



Trends of Sports in Tourism Research Publications: Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract

Bibliometric analysis study of published research subjects to see the trend of the number of publications, citation trends, journals with the most publications, researcher trends, and network visualization, overlay visualization and density visualization on the topic of sports in tourism. This research design is in the form of a content analysis based on an Internet search conducted using the Dimensions application, with VOSviewer software, version 1.6.20. The flowchart is used as a reporting item for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA), with step 1 (identification) stage 2 (screening), stage 3 (study eligibility), scopus database taken from 2015 to 2024. Which publications on sports in tourism from year to year increase, then, network visualization identifies areas that emerge from the research domain, namely sports are connected to tourist activity, but sports are not connected to active sport tourism. Thus, novelty for further research on the topic of sports in tourism can be obtained through research on sports associated with active sport tourism. Overlay visualization to see current research trends are yellow terms. For example, recreational sport, sport tourism industry. Furthermore, the visualization of the research density level is shown around the yellow dot, which means that the topic has been widely used in previous research such as sports events, tourism industry, conversely, low weight and density are around the blue dot, which means that the topic is still little used in previous research such as active sport tourism and event tourism. The conclusion, level of scientific article publication shows significant development as seen from the increasing graph from year to year. Likewise, article citations also show an increase.

How to Cite

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INTRODUCTION

The global tourism industry has witnessed a paradigm shift in its focus, with increasing emphasis on sustainability and responsible practices (Chang et al., 2022; Mazza, 2023a; Xu et al., 2023; Yang, Lo, et al., 2020). The integration of sustainable practices into the tourism industry has become an important concern in recent years, driven by increasing awareness of the environmental and social impacts of tourism activities (Espino-Rodríguez & Taha, 2022; Nunkoo et al., 2023). A new concept that incorporates sports elements into the plan tourism development. In exploring tourism potential (HJ Gibson, 1998; Weed, 2007; Weed & Chris, 2004). Tourism sports is a sports industry that makes sport an element of tourism attraction, which aims to attracting tourists to do physical activity and recreation, so that sports tourism is a way to develop tourist (Aicher et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2013). Thus, sporting events are an effective tool to arouse the interest of tourists living in different cultures and countries.

Sports and Tourism are two things that combine different disciplines. become one that creates a new focus of interest, where the relationship between sport and tourism shows that there are two things that are synergistic and reciprocal (Gammon & Robinson, 2003), (Robinson & Gammon, 2004). Where the modern development of sports and tourism have become two interrelated things and both have developed rapidly into phenomena global social and become a strong actor in the global economy. At the present time there is no doubt again the increasing interest in the subject of sports tourism is becoming a social phenomenon culture (Malchrowicz-Mosko, 2016). Seeing that Sport tourism become a new field created with the merging of the sports and tourism industries, which is a new form of tourism based on sports resources, which aims to improve body health and attract people's interest into physical activity and recreation, so that sports tourism is a way to develop tourist (Wang et al., 2013). In order to improve the welfare and productivity of the community and improve the quality of human resources through tourism development by utilizing sport tourism. Where sport tourism is an effort to develop tourism, especially those that create business opportunities in driving the economy.

Alternative sports by utilizing natural tourism that is currently attracting the attention of many people. Supporting this, sport tourism is an opportunity that can be developed in the future to support tourism development in improving the

welfare of the surrounding community. Where Raja Ampat has natural and cultural potential to be developed. Utilizing nature, both land and sea, as well as the cultural traditions of the community is important in the industrialization and commercialization of sports tourism in socio-economic development and increasing the economic and social value of sports (Li & Jiang, 2013). Sports can serve as an attraction that facilitates an authentic experience of a destination (Higham & Hinch, 2018). Not only big sporting events such as the Olympics and Paralympics, but regional sporting events can also showcase the authenticity of local culture and identity (Higham & Hinch, 2018), the audience experience at a heritage sporting event (McCartney & Osti, 2007; Pinson, 2017; T. Zhang et al., 2019). Some researchers argue that sporting activities or events are the main reason for traveling (Deery et al., 2004; Epitropoulos et al., 2003; Pigeassou et al., 2003; Sofield, 2003; Zauhar, 2004). Where The origin of sports tourism is closely related to sports that emerged as competitions and shows. Its roots go back to ancient Greece in the 20th century, marking the dynamic development of this branch of tourism, which uses sports shows as the main purpose of its travel (Ratkowski & Ratkowska, 2018).

The growth of the tourism sector is a mainstay of economic development in regions that have the biophysical characteristics of small islands (Atmodjo et al., 2020). Natural resources, both land and sea, as well as the cultural traditions of the community are important things that need to be considered in the industrialization and commercialization of sports tourism in socio-economic development and increasing the economic and social value of sports (Li & Jiang, 2013). However, the tourism sector as an approach in regional development on small islands must be careful, so by choosing an approach with tourism principles that are friendly to natural resources and the social and cultural community environment, it needs to be applied in sustainable tourism development.

Judging from the formula for sports tourism users themselves, they come from all age groups, including teenagers, children, adults or the elderly. Supporting this, efforts are needed in future development to improve the welfare of the surrounding community and humans in general. However, the sustainability of sports tourism depends on the level of local development, the number of tourists, the size of the community, tourism development, and the ability to build a local sports identity for residents and tourists (Mazza, 2023b). This certainly requires proper study

as well important criteria that must be met fully integrated into the development management system to reflect the characteristics and connotations sports tourism (Yang, Chuang, et al., 2020). A systematic evaluation is needed to reflect the meta-analysis of other sports tourism research to date (H. Gibson, 2013; Weed, 2009). However, the analysis study by previous reviewers are very different, that the trips presented at different times are due to; lack of coherence in research related, therefore the researcher wants to review again related to sports in tourism globally and its relationship to the accompanying fields.

Tourism is one of the mainstay sectors of the Indonesian government because it has abundant tourism potential (Fadjarajani et al., 2022). Tourism development in Indonesia has shown significant development (Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, 2020). Sports tourism is one form of special interest tourism in the world of tourism and is widely developed in various regions because it can boost tourists' visits (Hadi & Yulianto, 2021). Sports Tourism or recreational sports based on Law No. 3 of 2005 are sports carried out by the community with the will and ability to grow and develop in accordance with the conditions and cultural values of the local community for health, fitness and pleasure (INDONESIA, 2007).

As an economic driver, sports tourism is developing. It is starting to be noticed by industry players to start taking advantage of this opportunity, mainly due to its contribution to regional development (Bouchet et al., 2004), Increase the income of the residents around the area used as a sports location (Marsudi, 2016), create jobs and income, provide benefits for local companies, increase income taxes, and increase the amount of investment in infrastructure and sports facilities (Lupikawaty et al., 2013). This proves that sports tourism brings positive economic benefits that outweigh the negative environmental or social impacts on local residents (Ivanov & Ivanova, 2011). The impacts of sports tourism can be positive (e.g. local economic development), while others may be negative (e.g. socio-cultural conflicts and environmental problems) (Wäsche et al., 2013). Sports tourism also provides financial contributions to local governments and can improve the welfare of local communities (Isnaini & Hasbi, 2020).

Although there are many actors and types of sports tourism in Sumedang, no research has examined the potential of sports tourism to be developed sustainably. This study aims to explore sports tourism, which has the greatest potential

for the development of sports tourism, the quality of the economy, and the people in general, which Sumedang has as an alternative economic driver. The results of this study also have important meaning for stakeholders in developing the sports tourism industry (Xu et al., 2023). Policymakers and destination managers can benefit from the research findings presented, enabling them to formulate precision-oriented strategies that align the advancement of sports tourism, the economy and the well-being of local communities (Ristić et al., 2019).

Sports-based tourism has the potential to become a tourism product that can provide high economic benefits for a country or region (Mapjabil et al., 2015). Next, the researcher conducts priority scale sport tourism mapping to develop potential sport tourism in a focused manner and develop the most potential sport tourism so that it can develop optimally. However, it does not leave other sports tourism as an alternative tourism. A small and developing area with limited natural resources has the potential to be developed as a location for organizing world-class sports tourism if it is able to utilize these resources to build the necessary infrastructure and support services (Mapjabil et al., 2015).

METHODS

The research design used in this study is to use content analysis. Content analysis is a systematic and objective research method used to describe and measure phenomena (Krippendorff, 2018). This method analyzes documents and allows researchers to filter words or phrases into content-related categories (Elo & Kyngäs, 2008). A meta-review is simply a part of a systematic review of original research articles (Heal, 2009; Ruddy & House, 2005; Serenko & Bontis, 2004). This study uses bibliometric analysis which can use the process of compiling ideas to describe and present visually and verbally between publications, as well as identify research trends in a field (Ganesha et al., 2019; Grimshaw et al., 2021; Pierpaoli & Ruello, 2018; Salman et al., 2022). The data was obtained from publications extracted through the page <https://app.dimensions.ai/collected> on June 29, 2023.

Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) Method (Grimshaw et al., 2021; Olina et al., 2024; Rethlefsen & Page, 2022) which is used to extract articles from the dimensions database, with the topic and keywords sports in tourism. The PRISMA method is divided into 3 parts, namely:

Identification, screening, study feasibility (Olina et al., 2024; Rethlefsen & Page, 2022). Initially stage 1 (Identification), the identification section includes a box to record the number of records identified through a database search on the term sports published in the range from 2015 to 2024 with the number of records being 265,046 on the title and abstract. Then, stage 2 (screening) produced 3,933 records by selecting the publication type "article" so that 876 records were excluded. Then, Stage 3 (study eligibility) produced a final sample of 3,057 articles. Next, this final sample was analyzed using VOSviewer. VOSviewer is a computer program for creating and viewing bibliometric maps. This program is freely available to the bibliometric research community (see www.vosviewer.com). VOSviewer can be used to create author or journal maps based on co-citation data, spatial visualization, and information processing, co-authorship, and co-occurrence managed with VOSviewer Software or to create keyword maps based on co-occurrence data (Kirby, 2023; van Eck & Waltman, 2010). The program offers a viewer that allows bibliometric maps to be examined in detail using fragmentation analysis with thematic and temporal trend visualization output. VOSviewer can display maps in a variety of different ways, each emphasizing different aspects of the map. VOSviewer is used to visualize research topics and cluster analysis to identify scientific trends based on related issues (Gámez-Calvo et al., 2024; Muhammad, 2024). It has functions for zooming, scrolling and searching, which facilitate detailed examination of the map (Arruda et al., 2022; Kuzior & Sira, 2022; J. Zhang et al., 2024). The PRISMA flow diagram can be presented in Figure 1.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section describes the bibliometric analysis on the topic of sports in tourism extracted from <https://app.dimensions.ai/> in the period from 2015 to 2024. Where bibliometric analysis is a form of meta-analysis of research data that can help researchers in studying the contents of bibliographies and citation analysis of articles published in journals and other scientific works (Fitria et al., 2022). In this section, the results and discussion of the analysis of the topic of sports in tourism are described, focusing on the number of publications, the number of citations, classification based on aspects (research field, journal, researcher), network visualization, overlay visualization, and density visualization (van Eck & Waltman, 2010).

Number of publications

A search for scientific article publications on the topic of sports in tourism from 2015 to 2024 yielded 265,046, and the average publication is 305.7. In 2015 to 2016 there was an increase, but in 2017 there was a decrease. However, it increased again to the following year exponentially, but in 2024 it decreased again, which can be presented in Figure 2.

Bibliometric analysis provides information about rankings based on citations received (Pahwa et al., 2022). From the data of the results of many citations on the topic of sport in tourism from 2015 to 2024, there were 18,704 citations, and the highest in 2024 was 4,183 citations, which from year to year showed an exponential increase. Furthermore, the number of citations per year is presented in Figure 3.

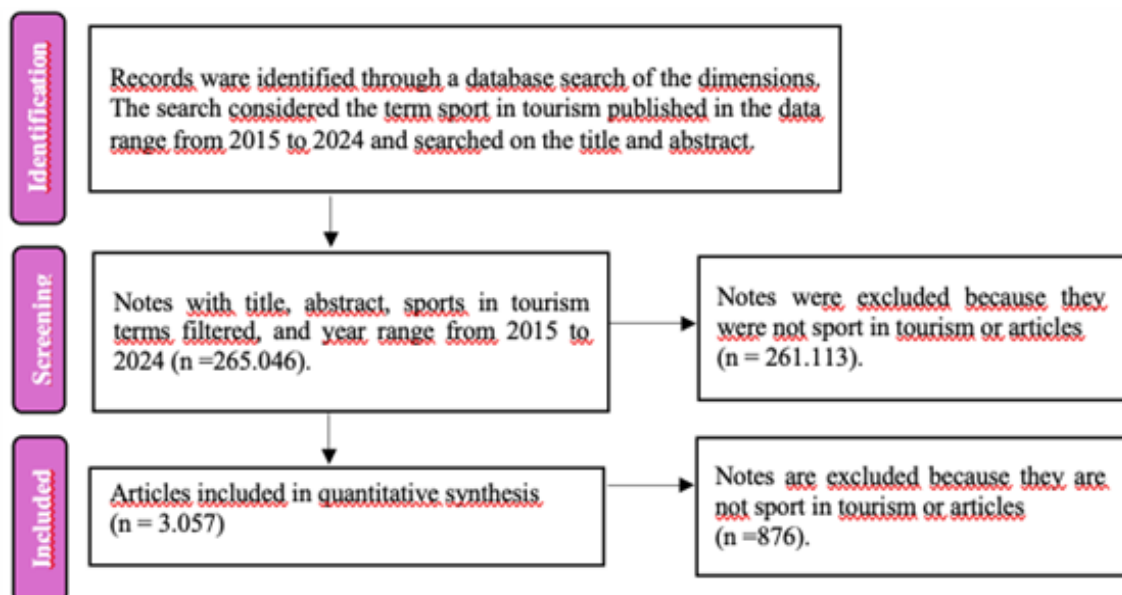


Figure 1. PRISMA flowchat

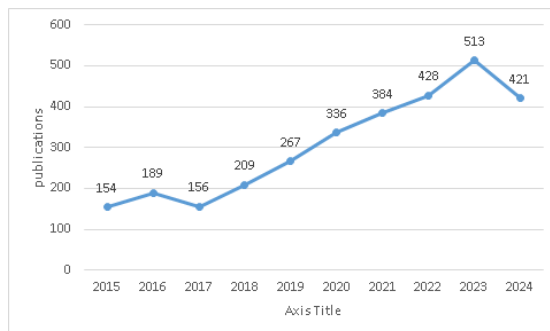


Figure 2. Number of publications on the topic of sports in tourism, from 2015 to 2024.

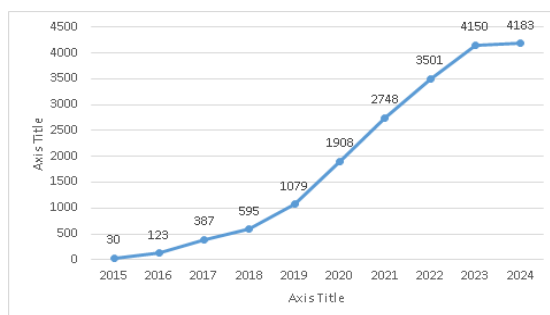


Figure 3. Number of citations for the topic of sports in tourism from 2015 to 2024.

Journal

The number of publications based on the topic keywords sports in tourism that occupy the 5 largest journals can be grouped, namely the first Journal of Sport & Tourism with 101 articles, and the second Sustainability journal with 97 articles, the third Event Management journal with 63 articles, the fourth Loisir et Societe/ Society and Leisure, the fifth Annals of Leisure Research with 43 articles. This is presented in **Figure 4**.

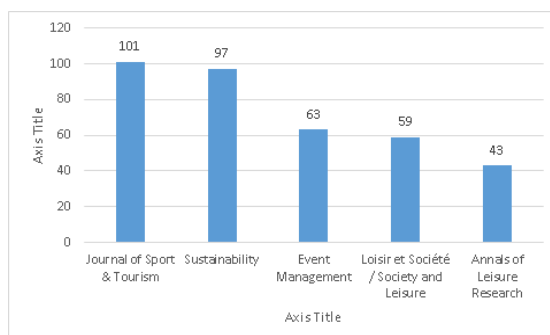


Figure 4. Number of publications on sport in tourism reviewed from journals

Researcher

The number of publications based on researchers (top 10) can be presented, the first author Martin Schnnitzer with 15 articles and the number of citations 141 with an average citation of 9.40, then Ewa Malchrowicz-Mosko with 13

articles and the number of citations 229 with an average of 17.62, while the third position is Marko Peric with 12 articles and the number of citations 248 with an average of 20.67, fourth Heetae Cho with 11 articles and the number of citations 483 with an average of 43.91, Elsa Cristina Sacramento with 11 articles and the number of citations 138 with an average of 12.55, Yun-Duk Jeong with 11 articles and the number of citations 360 with an average of 32.73, Sheranne Fairley with 8 articles and the number of citations 164 with an average of 18.22, Tembi Maloney Tichaawa with 9 articles and the number of citations 62 with an average of 6.89, then Eiji Ito with 9 articles and a total of 104 citations with an average of 11.56, lastly Kostas Alexandris with 9 articles and a total of 114 citations with an average of 12.67, based on that, what is related to sports in tourism can be presented in **Figure 5**.

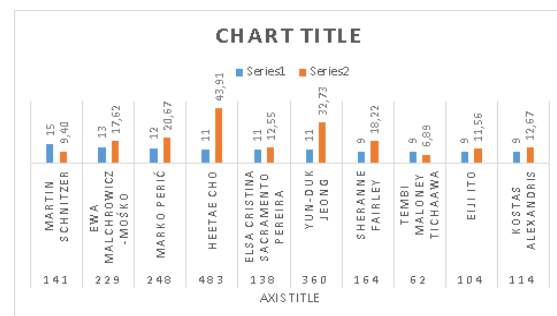


Figure 5. Number of publications on the topic of sport in tourism as reviewed by researchers

Network visualization for co-occurrence

VOSviewer provides a network visualization map for co-occurrence, there are 57 items, 4 clusters, 608 links, and total link strength 1014. Next, consisting of cluster 1 (18 items), namely active sport tourism, active sport tourist, business, economic growth, economic impact, host city, host community, hosting, income, local community, participant, policymaker, revisit intention, spectator, sport event, sport event tourism, sport tourist, sports tourist, Cluster 2 (16 items) active recreation, cycling, event tourism, health tourism, hiking, hotel, ministry, natural environment, Olympic, physical activity, physical education, sports, stadium, tournament, trip, wellbeing, Cluster 3 (13 items) advantage, economic development, high quality development, integrated development, promotion, social development, sports industry, sports tourism destination, sports tourism development, sports tourism industry, sports tourism resource, sustainable development, tourism industry, Cluster 4 (10 items) entertainment, local government, paragliding, recreational sport, recreation tourism, skiing,

sustainability, tourist activity, tourist attraction, traditional sport as seen in figure 1.6, where two terms are connected by a line indicates that the two terms appear together in a title and abstract. Conversely, two terms are not connected by a line indicates that the two terms do not appear together in the title. and abstract. Thus, this network visualization can be used by researchers to identify areas that emerge from the research domain. (Lam et al., 2022a). For example, terms such as sports are connected to tourist activity, but sports are not connected to active sport tourism. Thus, novelty for further research on the topic of sports in tourism can be obtained through research on sports associated with active sport tourism. This is presented in **Figure 6**.



Figure 6. Network visualization on the topic of sports in tourism

Overlay visualization for co-occurrence

Likewise, VOSviewer provides a visualization overlay map to see the trend of research titles related to sports in tourism from 2015 to 2024 with 57 terms providing an analysis that the yellow color implies current research interest. (Lam et al., 2022b). Thus, the current research trend on sports in tourism is the yellow terms. For example, recreational sport, sport tourism industry, this is presented in **Figure 7**.



Figure 7. Overlay visualization on sports in tourism

Density visualization for co-occurrence

In addition, VOSviewer displays a density visualization map for the co-occurrence of these 57 terms presented on the topic of sports in tourism showing the visualization of the level of research density indicated by a certain color. Items that have high weight and density are seen around the yellow dot which means that the topic has been widely used in previous studies such as sports events, tourism industry, conversely low weight and density are around the blue dot which means that the topic is still little used in previous studies such as active sport tourism, event tourism. Thus, the next research topic is suggested to be a topic that has a low density visualization category. Which can be seen in **Figure 8**.

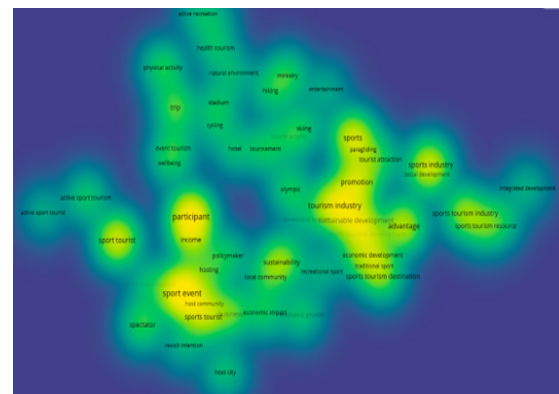


Figure 8. Density visualization on the topic of sports in tourism

Issues regarding natural values, land development and spatial planning, tourism ethics, its impact on local communities and its relation to cultural mixing mean that in its development tourism is considered an economic phenomenon. (Ratkowski & Ratkowska, 2018). Tourism involves people travelling to and/or staying in places outside their home environment and participating in, actively or passively, competitive or recreational sports as a secondary activity (Gammon & Robinson, 1997). Sports in tourism can also support economic development in coastal areas. (Homafar et al., 2011; Mishra et al., 2021; Ratkowski & Ratkowska, 2018; Suhel & Bashir, 2018; Wijijayanti et al., 2020; Wissink, 2023a, 2023b). The concept of sports in tourism should be narrowed down to those who passively participate in any type of sports event and become actual participants of the event, For researchers bibliometric analysis helps in identifying emerging areas and future directions of the research domain with the help of visualization tools in developing research directions as a step in sustainable development, bibliometric analysis is

capable of handling large amounts of unstructured data from scientific databases and providing them with factual and objective information in the form of citation metrics(Lam et al., 2022a).

CONCLUSION

This paper provides a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of sports in tourism publications registered in the Scopus database from 2015 to 2024. The level of scientific article publication shows significant development as seen from the increasing graph from year to year. Likewise, article citations also show an increase. While the most publications in the Journal of Sport & Tourism are 101 articles, based on journal sources containing the keyword sports in tourism VOSviewer provides a network visualization map for co-occurrence, there are 57 items, 4 clusters, 608 links, and a total link strength of 1014, where the term sports is connected to tourist activity, but sports is not connected to active sport tourism. Thus, novelty for further research on the topic of sports in tourism can be obtained through research on sports associated with active sport tourism. The overlay visualization map to see the trend of research titles related to sports in tourism from 2015 to 2024 with 57 terms provides an analysis that the yellow color implies current research interest(Lam et al., 2022b). Thus, the current research trend on sports in tourism is the yellow terms. For example, recreational sport, sport tourism industry. Furthermore, the density visualization map for the co-occurrence of these 57 terms is presented on the topic of sports in tourism showing a high density level of research visualization shown in the area of sports events, tourism industry, conversely the low density level is around the blue point which means that the topic is still little used in previous studies such as active sport tourism, event tourism. From the analysis of these keywords, it provides insight into the development of publications since the paper was first registered in the Scopus database, but this study has limitations in that theoretical document information is based on the title only, and the Scopus database continues to update new publications from time to time. Therefore, the bibliometric analysis of information theory can be reviewed in a few years. In addition, this bibliometric analysis only extracts scientific data from the Scopus database. Future research may include other databases for a broader understanding of information theory studies.

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