

# The Journal of Central Asian Studies

## A Bibliometric Study

Fayaz Ahmad Loan

### Abstract

*The study is the first bibliometric analysis of the “Journal of Central Asian Studies”. This journal started its publication from 1990 (a year before the disintegration of the former USSR) and 23 volumes had been published till 2016.*

*Objectives of the study - The study aims to conduct the bibliometric analysis of the “Journal of Central Asian Studies” from 1990 to 2016 in order to identify editorial assignments, authorship patterns, and institutional productivity, geographical contribution in the journal.*

*Methodology - The bibliometric data of the papers were manually collected from the hard copies of the journal in the excel file. Later, the data were tabulated and analysed using the simple mathematical and statistical quantitative techniques to reveal the findings.*

*Findings - The journal published 266 papers in 23 volumes contributed by 202 authors from 55 institutions and 23 countries of the world. Prof. Abdul Majeed Madoo performed the duties of the “Chief Editor” of the maximum volumes (12) of the journal followed by Prof. G N Khaki for (3). The content analysis of the journal depicted that the research papers constitute the maximum contents (252, 94.74%) whereas book reviews (9, 3.38%), abstracts (1.13%) and reprints (2, 0.75%) are also available in little number. The authorship trends of the journal revealed that the maximum number of research papers are contributed by the single author (232, 87.22%) followed by double authors (27, 10.15%) and Triple authors (07, 2.63%) respectively. The maximum number of papers are contributed by Ajiar A. Bandey (10) followed by M. A. Kaw (9) and G. M. Mir (8) respectively. Among the fifty five (55) academic and research institutions, the top contributing institutions are the University of Kashmir (139), Jawaharlal Nehru University (18), University of Mumbai (11), Aligarh Muslim University (9), University of Jammu (7), and Academy of Sciences, Uzbekistan (7) respectively. The regional analysis shows that twenty-three (23) countries of the world have contributed to the journal and the maximum number of papers are contributed by India (208, 78.20%) followed by Uzbekistan (8, 3.01%), Kazakhstan (7, 2.63%), USA (6, 2.26%) and Pakistan (4, 1.50%) respectively.*

### Keywords

Central Asia, Bibliometrics, Authorship Patterns, Authorship Collaboration.

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Central Asia**

Central Asia is important in its own right as it is the vital fulcrum between the dynamism of East Asia and the wealth and technology in Western Europe (David Denoon, 2016). Central Asian region mainly extends from the Caspian Sea in the west to the border of western China to the east. According to Kidd (2007), “It is hard to define the area covered by Central Asia due to physical and political factors and the decision making of the last 200 years have defined and re-defined borders, however, the Central Asian region stretches from the eastern edges of Mongolia, including the western Chinese province of Xinjiang, to the Black Sea and modern Turkey; and south to include a little of Northern Iran and Northern Afghanistan”. Strategically, it is placed between Russia, China, Iran, and Afghanistan. Central Asia comprises of the five states of the former USSR including Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Other areas are often included such as Mongolia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Kashmir and Ladakh – and Western parts of the People’s Republic of China such as Xinjiang, Southwestern and Middle China such as Tibet and Inner Mongolia (Mir, 1993). The region of Central Asia is mostly viewed as the major bastion of the human civilizations. However, this region gained prime importance in research since the disintegration of the USSR in 1991 as many research centres were established worldwide to conduct research on the region. The research establishments focus on various regional issues and problems. As a result, a large corpus of research information has been produced and published worldwide on Central Asia. However, the present study will conduct a bibliometric study of the “The Journal of Central Asian Studies”.

### **1.2 Bibliometrics**

Bibliometrics is a promising area of research in the field of library and information science (LIS) and has realistic applications in measuring the coverage and quality of books, journals, and articles. Bibliometrics implies the use of standard statistical and mathematical analysis on bibliographic data (Jena, Swain and Sahu, 2010). The term Bibliometrics was coined in 1969 by Alan Pritchard who defined it as, “the application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other media of communication” (Pritchard, 1969). Hood and Wilson (2001) analyzed the three matrices - Bibliometrics, Informetrics, and Scientometrics and

opined that bibliometrics finds its roots in bibliography and statistics which can be administered on bibliographic data to achieve results. It acts as an instrument of documenting the publication performance of authors and institutions as well as the reception of their work measured by a number of citations. Bibliometrics as a technique has extensive applications in identifying and studying the research trends in a subject, author productivity, research collaboration, literature growth, core periodicals, institutional performance, regional contribution, citation patterns, and other dimensions.

### ***1.3 Journal of Central Asian Studies***

The Journal of Central Asian Studies (ISSN 0975086X)” started its publication in 1990 (a year before the disintegration of the former USSR) and 23 volumes of the journal had been published till 2016. Besides, printing its high-quality hard copies, the journal is published in electronic form as well. It is considered as one of the prominent journals on Central Asia and has a gained great reputation among the Central Asian experts. The Journal has an international recognized Editorial Board and is acclaimed across the world for its quality, style and content. This refereed journal receives research papers from across the world. Later, these papers are reviewed by the area study experts from India and abroad. The journal is indexed in the world’s two leading databases-EBSCO and ProQuest.

## **2. Research Design**

### ***2.1 Purpose of the Study***

The study aims to conduct the bibliometric analysis of the “Journal of Central Asian Studies” from 1990 to 2016 on various parameters, viz:

- a) To study the editorial assignments, their duties and responsibilities;
- b) To study the authorship patterns, collaboration, affiliation, ranking, and credibility; and
- c) To study the institutional and geographical contribution to the journal.

### ***2.2 Methodology***

The study is the first bibliometric analysis of the “Journal of Central Asian Studies”. The Journal started its publication in 1990 and 23 volumes were published till 2016 containing 266 papers. The bibliometric data of the papers were manually collected from the hard copies of the

Journal in the excel file. Later, the data were tabulated and analysed using simple mathematical and statistical quantitative techniques.

### **2.3 Limitations**

The study is the bibliometric analysis of a single journal and its findings can't be generalized.

## **3. Data Analysis**

### **3.1 General Analysis**

The present study is the first bibliometric analysis of the “Journal of Central Asian Studies” published since 1990 and till 2016. The journal published 266 papers in 23 volumes contributed by 202 authors from 55 institutions and 23 countries of the world (Table 1).

**Table 1**  
**General Information**

<b>Number of Years</b>	<b>Number of Volumes</b>	<b>Number of Papers</b>	<b>Number of Authors</b>	<b>Number of Institutions</b>	<b>Number of Countries</b>
27	23	266	202	55	23

### **3.2 Editorial Assignments**

The Centre of Asian Studies has published 23 volumes of the journal till 2016. Prof. Abdul Majeed Matoo is the “Chief Editor” of the maximum (12) volumes of the Journal followed by Prof. G N Khaki for (3). All other “Directors” of the Centre also performed the duties of “Chief Editors”. However, the “Director” of the Centre of the Central Asian Studies always remains the “Chief Editor” of the journal officially. Prof. Gulshan Majeed has performed the duties of “Editor” for 15 volumes followed by Prof. M A Kaw and Prof. G M Mir for 3 volumes each (Table 2).

**Table 2**  
**Editorial Assignments**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>	<b>Number of Volumes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	Prof. Abdul Majeed Matoo	12	52.17
2.	Prof. Gulshan Majeed	02	8.70
3.	Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Kaw	02	8.70
4.	Prof. Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir	02	8.70
5.	Prof. Ghulam Rasool Jan	02	8.70
6.	Prof Ghulam Nabi Khaki	03	13.04

S. No.	Editor/s	Number of Volumes	Percentage
1.	B K Deambi	01	4.35
2.	Prof. Gulshan Majeed	15	65.22
3.	Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Kaw	03	13.04
4.	Prof. Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir	03	13.04
5.	Prof. Ghulam Rasool Jan	00	0.00
6.	Prof. Aijaz A Bandey	01	4.35

### 3.3 Content Analysis

The content analysis of the journal depicted that the research papers constitute the maximum contents (252, 94.74%) whereas book reviews (9, 3.38%), abstracts (1.13%) and reprints (2, 0.75%) are also available in little number (Table 3).

**Table 3**  
**Content Analysis**

S. No.	Category	Number	Percentage
1.	Research Paper	252	94.74
2.	Book Review	09	3.38
3.	Abstract	03	1.13
4.	Reprints	02	0.75
<b>Total</b>		<b>266</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.4 Authorship Collaboration

The authorship trends of the journal revealed that the maximum number of research papers are contributed by the single author (232, 87.22%) followed by double authors (27, 10.15%) and Triple authors (07, 2.63%) respectively. It shows that the collaboration among the authors isn't so healthy in the journal (Table 4).

**Table 4**  
**Authorship Collaboration**

S. No.	Authorship Pattern	Number of Papers	Percentage
1.	Single	232	87.22
2.	Double	27	10.15
3.	Triple	07	2.63
<b>Total</b>		<b>266</b>	<b>100</b>

### **3.5 Prominent Authors**

In all 202 authors have contributed to the journal in which the prominent authors of the journal are mostly local followed by national and international respectfully. The maximum number of papers are contributed by Ajjaz A. Bandey (10) followed by M. A. Kaw (9), G. M. Mir (8), Gulshan Majeed (7), P. L. Dash (7), and R. G. Gidadhubli (6) respectively (Table 5).

**Table 5**  
**Prominent Authors**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of Authors</b>	<b>Number of Papers</b>	<b>Rank</b>
1.	Ajjaz A. Bandey	10	1
2.	M. A. Kaw	09	2
3.	G. M. Mir	08	3
4.	Gulshan Majeed	07	4
5.	P. L. Dash	07	4
6.	R. G. Gidadhubli	06	5
7.	Darakshshah Abdullah	05	6
8.	G. M. Shah	05	6
9.	M. Afzal Mir	05	6
10.	Tabasum Firdous	05	6
11.	A. M. Matoo	04	7
12.	A. R. Shah	04	7
13.	G. N. Khaki	04	7
14.	M. Monir Alam	04	7
15.	G. R. Jan	03	8
16.	Mohammad Ashraf Wani	03	8
17.	M. Ibrahim Wani	03	8
18.	Shamus-Ud-Din	03	8

### **3.6 Authors' Credibility**

The designation of authors is a quality metric index of the papers. The papers of the journal are contributed by a wide range of authors from academicians to defense experts like Professors, Associate Professors, Readers, Assistant Professors, Lecturers, Researchers, Defence Experts, Research Associates, and Research Fellows belonging to the various fields of knowledge. It is a good sign that most of the papers are contributed by Professors (65, 21.17%), Lecturers (57, 18.57%),

Assistant Professors (33, 10.75%), and Research Scholars (28, 9.12%) respectively (Table 6).

**Table 6**  
**Designation of Authors**

S. No.	Designation	Number of Papers	Percentage
1.	Professor	65	21.17
2.	Director	20	6.51
3.	Associate Professor	15	4.89
4.	Reader	16	5.21
5.	Assistant Professor	33	10.75
6.	Lecturer	57	18.57
7.	Researcher	9	2.93
8.	Research Associate	8	2.61
9.	Research Scholar	28	9.12
10.	Research Fellows	17	5.54
11.	Others	24	7.82
12.	Anonymous	15	4.89
<b>Total</b>		<b>307</b>	<b>100</b>

### **3.7 Institutional Contribution**

A good number of academic and research institutions (55) of the world have contributed to the journal. The top five institutions in terms of their contribution are the University of Kashmir (139), Jawaharlal Nehru University (18), University of Mumbai (11), Aligarh Muslim University (9), University of Jammu (7), and Academy of Sciences, Uzbekistan (7) respectively. It is noteworthy to mention that the Centre of Central Asian Studies (publishing body of the journal) has contributed (95) papers alone (Table 7).

**Table 7**  
**Institutional Contribution**

Rank	Institutional Affiliation	Number	Percentage
1.	University of Kashmir, J&K, India	139	52.26
2.	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India	18	6.77
3.	University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India	11	4.13
4.	Aligarh Muslim University, Up, India	9	3.38
5.	University of Jammu, J&K, India	7	2.63

6.	Academy of Sciences, Uzbekistan	7	2.63
7.	Department of Higher Education, J&K, India	6	2.26
8.	Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India	5	1.88
9.	Guru Nanak Dev University, Punjab, India	3	1.13
10.	J&K Cultural Academy, J&K, India	2	0.75
11.	Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata, India	2	0.75
12.	Archaeological Survey of India, India	2	0.75
13.	Panjab University, Chandigarh, India	2	0.75
14.	University of Leicester, United Kingdom	2	0.75
15.	Department of Education, J&K, India	2	0.75
16.	Others (One Each)	40	15.04
17.	Anonymous	9	3.38
<b>Total Institutions (55)</b>		<b>266</b>	<b>100</b>

### **3.8 Geographic Distribution**

Twenty three (23) countries of the world have contributed in the journal including India. The maximum number of papers are contributed by India (208, 78.20%) followed by Uzbekistan (8, 3.01%), Kazakhstan (7, 2.63%), USA (6, 2.26%) and Pakistan (4, 1.50%) respectively (Table 8).

**Table 8**  
**Geographic (Countries) Distribution**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of Papers</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	India	208	78.20
2.	Uzbekistan	8	3.01
3.	Kazakhstan	7	2.63
4.	USA	6	2.26
5.	Pakistan	4	1.50
6.	Kyrgyzstan	3	1.13
7.	Turkey	3	1.13
8.	Russia	2	0.75
9.	United Kingdom	2	0.75
10.	Iran	2	0.75
11.	Tajikistan	2	0.75
12.	Berlin	1	0.38
13.	China	1	0.38



14.	Oman	1	0.38
15.	Mongolia	1	0.38
16.	Mexico	1	0.38
17.	Hungary	1	0.38
18.	Bangladesh	1	0.38
19.	Italy	1	0.38
20.	Libya	1	0.38
21.	Sweden	1	0.38
22.	Georgia	1	0.38
23.	Israel	1	0.38
24.	Anonymous	7	2.63
<b>Total</b>		<b>266</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.9 Analysis of References

The references to the paper are a valuable tool to depict the quality of the paper. The range of references varies from 0-180. However, the almost 52% of the papers have up to 20 references and 48% have more than 20 references (Table 9). The average number of citations per article is 29.

**Table 9**  
**Analysis of References**

S. No.	Number - Series	Citations per Article	Percentage	Mid Value	<i>fx</i>
1.	0-20	139	52.26	10	1390
2.	21-40	61	22.93	30	1830
3.	41-60	34	12.78	50	1700
4.	61-80	18	6.77	70	1260
5.	81-100	6	2.26	90	540
6.	101-120	5	1.88	110	550
7.	121-140	2	0.75	130	260
8.	141-160	0	0.00	150	000
9.	161-180	1	0.38	170	170
		<b>Σf=266</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>Σfx=7700</b>
<b>Arithmetic Mean</b>		<b>Σfx/ Σf</b>	<b>7700/266</b>	<b>28.947</b>	<b>29</b>

### 4. Discussion

The present study is the first bibliometric analysis of the “Journal of Central Asian Studies” from 1990 - 2016. The journal published 266 papers in 23 volumes contributed by 202 authors from 55 institutions

and 23 countries of the world. The frequency of the journal is annual but the Centre has published only 23 volumes in 27 years. The possible reason may be the armed conflict in the J&K, which also started in 1989 a year before the commencement of the journal. It has badly affected the academic pursuits and educational system of the J&K state. In this age of trauma, the Centre has succeeded to publish the 23 volumes of the journal so far in the directorship of Prof. Abdul Majeed Matoo, Prof. Gulshan Majeed, Prof. M A Kaw, Prof. G M Mir, Prof G R Jan, Prof. Aijaz A Bandey and Prof. G N Khaki. It is pertinent to mention that the “Director” of the Centre acts as the “Chief Editor” of the journal officially. Actually, it is the editorial team consisting of the Journal Advisory Board, Editor, Associate editors, Reviewers and other editorial assistants who perform various activities under the leadership of the “Chief Editor” to publish “The Journal of Central Asian Studies”. The authorship trends of the Journal revealed that almost 87% of research papers are contributed by the single author. It shows that the collaboration among the authors isn’t so healthy in the journal. Moreover, the prominent authors of the journal are mostly local followed by national. The participation of the foreign authors is very less. Besides, the journal has published papers received from 55 academic and research institutions of the world. The top institutions in terms of their contribution are the University of Kashmir (India), Jawaharlal Nehru University (India), University of Mumbai (India), Aligarh Muslim University (India), University of Jammu (India), and Academy of Sciences, (Uzbekistan) respectively. Further, the journal has published papers received from 23 counties of the world. The maximum number of papers is contributed by India followed by Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, USA and Pakistan respectively. All the above facts show that the participation of the foreign authors, institutions and countries is not so healthy, that is a sign of concern. The editorial board must adopt strategies to attract authors’ of internationally reputed institutions from various countries to contribute in the journal. The call for papers should be published on various international platforms and Central Asian forums to receive the attention of foreign authors of international repute. Moreover, the journal authorities must send an invitation to foreign Central Asian experts for publication in the journal. It will highly increase the publication share of international authors and institutions respectively. The papers of the journal are contributed by a wide range of authors from academicians to defense experts

like Professors, Associate Professors, Readers, Assistant Professors, Lecturers, Researchers, Defence Experts, Research Associates, and Research Fellows belonging to the various reputed institutions imparting knowledge in an array of fields of knowledge. It is a positive sign that the papers of the journal are qualitative in nature.

The journal has published 266 papers till 2016 and the almost 95% of the contents constitute research papers. The journal publishes 11 articles as an average in one volume that needs to be increased. Further, the journal is published annually and its periodicity can be changed from annually to half-yearly or quarterly to accommodate more papers. However, it needs more involvement and academic labour of the journal staff.

### **Conclusion**

The Journal of Central Asian Studies is one of the reputed journals on Central Asia, focusing on economic, political, sociological, geographical, historical, religious, cultural, linguistic and other aspects of the greater Central Asian region including the five former republics of USSR. However, the journal has to adopt new publication technologies and trends to stay relevant in the present information society. Further, the journal is required to be indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases to gain impact factor which is a yardstick to measure the quality of journals along with other parameters.

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