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Characteristics of Highly Cited Articles in Communication (1989 to 2018): A Web of Science-Based Analysis

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This paper presents the characteristics of highly cited articles (HCA) in communication subject published from 1989 to 2018 using data from the SSCI of Web of Science. A total of 1108 articles (2.1%) were considered as highly cited articles (HCAs) in communication. Further, we have analyzed the year wise distribution of articles and their bibliometric attributes. Most productive authors, countries, and journals were identified. Cluster analysis of author-supplied keywords was performed, and the top cited ten article's citation life cycle was also examined.

Keywords: Communication, keyword analysis, bibliometric analysis, journals, cluster analysis, highly cited articles

According to Cooley communication is "a mechanism through which human relations exist and expand—all the symbols of the mind, together with the means of conveying them through space and preserving them in time" (Cooley, 1909). Renwick argues that "Responsible communication is very important in the democracy, without a large measure of sincerity on the part of the editor, spokesmen, and reporters, freedom of expression cannot survive" (Renwick, 1957). Reviewing of scholarly communication through analysis of bibliometric content of the articles published in the subject area are taking place in recent times (Seriwala, Khan, Shuaib, & Shah, 2015). Citation reflects credentials and impact of research (Huo et al., 2015). Aksnes and Sivertsen mentioned that analysis of highly cited articles characteristic could be a practical option to disclose the outstanding works (Aksnes & Sivertsen, 2004). Highly cited articles are vary and contributed by large numbers of authors involving international collaboration (Aksnes, 2003). Many authors have analyzed the highly cited articles in recent times (Ho, 2014; Kolle, Shankarappa, & Ho, 2017; Kolle, Vijayashree, & Shankarappa, 2017). Several authors have studied the HCA in particular subject category such as education and educational research (Ivanoviæ & Ho, 2016), horticulture (Kolle et al., 2017), health care services (Hsu & Ho, 2014), environmental and occupational health (Smith, 2010), and malaria research (Kolle et al., 2017). The bibliometric analysis of articles published in important journals in communication subject showed that the journal, Human Communication Research was the most influential journal within the communication subject (Reeves & Borgman, 1983). Similar kind of study was undertaken, and it was found that a little convergence between information science and communication

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(Borgman & Rice, 1992). One more interesting study found that top four journals in communications such as *Human Communication Research*, *Personal Relationships*, *Journal of Communication* and *Communication Research* (Feeley, 2008). However, no study was conducted to reveal the characteristics of highly cited articles in communication. Hence, the present study was undertaken to identify characteristics of HCAs in communication.

Objectives

This work aims to reveal the characteristics of highly cited articles (HCAs) in communication. The specific objectives of the work include: (i) to identify year wise distribution of HCAs in communication; (ii) to recognize the major contributors in the field, their affiliated and country wise contributions; (iii) to reveal the most productive journals; (iv) to perform cluster analysis of author keywords using VOS viewer software; (v) to identify sleeping beauties in the communication; and (vi) identify the characteristics and citation pattern of top-cited articles.

Methodology

We have collected the data from the SSCI of Web of Science Core Collection on 18 September 2018. Advance search technique was used as: WC: (communication) and Document Types: (Article) Period: 1989-2018. The schematic for the searching procedure for HCAs is provided in Figure 1. A total of 50,803 records were found in the search strategy. Further, the articles which have received at least 100 citations up to the 18th September of 2018 were used as criteria for the selection of HCAs (1,108 articles). Using this, 2.1% of total articles published in communication are considered as highly cited articles (HCAs). Bibliometric information of the 1,108 articles was downloaded into Excel. Microsoft Excel was used for analysis purposes. Cluster analysis of author supplied keyword was finished utilizing VOSviewer programming (van Eck & Waltman, 2017). The first and corresponding author was identified by author "affiliation information," and "corresponding author address fields" (Kolle, Shankarappa, Rahimi, & Satish, 2018). The country contribution was identified by "author affiliation," and "corresponding author address fields" (Kolle et al., 2018). The articles from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales were grouped as from United Kingdom (Ho, 2012).

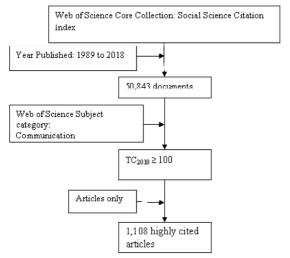


Figure 1. Schematic for searching the highly cited articles in communication

Results and Discussion

Publication Year

Table 1 provides the details about HCAs in communication. A total of 1,108 HCAs were published with an average of 36 articles per year. A total of 207,791 citations were recorded to 1,108 articles with an average of 188 citations per article. A total of 54,547 references were consulted to write 1,108 articles. The average references consulted for the writing articles also increased from 46 in 1989 to 56 in 2015. A total of 882 unique authors were involved in the research, and average authors for each article has risen from 1.8 in 1989 to 3 in 2014. In 1989, there were only 12 HCAs with a minimum of 100 citations, and the highest numbers of HCAs were published in the year 2004 (87 articles). This may be due to the emergence of new media such as the Internet and social networking site during the period.

Table 1. Year-wise distribution of highly cited articles in communication (with bibliometric characteristics)

| PY | TP | TC | NR | AU | TC/TP | NR/TP | AU/TP |
|------|------|--------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1989 | 12 | 1768 | 557 | 21 | 147 | 46 | 1.8 |
| 1990 | 22 | 5121 | 957 | 36 | 233 | 44 | 1.6 |
| 1991 | 27 | 4766 | 1163 | 57 | 177 | 43 | 2.1 |
| 1992 | 24 | 5939 | 1343 | 39 | 247 | 56 | 1.6 |
| 1993 | 26 | 7927 | 1242 | 46 | 305 | 48 | 1.8 |
| 1994 | 24 | 4526 | 1141 | 44 | 189 | 48 | 1.8 |
| 1995 | 29 | 4433 | 1427 | 56 | 153 | 49 | 1.9 |
| 1996 | 45 | 8844 | 1964 | 99 | 197 | 44 | 2.2 |
| 1997 | 43 | 7481 | 1779 | 81 | 174 | 41 | 1.9 |
| 1998 | 34 | 7081 | 1732 | 67 | 208 | 51 | 2.0 |
| 1999 | 50 | 10231 | 2621 | 111 | 205 | 52 | 2.2 |
| 2000 | 77 | 14270 | 3700 | 157 | 185 | 48 | 2.0 |
| 2001 | 56 | 9582 | 2605 | 132 | 171 | 47 | 2.4 |
| 2002 | 75 | 13545 | 3887 | 152 | 181 | 52 | 2.0 |
| 2003 | 66 | 10945 | 2980 | 134 | 166 | 45 | 2.0 |
| 2004 | 87 | 16867 | 4253 | 192 | 194 | 49 | 2.2 |
| 2005 | 68 | 12339 | 3675 | 157 | 181 | 54 | 2.3 |
| 2006 | 61 | 11156 | 3127 | 140 | 183 | 51 | 2.3 |
| 2007 | 61 | 11124 | 2724 | 145 | 182 | 45 | 2.4 |
| 2008 | 51 | 10023 | 2368 | 124 | 197 | 46 | 2.4 |
| 2009 | 70 | 12734 | 3444 | 161 | 182 | 49 | 2.3 |
| 2010 | 31 | 4480 | 2019 | 92 | 145 | 65 | 3.0 |
| 2011 | 25 | 4493 | 1313 | 81 | 180 | 53 | 3.2 |
| 2012 | 26 | 5768 | 1437 | 46 | 222 | 55 | 1.8 |
| 2013 | 11 | 1368 | 682 | 31 | 124 | 62 | 2.8 |
| 2014 | 6 | 865 | 351 | 18 | 144 | 59 | 3.0 |
| 2015 | 1 | 115 | 56 | 1 | 115 | 56 | 1.0 |
| | 1108 | 207791 | 54547 | 2420 | 188 | 49 | 2.2 |

PY, publication year TP, total highly cited articles TC, total citations, NR, number of references AU, number of authors TC/TP, average citations per article NR/TP, average references for each article AU/TP, average authors for each article.

No highly cited article emerges in the last three years. The articles entitled "Attribution in social and parasocial relationships" was published in the journal, *Communication Research* in February 1989 has received 120 citations till September 18, 2018 and the article has revealed that "parasocial relationships with favorite soap opera characters were based, to some extent, on reduction of uncertainty and the ability to predict the feelings and attitudes of the persona" (Perse & Rubin, 1989) accurately. The newest article that becomes the highly cited article within shortest time was published in "*Information Communication & Society*" in 2015 and entitled as "Social media use and participation: A meta-analysis of current research." The major finding of the study was that "social media use has the least impact on participation in election campaigns" (Boulianne, 2015). The articles published in the year 2004 have recorded the highest average citations per article (305). The main reason for this is, three articles published in this year have received more than 500 citations (Kaplowitz, Hadlock, & Levine, 2004; Krippendorff, 2004; Suler, 2004). Among three articles, the article entitled "The online disinhibition effect" one of the top ten HCAs in the dataset (Suler, 2004).

The trends in publication of HCAs with average citations for each article were illustrated in Figure 2. The trend indicates that from 1989 to 2004, the number of HCAs published were kept increasing, and after 2004, the number of HCAs published were kept decreasing. Similarly, the trend in the publication of HCAs with average authors for each article was illustrated in Figure 3. The average authors per HCAs was not a constant increase, but an increase from year to year may be observed.

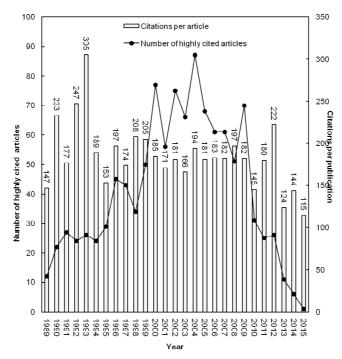


Figure 2. Trends in the publication of highly cited articles (HCAs) with average citations per article in communication

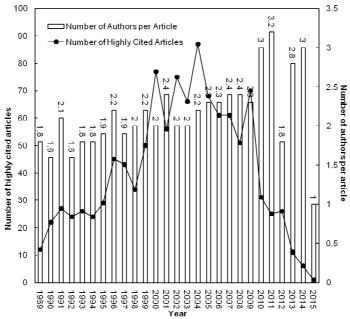


Figure 3. Trends in the publication of highly cited articles (HCAs) with average authors per article in communication

Author Prolific and Collaboration Network

Most productive authors with at least seven HCAs with first author articles, corresponding author articles, and a major collaborator were analyzed and presented in Table 2. Out of the 1,108 HCAs, 30% (335) of the HCAs were authored by a single author, the more than three authors contributed 38% (426) of HCAs by double authors, and 19% (216) of HCAs by three authors, and only 11.82 % of the HCAs. Form this result; it can be concluded that there is no relation between several authors contributed and becoming HCA. This finding is by disability-related fields (Ahmed, Adam, Ghafar, Muham-Mad, & Ebrahim, 2016). The finding is indifferent from the ecology subject and surgical literature, wherein those with more numbers of authors are cited more than with fewer numbers of authors (Fox, Paine, & Sauterey, 2016; Glynn, Kerin, & Sweeney, 2010). Of the 17 authors with at least 7 HCAs, 14 authors are from the USA, two from the Netherlands and one from England. In the case of environmental engineering, most of the productive authors were from the USA (Fu & Ho, 2018). In the case of analysis of most cited research works in Science Citations Index, most of the works were produced by the USA based authors (Ho, 2013). The Scheufele, D. A. from the University of Wisconsin, USA was ranked 1st in the contribution of HCAs in communication with 17 articles, followed by the Walther, J.B. (12 articles) from Michigan State University, USA. Eveland, W.P., Valkenburg, P.M., and Nisbet, M.C., have contributed 11 HCAs each. Ho proposed a new bibliometric indicator that the Y-index (j,h), "it is concerned with to numbers of first author articles (FP) and corresponding author articles (RP), and already be applied to evaluate authors, institutions, and countries, as defined;"

$$j = FP + RP$$
 (1)
$$h = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{RP}{FP}\right)$$
 (2)

"J is the sum of RP and FP, which denotes the publication quantity, and h is publication characteristics, which can denote the proportion of RP to FP" (Hsu & Ho, 2014). "When j is greater, the more contribution the analyzed unit makes." "Different values of h stand for different proportions of RP to FP, h > 0.7854 means more numbers of corresponding author articles; h = 0.7854 means the same quantity of first and corresponding author articles; 0 < h < 0.7854 means number of first author articles" (Hsu & Ho, 2014). "When h = 0, j = number of first author articles and when $h = \pi/2$, j = number of corresponding author articles" (Fu & Ho, 2014). As per the Yindex, the Walther J. B. ranked as a top author among them all. The highest values of the j parameter of Y- index of three authors were Walther, J. B., (j = 19, h = 0.837), Scheufele D. A. (j = 17, h = 0.844), and Lang A (j = 0.851, h = 15). These three authors have contributed more numbers of corresponding HCAs than first author HCAs. It may be noted that these three authors are playing a leadership role in the communication subject. Slater, M.D. has contributed similar numbers of first and corresponding author HCAs (j = 0.785, h = 16)

Table 2. Productive authors with their major collaborators

| Authors | R(TP) | R (FP) | R (RP) | % | Institute | Major collaborator | h | Rank (j) |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|-----|--|---|-------|----------|
| Scheufele DA | 1 (17) | 2 (8) | 2 (9) | 1.6 | University of Wisconsin, USA | Brossard D (6 Articles) | 0.844 | 2 (17) |
| Walther JB | 2 (12) | 1 (9) | 1 (10) | 1.1 | Michigan State University , USA | Van Der Heide, B (3 Articles) | 0.837 | 1 (19) |
| Eveland WP | 3 (11) | 4 (7) | 5 (7) | 1.0 | Ohio State University , USA | Kwak N (3 Articles) Shah Dv (3 Articles) Mcleod Dm (3 Articles) | 0.785 | 5 (14) |
| Valkenburg PM | 3 (11) | 9 (5) | 11 (4) | 1.0 | University of Amsterdam Netherlands | Peter J (7 Articles) | 0.674 | 9 (9) |
| Nisbet MC | 3 (11) | 6 (6) | 8 (6) | 8.0 | Ohio State University, USA | Brossard D (5 Articles) | 0.785 | 7 (12) |
| Shah DV | 4 (10) | 9 (5) | 9 (5) | 0.9 | University of Wisconsin USA | Kwak N (4 Articles) Eveland Wp (3 Articles) | 0.785 | 8 (10) |
| Lang A | 5 (9) | 4 (7) | 3 (8) | 0.7 | Washington State University, USA | Bolls, P (2 Articles) Potter R (2 Articles) | 0.851 | 4 (15) |
| Brossard D | 6 (8) | 6 (6) | 43 (2) | 0.7 | University of Wisconsin, USA | Nisbet Mc (5 Articles) | 0.785 | 10 (8) |
| Livingstone S | 6 (8) | 4 (7) | 5 (7) | 0.7 | University of London, England | Helsper, Ej (3 Articles) | 0.785 | 5 (14) |
| Peter J | 6 (8) | 39 (2) | 42 (2) | 0.7 | University of Amsterdam, Netherlands | Valkenburg Pm (7 Articles) | 0.785 | 12 (4) |
| Slater MD | 6 (8) | 2 (8) | 3 (8) | 0.7 | Colorado State University, USA | Rouner, D (4 Articles) | 0.785 | 3 (16) |
| Mcleod DM | 7 (7) | 20 (3) | 21 (3) | 0.6 | University of Delaware, USA | Eveland Wp (3 Articles) Detenber, B (3 Articles) | 0.785 | 10 (6) |
| Papacharissi Z | 7 (7) | 8 (6) | 5 (7) | 0.6 | University of Illinois, USA | - | 0.862 | 6 (13) |
| Presser S | 7 (7) | 40 (1) | 43 (1) | 0.6 | University of Maryland, USA | Singer, E | 0.785 | 13 (2) |
| Groves RM | 7 (7) | 9 (5) | 11 (4) | 0.6 | University of Michigan, USA | Presser, S (2 Articles) | 0.674 | 9 (9) |
| Gunther AC | 7 (7) | 4 (7) | 5 (7) | 0.6 | University of Wisconsin, USA | - | 0.785 | 5 (14) |
| Krosnick JA | 7 (7) | 39 (2) | 21 (3) | 0.6 | Ohio State University, USA | Holbrook, A (2 Articles) Visser, P (2 Articles) Chang, I (2 Articles) | 0.982 | 11 (5) |

R-Rank, TP- total HCAs, FP- first author HCAs, RP- Corresponding author HCAs.

The author collaboration network is displayed in Figure 4. Scheufele, D.A. has collaborated with more numbers of authors, and his major collaborator was Brossard, D. followed by the Shah, D. V., Eveland, W.P., and Nisbet, M. C. These authors had worked on the topics such as framing the media effects (Scheufele & Tewksbury, 2007), agenda setting for local news (Kim, Scheufele, & Shanahan, 2002), and public attitude towards emerging technologies (Lee, Scheufele, & Lewenstein, 2005). Eveland, W.P was the one more author who collaborated with Kwak, N., Shah, D. V., and Mcleod, D. M. These authors worked on the topics such as modeling technology effect on the civic participation (Shah, Cho, Eveland, & Kwak, 2005), media usage and democratic process (McLeod et al., 1996) and thirdperson effect (McLeod, Detenber, & Eveland, 2001). Brossard, D. also collaborated with more number of authors and his major collaborator was Nisbet, M.C. The authors worked on the topics such as framing the science communication (Ho et al., 2008; Nisbet et al., 2003) and media effect models towards S&T (Nisbet et al., 2002). Mcleod, J.M., was also worked with many authors such as Scheufele DA., Holbert, RL., Eveland, WP; and Shah D V. These authors worked on topics such as political participation (McLeod, Scheufele, & Moy, 1999) and media use and democracy (McLeod et al., 1996).

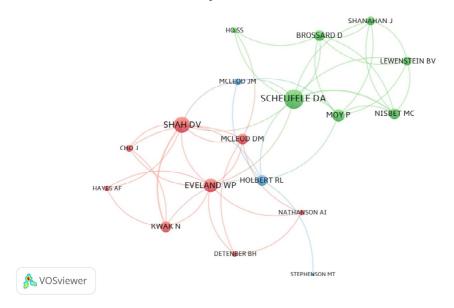


Figure 4. Collaboration network of most productive authors in communication

Productive Journals and Countries in Communication

The 1,108 HCAs were produced by the 51 journals with an average of 21.7 HCAs for each journal. *Journal of Communication* was most productive journal with 95 HCAs (9%), followed by the *Cyber-psychology Behavior* (89. 8%), *Public Opinion Quarterly* (83. 8%), *Communication Research* (75. 7%), *Journal of Advertising* (61. 6%) and *New Media & Society* (45. 4%). These top six journals have contributed almost 42% of the HCAs in communication. The impact factor of the journals is provided and *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* " was the journal with higher impact factor (4) has contributed 25 HCAs with average citations of 203 per article which is higher than the average citations (188) of all HCAs. While "*Personal Relationships*" journal as listed in Table 3 was with lowest impact factor (0.906) and has published 28 HCAs and the average citations (180) was lowest than all HCAs in the dataset.

The MIS Quarterly published 26% of HCAS in information science and library science subject (Ivanovic & Ho, 2016). Child Abuse and Neglect and American Journal of Community Psychology published the most HCAs in social work (Ho, 2014). The Statistics in Medicine and Medical Decision Making were the most productive journals in the medical informatics (Nadri, Rahimi, Timpka, & Sedghi, 2017).

Table 3. Most productive journals publication of highly cited articles (HCAs) in communication

| Journal | TP | % | IF ₂₀₁₇ |
|--|----|---|--------------------|
| Journal of Communication | 95 | 9 | 3.729 |
| Cyber-Psychology Behavior | 89 | 8 | 2.689 |
| Public Opinion Quarterly | 83 | 8 | 2 |
| Communication research | 75 | 7 | 3.391 |
| Journal of Advertising | 61 | 6 | 2.88 |
| New Media & Society | 45 | 4 | 3.121 |
| Human Communication Research | 43 | 4 | 2.364 |
| Political Communication | 38 | 4 | 2.738 |
| Journal of Advertising Research | 37 | 3 | 2.328 |
| Journal of Social and Personal Relationships | 32 | 3 | 1.697 |
| Journal of Broadcasting Electronic Media | 29 | 3 | 1.773 |
| Public Understanding of Science | 29 | 3 | 2.452 |
| Communication Theory | 28 | 3 | 2.733 |
| Personal Relationships | 28 | 3 | 0.906 |
| Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication | 25 | 2 | 4 |
| Journal of Health Communication | 25 | 2 | 1.648 |
| Public Relations Review | 22 | 2 | 1.378 |
| Communication Monographs | 21 | 2 | 1.894 |
| Discourse & Society | 19 | 2 | 1.339 |
| Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly | 19 | 2 | 1.706 |
| Research on Language and Social Interaction | 16 | 1 | 1.826 |
| European Journal of Communication | 14 | 1 | 1.5 |
| Media Culture & Society | 13 | 1 | 1.305 |
| Health Communication | 12 | 1 | 1.71 |
| Journal of Language and Social Psychology | 12 | 1 | 1.233 |

TP- total highly cited articles %-percentage of 1108 articles IF₂₀₁₇-Impact factor of the journal as per the Journal Citation Report 2017

Table 3 provides the top 14 countries ranked by the number of HCAs in communication. Only 35 countries have contributed to the HCAs in communication. The countries such as India, New Zealand, Russia, Portugal, Uganda, Chile, Romania, Estonia, Denmark, Mexico, Brazil, Egypt had contributed single HCA. The USA was ranked 1st with 790 HCAs (71%), followed by the England (Ranked 2nd; 98. 9%), Canada (Ranked 3rd; 49. 4%), Netherlands (Ranked 4th; 48. 4%) and Germany (Ranked 5th; 31. 3%). A similar finding was noticed in the wind tunnel related research and biomass research (Chen & Ho, 2015; Mo, Fu, & Ho, 2018).

Table 4. Most productive countries

| Country | R (TP) | % of 1108 |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|
| USA | 1 (790) | 71 |
| England | 2 (98) | 9 |
| Canada | 3 (49) | 4 |
| Netherlands | 4 (48) | 4 |
| Germany | 5 (31) | 3 |
| Australia | 6 (23) | 2 |
| South Korea | 7 (14) | 1 |
| Israel | 8 (13) | 1 |
| Taiwan | 8 (13) | 1 |
| Spain | 9 (12) | 1 |
| Peoples R China | 10 (9) | 1 |
| Sweden | 11 (9) | 1 |
| Belgium | 12 (8) | 1 |
| Italy | 12 (8) | 1 |

TP, the total number of highly cited articles; R, rank

The collaborative network between the countries is illustrated in Figure 5. The USA has collaborated with 25 countries. The USA is playing a leadership role in research work in communication. The Cluster analysis of the countries was performed using VOSviewer software (van Eck & Waltman, 2017). The countries grouped under Cluster 1 were Australia, China, Singapore, Taiwan, and the USA. The countries grouped under Cluster 2 were Canada, France, Norway, and Sweden. Cluster 3 contains four countries: Chile, Israel, Spain, and Turkey. The Cluster 4 contains three countries: Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. The Cluster 5 contains three countries: the Czech Republic, England, and Scotland. Cluster 6 contains two countries: Belgium and the Netherlands, and Cluster 7 contain two countries: Korea and Japan.

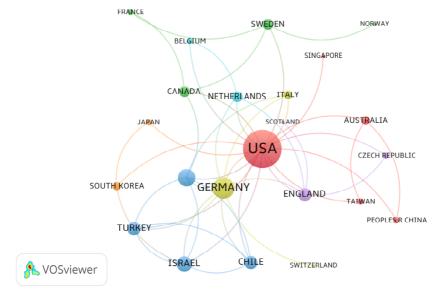


Figure 5. Collaborative networks between the countries

Cluster Analysis of Author-Supplied Keywords

The author supplies a minimum of four to five keywords while submission to the journal. The cluster analysis of author-supplied keywords with the help of VOSviewer was done (Sweileh, 2018). Of the 1,108 HCAs, 922 HCAs were contained the author-supplied keywords. The cluster analysis of the author-supplied keywords is illustrated in Figure 6. Cluster 1 contains the keywords: framing, journalism, content analysis, political communication, blogs, political parties, public sphere, blogs, and nanotechnology. It confirms from this that some part of the research was concerned with framing the news and its effects (McLeod & Detenber, 1999; Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000), and public perception about nanotechnology (Macnaghten, Kearnes, & Wynne, 2005; MacOubrie, 2006). Cluster 2 contains the keywords: Social media, Facebook, Twitter, Social network sites, social movement, and nonprofit organization. This confirms that second major research was concerned with social media and its use (Park, Kee, & Valenzuela, 2009; Valenzuela, Park, & Kee, 2009), how the NGOs using Facebook for engaging stakeholders and use of Facebook (Waters, Burnett, Lamm, & Lucas, 2009), Twitter for political communication (Enli & Skogerbø, 2013) and use of social media for social movement (Carroll & Hackett, 2006; van Laer & van Aelst, 2010). Cluster 3 contains the keywords: democracy, deliberation, discourse analysis, and persuasion. This confirms that some of the important works were related to challenges for democracy (Mazzoleni & Schulz, 1999), online discussions forums in democracy (Wright & Street, 2007), and discourse analysis of news reporting (Teo, 2000).

The Cluster 4 includes internet, digital divide, social support, gender, and civic engagement. Some of the studies were concerned with the use of the internet (Korgaonkar & Wolin, 1999), exploring the digital divide (Rice & Katz, 2003; Templin, 1999). The Cluster 5 contains the keywords: crisis communication, credibility, trust, social capital, and computer-mediated communication. This confirms that some of the works were related to the use of social media for crises communication (Schultz, Utz, & Göritz, 2011; Sweetser & Metzgar, 2007; Seeger, 2006), credibility of online information sources (Flanagin & Metzger, 2007; Hu & Sundar, 2010), and building social capital with use of social media (Gil de Zúñiga, 2012; Shah, Kwak, & Holbert, 2001), The Cluster 6 contains the keywords: political participation, television news, political knowledge, and newspapers. The some of the works in the dataset concerned with use of social media and political participation (Bakker & de Vreese, 2011; Gil de Zúñiga, 2012; Polat, 2005), television news analysis (Aday, Livingston, & Hebert, 2005; Gilboa, 2005) and political knowledge (Bonfadelli, 2002; Eveland, 2004; Prior, 2003). The Cluster 7 contains the keywords: communication, discourse, and learning. This confirms that some of the works were related to use of social media for communication (Briones, Kuch, Liu, & Jin, 2011), interpersonal relationship and students learning (Frymier & Houser, 2000) and learning politics from mass media (Chaffee & Kanihan, 1997). The Cluster 8 contains the keywords: media effects, new media, public relations, and interactivity. Some of the works were related to media effects (Brown & L'Engle, 2009; Slater, Henry, Swaim, & Anderson, 2003), role of new media (Baum & Groeling, 2008; Livingstone, 2004), use of social media for public relations (Lovejoy & Saxton, 2012; Rybalko & Seltzer, 2010) and media interactivity for political purposes (Sundar, Kalyanaraman, & Brown, 2003).

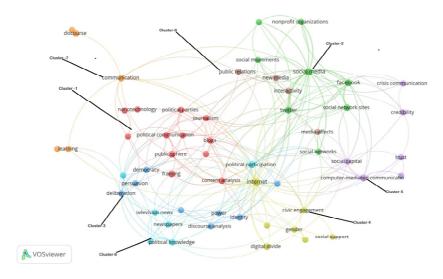


Figure 6. Cluster analysis of author-supplied keywords in communication

Characteristics and Citation Lifecycle of Top Cited Articles

The uniqueness of the top ten most cited articles in horticulture was investigated (Kolle et al., 2017). The articles with cited at least 859 times (TC_{2018} e"859), average citations per year, and citations in the year 2018 is presented in Table 5. Of the ten articles, two articles published in 1992 (Steuer, 1992; Witte, 1992), each in 1990 (Bartholomew, 1990), 1993 (Entman, 1993), 1996 (Walther, 1996), 1999 (Scheufele, 1999), 2002 (Lombard, Snyder-Duch, & Bracken, 2002), 2004 (Suler, 2004), and 2012 (Boyd & Crawford, 2012). This confirms that time is not a significant reason for the articles to be highly cited. Three articles published in *Journal of Communication* (Entman, 1993; D A Scheufele, 1999; Steuer, 1992), and each in Communication Research (Walther, 1996), Communication Monographs (Witte, 1992), Information Communication & Society (Boyd & Crawford, 2012), Public Opinion Quarterly (Groves, 2006), Journal Of Social And Personal Relationships (Bartholomew, 1990), Human Communication Research (Lombard et al., 2002), and Cyberpsychology & Behavior (Suler, 2004). Of the ten articles, nine articles were produced by the USA based authors and one by England. The article ranked 1st in total citations (3225), and total citations in 2018 were entitled as "Framing – toward clarification of a fractured paradigm." The article provides clarity of news framing, how the frames work, and benefits of a consistent concept of framing (Entman, 1993). The work has become a major road map in the framing research since its publication. One more important article becomes the second most highly cited article entitled "Computer-mediated communication: Impersonal, interpersonal, and hyperpersonal interaction." In this article, the author has discussed the subprocess concerned with receivers, senders, channels, and feedback aspects in computer-mediated communication (Walther, 1996). One more interesting article which is published in the recent times and ranked 1st in the average citations per year was entitled as "Critical questions for big data: Provocations for a cultural, technological, and scholarly phenomenon." The article has received an average of 145 citations per year. The article provides an account of role of big data and limitations of the big data (Boyd & Crawford, 2012). One more article which has received significant numbers of citations and ranked 4th in total citations in 2018 was entitled as "The online disinhibition effect."

Table 5. Characteristics of top-cited ten articles in communication

| R (TC ₂₀₁₈) | R (ACPY) | R (C ₂₀₁₈) | Title | Reference |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------------|--|------------------|
| 1 (3225) | 2 (124.04) | 1 (265) | Framing - toward clarification of a | |
| | | | fractured paradigm | (Entman, 1993) |
| 2 (1332) | 5 (57.91) | 16 (66) | Computer-mediated communication: | |
| | | | Impersonal, interpersonal, and | |
| | | | hyper personal interaction | (Walther, 1996) |
| 3 (1089) | 23 (40.33) | 9 (77) | Defining virtual reality - dimensions | |
| | | | determining telepresence | (Steuer, 1992) |
| 4 (1071) | 24 (39.67) | 5 (87) | Putting the fear back into fear appeals - | |
| | | | the extended parallel process model. | (Witte, 1992) |
| 5 (1015) | 1 (145) | 2 (180) | Critical questions for big data: Provocation | S |
| | | | for a cultural, technological, and scholarly | (Boyd & |
| | | | phenomenon. | Crawford, 2012) |
| 6 (994) | 4 (76.46) | 11 (71) | No response rates and no response bias | |
| | | | in household surveys. | (Groves, 2006) |
| 7 (944) | 16 (47.2) | 22 (58) | Framing as a theory of media effects. | (D A Scheufele, |
| | | | | 1999) |
| 8 (891) | 56 (30.72) | 63 (35) | Avoidance of intimacy - an attachment | (Bartholomew, |
| | | | perspective | 1990) |
| 9 (876) | 12 (51.53) | 6 (84) | Content analysis in mass communication: | |
| | | | Assessment and reporting of intercoder | (Lombard et al., |
| | | | reliability. | 2002) |
| 10 (859) | 6 (57.27) | 4 (95) | The online disinhibition effect | (Suler, 2004) |

TC₂₀₁₈ total citations up to 2018, ACPY, average citations per year C₂₀₁₈ total citations in 2018

The citation pattern of the top seven articles in communication is illustrated in Figure 7. The citations life cycle top six articles in wetland research was performed (Ma, Fu, & Ho, 2013). The two articles have attracted several citations since the Entman, and Boyd, and Crawford contributed their publication. The articles were kept receiving more number of citations from year to year. It confirms that these two articles have influenced the fellow researchers in the subject field of communication. The sleeping beauty is that article goes unnoticed for some time and later attracts lots of attention in the subject (van Raan, 2004). The article contributed by the Steuer entitled as "Defining virtual reality dimensions determining telepresence" has attracted very fewer citations initially and from the year 2004 started receiving more number of citations, and it can be noted as sleeping beauty in the communication subject and 2017, it has received 122 citations. This article was more innovative as this was predicting the changes that may take place in communication due to advacnement in technology. The article provides a set of dimensions to help in measuring and predicting virtual reality may occur and it can motivate further communication (Steuer, 1992). One more interesting article that can be called as a sleeping beauty was contributed by the Witte entitled as "Putting the fear back into fear appeals." The extended parallel process model." Initially, this article also has received few citations after 2008 it started attracting more number of citations, and in 2017, it received 122 citations. This work is further expansion of previous studies (Janis, 1967; H. Leventhal, 1971; Howard Leventhal, 1970; Maddux & Rogers, 1983).

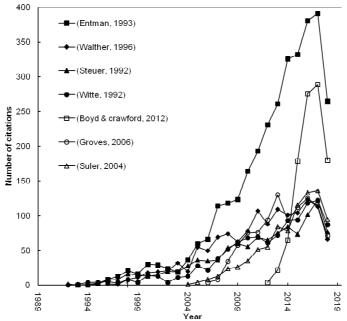


Figure 7. Citation life cycle top cited seven articles in communication

Conclusion

We have reviewed the characteristics of highly cited articles (HCAs) in the subject category of communication. Most of the HCAs were published in the year 2004. The articles published in the year 2003 have received the highest average citations per articles, and most of the articles were written by one to two authors only. Scheufele D.A. was the most productive author, and most of the productive authors were from the USA. The five journals contributed for the publication of most HCAs were Journal of Communication, Cyber-Psychology & Behavior, Public Opinion Quarterly, Communication Research, and Journal of Advertising. The USA was the leader in the production of highly cited articles in communication. The major portion of the research was concerned with political participation, science communication, social networking, new media, political parties, media effects, digital divide, discourse analysis, content analysis, and civic engagement. We have identified two sleeping beauties in the communication: (i) "Defining virtual reality—dimensions determining telepresence" by Steuer and (ii) "Putting the fear back into fear appeals - the extended parallel process model" by Witte. Both articles can attract more citations in the future. This article might be useful to the researchers to know the characteristics of HCAs in communication.

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