


Chapter 30

Research on Economic Development and Mountain Tourism Using Science Mapping and Bibliometric Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Mountain tourism has grown in popularity worldwide as a result of busy city lives and growing health concerns in light of the global pandemic, which has raised the amount of study in this area. This study gathered 1413 journal articles on mountain tourism through bibliometric analysis and determined the most significant journal articles, researchers, and nations in mountain tourism research as indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) database between 2010 and 2020. It was based on traditional bibliometric laws, such as those written by Price, Bradford, Lotka, and Zipf. Emerging study issues related to mountain tourism were identified by the keyword analysis. These topics included protected areas, conservation, sustainable development, and climate change. The magazine Sustainability in Mountain Tourism had the most impact. The study's findings indicated that the most important mountain tourist articles indexed in the WoS were written in China, Romania, and the United States.

1. INTRODUCTION

Economic development and mountain tourism are increasingly recognized as interconnected fields that can drive sustainable growth in mountainous regions. As the global demand for unique and eco-friendly travel experiences rises, mountain tourism emerges as a crucial area of study. This sector not only provides economic benefits through job creation and infrastructure development but also raises important questions regarding environmental sustainability and cultural preservation.

To effectively analyse the landscape of research in this domain, science mapping and bibliometric analysis offer valuable tools. Science mapping visualizes the relationships among research themes, authors, and publications, while bibliometric analysis quantifies and assesses the academic output, trends, and impact within the field. By employing these methodologies, researchers can identify key areas of interest, emerging trends, and influential works, ultimately providing insights into how mountain tourism can contribute to economic development in a sustainable manner.

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1.1. Mountain Tourism as a Safe and Health Activity

Because mountain tourism has the ability to slow the spread of COVID-19, it may be safer than other types of tourist. The diversity of natural and cultural resources in isolated and frequently undiscovered geographic areas, along with complex visitor interests (Bacoş & Gabor, 2021), offer a refuge where the effects of the epidemic are less severe than in cities. It draws more and more wellness travelers. Sociocultural tourists are a part of mountain tourism. activities in addition to traveling, sightseeing, cycling (Buning & Lamont, 2021), climbing, hiking, adventure, or among other things, unwinding

1.2. Increasing Popularity of Mountain Tourism

As a result of its complementarity with other economic activities, mountain tourism (accessed on December 19, 2021) has the potential to spur social change and local economic growth. Its year-round appeal—that is, the absence of a “off season”—as well as its contribution to GDP and job creation also offer significant advantages. However, the ecology may suffer as a result of mountain tourism's growing popularity. The competitiveness of a location is adversely affected by overcrowded areas as well as tourist industry personnel that are solely focused on financial gains (Zeng, Li, & Huang, 2021). The market's competition prevents effective resource allocation to lessen these adverse effects. Therefore, in order to maintain mountain tourism as a means of saving the tourism sector in the event of a worldwide pandemic, collaboration on a global scale is required. As stated by the International Mountain Tourism Conference 2021 Annual Conference (<http://www.imtaweb.net/ywb/ywsys/>, accessed on 22 December 2021),

2. LITERATURE REVIEW.

Climate change, the development of sustainable mountain tourism, and the characteristics of rural and landscape areas have been the key areas of study for the field of mountain tourism. Taking into account the most recent published studies, we decided on a targeted strategy in light of the wealth of research on mountain tourism. The relationship between economic development and mountain tourism has garnered increasing scholarly attention over the past few decades. This literature review synthesizes key themes, findings, and methodological approaches in existing research, with a focus on how science mapping and bibliometric analysis can illuminate the landscape of this field.

2.1. Climate Change in Mountain Tourism Areas

The main industries impacted by hydrological and cryospheric changes have been agriculture (42%), tourism (12%), hydropower (8%), and health and safety (4%), according to research (Aggarwal et al., 2021). There is a dynamic interaction between tourism and climate change: travel by tourists generates emissions that affect the climate, and environmental changes affect tourist destinations (Demiroglu & Hall, 2020). As a result, research on the connection between tourism—especially mountain tourism—and climate change has gained popularity. According to Palomo, there is a direct threat to the livelihoods and cultures of mountain peoples as well as mountain tourism from the negative effects of climate change on food and animal feed, water availability, natural hazards regulation, spirituality and cultural identity, aesthetics, recreation, infrastructure, accessibility, and ecosystem services (Liu, Yu, & Hsieh, 2021). due to climatic variations, since resorts primarily depend on summertime glacier tourism and wintertime snow sports (Bonzanigo, Giupponi, & Balbi, 2016; Salim et al., 2021). The following are some ways that climate change has been observed to affect mountain tourism: (1) A range of extreme weather events, including decreased snowfall, glacier retreat, freezing temperatures, high rainfall, rising temperatures, and a decrease in total precipitation, can be brought on by climate change (Liu, Yu, & Hsieh, 2021; Dar, Rashid, Romshoo, & Marazi, 2014). Many of these changes in snowfall and glaciers, for instance, have been documented in the tropical Andes, the Hindu Kush Himalayas, and the European Alps (Fort, 2015). (2) Reduced snow cover, melting glaciers, and thawing permafrost are other effects of climate change that have an adverse effect on leisure pursuits and winter sports like cross-country skiing, snowboarding, glacier viewing, and mountaineering (Hock et al., 2019; Dar, Rashid, Romshoo, & Marazi, 2014). (3) As a result of glaciers melting in the highlands, climate change

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