

Analysis of Publication Trends in the Lancet Journal Based On the SCILIT Database

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Abstract: This study provides a bibliometric analysis of the Lancet journal 2014–2024. Research data for this study has been exported from the Scilit database. 19,107 articles published during the study period were analyzed to determine the citation analysis, publication analysis, collaboration analysis, journal metrics, and open-access publications analysis. This study found that 3,843 articles were published on the healthcare policy-related subject, and 4,802 (30.42%) authors contributed from the United Kingdom authors; the Lancet research journal h5 index is 333, 13.31 is average of MCM (Monthly Citation Metrics), in Quartile 4, the maximum value of the distribution is 7,739. About Open Access publications: The Lancet published 3,931 publications in 2017, with 834 publications. Also, it was found that 6,906 publications do not have any collaborations (Single Authorship). This paper aims to perform a scientific metric analysis of the Lancet journal to find out the quality, popularity, and impact of the international journal published by Lancet.

Keywords: Lancet, Publications, Open Access, Collaboration, Citation, Authorship, Scilit, Medical Journal, Healthcare.

INTRODUCTION

Bibliometrics is a field of study that uses statistical methods to analyze academic literature. It quantitatively assesses publications, citations, and other related metrics to evaluate the impact, quality, and trends within specific research areas or individual works. Bibliometrics can measure the productivity of researchers, the impact of journals, the most cited articles, and how scholarly works are distributed across different disciplines. Some standard bibliometric measures include Citation Counts, Impact Factor: h-index, and Altmetrics. When a study or article is published in a prominent journal like The Lancet, bibliometric analysis can be applied in several ways to evaluate and understand its significance:

1. Citation Analysis: By tracking how many times other papers cite the study published in The Lancet, you can gauge its impact on the scientific

community. A study cited frequently often indicates that it is considered influential or essential.

2. Journal Impact: The Lancet has a high impact factor, a bibliometric measure of how frequently its articles are cited. Studies published in The Lancet will likely be more visible and influential due to the journal's prestige.
3. Trends and Collaborations: A bibliometric analysis can reveal trends in research topics, authors, and collaborations. For example, suppose a study in The Lancet is part of a larger body of work related to a specific medical condition or treatment. In that case, bibliometrics can identify how the research fits into a broader network of studies, authors, and institutions.
4. Content and Network Mapping: Bibliometrics can also help identify relationships between papers published in The Lancet, uncovering how they are connected within the larger body of literature. Citation networks can be analyzed to understand the interconnections between different studies, particularly within a specialized field like healthcare or medicine.
5. Altmetrics: Given the rising influence of social media and online platforms, bibliometrics might also measure how often studies published in The Lancet are shared, discussed, or mentioned in non-traditional academic spaces, offering insights into the broader societal impact of the research.

Bibliometrics can be applied to evaluate the influence and significance of studies published in The Lancet by analyzing citations and examining broader trends and networks of scholarly communication.

The Lancet Research Journal

The Lancet began as an independent, international weekly general medical journal founded in 1823 by

Thomas Wakley. Since its first issue (Oct 5, 1823), the journal has strived to make science widely available so that medicine can serve and transform society and positively impact people's lives. Over the past two centuries, The Lancet has sought to address urgent topics in our society, initiate debate, put science into context, and influence decision-makers worldwide. The Lancet has evolved as a family of journals. Still, it retains at its core the belief that medicine must serve society, that knowledge must transform society, and that the best science must lead to better lives. The Lancet sets exceptionally high standards. Lancet selects only the best research papers for their quality of work and the progression they bring. Too much research is done for research's sake. We believe that improving lives is the only end goal and that research is only relevant when it impacts human lives. Lancet journals are internationally trusted clinical, public health, and global health knowledge sources. Lancet recognizes that the Journal Impact Factor is just one measure of a journal's performance and encourages you to explore additional journal impact metrics, which provide a means to assess our journals further.

Scilit Database – An Overview

Scilit—developed and maintained by MDPI—is a multidisciplinary, free scholarly database that indexes scientific material by extracting the latest data from CrossRef, PubMed, and other sources daily. This means that newly published articles are added to Scilit almost immediately. It is a comprehensive database covering all subjects from arts and humanities, behavioral and social sciences, medicine and pharmacology, physical sciences, mathematics and computer science, chemistry, and biology. Visitors to Scilit can retrieve information about publications, journals, and publishers free of charge. Publications can be searched based on title, abstract, or authors, or a combination of these fields. Search results include title, authors, published date, digital object identifier (DOI), a link to the publisher's website, abstract, comments from SciForum, and related articles.

Readers also have access to information related to all the publishers in our database (DOI prefix, journals, articles, and website). Publishers can now log in and import their articles to improve the accuracy of the content. As of 2017, 8896 publishers appear in Scilit. Based on Scilit data, two other public services have been developed—Scitations and SciFeed. Scitations is a citation alert service that

notifies authors of scholarly papers when their publications are cited in new articles published by participating journals. SciFeed informs readers by email as soon as new articles matching a customized query are published.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A citation analysis of the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology was conducted by Tsay in 2008. The findings indicated that the production rate of JASIST literature had doubled, and the average number of references per paper increased by two to three times over a 25-year period, specifically from the years 1985 to 2004.

Donthu et al. (2020) conducted a bibliometric analysis of the "Journal of Business Research" from 1973 to 2017. Their findings, based on Scopus data, revealed 5,131 published articles, 13 papers under review, and various other contributions. The year 2016 was the most productive, with 765 publications and 737 citations, while 2005 had an h-index of 68. The University of Valencia in Spain led with 87 publications, followed by Georgia State University in the USA with 70.

Garg and Singh (2022) conducted an analysis of 669 research papers published in the "Library & Information Science Research" journal from 1994 to 2020. Their findings revealed that the highest number of articles was published between 2015 and 2017. The majority of the contributions came from the USA, although these papers had a lower citation rate per article compared to those from Finland and Norway. In total, there were 74061 citations recorded during the period from 1994 to 2020, and 41 articles received no citations at all.

Garg et al. (2020) analyzed 910 articles published in DJLIT from 1992 to 2019 to identify patterns in growth, citations, geographical distribution, and the most cited authors. The majority of the articles (86.1%) were penned by Indian authors, followed by those from the USA, and these articles exhibited the highest values for citations per paper (CPP) and relative citation influence (RCI). Overall, a total of 1,698 papers were published during the studied period, which received 15538 citations. Notably, 14.6% of the articles did not receive any citations at all.

Garg, Kumar, and Geeta (2019) found in their paper, "Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science: A Bibliometric Study," that the highest

number of articles (28) was published in 2011 (volume 16), with publication numbers stabilizing from 2015 to 2018. Malaysia produced about one-third of the total publications, while the UK had the highest citation per paper (CPP) value. Jammu and Kashmir contributed 2 authors (1.05% of the total), and seven states—Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Puducherry, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand—each had three author contributions during the review period.

Mejia et al. (2021) retrieved 20268 articles related to bibliometrics and applied methodologies to analyze major trends, regional publication patterns, databases, and tools. They found that, although the three terms in their research are conceptually overlapping, authors often use different terminology for their works. In fact, only 8.5% of the publications in the databases include the terms bibliometric, scientometric, or informatics in their titles, abstracts, or keywords, with "bibliometric" being the most commonly used term.

Naseer and Mahmood (2009a) conducted a study of the Pakistan Library and Information Science Journal from 1998 to 2007. Their findings revealed that single-author contributions were the most common, accounting for 88.6% of published articles. The majority of authors, 66.9%, were Pakistani, followed by authors from North America. Male authors comprised 61% of the total contributors. Most articles were descriptive in nature, making up 61% of the journal's content, and two-thirds (65.7%) were written in English. The most popular subject area was "industry, profession, and education."

Sam (2008) conducted a study of the Ghana Library Journal from 2000 to 2006. The majority of the cited sources were journals, accounting for 44.5%, followed by books, which made up 32.5%. In terms of recency, 62.9% of the journals and 48.8% of the books referenced were published in 1990 or later. The subject area that received the most attention was academic libraries. Most of the authors were affiliated with local universities. Similarly, Mukherjee (2009) found that articles with a single author were more prevalent in the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology. The arithmetic mean of article page lengths ranged from 10.58 to 12.12.

Singh et al. (2020) conducted a bibliometric analysis of the Journal of the Indian Law Institute (JILI), focusing on legal scholarship published from 2000 to

2018. Their study found that the journal received the highest number of research papers from authors based in Delhi, totalling 91 contributions, which accounts for 47.89% of all submissions. The second-largest contributor was Uttar Pradesh, with 20 articles (10.52%), followed by Punjab, which contributed 16 articles (4.22%). The journal recorded the least author contributions from other states.

Singson et al. (2019) concluded in their paper titled "Comparative Citation Analysis of Articles of Select Indian Open Access LIS Journals" that the journal in which a research paper is published significantly influences its citation rate. The study found that well-researched papers tend to attract more citations. For example, Eisenberg's research paper published in DJLIT has been widely cited by authors in various languages, receiving a total of 224 citations.

Park (2010) conducted a study of the literature published in D-Lib Magazine over a span of thirteen years, examining issues from July 1995 to May/June 2008. The findings revealed that collaborations involving two or more authors accounted for the highest contribution rate at 57%. Most authors, however, contributed individually. Additionally, the study found that 74% of the authors were male, and authors from the United States were responsible for 70% of the articles published. On average, each article cited 15 references.

Verma, Tamrakar, and Sharma (2007) analyzed the literature published in the Annals of Library and Information Studies from 1999 to 2005. They found that the highest number of articles, accounting for 17.56%, was published in 2005. The majority of contributions were from single authors, with a ratio of 35.88%. Most contributors were Indian academics, and over half of the publications (51.15%) consisted of articles that were 6 to 10 pages long.

OBJECTIVES

This paper has the following objectives:

- To determine the number of papers published in the Lancet Journal from 2014 to 2024.
- To ascertain the primary journal metrics and citation distribution.
- To examine the citation analysis, especially the Monthly citation metric of the journal.
- To examine the publication analysis year-wise and month-wise.
- To determine the Open Access publication analysis year- and month-wise.

- To identify the collaboration analysis of the Lancet journal.
- To study the geographical distribution of contributions, especially the top ten countries.

METHODOLOGY

Data was analyzed to meet the objectives mentioned above. A complete count method of output and citations has been used to analyze the data. In the present study, the methodology applied is bibliometric analysis, which is used to study the bibliographic features of articles and citation analysis of references appended at the end of each article published in the journal from 2014 - 2024. For this study, the relevant data was collected on 24th November 2024 from the Scilit database. The data recorded has been tabulated and analyzed to make observations regarding the progress and development of the Lancet Journal for the last ten years.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The analysis results on several parameters mentioned under the objectives have been described below. The Lancet journal has published 4,602,064 publications, and in 2023, 1,482 articles were published. This journal has both print and electronic issues. This journal is indexed in Scopus, Medline, Pubmed, SCIE, and Scilit databases.

Name of the Journal	The Lancet
ISSN	0140-6736
E ISSN	1474-547X
Total Number of Publications	4,602,064
2023 Publications	1,482
Database Coverage	Scopus, Medline, Pubmed, SCIE, Scilit
URL	https://www.thelancet.com/

Table 1-Lancet Publications

Citation Analysis - Publications published in 2021-2022 and cited in 2023

The table 2 depicts that citation analysis is based on the Publications published in 2021-2022 and cited in 2023. Citation per year means citations from papers assigned for a future year of publication. This can happen for publications already available online but scheduled for print publication at a future date. During this period (2021-2022), 46,584 citations were received from 2,781 publications. It shows that the average citation is 16.75, and 1,972 cited publications (Number of publications that received at least 1 citation), the percentage of cited publications is 70.9%. Self-citations reflect the number of times an author cites their work in 2022, in each publication within 2020-2021. During this period, 451 self-citations occurred in Lancet journal publications, and that percentage is 1%.

Category	Count / Percentage
Total Citation	46,584
Total Publication	2,781
Average Citations	16.75
Cited Publications	1,972
Cited Publications Percentage	70.9%
Self-Citations	451
Self-Citations Percentage	1%

Table 2 – Citation Analysis

Journal Metrics and Citation Distribution

h5-index: Number of *h* articles published in the past 5 years that received *h* or more citations. H5 Index Number of articles published in 2023-2019 that received at least one citation in the same time period. The Lancet Journal h5 index is 333, and the Monthly Citation Metrics (MCM) is 13.31. Monthly Citation Metric (Scilit released monthly, on the 15th day of every month).

Journal Metrics	Count/Average
H5 Index	333
MCM	13.31

Table 3 – Journal Metrics

The formula to calculate MCM is

$$\frac{\text{Number of citations in the past 12 months to publications published in the previous 24 months}}{\text{Number of publications in the previous 24 months}}$$

e.g. Monthly Citation Metric in October 2022 (released on 15 November 2022)

$$\frac{\text{Number of citations in November 2021 - October 2022 to publications published in November 2019 - October 2021}}{\text{Number of publications published in November 2019 - October 2021}}$$

Quartile/Median/Max	Distribution/Count
Q1 (First quartile of the distribution)	0
Med (Median of the distribution -(Q2))	2
Q3 (Third quartile of the distribution)	10
99% (99% value of the distribution (1% of publications received more citations))	503.4
Max (Maximum value of the distribution (Q4))	7,739

Table 4 – Quartile Distribution of Lancet

Quartiles are a way of dividing a dataset into four equal parts or quarters. The first quartile (Q1), also known as the lower quartile, is the value that separates the lowest 25% of the dataset from the rest. The second quartile (Q2), also known as the median, is the middle value of the dataset and separates the lowest 50% from the highest 50%. The third quartile (Q3), also known as the upper quartile, is the value that separates the lowest 75% of the dataset from the highest 25%. The Lancet Journal's Q1 distribution is zero, Q2 distribution is 2 (Median), the Q3 distribution value is 10, the 99% value of the distribution (at least 1% of publications received more citations) is 503.4, and in Q4, the maximum value of the distribution is 7,739.

Monthly Citation Metric (MCM)

Figure 1 shows the monthly citation metrics of the Lancet journal during the last twelve months. The table shows that the monthly citation metrics of the Lancet journal were observed in the Scilit database during the last twelve months. It is very clear from the table that the maximum percentage of MCM will be 15.3 on November 2023. Followed by December 2023, April 2024, January 2024 and April 2024 MCM is the same percentage with 14.36. MCM percentage depicts that slowly decreasing it.

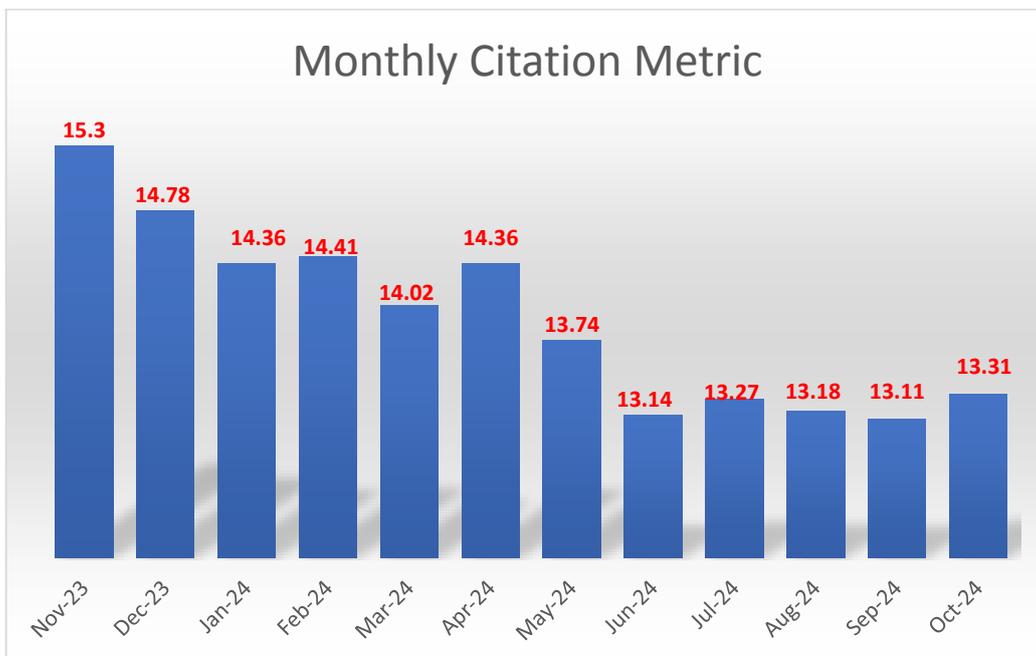


Figure 1 – MCM – Monthly Citation Metric

Publication Analysis from 2014-2024

Table 5 depicts the year-wise publication distribution of the Lancet journal from 2014-2024. The table

shows 19,107 Lancet records were observed in the Scilit database during the study period. It is very clear from the table that the most productive year was 2015

(2,166 publications, 21.22%), followed by 2016 (2015 publications, 10.54%), and 2017 (1,931 publications, 10.11%). Over 1,400 publications have

appeared in the Lancet journal during the past four years.

Publications Analysis	Publications	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
2014	2,015	10.54	10.55
2015	2,166	11.34	21.88
2016	2,038	10.67	32.56
2017	1,931	10.11	42.65
2018	1,765	9.24	51.89
2019	1,860	9.73	61.63
2020	1,497	7.83	69.46
2021	1,435	7.51	76.97
2022	1,436	7.52	84.49
2023	1,482	7.76	92.24
2024	1,482	7.76	100
Total	19,107	100	

Table 5 – Publication Analysis 2014-2024 as on 27/11/2024

Publication Analysis for the Month Wise (Last Twelve Months)

Figure 2 and Table 6 show 1,680 publications published during the last twelve months. The most productive month is November 2023, with a total of 223 research publications published in this month year, followed by May 2024 (174 publications), February 2024 (159 publications), 149 publications in March 2024, and December 2023, last position in the queue with 92 publications.

May-24	174	10.36
Jun-24	134	7.98
Jul-24	113	6.73
Aug-24	141	8.39
Sep-24	126	7.50
Oct-24	135	8.04
Total	1,680	100

Table 6 -Publication Analysis -Month Wise (Nov 2023 – Oct 2024)



Figure 2 – Publication Analysis Month Wise (Nov 2023 – Oct 2024)

Month	Publications	Percentage
Nov-23	223	13.27
Dec-23	92	5.48
Jan-24	103	6.13
Feb-24	159	9.46
Mar-24	149	8.87
Apr-24	131	7.79

Open Access Publications from 2014 to 2024

Table 7 depicts the year-wise open-access publications distribution of the Lancet journal from 2014-2024. The table shows that 3,931 Lancet records were observed in the Scilit database during the study period. It is very clear from the table that the most productive year was 2017 (21.22%), followed by 2018 (20.94%). In the latest last four years, there has been a decrease in open-access publications in the Lancet journals.

Year	Publications	Percentage
2014	94	2.39
2015	249	6.33
2016	759	19.31
2017	834	21.22
2018	823	20.94
2019	361	9.18
2020	411	10.46

2021	156	3.97
2022	147	3.74
2023	67	1.70
2024	30	0.76
Total	3,931	100

Table 7 - Open Access Publications from 2014 to 2024

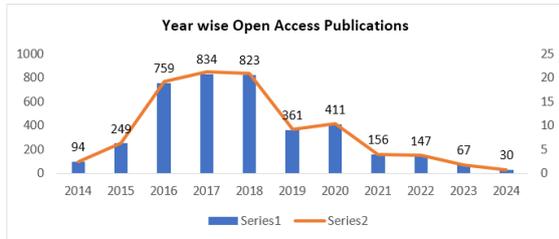


Figure 3 - Open Access Publications from 2014 to 2024

Open Access Publications in Month Wise (Last Twelve Months)

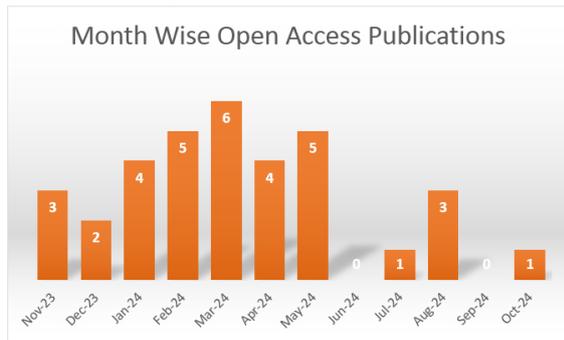


Figure 4 - Open Access Publications in Month Wise (Last Twelve Months)

Figure 4 depicts the month-wise open-access publications of the Lancet journal during the last twelve months. The table shows that 34 records of open-access publication from the Lancet journal were observed in the Scilit database during the last twelve months. It is very clear from the table that the most open-access publications were published on March 24 with 6 records. The second highest month of more open-access publications is February 24 and May 2024. There are no open-access publications in June and September 2024. It shows the 3 open-access publications are average in the last twelve months in the Lancet journal publications.

Top Ten Country (Author's Geographical Region)

Country	Publications	Percentage
United Kingdom	4,802	30.42

United States	4,086	25.89
China	1,135	7.19
Australia	1,065	6.75
Canada	986	6.25
Switzerland	857	5.43
Germany	805	5.10
France	773	4.89
Netherlands	660	4.18
Italy	612	3.88
Total	15,781	100

Table 8 - Top Ten Country (Author's Geographical Region)

Table 8 shows the details about the country-wise publications, especially the top ten country-wise articles published during the study period. Out of a total of 15,781 publications, the maximum number of contributions, i.e., 4,802 (30.42%), have been contributed by United Kingdom authors and followed by 4,086 publications from the United States (25.89%), 1,135 publications from China (7.19%). Only 612 documents were published from Italy, with 3.88%. It is evident that in Asian countries, the Chinese only published a maximum number of publications, and it was positioned in the top three country-wise publications from the Lancet journal.

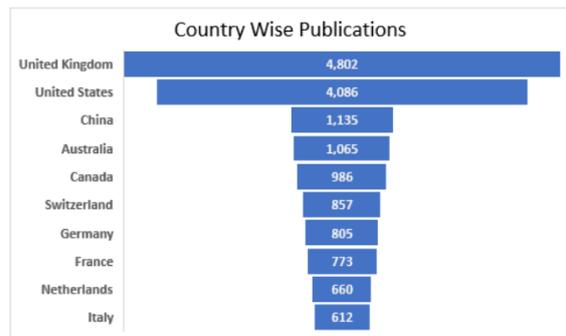


Figure 5 – Country-wise Publications

Top Ten Subjects – Sub-theme of medical subjects

Subject	Publications	Percentage
Healthcare Policy	3,843	21.11
Medical Ethics	3,473	19.08
Virology	1,925	10.57
Musculoskeletal Disorders	1,607	8.82

Patient Care	1,437	7.89
Hematology	1,366	7.50
Tropical Diseases	1,249	6.86
Cardiology	1,212	6.65
Anthropology	1,187	6.52
Urology	903	4.96
Total	18,202	100

Table 9 - Top Ten Subjects



Figure 6 – Subject-wise Publication (Top Ten Subjects)

Table 9 presents the data on the number of articles published in the Subject wise, especially in the Lancet journal from 2014-2024, is given in Table 1 and explained through Fig.1. It indicates that 18,202 articles were published on various subjects. Thus, on average, 1,810 articles per subject were published. 3,843 articles were published in the healthcare policy, followed by medical ethics, virology, musculoskeletal disorders, patient care, hematology, tropical diseases, cardiology, and anthropology. Only 903 articles were published in urology. It is evident from figure 6 that the top three subjects covered by Lancet Journal are 21% healthcare policy, 19% research articles about medical ethics, and 10% published documents about virology.

Collaboration Analysis

Type of Collaboration	Number of Documents	Percentage
International collaboration	4,277	22.50%
Domestic inter-organizational collaboration	2,981	15.70%
Domestic intra-organizational collaboration	3,128	16.40%
Single authorship (no collaboration)	6,906	36.30%

Missing data	1,725	9.10%
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Table 10 – Collaboration Analysis (Authorship)

Table 10 and the tree map represent the collaboration analysis of the Lancet journal-published documents. The maximum number of papers (6,906, 36.3%) published by single authorship means no collaboration. Followed by 4,277 (22.5%) documents published with International collaboration, Domestic intra-organizational collaboration, and Domestic Inter-Organizational collaboration. It is a good sign that the single authorship is increasing in the collaboration analysis of the Lancet journal.

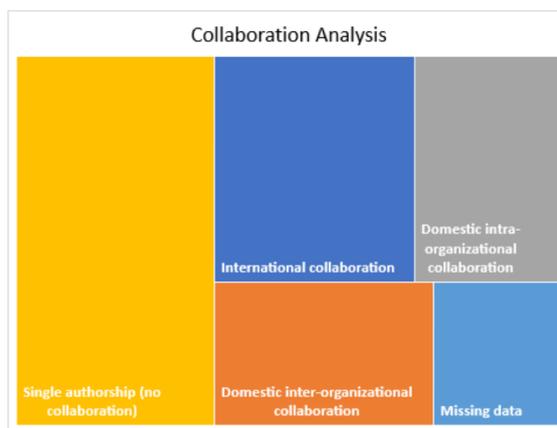


Figure 7 – Collaboration Analysis (Authorship)

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Bibliometrics and scientometrics are two subfields of research that focus on measuring and analyzing scientific literature. Journals in these areas often provide valuable insights into how scientific knowledge evolves, how research is disseminated, and how different fields and researchers interact with one another. Lancet journal needs to focus more on the scope and focus of the journal, key methodologies, analyses, and quality of articles. Emerging Topics and Innovations, Ethical Considerations, Journal Metrics and Impact, Editorial Practices and Strategies, Technological Integration, Literature Review, and Future Directions.

In this study, an attempt was made to conduct a bibliometric study of the Lancet Journal to achieve the predefined objectives, such as examining the growth of publication, most cited articles, most prolific authors, degree of collaboration, authorship pattern, etc. A total of 19,107 articles were analyzed in this study, whose research data was exported from the Scilit indexing database. MS Excel software was used to visualize the occurrence of keywords and co-

citation author networks. This study discovered that most articles (2,116) were contributed in 2015, while a negative trend was shown from 2016 onwards, which continued until 2020. Further, a downfall occurred in the year 2024. The Lancet Journal h5 index is 333, and the Monthly Citation Metrics (MCM) is 13.31. It was also found that many articles (6,906, 36.3%) were published under single authorship, and 4,277 were published under international collaborations. About Open Access publications: The Lancet published 3,931 publications in 2017, with 834 publications. This study reveals that the Lancet is a reputed journal in medicine and covers various areas such as bibliometrics, scientometrics, resource, citation analysis, information retrieval, information literacy, open access, research productivity, etc.

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