PUBLONS BASED PROFILING OF TURKISH REVIEWERS AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

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Abstract

Introduction: Publons is the most prestigious and well-organized platform that allows to evaluate peer review metrics. It also provides publication and citation data as it is synchronized with the Web of Science. There are socio-cultural ties between Central Asian countries and Turkey, and these countries can take Turkey as a model for scientific development. Therefore, it will be useful for Central Asian countries to summarize Turkey's Publons activities. In this study, we used Publons database to list the top institutions, researchers and reviewers in Turkey.

Methods: Publons database was used to export the data on October 10, 2021. The top 20 researchers were identified in terms of the number of verified reviews. Additionally, the top 20 institutions were determined in terms of the number of researchers, number of verified reviews and top reviewers.

Results: On Publons, 57464 registered researchers from Turkey were found (ranked 7th) and 484 of these researchers had top reviewer status (ranked 16th). A total of 175644 verified reviews were detected from Turkey-based researchers (ranked 16th) and of which 45835 were performed in the last 12 months (ranked 14th). Based on the total number of researchers, four institutions from Turkey were in the top 100 in the world rankings (Hacettepe University, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, and Cukurova University). There were no institutions from Turkey among the top 100 in the lists created according to the number of verified reviews and top reviewers.

Conclusion: Turkey has a considerable number of researchers registered with Publons. However, Turkey should follow a scientific route in terms of verified reviews. Turkey and Central Asian countries can create scientific collaborations and cooperative projects. Thus, Central Asian countries will benefit from Turkey's experiences.

Keywords: Publons, Turkey, Peer review, Researchers, Institutions

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INTRODUCTION

The peer-review process is an indispensable component for the growth of scientific logic and thought, which is the complement of scientific publishing (1). Despite its importance and centrality in scientific publishing, researchers frequently consider peer review as the thankless and unrequited activity (2). At this point, the Publons initiative stepped in and an increasing number of researchers began gaining a foothold in the scientific world due to their contributions to peer review (3).

Publons began as a way to offer credit to reviewers, but it has gradually grown and started covering editorial entries. After Publons was acquired by Clarivate Analytics, it was integrated with the Web of Science and started providing publication information in this manner (4). Thus, Publons has come to the fore recently as a reliable and integrated database for several bibliometric data (2). It presents various data on researcher profiles, citation and peer review counts, and editorial credits. The system is synchronized with ORCID, allowing us to avoid problems that may arise from slight variations in author names, e-mails and other information (5). Additionally, Publons lets us search and list researchers, institutions and countries with its user-friendly interface (6).

The place of authors, institutes and countries in the scientific world can be evaluated using various parameters. Total citation count and impact factor are the most well-known of these, but they provide a one-dimensional assessment. Different alternative metrics have also been emerged that can predict future citations and impacts on society (7).

Although there are young researchers and peer-reviewers in Central Asian countries who can have global scientific influence, they may face difficulties in gaining access to the internet and receiving appropriate scientific mentoring (8, 9). This may cause Central Asian countries to remain below their potential. Turkey has strong sociocultural relations with Central Asian countries and can serve as a model for them. Therefore, in this study, Publons database was used to reveal how the top institutions, researchers and peer-reviewers in Turkey. We hoped that researchers and authorities in Central Asian countries benefit from Turkey data as a model.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

On October 10, 2021, data for Turkey were obtained using Publons' internal search engine. Firstly, the total number of researchers, top reviewers, verified reviews, and verified reviews last 12 months was extracted. Then,

the rankings of Turkey in terms of total number of researchers, top reviewers, verified reviews, and verified reviews last 12 months were noted. The top 20 researchers were determined in terms of the total number of verified reviews and the number of verified reviews in the last 12 months. Additionally, the top 20 institutions in terms of the total number of researchers, verified reviews and top reviewers were recorded. The links to which the data are provided are presented in Table 1. Data were formatted into spreadsheets in Microsoft Excel 2016. Descriptive data are presented using tables.

RESULTS

A total of 57464 registered researchers from Turkey were identified on Publons (ranked 7th). 484 of these researchers had top reviewer status (ranked 16th). There were 175644 verified reviews provided by the researchers (ranked 16th), of which 45835 verified reviews were performed in the last 12 months (ranked 14th).

The top 20 researchers in terms of the total number of verified reviews are presented in Table 2. Ugur Canpolat from Hacettepe University was at the top of the list with 1185 verified reviews. Three more researchers with more than 1,000 verified reviews were identified (Figen Balo from the Firat University, $n = 1076$; Utku Kose from the Suleyman Demirel University, $n = 1022$; Erfan Babae Tirkolae from the Istinye University, $n = 1018$). The top 20 researchers in terms of the total number of verified reviews in the last 12 months are presented in Table 3. Aytug Onan from Izmir Katip Celebi University ranked first with 621 verified reviews. The 13 researchers that were in the top 20 in terms of the total number of verified reviews are also listed in Table 3.

Hacettepe University ranked first in Turkey and 14th in the world in terms of the researcher counts. In this category, four universities from Turkey were in the top 100 in the world rankings (Hacettepe University, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, and Cukurova University) (Table 4). When institutions were listed according to the number of verified reviews, Istanbul Technical University ranked first in Turkey. No institution that entered the top 100 in the world rankings (Table 5). Cukurova University was in the first place in the number of top reviewers ($n = 18$). It was followed by Istanbul Technical University ($n = 16$) and Hacettepe University ($n = 13$). In terms of this parameter, no Turkish institution entered the top 100 in the world rankings (Table 6).

DISCUSSION

Turkey has a considerable scientific potential with its population of more than 80 million, a significant part of which is composed of young people. The value of this potential increases when you consider the universities and institutions that have deep roots and scientific traditions. The number of registered researchers on Publons, as well as Turkey's position in the world rankings, support this viewpoint. Nevertheless, considering the number of verified reviews and top reviewers, there is a scientific route that researchers and institutions in Turkey must take.

Turkey was in the 7th place in the world ranking with 57464 registered researchers. However, Turkey has fallen into the background in the world rankings according to verified reviews, verified reviews last 12 months, and top reviewers. Turkey is one of the leading countries in the number of researchers in parallel with its large population size, high number of universities and scientific institutions. This result reveals that Turkey has a considerable scientific potential that needs to be guided. On the other hand, the decline in the number of verified reviews and top reviewers leads us to think that Turkey is unable to completely and effectively use its large young population and high number of researchers in scientific platforms. Relevant authorities should research this issue and develop policies to improve it.

Ugur Canpolat took the first place in the number of verified reviews and Aytug Onan ranked first in the number of verified reviews in the last 12 months. The 13 researchers who were in the top 20 in terms of the total number of verified reviews were also ranked in the top 20 list, which was created based on the number of reviews performed in the last 12 months. These data can be interpreted in two ways. First, a significant portion of researchers who have participated in peer-review processes from the past has continued to work in this field in the last 12 months. It is clear that supporting peer-review processes by experienced researchers will improve scientific quality. Second, new researchers assisting peer review processes come from below and increase their experience, which will contribute ensuring scientific continuity. Scientific progress is a holistic process that cannot be limited to publishing an article. Peer review is extremely important in today's scholarly publications (10). Peer-review movements in the last 12 months have taken place during the COVID-19 pandemic period. It has become a necessity to support peer-review processes during this period when scientific production in the field of COVID-19 has peaked and rapid publication has become more important. Another point

that should be emphasized is the proper evaluation of COVID-19 articles in terms of ethical principles. Therefore, more importance can be attributed to review processes during the pandemic period. The contribution of experienced researchers in these extraordinary circumstances can prevent the emergence of ethical problems. Peer review not only upgrades analytical skills, but also demonstrates many sights of publication ethics. This covers knowledge of plagiarism, authorship requirements, declaring potential conflicts of interest, and writing scientifically. As a result, peer review has been suggested as a component of the researcher education (11- 14). We consider that these researchers' sharing their experiences can guide and encourage new researchers who are at the beginning of the road.

Hacettepe University ranked first in Turkey and 14th in the world in terms of the number of researchers. In this category, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa and Çukurova University were also among the top 100 in the world rankings. This result reveals that institutions do not have difficulty in providing researchers quantitatively. These well-established institutions of Turkey continue to be a center of attraction for researchers. These institutions may come to the fore due to their strong and deep-rooted scientific traditions and wide opportunities they provide to researchers.

Istanbul Technical University ranked first in the number of verified reviews and Cukurova University was first in the number top reviewers. In either category, no institution was ranked among the top 100 in the world rankings. The emergence of this result suggests that although there is no obstacle in terms of the quantity of researchers, there are some qualitative issues. The importance of peer-review processes and the scientific contributions they provide to researchers should be explained in various symposiums and webinars. Support can be obtained from experienced editors in this field and researchers should be encouraged to participate in peer-review processes.

This study has some limitations. Some active researchers from Turkey may not be registered on Publons. Therefore, their publications and reviews can not be listed on Publons. Furthermore, some registered Publons researchers may not be actively using the platform. Peer reviews listed on Publons cannot be guaranteed to be of high-quality.

The impact of researchers can be measured using various indicators (15). However, there is no other metric for reviewers other than the parameters provided by Publons. Additionally, Publons offers an option where

the Editor can recommend any researcher as an excellent reviewer, and provides an operation to reward the top reviewer recognition. Therefore, the use of Publons should be encouraged to ensure the continuation of the scientific development of researchers.

The right question is how to boost the potential of researchers. There is such a need for both Turkey and Central Asian Countries (4). The Publons is a project that allows experienced researchers to guide inexperienced and new reviewers. Experienced reviewers should be encouraged in mentoring, and knowledge of these education should be raised among researchers in Turkey and Central Asia. Journal editors can assist researchers in these countries by running online courses on hypothesis creation, methodology design, statistics and peer review. Turkey and Central Asian countries should gradually create incentives and programs to develop the English level of their researchers. In addition, the diffusiveness of the Internet network should be expanded as much as possible in these countries. High English skills and Internet access are required for researchers' scientific progress (16, 17). Turkey continues its scientific development by increasing the number of universities and researchers as well as providing more financial support to research. A growing number of researchers are contacting and collaborating with prestigious universities abroad. Turkey and Central Asian countries have socio-cultural ties from the past and it is a fact that Turkey is a few steps ahead of Central Asian countries in the scientific world. At this point, a reverse academic "Silk Road" should be created and

highly qualified researchers and academics in Turkey should be brought together with their colleagues in Central Asian countries. It will be beneficial for the policymakers of the two sides to take initiative and provide support in conducting joint projects. Turkey and Central Asian countries can build university systems that work together. Thus, scientific collaborations and joint projects can be established between Turkey and Central Asian countries. Ensuring Central Asian countries to benefit from Turkey's experience will contribute to their scientific development

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Both authors substantively contributed to the drafting of the initial and revised versions of this review. They take full responsibility for the integrity of all aspects of the work.

CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

Both authors have completed the ICMJE Disclosure Form (<http://www.icmje.org/disclosure-of-interest/>; available on request from the corresponding author). Both authors declare that there are no potential conflicts of interest.

DISCLAIMER

No part of this review is copied or published elsewhere in whole or in part.

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Table 1. Publons links used to obtain data

Parameters	Uniform resource locator (URL)
Total number of researchers from Turkey	https://tinyurl.com/czwvssxk
Number of top reviewers from Turkey	https://tinyurl.com/uvz8d7j4
Number of verified reviews from Turkey	https://tinyurl.com/848y2wzy
Number of verified reviews last 12 months from Turkey	https://tinyurl.com/3y2cebz4
Top 20 researchers in terms of the total number of verified reviews	https://tinyurl.com/49fa6tfa
Top 20 researchers in terms of the total number of verified reviews in the last 12 months	https://tinyurl.com/yw5pwekn
Top 20 institutions in terms of the total number of researchers	https://tinyurl.com/3z6j9jwd
Top 20 institutions in terms of the total number verified reviews	https://tinyurl.com/245hff9f
Top 20 institutions in terms of the total number of top reviewers	https://tinyurl.com/2usa7rww

WoS: Web of Science

Table 2. Top 20 researchers in terms of the total number of verified reviews

Rank	Researchers	Institution	Verified Reviews
1	Ugur Canpolat	Hacettepe University	1185
2	Figen Balo	Firat University	1076
3	Utku Kose	Suleyman Demirel University	1022
4	Erfan Babaee Tirkolaee	Istinye University	1018
5	Ilke Coskun Benlidayi	Cukurova University	992
6	Ozgur Kasapcopur	Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa	985
7	Aytug Onan	Izmir Katip Celebi University	933
8	Ilhan Ozturk	China Medical University (Taiwan)	817
9	Ezgi Deniz Batu	Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine	736
10	Faik Bilgili	Erciyes University	707
11	Salam Al-Rbeawi	Middle East Technical University	705
12	Bilal Alatas	Firat University	589
13	Osman Cekic	Marmara University	586
14	Dumitru Balenau	China Medical University (Taiwan)	577
15	Gokhan Aydin	Karadeniz Technical University	557
16	Evren Tufan	Abant Izzet Baysal University	546
17	Emre Erdem	Sabanci University	528
18	Fatih Ozogul	Cukurova University	506
19	Derya Birant	Dokuz Eylul University	470
20	A. Seval Ozgu-Erdinc	Ankara City Hospital	453

Table 3. Top 20 researchers in terms of the total number of verified reviews in the last 12 months

Rank	Researchers	Institution	Verified Reviews
1	Aytug Onan	Izmir Katip Celebi University	621
2	Erfan Babaee Tirkolaee	Istinye University	481
3	Gokhan Aydin	Karadeniz Technical University	367
4	Figen Balo	Firat University	366
5	Ozgur Kasapcopur	Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa	357
6	Utku Kose	Suleyman Demirel University	337
7	Ilke Coskun Benlidayi	Cukurova University	273
8	Ugur Canpolat	Hacettepe University	266
9	Dumitru Balenau	China Medical University (Taiwan)	258
10	Erkan Cure	Ethica Incirli Hospital	254
11	Mehmet Yavuz	University of Exeter, Penryn Campus	252
12	Burak Bayraktar	Tepecik Training and Research Hospital	238
13	Gulali Aktas	Abant Izzet Baysal University Hospital	223
14	Fatih Ozogul	Cukurova University	212
15	Derya Birant	Dokuz Eylul University	186
16	Ilhan Ozturk	China Medical University (Taiwan)	174
17	Abdullahi Yusuf	Biruni University	157
18	Haci Mehmet Baskonus	Harran University	155
19	A. Seval Ozgu-Erdinc	Ankara City Hospital	153
20	Kenneth E. Okedu	National University of Science and Technology, Oman	144

Table 4. Top 20 institutions in terms of the total number of researchers

Turkey Rank	World Rank	Institution	Researchers	Top Reviewers	Verified Reviews
1	14th	Hacettepe University	3711	13	4674
2	40th	Istanbul Technical University	2391	16	5912
3	70th	Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa	1855	11	5078
4	77th	Cukurova University	1734	18	4848
5	108th	Akdeniz University	1516	11	3358
6	164th	Gaziantep University	1265	8	2208
7	172nd	Inonu University	1224	4	1544
8	175th	Firat University	1219	6	3894
9	180th	Istanbul University	1210	11	3338
10	202nd	Kocaeli University	1145	7	2020
11	233rd	Middle East Technical University	1041	9	3657
12	320th	Ankara University	840	3	1898
13	399th	Dokuz Eylul University	716	8	3936
14	463rd	Ege University	636	12	3717
15	484th	Karadeniz Technical University	616	3	2113
16	523rd	Gazi University	579	7	2157
17	581st	Marmara University	537	9	3248
18	604th	Yildiz Technical University	518	2	1323
19	627th	Bogazici University	503	5	1653
20	663rd	Necmettin Erbakan University	481	6	1699

Table 5. Top 20 institutions in terms of the total number verified reviews

Turkey Rank	World Rank	Institution	Verified Reviews
1	329th	Istanbul Technical University	5912
2	391st	Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa	5078
3	419th	Cukurova University	4848
4	442nd	Hacettepe University	4674
5	547th	Dokuz Eylul University	3936
6	556th	Firat University	3894
7	575th	Ege University	3717
8	588th	Middle East Technical university	3657
9	641st	Akdeniz University	3358
10	643rd	Erciyes University	3350
11	649th	Istanbul University	3338
12	671st	Marmara University	3248
13	818th	Eskisehir Osmangazi University	2601
14	908th	Izmir Katip Celebi University	2313
15	945th	Gaziantep University	2208
16	963rd	Gazi University	2157
17	965th	Istinye University	2154
18	967th	Koc University	2153
19	977th	Selcuk University	2120
20	981st	Karadeniz Technical University	2113

Table 6. Top 20 institutions in terms of the total number top reviewers

Turkey Rank	World Rank	Institution	Top Reviewers
1	375th	Cukurova University	18
2	408th	Istanbul Technical University	16
3	557th	Hacettepe University	13
4	602nd	Ege University	12
5	653rd	Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa	11
6	653rd	Akdeniz University	11
7	653rd	Istanbul University	11
8	709th	Eskisehir Osmangazi University	10
9	774th	Marmara University	9
10	774th	Middle East Technical University	9
11	774th	Erciyes University	9
12	854th	Dokuz Eylul University	8
13	854th	Gaziantep University	8
14	945th	Gazi University	7
15	945th	Firat University	7
16	945th	Kocaeli University	7
17	945th	Marmara University	7
18	1065th	Necmettin Erbakan University	6
19	1065th	Gebze Technical University	6
20	1065th	Atattürk University	6

PUBLONS НЕГІЗІНДЕ ТҮРІК РЕЦЕНЗЕНТТЕРІ МЕН ОҚУ ОРЫНДАРЫНЫҢ ПІШІНДЕЛУІ

Түйіндеме

Кіріспе: Publons - сараптамалық бағалау көрсеткіштерін бағалауға мүмкіндік беретін беделді платформа. Publons жарияланымдар мен дәйексөздер туралы мәліметтерді ұсынады, өйткені ол Web of Science бағдарламасымен синхрондалады. Орталық Азия елдері мен Түркия арасында әлеуметтік-мәдени байланыстар бар, Түркия Орталық Азия елдері үшін ғылыми дамудың үлгісі бола алады. Сондықтан Орталық Азия елдеріне Publons пен Түркияның өзара әрекеттесу қорытындыларымен танысу пайдалы болады. Бұл зерттеуде біз Түркияның жетекші институттары, зерттеушілері және рецензенттерінің тізімін жасау үшін Publons дерекқорын қолдандық.

Әдістері: Деректерді экспорттау үшін 2021 жылдың 10 қазанында Publons дерекқоры пайдаланылды. Тексерілген шолулар саны бойынша 20 жетекші зерттеуші анықталды. Зерттеушілер, тексерілген шолулар және ең жақсы рецензенттер саны бойынша 20 үздік мекеме анықталды.

Нәтижелері: Publons-та Түркияда тіркелген 57464 зерттеуші (жетінші орын) табылды, оның 484 зерттеушілері жоғары рецензент мәртебесіне ие болды (16 орын). Барлығы Түркия зерттеушілерінің 175644 тексерілген пікірлері байқ алды (16-шы орын), олардың 45835-і соңғы 12 айда орындалған (14-ші орын). Зерттеушілерінің жалпы саны бойынша Түркияның 4 жоғары оқу орны әлемдік рейтингте жүз үздікке кірді.

Қорытынды: Түркияның көптеген зерттеушілері Publons-та тіркелген. Түркия мен Орталық Азия елдері ғылыми коллаборациялар мен бірлескен жобалар жасай алады, ол Орталық Азия елдерінің Түркия тәжірибесінен пайда алуына ықпал етеді.

Түйін сөздер: Publons, Түркия, сараптамалық бағалау, зерттеушілер, мекемелер

Дәйексөз үшін: Кочыгит Б.Ф., Акёл А. Publons негізінде түрік рецензенттері мен оқу орындарының пішінделуі. Медициналық гипотеза мен этиканың Орта Азиялық журналы. 2021:2(4):198-208. <https://doi.org/10.47316/cajmhe.2021.2.4.03>

ПРОФИЛИРОВАНИЕ ТУРЕЦКИХ РЕЦЕНЗЕНТОВ И УЧЕБНЫХ ЗАВЕДЕНИЙ НА ОСНОВЕ PUBLONS

Резюме

Введение: Publons – авторитетная платформа, позволяющая оценивать показатели экспертной оценки. Publons предоставляет данные о публикациях и цитировании, поскольку синхронизируется с Web of Science. Между странами Центральной Азии и Турцией существуют социально-культурные связи, Турция может служить моделью научного развития для стран Центральной Азии. Поэтому странам Центральной Азии будет полезно ознакомиться с итогами взаимодействия Publons и Турции. В этом исследовании мы использовали базу данных Publons, чтобы составить список ведущих учреждений, исследователей и рецензентов Турции.

Методы. Для экспорта данных 10 октября 2021 г. использовалась база данных Publons. Были определены 20 ведущих исследователей по количеству проверенных обзоров. Были определены 20 лучших учреждений по количеству исследователей, проверенных отзывов и лучших рецензентов.

Результаты: в Publons было найдено 57464 зарегистрированных исследователя из Турции (седьмое место), 484 из этих исследователей имели статус высшего рецензента (16 место). Всего было обнаружено 175644 проверенных отзыва от исследователей из Турции (16-е место), из которых 45835 были выполнены за последние 12 месяцев (14-е место). По общему количеству исследователей 4 вуза Турции вошли в сотню лучших в мировом рейтинге.

Вывод: Значительное количество исследователей из Турции зарегистрировано в Publons. Турция и страны Центральной Азии могут создавать научные коллаборации и совместные проекты, что будет способствовать извлечению пользы странами Центральной Азии из опыта Турции.

Ключевые слова: Publons, Турция, экспертная оценка, исследователи, учреждения

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