



**Guest Editorial: COVID-19 Pandemic and Health Informatics
Part 3**

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Guest Editorial: COVID-19 Pandemic and Health Informatics Part 3

After more than three years, we start to see the end of the tunnel of the COVID-19 pandemic and are ready for reopening (Abbass *et al.*, 2022; Suh and Alhaerym, 2022; Kumar *et al.*, 2021). Here, the Guest Editors and Co-Editors would like to wish all of our readers and authors good health and let us walk through the pandemic together. We continue to present Part 3 of our Special Issue on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Health Informatics in this issue. In the past two parts (Huang *et al.* 2020, 2021), we presented 28 papers; in this issue, we present the following 14 papers on three aspects of research.

Scientometrics and related studies on COVID-19

Through bibliometric analysis and related techniques, researchers can gain insight into a particular research area's trends and essential elements. Continuing from the efforts of previous special issues on this topic (Li *et al.*, 2021a; Shueb *et al.*, 2022; Loan and Shah, 2022; Riahinia *et al.*, 2022; Zhu and Lei; 2022; Danesh *et al.*, 2021; Saab *et al.*, 2021; Allen, 2021), Khazaneha *et al.* (2023) used the science mapping analysis approach and co-word analysis to explore and visualize research fields and the thematic evolution of the coronavirus. Yari Eili and Rezaeenour (2023) used process mining and other simulation techniques to study the effectiveness of COVID-19 prevention strategies on infection and mortality trends. Nadi-Ravandi and Batooli (2023) also analyzed research on libraries and COVID-19 using co-occurrence analysis to discover four clusters: roles of libraries and librarians, use of media and social media for library services, online library services, and infodemic/misinformation. As for other recent bibliometric and literature reviews, we have recently arranged a special selection in our recent issue (Chiu and Ho, 2021).

COVID-19 impact on education institutions and academic libraries

Ubiquitous mobile Internet access has changed the reading and learning habits of the younger generation (Yu *et al.*, 2022; Banshal *et al.*, 2022; Chan *et al.*, 2022; Ding *et al.*, 2021; Pianzola *et al.*, 2022; Ezeamuzie *et al.*, 2022; Wang *et al.*, 2016; 2022a) and facilitated anytime, anywhere learning activities (Chen and Chen, 2022; Yip *et al.*, 2021; Zhang *et al.*, 2021; Fan *et al.*, 2021; Lau *et al.*, 2020; Law *et al.*, 2019), especially under the constraints of COVID-19 restrictions (Li *et al.*, 2021b; Sung and Chiu, 2022). While online learning has developed further to MOOCs (Cheng *et al.*, 2022; Cheng, 2022; Wang *et al.*, 2022b) for quite some time, online and virtual learning was not the major way until the pandemic. In this issue, Hsieh *et al.* (2023) studied nursing students' perceptions of adopting virtual learning and related educational technologies using regression analyses. They noted that virtual learning helped improve nursing students acquiring geriatric healthcare. Also, Chang *et al.* (2023) used a school's COVID-19 prevention website and two questionnaires (Perceptions of COVID-19 and the Information System Success Questionnaire) to study the opinion of university students from a southern Taiwan university on the website quality.

Following up on the research of Leung *et al.* (2022), Yu *et al.* (2023) studied the operations of academic libraries in Hong Kong during the COVID-19 pandemic. They discussed librarians' difficulties and challenges through data collected from semi-structured interviews, such as service quality concerns. They also provided suggestions to library management to handle the post-COVID-19 development. Concerning library management, similar arrangements occurred quite commonly, as reported in our previously published articles (Fasae *et al.*, 2021; Meng *et al.*, 2021). Readers may compare the results of their findings with those done before COVID-19 under similar contexts (Zhou *et al.*, 2021; Chan, Chiu, and Lam, 2020), as well as the study on cultural library spaces by Noh (2021). Our recent issues also selected some articles on reading (Chiu and Ho, 2022a) and library management (Chiu and Ho, 2022b).

COVID-19 impact on public services

The COVID-19 pandemic makes us develop, design, and adjust many existing procedures and operations of public services to accommodate social distancing and related public health concerns. We have several papers discussing the difficulties and challenges these public services face. In this issue, Zhang *et al.* (2023) studied factors making Chinese citizens' dissatisfied with government services. They suggested government departments should be more patient with citizens, increase the speed of handling complaints, and shorten the appeal processing time. Meng *et al.* (2023), on the other hand, studied the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operations of public museums in Hong Kong through interviews developed based on the PEST (Political, Economic, Social, Technology) and AIDA (Attention, Interest, Desire, Action) models with museum staff and visitors. They discussed and highlighted the new practices of museums developed through digital transformation.

COVID-19 impacts on the society

During the COVID-19 pandemic, people were asked to have home quarantine, take vaccination (Li *et al.*, 2022; Mir *et al.*, 2022; Thanh *et al.*, 2022), and use contact-tracing apps (Ho *et al.*, 2023; Nguyen *et al.*, 2022; Rocha *et al.*, 2021). This situation made people stressed and affected people's well-being (Avçın and Can, 2022). Ye and Ho (2023) studied the relationship between generalized trust and psychological well-being in college students in Japan before and during the pandemic. They showed the pandemic changed their communication behaviors. Nguyen *et al.* (2023) also studied contact-tracing apps in Vietnam and noted people's privacy concerns offset the perceived benefits of using such apps. On the other hand, the COVID-19 pandemic also increased people's stress and anxiety. For example, when most children were asked to stay home and study online, parents faced the stress of helping their kids study online (Wang *et al.*, 2023).

When facing this uncertain period, people relied more on information available online and on social media to get the latest development of the pandemic. While people understand the importance of information quality at this critical juncture (Wu *et al.*, 2022; Nguyen and Le, 2021; Hasan *et al.*, 2021), much misinformation may be spread on the Internet and traditional media (Naveed *et al.*, 2021; Ho *et al.*, 2022). Nabi *et al.* (2023) reported their finding from data collected in Bangladesh, which showed how to use social capital to establish trust between people and healthcare facilities through social media. Soroya and Faiola (2023) also studied the impact of information sources on the information-seeking behavior of the Pakistani Z generation and showed that they felt information from conventional media caused them information overload and information from social media and personal networks caused them information anxiety. Lastly, Yi and Chiu (2023) conducted a qualitative study to summarize public information needs in mainland China during the pandemic.

Readers may note many new information behavior patterns have become more common. For example, mainland Chinese may consider not just browsing and searching on platforms like Zhihu but also paying for knowledge there (Feng *et al.*, 2022). Also, telemedicine is getting more common to avoid further infections (Rahi, 2022). Readers may also be interested in our recent special issue on "Data for better health" (Wu and Yu, 2020). We hope our readers enjoy our selection for this special issue and wish our community good health and safety.

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