

# Comparative Analysis of Publication Patterns in Sciences and Humanities: Based on Bibliometric Data from Korea Citation Index \*

과학 및 인문학 분야 출판 패턴의 비교 분석 :  
한국학술지인용색인의 서지 데이터를 기반으로

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## ABSTRACT

In order to ascertain disciplinary differences in publication patterns that can help improve assessment of research performance in Korea, we analyzed the bibliometric data of six disciplines from Korea Citation Index. Results showed differences in research size, competitiveness, productivity, impact, and collaboration among disciplines. Disciplines in science were the largest in terms of author and institution followed by humanities and social science, but humanities produced the most publications per author, followed by social science and science disciplines. Sociology publications received most citation per paper but humanities received most citations per author, which was greatly influenced by the number of co-authors per paper. Distribution of author counts per paper varied widely across disciplines. Humanities were dominated by single-author publications, whereas the majority of publications in sciences were co-authored. The study also highlighted differences in citation lag time and illustrated differences in distribution and impact of core authors and institutions across disciplines.

Keywords: Comparative analysis, Bibliometrics, Publication Patterns, Science, Social science, Humanities, KCI

## 초 록

본 연구는 한국의 연구업적평가 개선에 도움이 될 수 있도록 학문분야별 출판 패턴의 차이를 조사하기 위해 한국학술지인용색인에서 수집한 6개 분야(문헌정보학, 사회학, 생물학, 역사학, 철학, 컴퓨터공학)의 서지데이터를 분석했다. 그 결과에 따르면 상기 6개 학문분야는 규모, 경쟁률, 생산성, 영향력 및 공동연구 관점에서 차이를 드러내었다. 우선, 저자수와 기관수 측면에서 연구 규모는 과학분야가 가장 컸으며, 인문학, 사회과학 순이었고, 저자별 출판율에서는 인문학분야가 가장 높았으며, 사회과학, 과학 순이었다. 또한 "사회학"의 경우, 논문 편당 인용수가 가장 높았으나, 인문학분야의 경우, 저자당 인용수가 가장 높은 것으로 나타나 이는 논문 편당 공동저자 수의 영향으로 보인다. 이처럼 본 연구는 논문 편당 저자수 분포에서도 학문분야별 차이를 발견할 수 있었는데, 인문학분야는 주로 단독 저자의 논문인 반면, 과학분야의 경우 대부분 공동 저술된 논문들이었다. 또한 본 연구는 학문분야별 인용시간의 차이와 핵심저자 및 기관의 분포, 이에 따른 영향의 차이도 제시하였다.

키워드: 비교 분석, 계량서지학, 출판 패턴, 과학, 사회 과학, 인문학, 한국학술지인용색인

\* This research was supported by Kyungpook National University Bokhyeon Research Fund, 2016.

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•논문접수: 2019년 8월 19일 •최초심사: 2019년 8월 29일 •게재확정: 2019년 9월 17일

•한국도서관·정보학회지 50(3), 23-47, 2019. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.16981/kliss.50.201909.23>]

## I . Introduction

Academic disciplines fall under the broad categories of humanities and sciences, where sciences includes subcategories such as natural science, social science, formal science and applied science. Disciplines differ from one another not only in what they study but also in how the research is conducted. Natural science disciplines, for instance, typically employ empirical and quantitative methods to study the physical world, whereas social science disciplines often use statistical approach to analyze human behavior and society. Academic disciplines in humanities, on the other hand, investigate various aspects of human culture in a mostly non-empirical and qualitative fashion.

Higher education institutions, however, evaluate the research output in a mostly uniform manner without accounting for differences in publication behavior that can result from differing characteristics of disciplines. In fact, most universities in Korea assess faculty research performance by applying simplistic evaluation standards based on the number and venue of publications, where publication venues are grouped into international and domestic journal indexes like Science Citation Index, Social Science Citation Index, and Korea Citation Index (Lee and Yang 2015; 2017). Prior research has found different publication patterns among disciplines (Chung 1995; Glanzel and Schoepflin 1999; Hicks 2004; Hammarfeld 2016; Knievel and Kellsey 2005; Schaffer 2004) but few studies to date have analyzed the bibliometric data from comprehensive lists of journals in humanities and sciences to compare publication patterns of disciplines. Proper understanding of publication pattern differences across academic disciplines is prerequisite to adapting the current research evaluation standards to be more appropriate for each discipline.

In the hope of promoting such understanding, we undertook a two-part study that analyzes the publication patterns of six academic disciplines in domestic and international journals. The aim of the study is twofold: to discover how publication patterns differ across disciplines in Korea, and to ascertain if domestic publication patterns are comparable to those found in international journals. For the sake of consistency, we chose two disciplines from each of Clarivate Analytics' Science Citation Index, Social Science Citation Index, and Arts and Humanities Citation Index for international data, and the same six disciplines from Korea Citation Index (KCI) for domestic data.

This paper presents the first part of the study that analyzes the bibliometric data of six disciplines from KCI, which are biology and computer science from science category, history and

philosophy from humanities, and sociology and library and information science from social sciences. The rest of the paper is organized as follows: related research is summarized next, followed by the presentation of research methodology, analysis of results, and concluding remarks that consider implications of findings.

## II . Related Research

### 1. Comparative analysis of publication patterns

Scholars have argued that different research evaluation approaches should be applied to accommodate the differences in publication patterns across disciplines. Based on reviews of bibliometric studies of social sciences and humanities, Hicks (2004) concluded that bibliometric analysis of SSCI data would produce more suitable outcome to disciplines whose publication patterns are similar to science (e.g., psychology) than those that differ (e.g., sociology). In a study that examined bibliometric methods of research evaluation, Nederhof (2006) suggested that research assessment methods used in science needed to be extended for social sciences and humanities. Hammarfeld (2016) explored bibliometric methods of evaluating humanities research and concluded that lower density (i.e., less articles per topic) and slower speed of publications as well as older age of cited sources in humanities necessitate unconventional methods of research evaluation. In a similar vein, Toledo (2018), who reviewed research assessment methods in humanities and social sciences, also advocated different research evaluation approach for humanities and social science whose research take much longer to publish and be cited.

Many studies examining citation patterns found differences in citation time across disciplines. Glanzel and Schoepflin's (1999) study of SCI and SSCI journals found political science, business, and library and information science articles citing more recent articles than those in history and archaeology. Others reported similar findings of different citation time for disciplines: over 10 years for literature (Budd 1986; Heinzkill 1980; Thompson 2002), 10 years for economics (Robinson and Poston 2004) and sociology (Broadus 1971), and 5 years for library and information science (Chung 1995).

Huang and Chang (2008), on surveying literature to study how characteristics of research

output can affect bibliometric analysis, highlighted the prevalence of journal articles in science and diversity of publication type in humanities and social science. They also pointed out study findings that reported journal articles to be the most cited source in science while books were cited more in humanities and some social science disciplines (Chung 1995; Glanzel and Schoepflin 1999; Knieval and Kellsey 2005; Schaffer 2004). Recent studies concur with the importance of books and book chapters in humanities (Ochsner et al. 2017; Tanner 2016).

## 2. Research assessment in Korea

There is not an abundance of literature that compare publication patterns of disciplines in Korea. Many studies apply bibliometric analysis to investigate publication patterns of specific disciplines,<sup>1)</sup> while others explore methods for evaluating research performance (Lee 2006; Lee and Chung 2014; Lee and Yang 2011; Yang, Lee and Choi 2015; Yoon and Kim 2005) or examine the research evaluation standards practiced in Korean universities (Kim, Yun and Rah 2012; Lee and Yang 2015; 2017; Lee, Yang and Kim 2019). Studies that examine research evaluation standards in Korea found the assessment metric to be unaccommodating to disciplinary differences, insensitive to citations, and unfavorable to collaboration.

The few domestic studies that investigated disciplinary differences arrived at conclusions similar to the international studies discussed earlier. Chung and Choi (2011) suggested a more fine-grained evaluation metric to better evaluate research quality as well as to accommodate broader research output types in humanities and social sciences. Hwang and Kim (2014), who compared journal articles in humanities with electrical engineering using network analysis, found more diverse and emerging topics in engineering. Min et. al (2006) analyzed research output of science and engineering fields and found different levels of productivity differed across disciplines. A later study by Kim and Seol (2015) also found big differences in productivity across disciplines in science and engineering. Yang, Lee and Choi (2016) analyzed publication and citation patterns across subject areas in library and information science and found differences in publishing and citing behaviors among sub-disciplines.

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1) A comprehensive list of library and information science literature in Korea that analyze publication pattern is reviewed in the study by Yang and Lee (2012).

### III. Methodology

#### 1. Data Collection

In keeping with the twofold aim of the study, which is to compare publication patterns of domestic and international research as well as those of humanities and sciences disciplines, we chose Clarivate Analytics' Science Citation Index, Social Science Citation Index, and Arts and Humanities Citation Index for international data and equivalent subject categories in Korea Citation Index (KCI) for domestic data.<sup>2)</sup> Two disciplines from each of science, social science, and humanities subject categories were then picked as representative samples, after which comprehensive lists of indexed journals in those six disciplines were identified by querying the KCI journal search interface.

Sample disciplines, chosen to be representative of the categories but sufficiently different within the same category, were biology and computer science for the science category, history and philosophy for humanities, and sociology and library and information science (LIS) for social science. For each of the journals in the sample, we collected bibliographic data of articles published between 2002 and 2018,<sup>3)</sup> which amounted to be 109,464 articles with 406,291 citations published in 216 KCI indexed journals as of June 2019.

#### 2. Data Processing

Since *co-authors*, *Korean keywords*, and *foreign language keywords* fields of KCI data are multi-valued fields, they had to be parsed to extract individual values in order to compute statistics by author and keyword. The *co-authors* field not only listed the names of all the authors for a paper but also included their affiliation, so institution information had to be extracted for each author after splitting the field into individual authors.

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2) KCI does not have separate indexes for subject categories but offers a journal search interface (<https://www.kci.go.kr/kciportal/ci/clsSearch/ciSereClasList.kci>) with 8 subject categories – humanities; social science; natural science; engineering; medicine and pharmacy; marine, agriculture, fishery; arts and kinesiology – that classify 3,547 indexed journals in its database.

3) The study period of 2002 to 2018 was arrived at by adding two year for indexing lag to the 15-year target span.

Extraction of institution name from author fields is a non-trivial task since it sometimes contains extraneous information such as subsidiary affiliation (e.g., school/college, department) and location (city, state, country) in various formats. With KCI data, the problem is exacerbated because the default delimiter that separates values in multi-valued fields, which is a comma, is not always observed and affiliation information and author names sometimes contain commas (e.g., “John Doe (UCLA) Gildong Hong (Seoul University)”, “Doe, John (Department of Biology, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA), Hong Gildong (Seoul University, Korea)”). *Korean keywords* and *foreign language keywords* fields also suffer from erroneous delimiters as well as sometimes consisting of full sentences rather than keywords (e.g., “keyword1. keyword2”, “A Study of the Propaganda Policy of the United States Information Service in Korea during the Korean War”). In addition, *Korean keywords* field is often composed of English keywords while *foreign language keywords* field is left blank. We spent a considerable time and effort to resolve the parse and extract problems caused by erroneous data via iterative heuristic algorithms, discussion of which is beyond the scope of this paper, but we suspect data problems still exist, especially in extraction of institution names and keywords.

After extracting author and institution names, we applied normalization steps to conflate the names to their canonical form. We extended name normalization methods from a prior study (Shin and Yang 2017) that involved acronym identification and name variation conflation by feeding in new data and refining the heuristic iteratively. For author name normalization, we applied two new steps to deal with anglicization of Korean names. The first step employs a simple heuristic based on detection of capitalization, hyphen, and comma to transform anglicized Korean names to a canonical form (e.g., “Hong, Gildong”, “Hong Gil-dong”, “Hong GilDong” ⇒ “Gildong Hong”). The second step, whose task is to match the anglicized Korean name to the name in Korean (e.g., “Hong, Gildong”, “Hong Gil-dong”, “Hong GilDong” ⇒ 홍길동), utilizes a name mapping table that matches anglicized Korean names to Korean names and a name character mapping table that maps a letter of Korean names to its anglicized version (e.g., 홍 ⇒ Hong) . The name-mapping table was developed by querying Google Translate with Korean names, extracting potential mappings based on frequency and a list of known Korean last names,<sup>4)</sup> and manually validating the mappings. The name character-mapping table was developed by

4) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Korean\\_given\\_names](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Korean_given_names)

parsing the name-mapping table entries and manually validating the most frequent character mappings.

### 3. Data Analysis

In addition to the common measures of publication count for productivity and citation count for impact, the study examined citation count per publication to assess the average impact and number of authors per paper to gauge the degree of collaboration. The average citation count is an important measure in comparing the research impact across disciplines since the size difference among disciplines (e.g., number of authors) can unduly influence the raw citation count. Collaboration expressed in terms of number of co-authors per paper is another important measure because university research evaluation standards in Korea that uniformly penalize co-authored papers (Lee and Yang 2015; 2019) can be disadvantageous to disciplines that tend to collaborate more than those that do not.

Along with the base unit of analysis, which is publication, the study examined the data at author and institution levels to explore how core groups of authors and institutions influence the research output across disciplines. In consideration of data problems with keywords, we opted for simplistic identification of significant keywords based on frequencies rather than a full-scale clustering and visualization.

## IV. Results

### 1. Sizes of Disciplines

The size of a discipline, expressed in terms of numbers of authors and institutions, is an important variable to consider when analyzing research outputs of multiple disciplines. The discipline size may be regarded as a measure of popularity on the one hand, while on the other hand it can be used as a normalization factor to estimate the relative productivity and impact of multiple disciplines.

Table 1, which lists the six disciplines in the order of author numbers, shows science

disciplines to be the largest in terms of author and institution, followed by humanities and social sciences. Journal count ( $j/N$ ) does not seem to be a good indicator for size as the author to journal ratio of biology (41,492/19) is over 20 times that of history (9,636/105). This does suggest that authors in biology must compete much harder than authors in history to publish. In fact, the  $cmR$  column, which shows the average number of authors for a published article, indicates that authors in biology face almost 7 times as many competitors as authors in history and 10 times as many as those in philosophy. Overall, science disciplines are shown to be the most competitive, followed by social sciences and humanities.

Article to journal ratio of biology (20,435/19) is a little over three times that of history (36,140/105), which implies that biology journals publish more articles more frequently than history journals. Sociology, on the other hand, has the lowest article to journal ratio, which is in direct contrast to its third highest  $cmR$ . This highlights sociology to be a relatively challenging discipline since authors encounter more competition with less frequent opportunities for manuscript submission.

Numbers of publications ( $pcnt$ ) do not correspond to discipline sizes. History, the third largest by author and institution counts, has the most publications, which suggests history to be the most productive discipline. The large number of journals in history can be viewed as another evidence of the discipline's prolific publication pattern. History also has the most number of citation counts ( $ccnt$ ), but biology and sociology show large number of citations in proportion to their publication counts. Average citation counts per publication ( $c/p$ ) clearly illustrates this point. Sociology with 6.8 citations per paper has the highest average citations, followed by biology with 5.6 average citations. In other words, sociology and biology articles get cited almost twice as much as other disciplines on average. Considering biology has over 10 times as many authors as sociology, we surmise sociology authors to be the most frequent citers of all six disciplines.

Average number of citations per author ( $c/a$ ), which shows 12 for sociology and 2.8 for biology, supports this interpretation to a degree. The fact that history and philosophy show higher citation counts per author than sociology can be explained by the fact that there are much higher rates of co-authored articles in sociology than history or philosophy since co-authored papers increase the denominator when averaging over authors. Low numbers of publications per author ( $p/a$ ) for biology and computer science, both of which have the highest rate of co-authored papers, demonstrate this effect of co-authorship. We should note at this point that publication patterns

of computer science shown in Table 1 might not tell the whole story. We suspect many computer science authors publish in international journals and KCI data alone will likely result in the underestimation of overall productivity and impact of the discipline.

<Tab. 1> Size Comparison of Six Disciplines

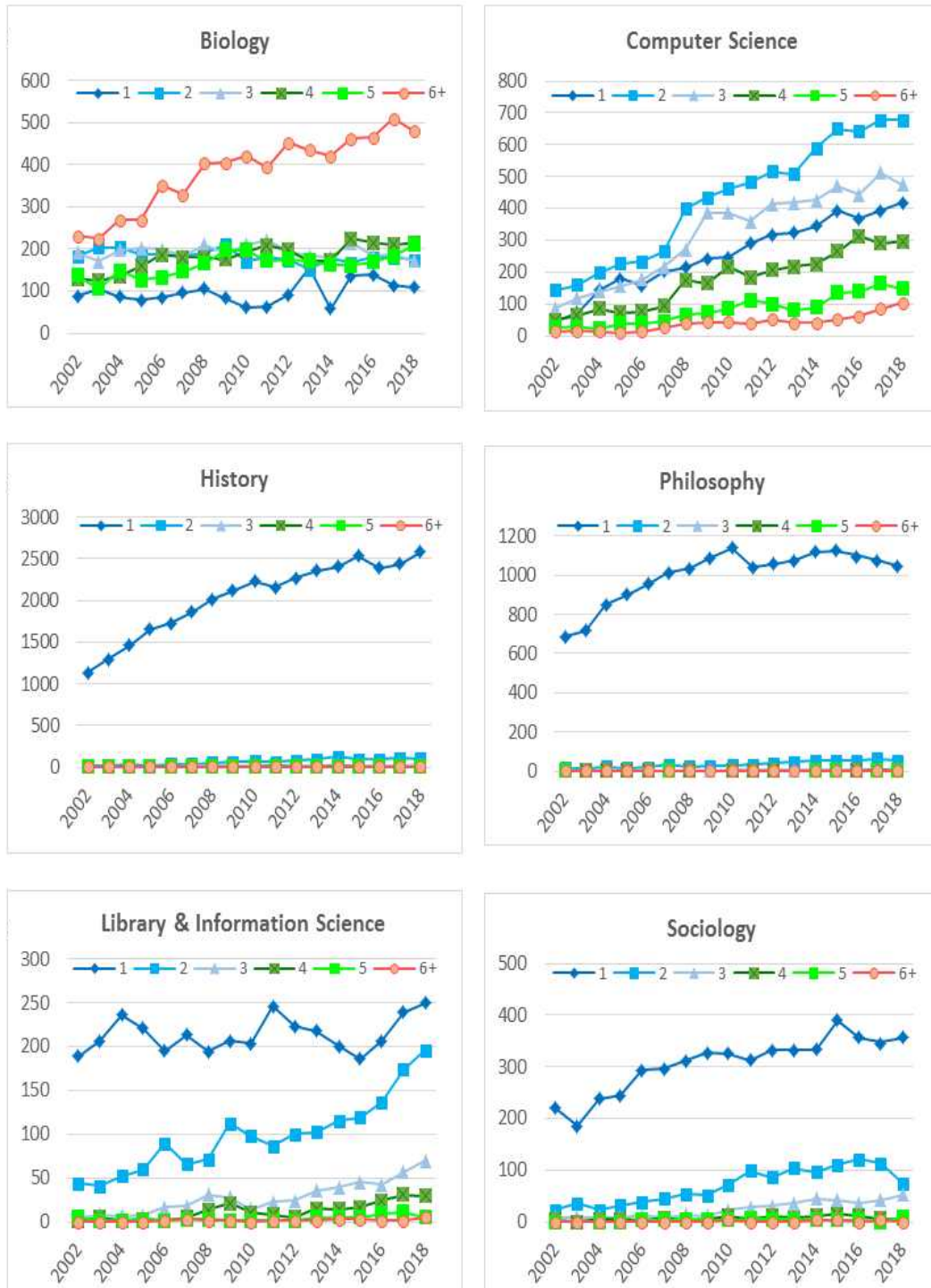
	auN <sup>a</sup>	inN <sup>b</sup>	jrN <sup>c</sup>	pent <sup>d</sup>	ccnt <sup>e</sup>	c/p <sup>f</sup>	p/a <sup>g</sup>	c/a <sup>h</sup>	cmR <sup>i</sup>
Biology	41,492	6,562	19	20,435	114,764	5.6	0.5	2.8	2.0
Computer Science	21,261	4,048	22	22,146	28,793	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.0
History	9,636	3,434	105	36,140	133,867	3.7	3.8	13.9	0.3
Philosophy	4,405	1,142	40	17,744	57,205	3.2	4.0	13.0	0.2
Sociology	3,922	1,214	21	6,950	47,118	6.8	1.8	12.0	0.6
Library & Info. Science	2,494	1,013	9	6,049	24,474	4.1	2.4	9.8	0.4
Total	83,210	17,413	216	109,464	406,221	3.7	1.3	4.9	0.8

<sup>a</sup> auN: Number of authors <sup>b</sup> inN: Number of institutions <sup>c</sup> jrN: Number of journals  
<sup>d</sup> pent: Publication count <sup>e</sup> ccnt: Citation count <sup>f</sup> c/p: Average citation count per publication (ccnt/pent)  
<sup>g</sup> p/a: Average publication count per author (pent/auN) <sup>h</sup> c/a: Average citation count per author (ccnt/auN)  
<sup>i</sup> cmR: Competition rate (auN/pent)

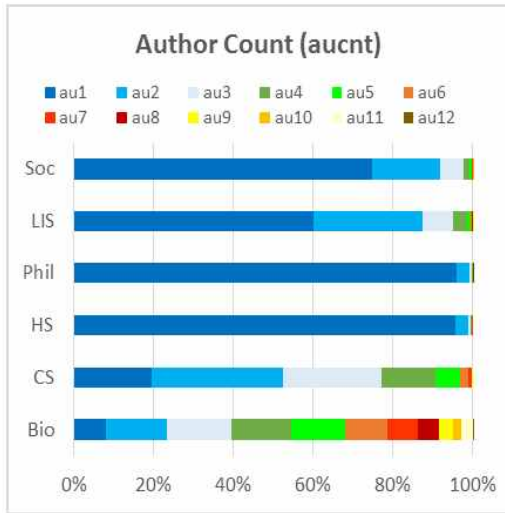
## 2. Co-authorships

Figure 1 plots the frequencies of author counts (i.e., number of co-authors for a paper) by year for each discipline. Science disciplines show high and steadily increasing rates of co-authorships while humanities disciplines are dominated by single-author papers with only a fraction of co-authored papers over the years. Single-author papers are still the majority in social science disciplines but collaboration is on the increase in recent years. Library and information science especially show the trend of 2-author papers catching up with single-author papers (Lee and Yang 2015; 2019). Another interesting trend is in biology where most papers are authored by six or more people in comparison to 2-author papers that is most prevalent in other disciplines.

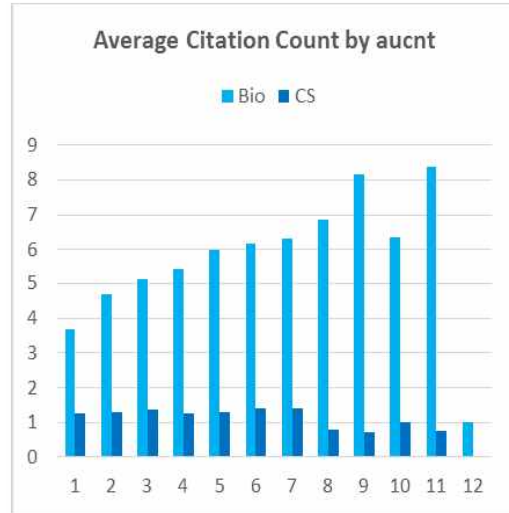
Figure 2, which shows percentages of author count frequencies in each discipline, clearly demonstrate the overall differences in co-authorship across disciplines. We also plotted average citation count per paper by author count in Figure 3 through 5 to see the impact of co-authorships. In biology, more authors garner more citations. Computer science show more or less even numbers of citations across author counts but it could be an artifact of incomplete data as aforementioned. Even in sole authorship dominated history and philosophy, co-authored papers tend to amass more citations (Figure 4). A similar pattern can be observed in sociology, though the co-authorship effect is more muted in library and information science.



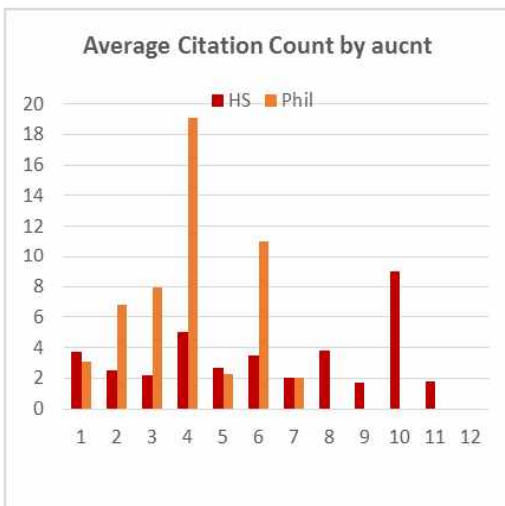
<Fig. 1> Author Count by Year



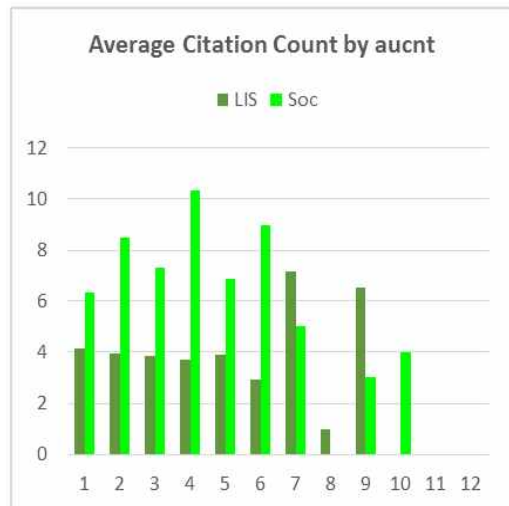
<Fig. 2> Author Count Percentages by Discipline



<Fig. 3> Citations by aucnt: Biology & CS



<Fig. 4> Citations by aucnt: History & Philosophy

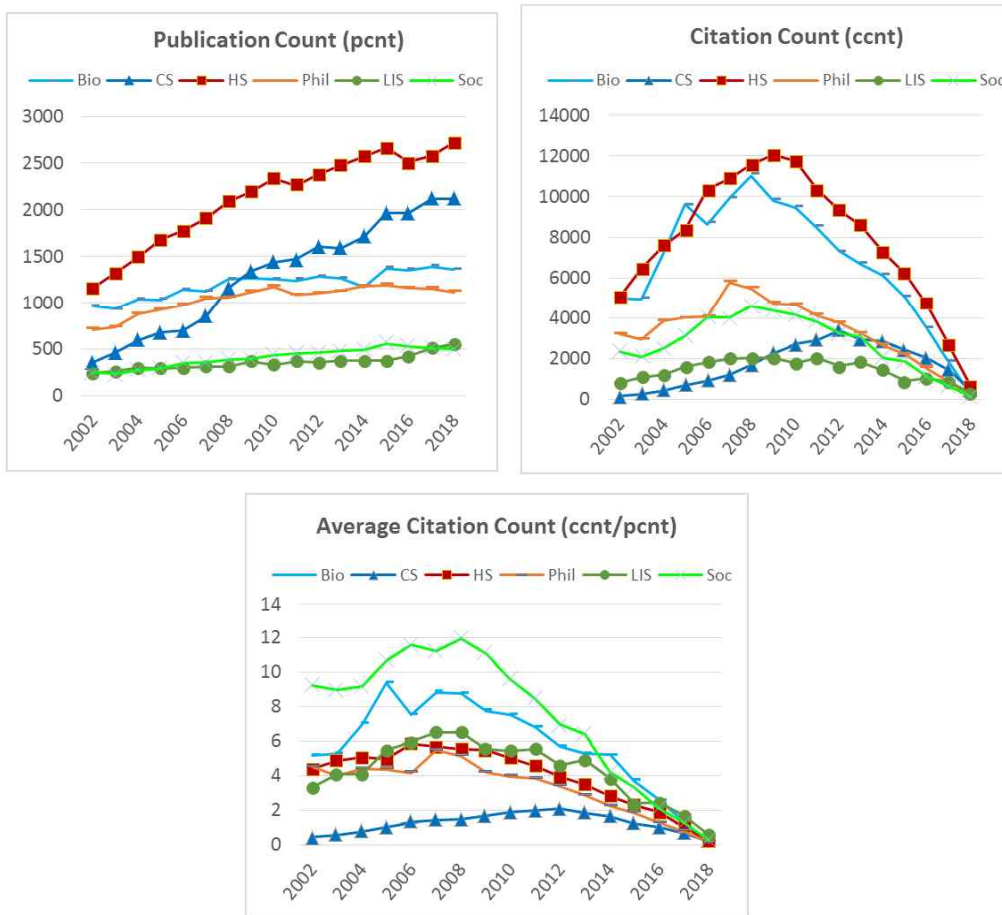


<Fig. 5> Citations by aucnt: LIS & Sociology

### 3. Publications by Year

To observe publication trends over time, we plotted publication and citation counts along with average citation counts per publication by year (Figure 6). Research productivity as approximated by publication volume exhibits an increasing trend in all disciplines with the biggest rate of increase in computer science as shown by its slope. This likely reflects the astronomical

advancements in computer-driven technology in recent years. History, also showing a high rate of increase in productivity, thus highlighting it as a highly active discipline with growing importance.



<Fig. 6> Publication and Citation Count Comparisons of Disciplines

Citations, on the other hand, drops off after some time in all disciplines. Prior research (Yang, Lee, & Choi, 2015, 2016) reported a significant lag in KCI's indexing time with a 5 to 6 year lag in citation counts for library and information science (LIS) data collected in 2013. This finding still holds true for LIS in the current study (upper right chart in Figure 6). Citation lag appears to be more severe for other disciplines with citations counts dropping off as early as 2007 for philosophy. The change of LIS citation drop-off from 2007 in 2013 KCI data collection to

2013 in 2019 data confirms the existence of citation lag, which apparently varies across disciplines. We suspect much of citation drop-off in Figure 6 is due to publications not having received their full citations but also believe KCI's lagging behind in indexing article references to contribute to the problem. Two lessons to be learned here are that citation drop-off in later years is due to citation lag and not decreasing impact of research and citation lag can vary widely among disciplines.

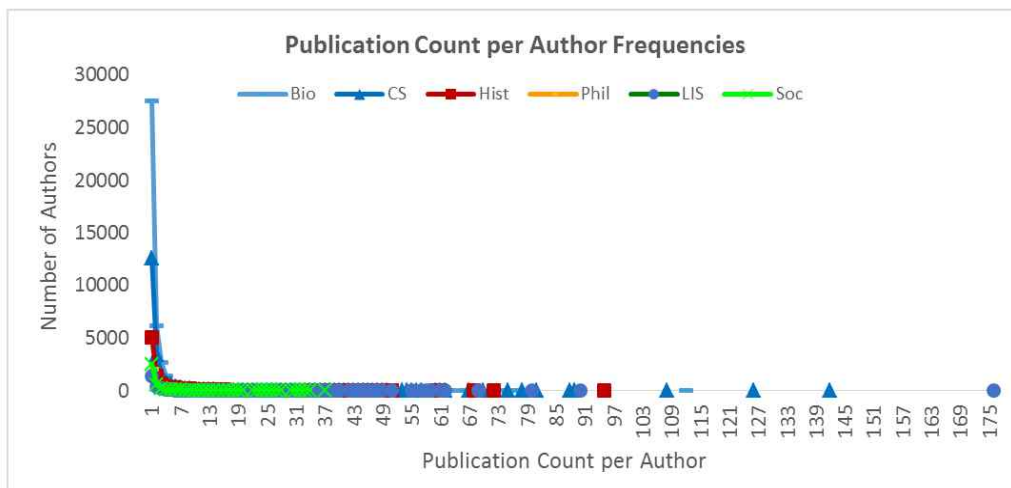
The shape of citations per article graphs (bottom chart in Figure 6) closely resembles those of citation counts. The magnitude, on the other hand, follows the overall average impact observed earlier (Table 1). Sociology publications receive the most citations and computer science the least. What the plots by year reveals is the effect of citation lag differences, which is masked in overall numbers. History with a longer citation lag shows a lower overall citation count per article than LIS today. Once missing citations are indexed at later years, however, its average citation count may exceed that of LIS.

#### 4. Author-level Analysis

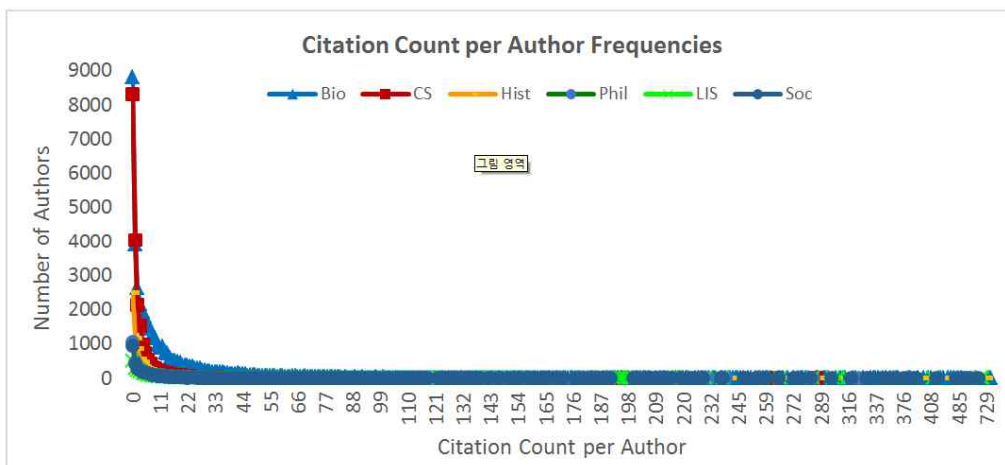
What we are interested in exploring in this section is how productivity and impact is distributed across authors. As with many observable phenomena in the physical world, both productivity and impact of authors conform to the Bradford's law. Pareto distributions in Figures 7 and 8 reflect the Bradford's law of research, where a small number of "core" authors are highly productive and impactful while the majority of authors neither publish a lot nor get cited highly.

Table 2 and 3 further illustrate this phenomenon. First and second columns of Table 2 show that 95% of authors in biology published seven or less articles with the aggregated output amounting to only 66% of the total publication count. Philosophy has highest numbers with 18 or less articles with 71%. At 99% level, the number of articles per author vary from 19 for biology and 30 for LIS with 87% and 91% respectively. Last three columns of Table 2 show the "core" author productivity. Top 1% of authors produce 9% (biology) to 17% (LIS) of total publications. For top 5%, the numbers go up to 29% for philosophy at the low end and 43% for LIS at the high end. In other words, top 5% of authors produce nearly the half of total journal papers in LIS and about a third in other disciplines. The marked difference in top author output for LIS highlights the heightened significance of core authors for the discipline.

Author citation counts exhibit similar patterns (Table 3). Aggregated citations of top 1% authors range from 15% (biology, philosophy) to 20% (LIS) while top 5% of authors receive from 39% (biology) to 51% (LIS) of total citations in their disciplines. 12% spread in citations and 14% spread in publications of top 5% authors signify variations in impact and productivity of core author groups among disciplines.



<Fig. 7> Distribution of Publication Count per Author



<Fig. 8> Distribution of Citation Count per Author

&lt;Tab. 2&gt; Publication Count Distributions of Authors

	pc@95% <sup>a</sup>	tpc@95% <sup>b</sup>	pc@99%	tpc@99%	top1% <sup>c</sup>	top2%	top5%
Biology	7	66%	19	87%	13%	20%	34%
Computer Science	10	67%	22	86%	14%	20%	33%
History	17	67%	29	89%	11%	16%	33%
Philosophy	18	71%	30	91%	9%	15%	29%
Library & Info. Science	17	57%	43	83%	17%	25%	43%
Sociology	8	65%	19	89%	11%	14%	35%

<sup>a</sup> Maximum publication count for (bottom) 95% of authors

<sup>b</sup> Total publication count percentage of (bottom) 95% of authors

<sup>c</sup> Total publication count percentage of top 1% of authors

&lt;Tab. 3&gt; Citation Count Distributions of Authors

	cc@95% <sup>a</sup>	tcc@95% <sup>b</sup>	cc@99%	tcc@99%	top1% <sup>c</sup>	top2%	top5%
Biology	55	61%	133	85%	15%	23%	39%
Computer Science	16	57%	37	81%	19%	28%	43%
History	73	55%	162	83%	17%	26%	45%
Philosophy	67	58%	144	85%	15%	24%	42%
Library & Info. Science	70	49%	196	80%	20%	30%	51%
Sociology	81	52%	212	82%	18%	29%	48%

<sup>a</sup> Maximum citation count for (bottom) 95% of authors

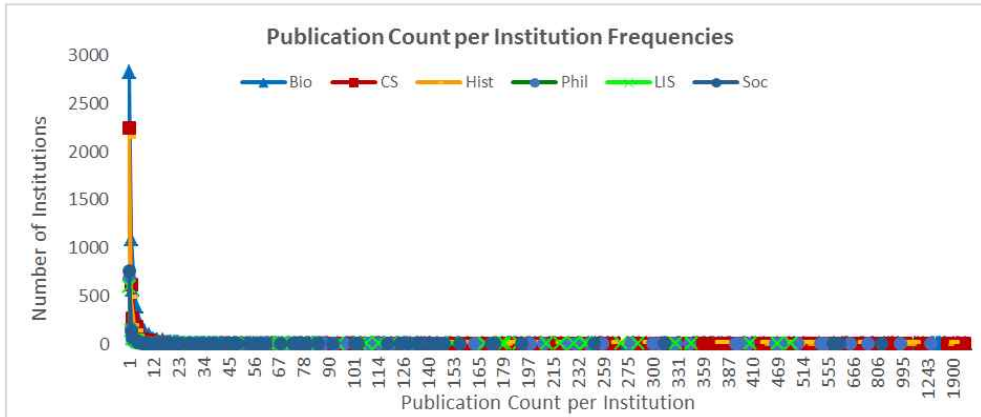
<sup>b</sup> Total citation count percentage of (bottom) 95% of authors

<sup>c</sup> Total citation count percentage of top 1% of authors

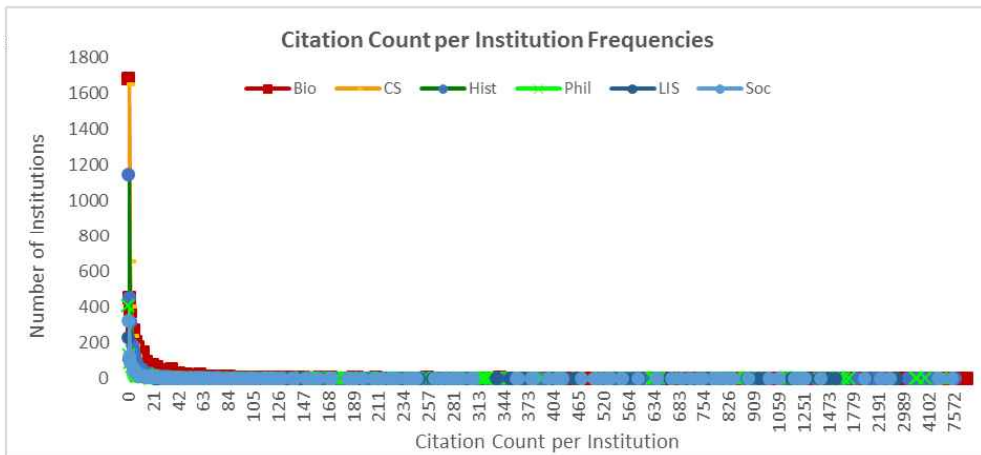
## 5. Institution-level Analysis

Productivity and impact distributions of institutions follow the same patterns observed at the author-level. The skew is extreme due to the heightened magnitude of frequencies generated from aggregating at the institution level, but Figures 9 and 10 show Pareto distributions that reflect the Bradford's law. Intensified skewness of institution-level distributions is highlighted in Tables 4 and 5. 95% of institutions produce only 18% (computer science) to 29% (sociology) of publications while top 1% of institutions generate 36% (LIS) to 55% (history). For citations, 95% of institutions receive from 13% (history) to 22% (sociology) of the total while top 1% of institutions garner 41% (philosophy) to 61% (history).

At the author level, top LIS authors outperformed other disciplines in productivity and impact. At the institution level, however, core institutions in history and computer science lead in productivity and impact. This suggests that top-performing LIS researchers are more evenly distributed among institutions while top history and computer science departments in Korean universities employ a concentration of high-performing researchers.



<Fig. 9> Distribution of Publication Count per Institution



<Fig. 10> Distribution of Citation Count per Institution

<Tab. 4> Publication Count Distribution of Institutions

	pc@95% <sup>a</sup>	tpc@95% <sup>b</sup>	pc@99%	tpc@99%	top1% <sup>c</sup>	top2%	top5%
Biology	30	24%	255	48%	52%	64%	76%
Computer Science	33	18%	338	48%	52%	67%	82%
History	23	19%	220	45%	55%	68%	81%
Philosophy	67	23%	395	62%	38%	57%	77%
Library & Info. Science	28	26%	231	64%	36%	55%	75%
Sociology	23	29%	140	60%	40%	54%	71%

<sup>a</sup> Maximum publication count for (bottom) 95% of institutions

<sup>b</sup> Total publication count percentage of (bottom) 95% of institutions

<sup>c</sup> Total publication count percentage of top 1% of institutions

&lt;Tab. 5&gt; Citation Count Distribution of Institutions

	cc@95% <sup>a</sup>	tcc@95% <sup>b</sup>	cc@99%	tcc@99%	top1% <sup>c</sup>	top2%	top5%
Biology	223	21%	1494	45%	55%	66%	79%
Computer Science	49	17%	433	47%	53%	68%	83%
History	76	13%	909	39%	61%	74%	87%
Philosophy	206	20%	1168	59%	41%	59%	80%
Library & Info. Science	108	21%	893	60%	40%	59%	79%
Sociology	192	22%	896	55%	45%	59%	78%

<sup>a</sup> Maximum citation count for (bottom) 95% of institutions

<sup>b</sup> Total citation count percentage of (bottom) 95% of institutions

<sup>c</sup> Total citation count percentage of top 1% of institutions

## 6. Keywords

Keywords fields in KCI database were inundated with data problems (see data processing subsection of Methodology) that we were not yet able to resolve fully. Consequently, we opted for simplistic identification of significant keywords based on frequencies rather than a full-scale clustering and visualization that may lead to misleading results from data error and noise. Since high frequency data items are resistant to partial data problems, we focused on identifying most popular and influential keywords with high publication or citation counts that can describe the important research areas of disciplines.

To identify top keywords, we sorted and ranked keywords by the number of articles they appear in to generate the publication ranking and by the sum of citations those articles receive to generate the citation ranking, after which we selected keywords with publication rank or citation rank less than or equal to 100. Top keywords, most frequently used or cited, comprised 139 in biology, 131 in computer science, 120 in history, 126 in philosophy, 126 in LIS, and 147 in sociology. Table 6 lists top 10 and bottom 5 significant keywords by publication and citation counts for each discipline and Figures 11a and 11b display keyword token clusters sorted by citation counts.

Bold-faced keywords in Table 6 denote those that are in top 10 by both publication and citation counts (i.e., popular and influential). Some intuitive examples of popular and influential keywords are apoptosis, *Escherichia coli* (i.e. *E. coli*) and taxonomy for biology; Internet of Things (i.e., IoT), smartphone and cloud computing for computer science; Baekje, Koguryo, Silla, Joseon, Japan and China for history; Kant, Nietzsche, and Confucianism for philosophy; public/school/academic library, information and information literacy for library and information science; and globalization, social capital and gender for sociology.

〈Tab. 6〉 Significant Keywords by Publication and Citation Counts: Top 10 and Bottom 5

	Publication Count		Citation Count	
	Top 10	Bottom 5	Top 10	Bottom 5
Biology	<b>Korea</b> <b>taxonomy</b> <b>apoptosis</b> morphology new species new record <b>rice</b> gene expression phylogeny <b>escherichia coli</b>	drug resistance viability resuscitation culturability argonaute	<b>apoptosis</b> virulence reactive oxygen species rice microRNA <b>Korea</b> <b>taxonomy</b> <b>escherichia coli</b> oxidative stress arabidopsis	lepidoptera unrecorded species key new records coleoptera
Computer Science	Internet of Things WSN <sup>a</sup> security smartphone <b>authentication</b> cloud computing ontology <b>machine learning</b> <b>clustering</b> RFID	<b>opinion mining</b> <b>USN</b> <sup>b</sup> <b>smart learning</b> <b>cyber physical systems</b> UTAUT <sup>c</sup>	SNS smartphone Internet of Things WSN <sup>a</sup> cloud computing security RFID <b>privacy</b> <b>big data</b> ontology	<b>low power</b> <b>scheduling</b> <b>web service</b> <b>manet</b> <sup>d</sup> <b>multimedia</b>
History	<b>Korea</b> <b>Japan</b> <b>Baekje</b> <b>Koguryo</b> <b>China</b> <b>Silla</b> <b>history</b> <b>Joseon</b> national <b>nationalism</b>	theory Mongol national history Iksan king Mu	<b>Korea</b> <b>Japan</b> <b>Koguryo</b> <b>Baekje</b> <b>Silla</b> <b>history</b> <b>China</b> <b>Joseon</b> king <b>nationalism</b>	community ritual modern Russia revolution
Philosophy	<b>Kant</b> <b>Confucianism</b> <b>Heidegger</b> <b>mind</b> <b>Nietzsche</b> nature Hegel <b>body</b> <b>Husserl</b> life	children cultural capital adolescents multicultural family subjective well being	<b>Kant</b> <b>Confucianism</b> <b>Heidegger</b> <b>Husserl</b> <b>mind</b> happiness <b>Nietzsche</b> emotion Zhu Xi <b>body</b>	religion time reality metaphysics experience
Library & Info. Science	<b>public library</b> <b>school library</b> <b>library</b> <b>archives</b> <b>information literacy</b> <b>academic library</b> <b>university library</b> metadata <b>information</b> national	centrality measures centrality analysis weighted networks language network analysis LDA <sup>e</sup>	<b>public library</b> <b>library</b> <b>school library</b> network analysis <b>archives</b> research trends <b>information literacy</b> <b>information</b> <b>academic library</b> <b>university library</b>	knowledge management national library of Korea DDC Japan cataloging
Sociology	<b>Korea</b> <b>gender</b> <b>globalization</b> <b>social capital</b> democracy modernity civil society Japan Confucianism inequality	adjustment immigrant woman feminization migration happiness index international comparison	<b>Korea</b> depression <b>social capital</b> cultural capital <b>globalization</b> multiculturalism happiness life satisfaction <b>gender</b> trust	North Korea peace politics Taiwan India

<sup>a</sup> WSN: Wireless Sensor Network<sup>b</sup> USN: Ubiquitous Sensor Network<sup>c</sup> UTAUT: Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology<sup>d</sup> manet: a type of ad hoc network<sup>e</sup> LDA: Latent Dirichlet Allocation

Bottom 5 keywords in Table 6 represent highly influential topics that are not exceedingly common (publication count column) or topics studied by numerous authors whose works are not most highly cited (citation count column). Instances of such keywords are: “Argonaute” with publication rank (*prank*) of 4036 and citation rank (*crank*) of 98 and “Coleoptera” with *prank* of 24 and *crank* of 3677 in biology; “subjective wellbeing” with *prank* of 4464 and *crank* of 91 and “metaphysics” with *prank* of 90 and *crank* of 246 in philosophy; and “happiness index” with *prank* of 1708 and *crank* of 75 and “India” with *prank* of 97 and *crank* of 741 in sociology.

Significant keywords were visualized using *Keyword Clarity*<sup>5)</sup>, which is a free web-based tool for visualizing semantic keyword clusters using Reingold and Tilford’s (1981) tree layout algorithm. Since *Keyword Clarity* groups keywords based on their word ordering and frequency to generate a visualization of keyword token clusters, our intention of its use was to provide a simple visual overview of semantically related keywords. Figures 11a and 11b show computer science and LIS keywords to be most compact while biology and philosophy are most spread out. Interpreting the density as a reflection of topic diversity, we infer key research topics in computer science and LIS are more tightly knit while biology and philosophy key topics are more diverse.

## V. Concluding Remarks

Despite distinct characteristics of academic disciplines that produce different publication patterns, research output is typically evaluated in a uniform manner that can lead to misleading assessments of research performance. Research evaluation standards practiced in Korean universities exacerbate the problem by applying metrics that favor quantity and penalize collaboration to all disciplines. For disciplines that require collaborative research or value quality over quantity of research, such metrics are likely to generate unfair assessment outcomes.

In order to ascertain disciplinary differences in publication patterns that can help improve assessment of research performance in Korea, we analyzed the bibliometric data of six disciplines from Korea Citation Index. Results showed differences in research size, competitiveness, productivity, impact, and collaboration among disciplines. Disciplines in science were the largest in terms of author and institution followed by humanities and social science, but social science

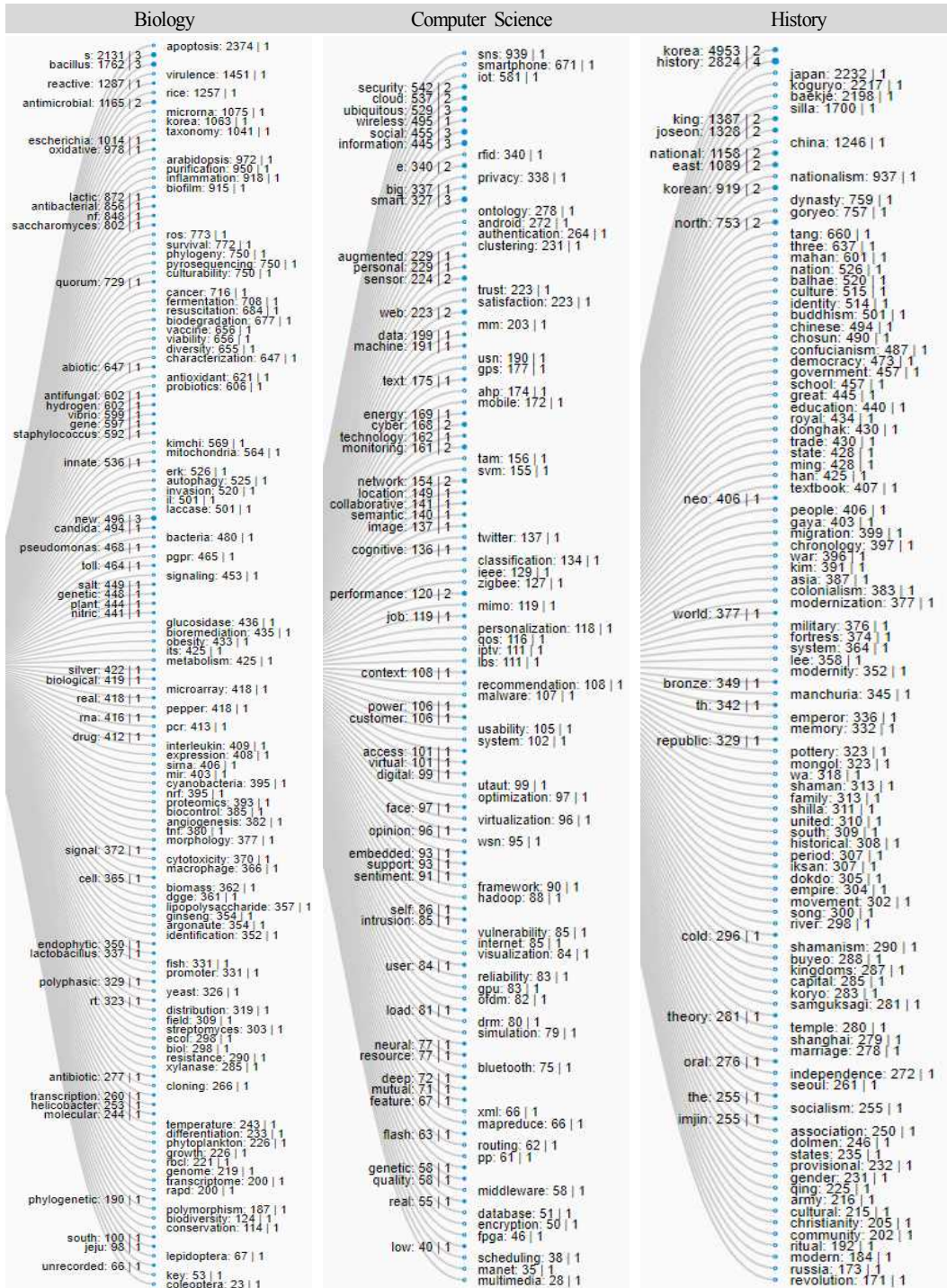
5) <https://keywordclarity.io/>

were found to be more competitive than humanities due to larger numbers of publication venues available in humanities.

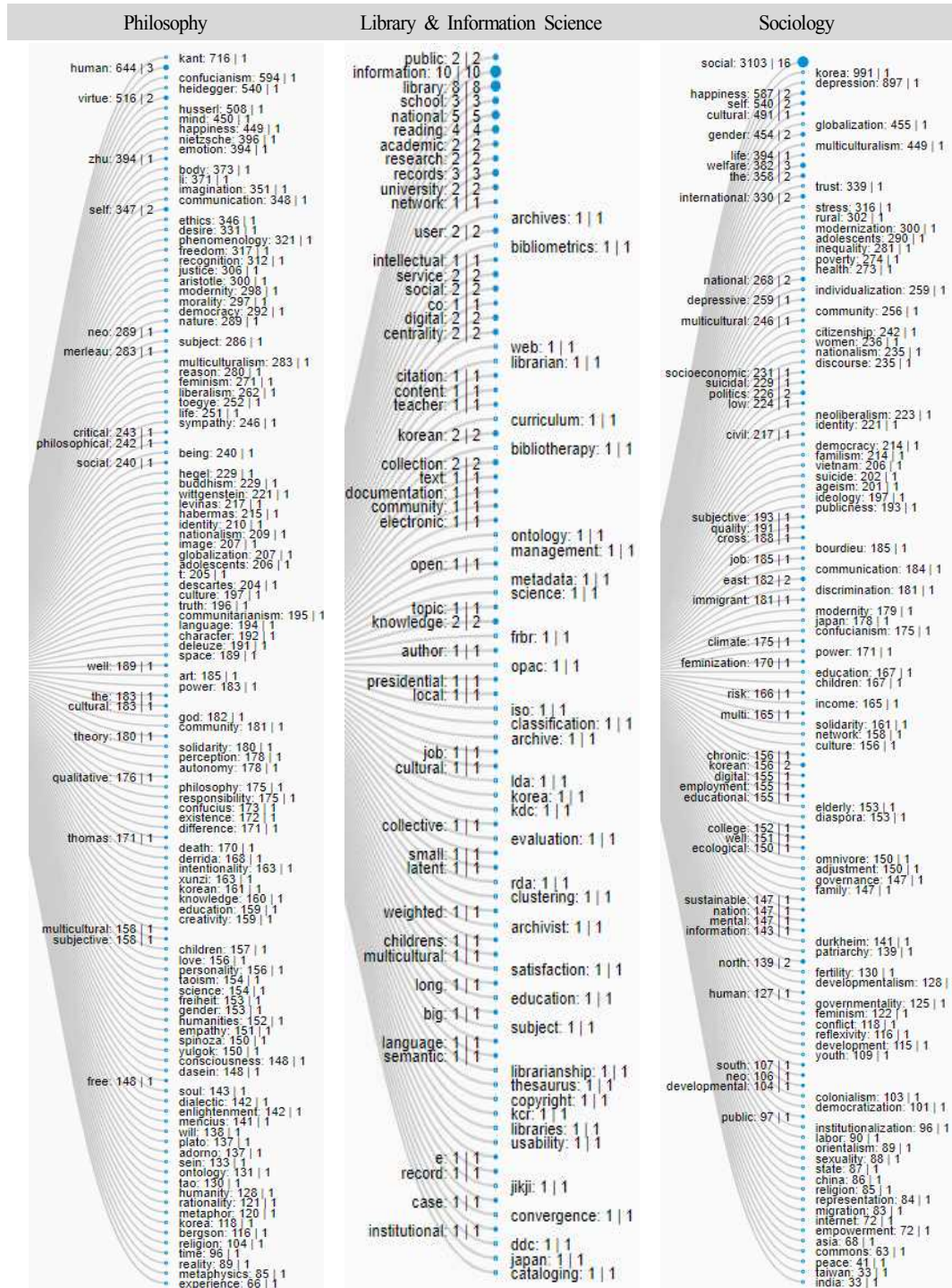
Discipline size, however, did not correspond to productivity reflected in the number of journal articles or impact manifested in the number of citations they received. Though discipline size influenced the total publication counts for disciplines, humanities produced the most publications per author, followed by social science and science disciplines. Overall citation counts corresponded to overall publication counts but average citations per paper showed sociology publications to be most highly cited, closely followed by biology. On the other hand, humanities received the most citations per author, followed by social sciences and sciences. Per author counts were greatly influenced by number of co-authors per paper, which varied widely across disciplines. Humanities were dominated by single-author publications, whereas the majority of publications in sciences were co-authored.

Computer Science showed the most rapid increase in productivity, followed by history, which reflect the rapid advances in computer-based technology and growing importance of Korean history respectively. In addition, results also showed humanities to take longer to be fully cited than sciences, thus highlighting major variations in citation lag time. The study also revealed even distribution of core authors among institutions in library and information science in contrast to concentrations of core authors in core institutions in history and computer science, thereby illustrating the differences in distribution and impact of core authors and institutions across disciplines.

The study findings by no means paint a comprehensive picture of differences in research output among disciplines. By focusing on bibliometric analysis of journal article data, which is the main staple of research performance assessment, the study demonstrated how publication patterns differ across disciplines. The findings of the study therefore should assist those who seek adaptation of current research evaluation standards to accommodate disciplinary differences. The follow-up study that will examine Web of Science data in a similar fashion would further inform researchers to better understand publication pattern differences not only among disciplines but also between domestic and international research.



<Fig. 11a> Significant Keyword Clusters: Biology, Computer Science, History



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