

Using the Web of Science for the study of minorities disciplines in humanities: the case of folklore

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to show the usefulness of the Web of Science in order to obtain information about production and impact of Folklore, a minority academic area within the humanities. Up to now, there is no general bibliometric analysis of the discipline. This paper also describes the main characteristics of the area which emanate from the study itself. Data were retrieved from the *Web of Science* using the category “Folklore” through the Advanced search tool. The distribution of citations of each paper was obtained using the Citation Report. The results show the great importance of book reviews. Collaborative authorship is still unusual. Authors frequently publish in languages other than English. The use of WoS data allows the identification of other relevant information on the field of Folklore, despite its limitations in building to a global bibliometric study of the behaviour of the discipline.

Keywords: bibliometrics, folklore, humanities, web of science, scopus

Introduction

It is a well-known fact that there are shortcomings in the *Web of Science* – and somewhat less in the *Scopus* – in humanities subjects with a significant production in languages other than English (Hicks, 2004; Moed, 2005; Nederhof, 2006; Ardanuy *et al*, 2011; Chadegani *et al*, 2013). In several cases, useful tools such as Journal Citation Report (JCR) or SCImago Journal & Country Rank (SJR) do not exist. This absence appears to be the main factor responsible for the number of bibliometric studies in the

humanities being rather limited when compared to sciences or even social sciences (Stone, 1982; Van Impe, & Rousseau, 2006). Consequently Ardanuy (2013a) found that only 22.2% of citation analyses studies in the humanities were based on citation indexes; *ergo* 77.8% came from the manual extraction of references even though 62.3% of the works involved journal references.

Focusing on the discipline of Folklore, until recent times this area of Humanities has had difficulties in order to obtain a crisp identification from other disciplines such as Cultural Anthropology, or History with the consequent lack of academic respectability and a lasting presence in higher education (Dundes, 2005; Widdowson, 2010). Given this difficulty, it is not surprising that there are almost no bibliometric studies on Folklore though one can find some papers that analyze publications in a particular journal. Luis Calvo (2002), in his work about *Revista de Dialectología y Tradiciones Populares* (1944 to 1996), analysed the contents of this Spanish journal of anthropology and Folklore studies and offered some limited statistic data in an annex. Four years later, Cuiyin Chang (2006) carried out a bibliometric analysis of the Chinese journal *Folklore Studies*. Haydar Yalcin (2010) made a study of the Turkish journal *Millî Folklor* during the years 2007-2009 from the WoS database. An article by Jordi Ardanuy (2013b) showed the impact of the use of primary sources on citation analysis studies in the subject of Folklore through citation analysis of the Catalan journal *L'Upir*. All of these papers were published in the journals analyzed and in their respective languages.

Jill Terry Rudy (2002) studied the contribution of *Verbal Art as Performance* by Richard Bauman to Folklore studies and other scholarly fields. For the analysis she conducted a citation study using the Social Studies Citation Index (SSCI) and the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI). Clifford Dube Thukakwenzeka (2003) identified and analyzed literature on indigenous knowledge in South Africa from 1991 to 2002 hosted by SABINET. More recently, Le-dan Zheng (2009) published a bibliometric analysis of China's intangible cultural heritage (2004-2008). The paper, based on the Chinese academic journal network publishing database (CAJD), found a high degree of interdisciplinary material relating to Folklore. However, none of these studies offers a general overview of the discipline.

The main objective of this article is to show how the Web of Science can provide information on production and impact about this scientific discipline, as well as being a first bibliometric approach to it.

In August 2011, Thomson Reuters launched version 5 of the *Web of Knowledge* (WoK) – currently *Web of Science* (WoS). Among other changes and additions, the 222 former ISI Subject Categories in version 4 of WoK were renamed and extended to 225 WoS category terms (Leydesdorff et al. 2013), and later to 251. These categories are assigned by the Web of Science staff according to several criteria such as a journal's title, its

citation patterns, etc. (Leydesdorff and Rafols, 2009). In March 2012, version 5.6 incorporated a search by WoS categories from the Advanced Search page. This search feature is used in the present study in order to retrieve records labelled as Folklore, a WoS category used in the A&HCI. According to editorial notes on scope, this category covers resources on traditions, folk costume, story-telling, food, folk music, children's games, weddings, burials and other customs. In so far as A&HCI does not have a Journal Citation Report (JCR) until now, WoS does not use this category in order to rank journals.

Methodology

Records on Folklore documents up to the year 2012 were obtained from the online version of *Web of Science* in October 2013, Web of Knowledge at that time. Data was retrieved by means of WoS category "Folklore" in the Advanced Search. 2013 documents were excluded. The data on citations were obtained using the Citation Report tool. Since these data also included citations obtained during 2013, surplus values were removed manually. This tool has also been used to measure the index h of each journal, selecting in each case the corresponding papers and taking care manually of the accuracy of the data.

The results of the search were exported to a relational database and manually filtered in order to avoid duplication and to correct mistakes. As far as possible, the data were subjected to a process of control of authorities and country of affiliation of the authors. The main sources of information were the original papers as well as institutional information from universities and institutes of research. In some cases biographical notices and obituaries were used.

Since A&HCI does not have a JCR, Scimago County Rank was used in order to obtain impact factors by a manual selection with journal titles in the WoS Folklore category, because Scopus does not have a Folklore category as a possible value for any subject category field..

Results and discussion

Document types, languages and disciplinary areas

The total volume of records obtained from the WoS is 33.656 (6.7% in open access), of which 57% are book reviews, about 28,9% belong to articles from journals, and 0,9% corresponds to proceedings papers. The rest are other types of documents such as

editorial materials, notes, reviews, biographical items, etc (Table I). The prolific nature of book reviews is even higher than their overall volume in A&HCI. According to Zuccala and van Leeuwen (2011), in the period from 1981 to 2009 the percentage was about 45%. In the same lapse of time the present study found it to be 57%.

Table I. Distribution of records according to groups of document types

Document type	Quantity of documents		Citations		
	No. of documents	% of documents	Median	Mean	% of cited documents
Book review	19.197	57.0%	0	0.02	6.9%
Article	9.726	28.9%	0	1.45	38.3%
Editorial material	947	2.8%	0	0.29	21.6%
Note	693	2.1%	1	0,56	50.8%
Record review	420	1.2%	0	0.03	3.3%
Item about an individual	379	1.1%	0	0.09	9.2%
Biographical item	348	1.0%	0	0.06	5.7%
Review	327	1.0%	1	1.08	79.2%
Film review	321	1.0%	0	0.08	8.,0%
Proceedings paper	314	0.9%	0	0.68	23.6%
Letter	299	0.9%	0	0.10	9.4%
Other (poetry, news, fiction, other reviews, ...)	685	2.0%	0	0.18	9.3%
Total	33.656	100.0%	0	0.47	15.4%

As is known, the reviews consist of brief writings that analyze one or more works of scientific interest, addressing the relevance for the investigation of a topic at a given moment. They usually consist of a single epigraph and are presented following an argumentative structure. In the case at hand, the reviews do not only cover academic pornographies or re-editions and translations of ancient texts and collection of literary works, but include informative material about legends, tourist guides with Folklore material and even publications with occult or paranormal content.

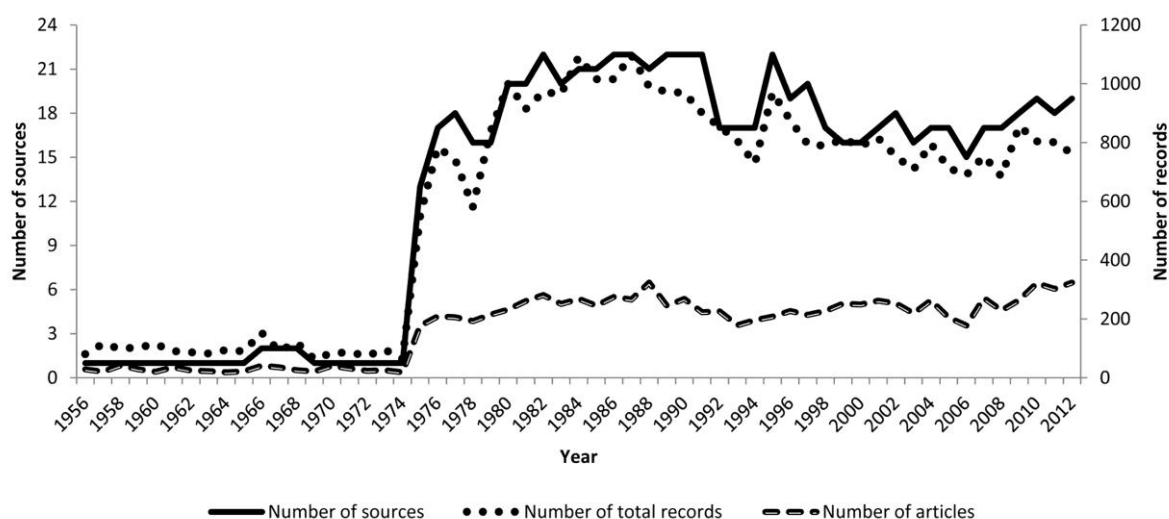
If the total of documents is considered, only 15.4% of all have obtained at least one citation. There are 38.3% of articles which had been cited, and 6.9% in the case of book reviews. This contrast between a greater presence of book reviews and a low level of citations journal articles in A&HCI had already been observed with reference to general literature and history (Zuccala and van Leeuwen, 2011).

The total volume of citations is 256.924. But our citation study is not based on a systematic analysis of citations in every paper, but a considerable part is monographs and books that constitute the object of study (primary sources). This fact is fully consistent with previous studies in the general humanities area (Ardanuy et al, 2009;

Engels, et al, 2012; Osca-Lluch et al, 2013). In the specific case of Folklore Yalcin (2010) found that 70.5% of all the citations were from books and Ardanuy (2013b) found this to be about 50%. On the other hand, citations to articles of folklore journals indexed in WoS are 15.855.

WoS indexes documents using the Folklore category dating back to 1956, but a significant number of sources do not appear until 1975, coinciding with the launch of A&HCI (Figure 1). Before 1975, the *Journal of American Folklore* is the only indexed source excepting *Acta Scientiarum Ethnographica Academiae Hungaricae* from 1966 to 1968. Naturally, the total number of records per year is closely related to this situation, as can also be seen from Figure 1. Significantly, the number of items reached their peak in the 1980s.

Figure 1. Number of sources, total number of records and number of articles according to document type category within WoS



With regard to sources, there are 29 journals overall – two of which had a significant change of name. 10 of these journals (34.5%) are based in the USA; 4 in the UK, 3 in Germany and the other 12 in different countries (Table II). 15 (51.7%) of them publish only in English, one in French, and one in German. In contrast, 13 journals (44.8%) are published in two or more languages. 21 titles of proceedings were recorded from academic conferences.

Of the total of papers in journals, 29,3% were published in American journals (33,4 if only articles are considered); 27,1 % in German journals (13,4% of articles); 11,0% in journals from UK (13,1%); 7,3% from Austria (5,9%); 6,9% from Switzerland (4,1%); 5,0% from Japan (4,9%); 4,2% from Belgium (5,4%); and ,9 from Spain (6,0 %).

Table 2. Folklore Journals in WoS

Journal	Organization responsible	Main Language	Other languages, if applicable	% of papers of total	% of articles of total	Main contributor countries or regional areas (more than 5% of articles in each journal)
<i>Acta Ethnographica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae</i>	Akadémiai Kiadó (Hungarian Academy of Sciences)	English	French German	1.6%	1,5%	Hungary (72.0%)
<i>Asian Ethnology</i> . Continued by: <i>Asian Folklore Studies</i>	Nanzan University (Japan)	English		4.9%	4,9%	USA (40.6%); Asian countries (27.2%), including Japan (8.3%) and China (5.8%); UK (5.4%).
<i>Fabula</i>	International Society for Folk Narrative Research (Germany)	English	French German	9.0%	5,9%	Germany (28.2%); USA (21.7%); Israel (5.5%); Switzerland (5.3%)
<i>FF Communications</i>	Folklore Fellows. Academia Scientiarum Fennica (Finnish Academy of Science and Letters)	English	French German Spanish Dutch	0.6%	1,4%	USA (25.8%); Finland (23.7%); UK (18.3%); Sweden (12.9%); Norway (5.4%)
<i>Folk Life. Journal of Ethnological Studies</i>	Society for Folk Life Studies (Wales)	English		0.2%	2,8%	UK (76.7%); Ireland (6.7%)
<i>Folk Music Journal</i>	English Folk Dance and Song Society	English		3.5%	1,5%	UK (75.8%); USA (12.1%)
<i>Folklore</i>	The Folklore Society (England)	English		5.7%	6,3%	UK (44.6%); USA (26.7%)
<i>Folklore Americano</i>	Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia (Pan American Institute of Geography and History, Mexico)	Spanish	Portuguese English	1.0%	2,3%	Latin America (78.3%), including Guatemala (18.3%), Argentina (15.0%), Costa Rica (6.1%), (Brazil (5.6%); Chile (5.6%); USA (16.1%)
<i>Folklore: Electronic Journal of Folklore</i>	Eesti Keele Instituut (Institute of Estonian Language, Estonia)	English		0.6%	1,2%	Estonia (34.9%); Russia (11.9%); Finland (9.2%); Greece (6.4%)
<i>International Journal of oral History</i>	Alan M. Meckler (USA)	English		0.9%	1,1%	USA (70.4%)
<i>Jahrbuch für Volksliedforschung</i> Continued by: <i>Lied und Populäre Kultur Song and Popular Culture</i>	Deutsche Volksliedarchiv (German Folk Song Archive)	German	English French	7.2%	3,0%	Germany (60.1%); USA (13.1%); Austria (6.5%)
<i>Journal of American Folklore</i>	American Folklore Society	English		14.7%	12,4%	USA (88.5%); Canada (5.0%)
<i>Journal of the Folklore Institute</i> . Continued by: <i>Journal of Folklore Research</i>	Folklore Institute at Indiana University	English		2.1%	5,1%	USA (69.6%);
<i>Journal of Latin American Lore</i>	Latin American Institute (USA)	English	Spanish	0.3%	1,0%	USA (78.1%); Latin America (12.5%),
<i>Kentucky Folklore Record</i>	Kentucky Folklore Society	English		0.1%	0,2%	USA (94.4%)
<i>Mélusine</i>	Editions d'Homme (France)	French		0.9%	2,8%	France (66.0%); USA (12.0%)
<i>Milli Folklor</i>	Milli Folklor Dergisi (Turkey)	Turkish	English French	1.4%	4,1%	Turkey (97.0%)
<i>Mythlore</i>	Mythopoeic Society (USA)	English		2.4%	2,3%	USA (85.4%)
<i>New York Folklore</i>	New York Folklore Society	English		1.3%	2,8%	USA (93.7%)

Journal	Organization responsible	Main Language	Other languages, if applicable	% of papers of total	% of articles of total	Main contributor countries or regional areas (more than 5% of articles in each journal)
<i>Osterreichische Zeitschrift für Volkskunde</i>	Österreichische Zeitschrift für Volkskunde (The Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art)	German		7.2%	5.9%	Austria (66.9%); Germany (18.3%);
<i>Revista de Dialectología y Tradiciones Populares</i>	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Spanish National Research Council)	Spanish	English French Portuguese Germany	2.9%	6.0%	Spain (77.7%); Latin America (8.9%); USA (5.8%)
<i>Revista de Etnografie si Folclor.</i>	Academia Română (Romanian Academy)	English	French German Italian	0.2%	0,5%	Romania (42.9%); Hungary (16.3); Germany (8,2%); Bulgaria (6.1%); UK (6.1%)
<i>Schweizerisches Archiv für Volkskunde</i>	Schweizerisches Archiv für Volkskunde (Swiss folklore archive)	German	French Italian English	6.8%	4,1%	Switzerland (53.8%); Germany (29.0%); Austria (5.9%)
<i>Southern Folklore Quarterly</i>	South Atlantic Modern Language Association & University of Florida (USA)	English		0.3%	0,5%	USA (91.2%)
<i>Ulster Folklife</i>	Ulster Folk and Transport Museum	English		1.5%	2,4%	UK (79.8%); Ireland (12.8%); USA (5.3%)
<i>Voices. The Journal of New York Folklore</i>	New York Folklore Society	English		1.4%	2,2%	USA (97.1%)
<i>Volkskunde</i>	Centrum voor Studie en Documentatie (Center for Research and Documentation, Belgium))	Dutch	German English French	4.1%	5,4%	Belgium (87.4%); Netherlands (10.6%)
<i>Western Folklore</i>	Western States Folklore Society (USA)	English		5.4%	5,9%	USA (92,1%)
<i>Zeitschrift für Volkskunde</i>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Volkskunde (German Folklore Society)	German	English	10.5%	4,5%	Germany (77.0%); Austria (7.1%); Switzerland (6.1%)

If the focus is on the category “article” as document type, the number of papers rises to 9.726. 16,2% of these records also belong to another subject category than Folklore and 1,6% to two or more other categories.

The predominant subject is Literature, which appeared in 476 records, followed by Asian Studies (455), Humanities-Multidisciplinary (283), Music (261), Archaeology (152), Anthropology (152), and finally History (104). Perhaps it is necessary to remind the reader that WoS Category classifies journals, but not paper by paper.

58,9% of articles were published in English; 19,6% in German; 8,0% in Spanish; 5,3% Dutch (or Flemish); 4,1% Turkish; 3,9% French; and the remaining 0,3% – only 27 papers – in Portuguese, Italian, Russian and Greek, with two being multilingual. In the case of book reviews, the dominant language is German at 51,4% followed by English at 42,1% and – far behind – Dutch (2,7%) and Spanish (2,3). However, 92% of proceedings papers were in English.

The chronological evolution of languages other than English very much depends on the addition or termination of some particular journal title. For instance, the appearance of

articles in Turkish occurs only with the indexation of the journal *Milli Folklor* from 2007.

Productivity, collaboration, and geographical distribution

The total number of different authors of articles was 6.176; 64 papers did not show the name of the researcher. Table 3 shows the fifteen authors who have written 20 articles or more. They are renowned folklorists and ethnologists who have chiefly used the language of their country of birth or professional adoption. It should be noted that three of them have only published in a journal indexed in WoS. The situation changes greatly if book reviews are considered. For instance, the Swiss folklorist Robert Widhaber (1902-1982) appears to be the author with the most indexed documents. Of the 336 records, 332 are book reviews, 1 is an autobiography and only three are 3 articles.

Table III. Authors with the most articles in WoS

Author	Country	Main used language in papers (with % of total)	Total no. of articles	Total no. of different journals
Braekman, Willy Louis	Belgium (Flanders)	Dutch (97.4%)	78	1
Dundes, Alan	USA	English (97.2)	36	8
Top, Stefaan	Belgium (Flanders)	Dutch (94.3%)	35	3
Schindler, Margot	Austria	German (100%)	32	1
Smith, John B	UK (England)	English (100%)	29	6
Bendix, Regina	Germany (born in Switzerland)	English (64 %)	25	7
Abrahams, Roger D.	USA	English (100%)	24	6
Thijs, Alfons K. L.	Belgium (Flanders)	Dutch (95.7%)	23	1
Tschofen, Bernhard	Switzerland (Nowadays) Germany, Austria (formerly) (born in Germany)	German (100%)	23	3
Bausinger, Hermann	Germany	German (72.7%)	22	6
Bronner, Simon J.	USA (born in Israel)	English (100%)	21	7
Köstlin, Konrad	Austria Germany (formerly) (born in Germany)	German (90.4%)	21	5
Lindahl, Carl	USA	English (100%)	21	5
Oring, Elliott	USA	English (100%)	21	6
Mieder, Wolfgang	USA (born in Germany)	English (85.0%)	20	11
75 authors between 10 and 19 articles	-	-	978	-
378 authors between 4 and 9 articles	-	-	1991	-
306 authors with 3 articles	-	-	918	-
784 authors with 2 articles	-	-	1568	-

Author	Country	Main used language in papers (with % of total)	Total no. of articles	Total no. of different journals
4618 authors with 1 article	-	-	4618	-

The distribution of the number of authors in relation to yield per author follows a power law which closely fits Lotka's numerical expression $N(x) = 0.7498/x^{2.5206}$ with a maximum absolute deviation of 0.006 in the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.

The analysis of the set of articles shows that the percentage of work done by one author alone is 93,4%; of the remaining 6,6% featuring co-authorship 5,3% have two authors; 0,9% three; and 0,4 four or more, with a maximum value of 17. Obviously the median is exactly 1 – and the mean 1,09. The results are similar in the case of conference proceedings (91,7% with a single author). Naturally, in book reviews and other kinds of documents co-authorship is even less frequent. No change in trends has been seen in recent years.

These results agree closely with Yalcin's study (2010) of the Turkish journal *Millî Folklor* between 2007 and 2009. He found that of a total of 180 articles, 97% had only one author; 4 articles two authors; 1 article three authors and 1 article was multi-authored. Yalcin's paper states also that more than 98% of items in *Millî Folklor* were written by authors from Turkey. Clearly in the present study the distribution is very different, although it must be noted that the author's country could be only determined in 77.4% of cases in articles. In the present study the results obtained show that the USA is the main contributor (37,3%), followed by the UK (9,5%), Germany (9,4%), Spain (5,2%), Turkey (5,2%) and Austria (5,1%), with a total of ninety-seven countries making up the rest.

Most cited papers, authors, and journals

The single most cited article is "Tradition, Genuine or Spurious" by Richard Handler and Jocelyn Linnekin, published in the *American Journal of Folklore*, with 253 citations. In fact, 24 of the 25 most cited articles are from this journal. The first article from another journal (*Folklore*) is not found until 19th position. Table IV shows 12 articles with more than 50 citations. All of these authors are from the USA by birth or professional adoption.

Among proceedings, the most cited paper is "The Symbolic Ur-Meaning of Shamanism and Performing Arts" (*Shamanism in Performing Arts Conference*) by the Korean folklorist Tae-Gon Kim. This paper has 66 citations, while the remainder of proceedings get six citations or less. Among other kinds of documents, the most cited is the editorial "Theorizing the Hybrid" in a special issue of *Journal of American Folklore* by the

American researchers Deborah A. Kapchan and Pauline Turner Strong. This paper obtains 46 citations, and it is followed by two book reviews from the same journal with 31 and 29 citations respectively.

Table IV. Articles with more than 50 citations

Author	Title	Year of publication	No. citations
Handler, Richard; Linnekin, Jocelyn	Tradition, genuine or spurious	1984	253
Ben-Amos, Dan	Toward a definition of folklore in context	1971	114
Abrahams, Roger D.	Introductory remarks to a rhetorical theory of folklore	1968	101
Georges, Robert A.	Toward an understanding of storytelling events	1969	85
Dundes, Alan	From etic to emic units in the structural study of folktales	1962	79
Abrahams, Roger D.	Phantoms of romantic nationalism in folkloristics	1993	72
Wolf, Eric Robert	The virgin of guadalupe - a mexican national symbol	1958	68
Bascom, William R.	The forms of folklore - prose narratives	1965	66
Hymes, Dell Hathaway	Folklores nature and suns myth	1975	62
Robinson, John A.	Personal narratives reconsidered	1981	62
Abrahams, Roger D.	Playing the dozens	1962	61
Kalcik, Susan	"...Like Ann's gynecologist or time. I was almost raped". Personal narratives in Women's Rap Groups	1975	53

In all, papers received a total of 17.609 citations. The author most cited is Alan Dundes (1934-2005), formerly folklorist at the University of California, Berkeley (table V). He also obtained the highest H index, with a value of 11. In a very general sense, the higher the number of citations, the higher the H index is. However, there is a notable exception: American cultural anthropologists Richard Handler and Jocelyn Linnekin obtain most of their citations from a single article. This paper is cited in several fields due to its deepening of the concept of tradition and its relation to nationalism.

Despite the fact that in the case of most cited authors the majority of citations received are for their articles and not for another kind of document, there are exceptions. For instance, American professor Deborah Kapchan only reaches 26.5% from this document type.

Table V. Author with 100 citations or more

Author	Total no. citations	H index	No. cited papers	No. citations in articles	% citations from articles
Dundes, Alan	414	11	38	402	97.1%
Abrahams, Roger D.	343	8	29	330	96.2%
Handler, Richard	259	2	2	253	97.7%
Linnekin, Jocelyn	253	1	1	253	100.0%
Georges, Robert A	232	6	20	221	95.3%

Author	Total no. citations	H index	No. cited papers	No. citations in articles	% citations from articles
Ben-Amos, Dan	217	6	16	184	84.8%
Oring, Elliott	179	8	27	140	78.2%
Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, B	146	6	9	85	58.2%
Bauman, Richard	145	6	12	123	84.8%
Fine, Gary Alan	144	7	19	126	87.5%
Degh, Linda	130	7	14	99	76.2%
Bendix, Regina	110	6	21	104	94.5%
Hymes, Dell Hathaway	108	4	6	106	98.1%
Bascom, William R	104	5	6	92	88.5%
Kapchan, Deborah	102	4	4	27	26.5%

With regard to the most cited journals, the first place in the ranking is occupied by the *Journal of American Folklore (JAF)* which has 45,1% of citations and a mean of 1,53 citations per paper. According to WoS their H-index was 30. *JAF* is followed a long way behind by *Western Folklore* with 10,7% of citations and an H-index of 15; then the *Journal of the Folklore Institute/Journal of Folklore Research* (8,0%); and *Folklore* (6,9%), among journals with more than 200 citations (table VI). The median is 156 citations and the mean is nearly 600 citations per journal. Yalcin's study on *Millî Folklor* also found *JAF* to be the most cited journal (22,7 %), followed by *Zeitschrift fur Volkskunde* (13,5%).

Table VI. Journals with more than 200 citations

Title of Journal	No. papers	Total no. of citations	% of citations	Accumulated % of citations	Citations per paper	WoS H index
<i>Journal of American Folklore</i>	4800	7843	45.1%	45.1%	1.63	30
<i>Western Folklore</i>	1853	1865	10.7%	55.8%	1.01	15
<i>Journal of the Folklore Institute.</i> Later, <i>Journal of Folklore Research</i>	694	1399	8.0%	63.9%	2.02	13
<i>Folklore</i>	1867	1195	6.9%	70.7%	0.64	9
<i>Fabula</i>	3069	895	5.1%	75.9%	0.29	9
<i>Asian Ethnology.</i> Later, <i>Asian Folklore Studies</i>	1611	678	3.9%	79.8%	0.42	7
<i>Zeitschrift fur Volkskunde</i>	3422	674	3.9%	83.6%	0.20	9
<i>Journal of Latin American Lore</i>	91	380	2.2%	85.8%	4.18	9
<i>Folk Music Journal</i>	1176	305	1.8%	87.6%	0.26	7
<i>New York Folklore</i>	538	296	1.7%	89.3%	0.55	7
<i>Volkskunde</i>	1360	230	1.3%	90.6%	0.17	4
<i>Schweizerisches Archiv fur Volkskunde</i>	2211	227	1.3%	91.9%	0.10	6

Obsolescence

With regard to synchronous obsolescence, the half-life is 16 years, including both primary and secondary sources, being the oldest documents of the year 1500 (*Collectanea Adagiorum y Den Herbarius in Dyetsche*). The Price Index corresponding to the percentage of references that do not date back more than 5 years is 15,9% and the arithmetic mean is 30,7 years. But obsolescence goes down to 9 years if only citations to folklore articles indexed in WoS are considered, which naturally secondary sources are. This difference in obsolescence should not be attributed exclusively to the presence of primary sources in the first case, since several studies have shown a slower obsolescence of the contributions published in the monographs compared to that of journal articles (Wolfe Thompson, 2002; Ardanuy et al, 2009). For citations in WoS folklore papers, the Price Index is 33,2% and the half-life decline to 12,2 years.

There is not much data available to compare specifically within the area of folklore. Yalcin (2010) estimated a very similar half-life of 11.8 years for articles in *Millî Folklor*. Ardanuy (2013b), in his analyses of *L'Upir*, a Catalan folkloric journal, obtained a value of 20 years if we consider all citations, but only 14 if just the secondary sources are considered. In this paper the Price Index estimated from secondary sources was 31.8%.

Conclusions

This paper studies the scientific field of folklore from a bibliometric outlook. This analysis has been made possible due to the WoS category terms search option introduced in 2012 and claimed previously by bibliometric researchers (Ardanuy et al., 2011). In previous versions this only existed as an ex-post filtering tool. It would be highly useful to extend the thematic areas, with more categories or by splitting them, both in WoS and Scopus. In the latter there is no Folklore category and the most outstanding folklore journals – *JAL*, *Western Folklore* and *Folklore* – belong to different Scimago journal rank (SJR) categories.

By focusing on the results of the field of Folklore, the predominance of American journals can be observed. Slightly more than one third are from the USA and a little over half are published only in English. The low level of citations received in several cases, as well as the fact that mainly they have a regional orientation in content, would justify the inclusion of more Folklore journals in WoS. Their profiles of citations received and publication policy are similar from some of present journals in WoS.

The present study also shows the great importance of book reviews, which together represent more than half of the records. But not only of academic books, showing that

researchers need information from non-scholarly materials including those of the paranormal nature, perhaps to know the limitations of such sources, and also as a primary source, because of Folklore, as a cultural expression, is in perpetual change.

On the other hand, although statistical data have not been provided, books and monographs have great importance, what should be considered for a global evaluation of the discipline and its agents. Along with this feature appear other typical characteristics of the humanities disciplines (Stone, 1982; Watson-Boone, 1996) such as the fact that collaborative authorship is still unusual, the local and regional orientation of a lot of papers and, consequently, authors tend to publish in languages other than English. Even more, quite a few authors published only in journals belonging to their own country or nearby regions. The level of obsolescence of this discipline is low. In summary, the results obtained confirm the traditional patterns of communication in the humanities. From this perspective, it does not seem very useful to have a JCR in the area.

Finally, it is noteworthy that the use of WoS data allows the identification of relevant information on the field of Folklore, such as the fact that the most influential journal is the *American Journal of Folklore* and the outstanding researcher is Alan Dundes.

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