M.J.	4	2015, 2013, 2012, 2010
Garber, L.L.	4	2020, 2015, 2014, 2013
Mylonakis, J.	4	2007, 2006, 2005a, 2005b
Wang, Y.	4	2014, 2010, 2005a, 2005b
Anand, G.	3	2010, 2008, 2007
Chukwulobelu, O.	3	2014a, 2014b, 2014c
Coffie, W.	3	2014a, 2014b, 2014c
Cook, M.	3	2020, 2013, 2010
Kodali, R.	3	2010, 2008, 2007
McDonald, S.M.	3	2012, 2008, 2005
Purankar, S.A.	3	2020, 2017a, 2017b
Razmi, J.	3	2009, 2008, 2005
Singh, V.K.	3	2020, 2017a, 2017b
Sondhi, N.	3	2019, 2017, 2016
Sundararaj, G.	3	2009, 2007, 2006

Source: Scopus database

From the results of the graphic elaboration, Devadasan, S.R. emerges as the most frequently referenced author within the *IJMP* landscape. In addition, the graphic processing, through VOSviewer, highlights the presence of four co-authorship clusters.

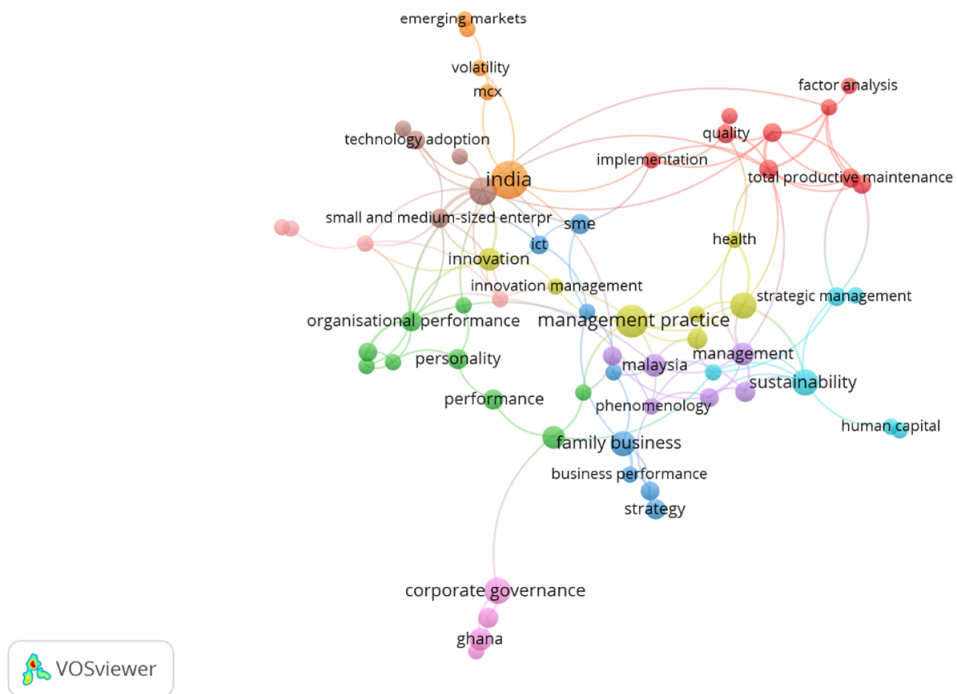


of the correlation that exists between the keywords that the authors used in their documents. The analysis of the scientific landscape allows us to understand how the documents published in *IJMP* have analysed the various phenomena.

The scientific landscape took into consideration 1,668 keywords. It was set that every keyword present in the scientific landscape was present in at least three papers. With this parameter, the scientific landscape is composed of 66 nodes (keywords). From the analysis of the scientific landscape, there are several considerations that can be drawn.

The multiplicity and variety of topics covered within *IJMP* is also confirmed by the presence of different clusters within the scientific landscape. The clusters are graphically represented by the different colours (orange, red, yellow, light blue, purple, blue, green and brown). The presence of numerous clusters is a confirmation of the wide and varied nature of the topics covered in the *IJMP*. In Figure 4, the ‘purple’ cluster appears to be the least numerous (made up of the fewest keywords) with topics marginally analysed in the journal.

**Figure 4** Scientific landscape of keywords (see online version for colours)



Source: VOSviewer software

One of the centres of the scientific landscape is the keyword ‘India’. This highlights that ‘India’ is one of the most used keywords in the documents published in *IJMP*. This result may be a consequence of the results shown in Table 2. The keyword ‘India’ is directly linked to the keywords: ‘MCX’, ‘volatility’ and ‘emerging markets’. These keywords constitute the orange cluster, characterised by the analysis of the country of India and the characteristics of the market.

**Table 3** Keywords macro-area

<i>Geographic area</i>	<i>Methodology</i>	<i>Managerial implication</i>
India	Structural equation modelling	Firm value
Jordan	Content analysis	Corporate governance
South Africa	Factor analysis	SMEs
Ghana	MCX	Volatility
		Performance
		Technology
		Sustainability

**Table 4** Most cited articles in 2016–2021

<i>Title</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Vol.</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Page start</i>	<i>Page end</i>	<i>Cited by</i>
Internal control weaknesses in a cooperative body: Malaysian experience	2017	10	2	131	151	26
Investor sentiment, stock market returns and volatility: evidence from National Stock Exchange of India	2016	9	3	213	237	12
Intention to implement green hotel practices: evidence from Indian hotel industry	2018	11	1	24	41	9
New paradigm of digital marketing in emerging markets: from social media to social customer relationship management	2016	9	1	56	73	9
Does the potential for developing new technology lead to successful technology transfer commercialisation? The case of public R&D outputs in Korea	2017	10	1	93	108	8
The effects of earnings management and corporate tax avoidance on firm value	2016	9	2	112	131	8
CEO characteristics and the amount of capital raised in Malaysian IPOs	2017	10	4	327	360	6
The relationship between TQM practices and role stressors	2017	10	3	295	325	6
The role of context understanding South Asian family firms in Scotland and the succession paradox	2016	9	4	433	447	6
Behavioural biases among SME owners	2018	11	3	259	283	5
Does retrenchment strategy induce family firm's value? A study from Malaysia	2016	9	4	394	411	5
Succession in Chinese family enterprises: the influence of cognitive, regulatory and normative factors	2016	9	4	412	432	5

Continuing with the analysis of the scientific landscape, other centres of the scientific landscape of smaller dimensions emerge. In particular, the keywords 'sustainability' (blue cluster), 'family business' (blue cluster) and 'management practice' (yellow

cluster). Other centres of the scientific landscape are ‘organisational performance’ and ‘performance’ (both green clusters).

In order to complete the analysis on the articles published in *IJMP* – and understand future research trends – a specific scientific landscape was created for the 2016–2021 (first semester). By setting this time limit, 151 papers out of a total of 322 papers are considered. Almost 47% of the total papers published in *IJMP*. The keywords are equal to 883.

The most used words – in the period 2016–2021 (first semester) – are: ‘India’ (13 times), ‘firm value’, ‘sustainability’, ‘Ghana’ and ‘Jordan’ (five times), ‘corporate governance’ (four times), ‘MCX’, ‘SMEs’, ‘structural equation modelling’, ‘volatility’, ‘content analysis’, ‘factor analysis’, ‘performance’, ‘technology’, ‘South Africa’ (three times).

It is possible to group the keywords of the papers published from 2016 to 2021 (first semester) in three macro areas. Table 3 shows the breakdown by macro area.

Table 4 reports the most cited articles published in the period 2016–2021 (first semester).

## 2 Final remarks

This brief retrospective analysis allows us to make some reflections on *IJMP*. The journal has been growing steadily in terms of document publication in recent years (Figure 2). The use of the moving average (solid line) allows us to minimise the impact of the year 2011, which oversees the lowest number of scientific papers. The analysis of the type of documents (Figure 1) on the other hand shows the low percentage of editorials. The few editorials are connected to the ‘special issues’ hosted in the journal. In fact, the journal is characterised as a generic and wide journal on managerial issues. Hosting ‘special issues’ on specific topics could be an opportunity of growth for the *IJMP*. Finally, by analysing the scientific landscape, it emerges that the panorama is not concentrated on one or a few words. Rather, there are multi-centres concentrations of words. A large number of documents use the keyword ‘India’. Table 3 groups the keywords of the scientific documents published in *IJMP* in the period 2016–2021.

This retrospective analysis does not attempt to implement an in-depth analysis on *IJMP* but represents a moment of reflection. The key purpose is to offer a generic overview of the publications in *IJMP*.

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## Notes

- 1 For further information, please see <https://www.inderscience.com/jhome.php?jcode=ijmp#edboard-content>.