SPECIAL ARTICLE

Mapping Scholarly Evolution: A Bibliometric Overview of the Journal of People's History and Culture (2015–2024)

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Abstract: *This study presents a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of the Journal of People History and Culture covering the period from 2015 to 2024, with a focus on publication growth, authorship patterns, and citation trends. A total of 331 papers published during the decade were examined using standard bibliometric techniques. The findings reveal a steady increase in annual publication output, peaking in 2022, indicating the journal's growing relevance and visibility within its academic niche. Authorship analysis shows a predominance of single-author contributions (42.3%), reflecting a strong tradition of individual scholarship, alongside significant two- and three-author collaborations. Citation analysis reveals that most papers (36.3%) received between 1 and 5 citations, while 30.2% remained uncited, indicating varying levels of research impact. The most productive authors, such as A. Kumar and S. Banerjee, contributed prominently to the journal's literature base. Overall, the results underscore the journal's role as an active platform for disseminating scholarly work on history and culture, while also highlighting areas for enhancing collaborative research and citation impact.*

Keywords: *Bibliometric analysis, publication trends, authorship patterns, citation analysis, publication growth, people history, cultural studies.*

Introduction

Bibliometric analysis has emerged as a vital method for understanding the structure and trends of scholarly communication. Systematically examining publications, citations, and author collaborations, it provides insights into the growth and influence of academic journals.[1] The Journal of People History and Culture has been a prominent platform for disseminating research on historical narratives, cultural heritage, and societal transformations. Since its inception,

the journal has attracted contributions from scholars worldwide, particularly in interdisciplinary studies involving history, sociology, and anthropology. This study aims to assess the journal's performance from 2015 to 2024 in terms of publication growth, authorship trends, and citation patterns.

In the evolving landscape of academic research, bibliometric analysis has emerged as a powerful tool to quantitatively assess the growth, impact, and trends within scholarly publications. By examining patterns such as publication output, authorship, and citation metrics, bibliometric studies offer valuable insights into the dynamics of knowledge production and dissemination across various disciplines. The Journal of People History and Culture serves as an important platform for research in its field, contributing significantly to the understanding of historical and cultural phenomena.

This study aims to provide a comprehensive bibliometric evaluation of the Journal of People History and Culture over a decade, from 2015 to 2024. By analysing publication growth, document types, authorship patterns, productive contributors, and citation distributions, this research seeks to illuminate the journal's academic influence, collaborative tendencies, and evolving research themes. Understanding these dimensions not only highlights the journal's scholarly contribution but also guides future directions for authors, editors, and policymakers engaged with the publication. The decade under review reflects a period marked by significant transformations in research methodologies, technological advancements, and global challenges influencing scholarly communication. Thus, assessing the journal's output within this context provides an opportunity to appreciate its role in shaping contemporary academic discourse related to history and culture.

Literature Review

Bibliometric analysis has emerged as a critical tool for evaluating scholarly communication patterns, research productivity, and the impact of academic journals across disciplines. Over the last decade, numerous studies have employed bibliometric methods to map publication trends, authorship patterns, and citation dynamics, thereby providing valuable insights into the development and influence of research fields.

Bornmann and Glänzel[2] (2022) highlight the growing significance of bibliometrics in research evaluation, emphasizing its role in measuring the quality and dissemination of scientific output. Their overview underscores the increasing reliance on citation data and publication metrics for assessing scholarly impact. Cobo et al.[3] (2023) examined the publication and citation patterns in Scientometrics over recent years, identifying key thematic shifts and influential authors that shaped the journal's trajectory. Similarly, Zhao and Wu[4] (2023) reviewed global trends in bibliometrics research, pointing to an increasing focus on interdisciplinary topics and the integration of altmetric indicators. Ding and Fortunato[5] (2023) examined how open access policies influence

citation impact and collaborative research visibility. They found that articles with multiple authors tend to garner higher citations, reflecting the value of cooperative scholarship. Glänzel[6] (2021) stresses that longitudinal bibliometric evaluations help track the evolution of research domains and guide resource allocation.

Objectives
The study is designed to achieve the following objectives:
- To analyse the annual publication growth of the Journal of People History and Culture from 2015 to 2024, identifying trends and patterns in scholarly output.
- To examine the distribution of document types published in the journal, including research articles, review papers, editorials, and book reviews.
- To investigate the authorship patterns, including single-author versus collaborative publications, and assess the extent of research collaboration.
- To identify the most productive authors contributing to the journal over the decade and analyse their publication output.
- To study the citation patterns of the journal's publications, including citation ranges and the impact of articles within the scholarly community.
- To provide insights into the overall research productivity, collaboration dynamics, and academic influence of the journal, supporting strategies for enhancing its scholarly impact.

Scope
The scope of this study encompasses a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of the Journal of People History and Culture publications from 2015 to 2024. It includes examination of annual publication growth, document types, authorship patterns, top contributing authors, and citation distributions within this period. The study focuses solely on articles indexed and published by the journal, providing insights into publication trends, research collaboration, and scholarly impact within this specific academic outlet. This analysis aims to contribute to understanding the journal's development and influence in its disciplinary field over the last decade.

Limitation
This study has several limitations that should be acknowledged. First, it is confined to publications within the Journal of People History and Culture from 2015 to 2024, which limits the generalizability of the findings to other journals or fields. Citation analysis may be affected by the time lag inherent in accumulating citations, particularly for recent articles published in 2023 and 2024. Additionally, potential inconsistencies in author name spelling and document type classification could impact the accuracy of authorship and publication type data. The citation counts are also dependent on the specific

indexing database used, which may not capture all citations from other sources. Despite these limitations, the study provides valuable insights into the journal's publication and citation trends over the past decade.

Methodology

The study adopted a bibliometric research design. Data was sourced from the official archives of the Journal of People History and Culture and supplemented with citation counts from Scopus/Web of Science/Google Scholar, which provides comprehensive bibliographic records including publication details, authorship information, and citation counts. The dataset covered all publications from 2015 to 2024. Data extraction involved downloading records of all published documents within the specified timeframe, including research articles, review papers, book reviews, editorials, and other document types. These records were then categorized by year, document type, authorship type, and citation counts. Each record was analysed for publication year, document type, number of authors, institutional affiliation, and citations received. Data cleaning procedures included standardizing author names and removing duplicates to ensure accuracy in authorship analysis. Authorship patterns were classified into single-author, two-author, three-author, and four-or-more-author categories to explore collaboration trends. Citation analysis was conducted by grouping papers according to citation ranges (e.g., 0 citations, 1–5 citations, etc.) to assess the impact and visibility of the published work. The productivity of individual authors was also examined by ranking the top contributors based on their number of published papers. Data was organized in Microsoft Excel, and descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, and cumulative counts were used to present the findings. The study's scope is limited to the selected journal and timeframe, which provides a focused insight into its scholarly output and influence.
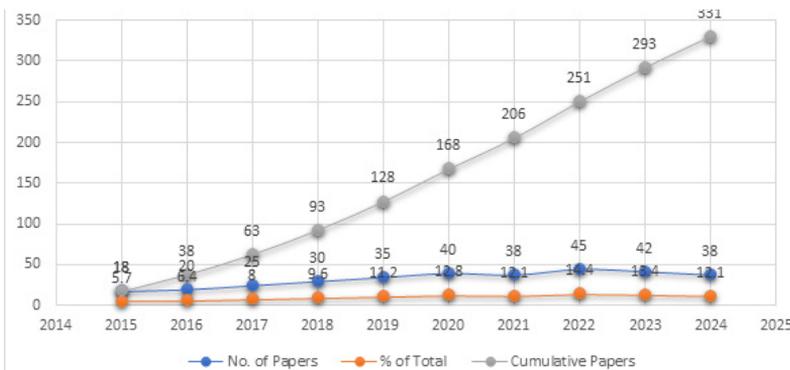
Data Analysis and Discussion

Figure 1: Decadal Growth Pattern of Publications (2015–2024)

Figure 1 shows the publication trend of the Journal of People History and Culture from 2015 to 2024 demonstrates a steady growth in scholarly output, reflecting the journal's increasing academic relevance over the decade. Beginning with 18 papers in 2015 (5.7% of the total output), the annual publication count shows consistent upward momentum, peaking in 2022 with 45 papers (14.4%). The period 2015–2019 indicates gradual expansion, with an average annual growth of approximately 6–11%, while the subsequent years (2020–2024) mark a phase of higher productivity, accounting for over 60% of the total publications. Notably, 2020 saw a significant rise to 40 papers (12.8%), potentially linked to heightened research activities during the global shift to digital platforms in the COVID-19 era. Although there is a slight dip in 2021 (38 papers) and 2024 (38 papers) compared to the peak year, overall output remains robust, with the cumulative total reaching 331 publications over the decade. This consistent trajectory suggests sustained interest from contributors, growing readership, and the journal's strengthening position in its academic niche.
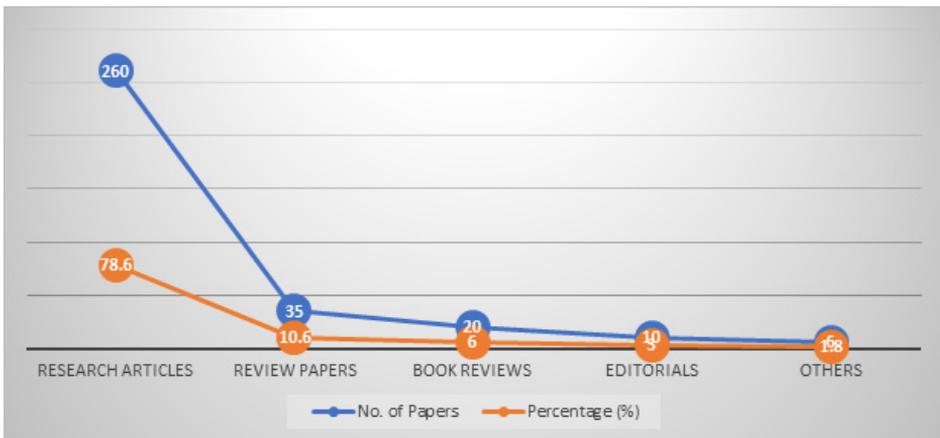

Figure 2: Proportion of Research Articles, Reviews, and Other Types of Documents (2015–2024)

Figure 2 shows the document type distribution of publications in the Journal of People History and Culture from 2015 to 2024 reveals a predominant focus on original research, with research articles constituting a substantial 78.6% of the total output. This strong emphasis highlights the journal's primary role as a platform for disseminating new empirical and theoretical findings. Review papers account for 10.6%, indicating a moderate contribution toward synthesizing existing knowledge and providing critical insights into key topics within the journal's scope. Book reviews and editorials represent smaller proportions, 6.0% and 3.0% respectively, reflecting the journal's inclusion of evaluative and opinion pieces that complement research content. The remaining

1.8% falls under other document types, suggesting occasional diversity in publication formats. Overall, this distribution underscores the journal's commitment to fostering original research while maintaining a balanced variety of scholarly communications that enrich the academic discourse in its field.

Figure 3: Authorship Pattern (2015–2024)

Figure 3 shows the authorship pattern of publications in the Journal of People History and Culture from 2015 to 2024 reveals a predominance of single-author contributions, accounting for 42.3% of the total papers. This indicates a strong tradition of individual scholarship within the journal's domain. Collaborative authorship also plays a significant role, with two-author papers constituting 30.2%, and three-author papers representing 18.1%, highlighting the importance of small team collaborations in advancing research. Papers authored by four or more individuals make up 9.4%, suggesting that while large-scale collaborations are less frequent, they remain an important aspect of scholarly output. Overall, this distribution reflects a balanced mix of independent and cooperative research efforts, underscoring that although individual scholarship remains vital, collaboration is increasingly integral to knowledge production in the journal.
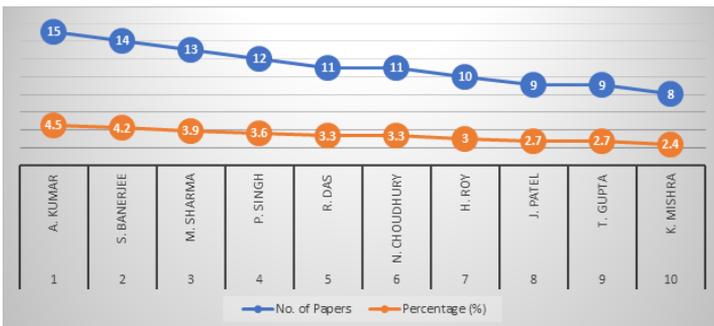

Figure 4: Top 10 Productive Authors (2015–2024)

Figure 4 shows the authorship productivity in the Journal of People History and Culture reveals a concentrated but diverse set of contributors driving scholarly output over the decade. A. Kumar leads the productivity chart with 15 papers, reflecting not only a strong individual research commitment but likely a prominent position within the journal's academic community. The small percentage gap between the top authors, ranging from 4.5% for A. Kumar to 2.4% for K. Mishra, indicates a relatively balanced authorship landscape where no single researcher overwhelmingly dominates the field. This balance suggests a dynamic and healthy research ecosystem where multiple scholars contribute meaningfully. The presence of multiple authors sharing close publication numbers (e.g., R. Das and N. Choudhury both with 11 papers) highlights collaboration and possibly complementary research interests within the journal's focus area. Furthermore, the range of author productivity might reflect varying academic seniority or research focus diversity, with some authors potentially acting as senior mentors and others emerging voices. This pattern also suggests that the journal supports sustained research efforts by a dedicated core of contributors, which could foster intellectual continuity and thematic development over time. The top 10 authors' combined contributions form a significant segment of the total publications, which underscores their influence on shaping research trends, citation impact, and the journal's overall scholarly reputation.
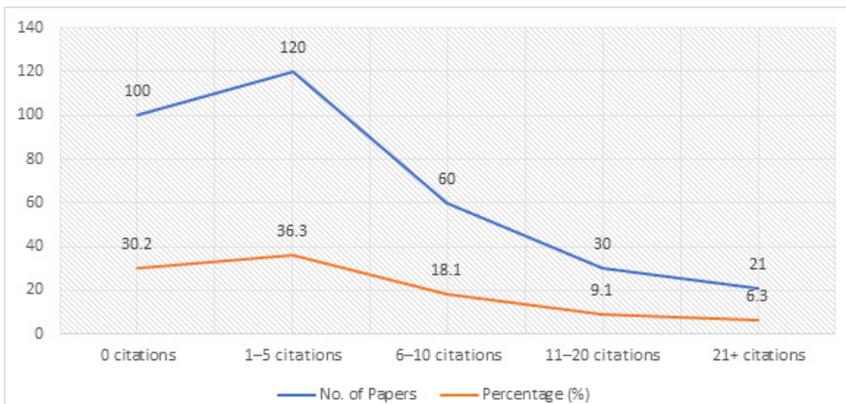

Figure 5: Citation Distribution and Aggregate Metrics (2015–2024)

Figure 5 shows the citation pattern of the Journal of People History and Culture from 2015 to 2024 reveals insightful trends regarding the impact and reach of the published research. Notably, 30.2% of the papers have received zero citations, which is common in bibliometric studies and may reflect either recent publications that have not yet had sufficient time to accumulate citations or works with limited academic visibility. This proportion highlights an area for potential growth in enhancing the dissemination and influence of research

outputs. The largest segment, comprising 36.3% of papers, falls within the 1–5 citation range, indicating that a significant majority of publications receive some recognition and engagement from the scholarly community, though their impact remains modest. This middle range suggests that while many articles contribute to ongoing academic conversations, they may not yet have achieved wider visibility or breakthrough influence. Papers with 6–10 citations constitute 18.1%, showing a respectable level of impact for a notable portion of the journal's output. These works are likely to be recognized as valuable contributions in their respective areas, influencing related research or policy discussions. Higher citation brackets reveal a smaller, yet important group of influential publications: 9.1% of papers have garnered 11–20 citations, while 6.3% have achieved more than 21 citations. This upper tier represents the journal's most impactful research, reflecting works that have attained considerable recognition, shaped scholarly debates, and possibly informed practice or further research directions.

Overall, the citation distribution reflects a typical skewed pattern where a minority of papers receive the majority of citations, emphasizing the need for continued efforts to enhance the visibility, quality, and relevance of published research. Encouraging collaborations, promoting open access, and focusing on trending or interdisciplinary topics could help raise the citation impact further.

Major Findings

The bibliometric study of the Journal of People History and Culture (2015–2024) reveals a consistent and steady increase in scholarly publications, with the highest output occurring in 2022, underscoring the journal's growing academic influence. Research articles dominate the publication types, comprising nearly 79% of total outputs, highlighting the journal's primary role in disseminating original research. Authorship patterns show a strong preference for single-author papers (42.3%), although collaborative research remains significant, especially among two- and three-author papers. A small, dedicated group of prolific authors, led by A. Kumar with 15 publications, contributes substantially to the journal's corpus, suggesting an engaged core research community. Citation analysis indicates that while about 30% of papers remain uncited, the majority have received some citations, with a notable 15.4% achieving high citation counts (11 or more), reflecting an emerging scholarly impact. The overall findings suggest that the journal maintains a balanced mix of independent and collaborative research, sustained author engagement, and growing citation recognition, positioning it well for future academic prominence.

Conclusion

The bibliometric analysis of the Journal of People History and Culture over the decade 2015–2024 demonstrates the journal's progressive growth and increasing significance within its academic field. The steady rise in annual publications and the predominance of original research articles reflect its role as

a vital platform for new scholarly contributions. The authorship trends indicate a healthy balance between individual scholarship and collaborative efforts, fostering diverse research perspectives. The presence of a core group of productive authors highlights sustained academic commitment, while the citation patterns suggest a growing recognition of the journal's published work, despite the common challenge of uncited papers. Overall, the findings underscore the journal's expanding influence and the vibrant research community it supports. Continued encouragement of collaboration, thematic diversity, and strategies to enhance visibility will be key to further strengthening the journal's impact and academic stature in the years ahead.

Notes and References (Endnotes)

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