Mapping the Literature: A Bibliometric Analysis of Evidence Based Practice
Literature in English Language Nursing Journals
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Problem: Research is essential for defining the nursing profession, providing a mechanism for determining best practices, and advancing the science of nursing practice. Journal literature is the primary vehicle for communication between nursing research and practice.

Evidence: The bibliographic data was obtained using OVID interface for the CINAHL database. The search was limited to core nursing journals published between 1990-2005 using 22 keywords. All titles and abstracts were reviewed to find the number of times the phrase evidence-based occurred with each of the keywords.

Strategy: Bibliometric analysis provides insight into the growth of literature and the flow of knowledge within a specified field of academic research. Diffusion Theory provided a framework for mapping the literature of evidence-based nursing using bibliometric methodology.

Practice Change: Examination of bibliometric information provides information about the structure within the field and the development of the patterns of communication. Bibliometric analysis provides an account of publishing activities and is used as a benchmark to monitor the development of science and technology.

Evaluation: The bibliometric method used empiric data and quantitative analysis to trace formal communications in the form of published literature and to study the patterns of publications within a field. Both the Development of the Nursing Field (Descriptive Indicators) and the Structure of the Scientific Nursing Field (Relational Indicators) were analyzed.

Results: Findings indicated a strong growth rate in publications and references over time but a lack of collaborative effort among nurses.

Recommendations: To make necessary and sustainable changes in practice, healthcare professionals must find ways to accelerate the diffusion of knowledge within their organizations. Nurses must find effective ways to promote diffusion of new knowledge to keep pace with changes in the future. Nurses must develop programs of research and publish their research findings in the nursing literature.

Bibliography:


Potter, W.G. (1988). Of making many books there is no end: Bibliometrics and libraries. The Journal of Academic Librarianship 14(Sepember), 238a-238c (insert between 238 and 239).


