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A Bibliometric Analysis of Turkey Origin Journals Indexed in Web of Science in the Basic Field of Architecture, Planning and Design

Web of Science'da Dizinlenen Türkiye Merkezli Mimarlık, Planlama ve Tasarım Temel Alanı Dergilerinin Bibliyometrik Analizi

Abstract

Research, development and publishing are key indicators of academic quality and internationalization. In Turkey, citation index databases are critical in academic appointment promotion evaluations, particularly for associate professorship applications. This research analyzes bibliometric data from Web of Science-indexed Turkish journals in the basic field of architecture, planning and design—METU JFA, Megaron, Planlama and ICONARP. Cities (Ankara, İstanbul), sustainability and accessibility stand out as dominant themes in the analysis. Contributors to the field are primarily concentrated in central universities, with some peripheral institutions showing growing research potential. In addition, the changes posed by the current appointment and application criteria are discussed.

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Öz

Araştırma, geliştirme ve yayın faaliyetleri, akademik kalite ile uluslararasılaşmanın temel göstergelerindendir. Türkiye'de, atıf dizin veritabanları özellikle doçentlik başvuruları bağlamında, akademik atama ve yükseltme değerlendirmelerinde kritik bir rol oynamaktadır. Bu araştırmada, Web of Science (WoS) tarafından dizinlenen, Mimarlık, Planlama ve Tasarım Temel Alanı ile ilişkili Türkiye merkezli dergiler –METU JFA, Megaron, Planlama ve ICONARP– bibliyometrik veriler aracılığıyla incelemektedir. Şehirler (Ankara, İstanbul), sürdürülebilirlik ve erişilebilirlik analizde öne çıkan baskın konular olarak belirlenmiştir. Alana katkıda bulunan yazarların büyük kısmı merkezî üniversitelerde yoğunlaşmakta; bazı çevre kurumlar ise büyüyen bir araştırma potansiyeli göstermektedir. Ayrıca, mevcut atama ve başvuru kriterlerinin getirdiği değişiklikler de çalışmada tartışılmaktadır.

Keywords
Citation index, Journal, Academic Publishing, Architecture, Planning, Design, Turkey

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Atıf Dizini, Dergi, Akademik Yayıncılık, Mimarlık, Planlama, Tasarım, Türkiye

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Introduction

The production of academic knowledge and the persistence of disciplines are only viable if all the theoretical and empirical research in the field are upheld by trends and facts. This is also the fundamental responsibility of scientists who should share their research with the scientific world and the wider audience. On the other hand, the dissemination of scientific research and contribution to innovative methods at the international level is also an indicator of the level of development of a country and society open to change and development. Researchers who do not have sufficient knowledge and experience about the platforms on which to publish their academic work choose different means to publish. There is a wide array of options from mainstream scientific publishing to predatory ones.

The aim of this research is to equip scholars in the fields of architecture, planning and design with a comprehensive understanding of international citation-indexed journals published in Turkey, while offering a detailed analysis of these journals' publication practices. The findings serve as a valuable guide for researchers in selecting platforms to disseminate their work and expand their scientific contributions. Rather than merely outlining a scheme about the relationship between journals and authors, article also explores how academic knowledge is shaped by the conditions of its time, critically examining the motivations driving academic output, particularly the pressures to publish in high-impact journals for career advancement with thorough analysis of most current changes in application conditions and criteria. This work underlines the constraints that hinder the pursuit of science for its intrinsic value and calls for a deeper reflection on these dynamics in the future.

This research inquires the status of indexing of Turkish journals in international databases specifically in the fields of architecture, planning, and design, and presents the comprehensive examination of the four selected journals. Additionally, more specific research questions follow:

- What kinds of distribution are there in the discussions within journals according to the topics, keywords, key issues?
- Which languages are used in publications in the selected journals?
- Does the scope of the journal overlap with the scope of the research published?
- How is the institutional distribution of authors of the published articles?
- To what extent are these analysis results being utilized/beneficial for the researchers in terms of their academic development and publishing scientific results?

Overall, the dynamics of academic publishing in the fields of architecture, planning and design are shaped by various factors, including the relationship between researchers and institutional dynamics, mainly career advancements, the nature of the research and the intended audience. Primarily, this research intends to explore the publishing trends within these disci-

plines, with particular attention to the distribution and scope of publications. By examining which publishing platforms are most effective for raising critical issues and which journals are best suited for disseminating descriptive studies, the research aims to provide an extended understanding of how academic knowledge has been produced so far.

This research article has five main sections. Introduction section followed by the theoretical and structural background where this second section establishes the foundation, providing a comprehensive background that contextualizes objectives and significance of the research. Then, the third section thoroughly presents the methodology employed in the research, offering a detailed account of the collected data and the fourth section shows the analysis procedures with comments on each journal. In the concluding section, the article engages in a discussion on the results achieved about the four journals, critically analyzing the findings and suggesting a roadmap for researchers in the field.

Theoretical and structural background

With the development of science and technology in the world, representation indicators such as how to recognize the contributions of research and reports by peers, how to measure the impact and contribution of scientific research on the public sphere with the publication of its results and the like have become a subject of discussion. For this reason, many metrics that measure performance such as impact, output and prestige have emerged. These metrics are discussed as extremely powerful tools in a way that assists researchers navigating through a big quantity of knowledge (Jones et al., 2011). At the point reached today, numerical data revealing the relationship between the citing and the cited through metric measurements are accepted as clear indicators of the impact of scientific research. This is because the quality and impact of an article and the journal in which it is published are related to the amount of citation, which is considered because of the research reaching a larger audience and inspiring more researchers. Previous research has looked at different dimensions of this complex issue. While Moed et al. (2020) looked at the nationally oriented journals' situation on the internationalization through indexing in Scopus, Jusoff (2008) underlined the means and benefits of finding the best impact factor and citation indexed journals for the sake of serving the goals of universities. In the following sub-section, there is more knowledge on how these systems work and what the terminology means in detail.

General citation systems and the terminology

Harrods' Librarians' Glossary and Reference Book (2005, p.138) defines citation as "A reference to a text or part of a text identifying the document in which it may be found" and citation index as "A list of articles that, subsequent to the appearance of the original article, refer to, or cite, that article. This method is particularly applicable to scientific literature and allows easy

tracing of similar research". The fact that one text refers to another text, which is emphasized in these definitions, reveals that all scientific researchers do not act independently of each other and form a whole. By benefiting from the work of other researchers, researchers would contribute to the quality and visibility of both their own work and the original work they benefit from. The creation of a benefit cycle in this way can also be supported by the publication of research results in journals with high international recognition.

The difficulty of retrieving information-documents from the expanding scientific literature by citing each other has increased the need for citation indexes that easily present journal contents to researchers and provide bibliometric measurements, and thanks to the developments in computer technology, these needs have been met by creating comprehensive databases. Developed by Eugene Garfield, the founder of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) in the 1950s, the three international citation indexes, which are still valid today, are the first databases that enable researchers to track the sources cited in their published articles in order to have up-to-date access to trends and links: Science Citation Index (SCI), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) and Arts and Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI). After fulfilling certain criteria in these citation indexes, the publications in all the indexed journals were gathered in an online database called Web of Science (WoS, formerly known as Web of Knowledge) with the idea of making them available to the readers by using ISI's internet network. ISI was acquired by Thomson in 1992 and merged with Reuters in 2008 and continued its activities under the name Thomson Reuters. In 2016, Clarivate Analytics was formed when Thomson Reuters sold its intellectual property and science division. Today, as a for-profit commercial company, Clarivate continues to provide bibliographic products with various citation indexes - other than SCI, SSCI and A&HCI - gathered under the WoS Core Collection. Although the virtual leadership and widespread use of WoS has been de-monopolized by the introduction of Google Scholar by Google and Scopus by Elsevier in the 2000s, the evaluation of scientific quality and performance is based on the citation indexes of this system. One of the most important reasons for this is the Journal Impact Factor (JIF), which was created by Garfield (2007, p.66-67) shortly after he presented the citation indexes, anticipating its use as a means of measuring productivity. The journal impact factor is calculated by dividing the number of citations to an article published in a journal in the previous two years by the number of articles published in the previous two years. In addition to helping libraries decide which journals to purchase, authors also use journal impact factors to decide where to submit their articles. In general, although the perception of prestige is an ambiguous issue, journals with high impact factors are the most prestigious journals and having published articles in these journals can be an indicator of high quality. In this case, the relationship between citation indexes, impact factors and quality indicators is taken into consideration from many different perspectives, and this network of relationships is being developed every day by scholars in response to criticisms of previous metric measurements, such as how many publications an author has published in

journals considered to be of high quality, how many of that author's articles published in high quality journals are highly cited, and how many of these citations are to the same author's articles published in other high quality journals. For instance, a high-quality article cited by a high-quality article is labelled as 'research front' in WoS and this is considered as a prestigious article that has created a trend in literature. In this context, the emergence and working principle of citation indexes is based on providing an information access database; however, it can be manipulated as if it is a database that can be used for evaluation. In other words, the data obtained from citation indexes have become a system frequently used by scientists and institutions to evaluate the production of quality knowledge. This is because the activities of academic institutions such as globalization, internationalization and expanding intellectual boundaries by producing scientific knowledge, which will help them to maintain their status in society, are seen to depend on the researches conducted by the academic staff and the publication of these researches in scientific journals and expanding their sphere of influence.

According to Herther (2009, p.362), the imperative to provide clear quality metrics, introduced with international citation indexes, has put pressure on academia, leading to an *'audit culture'*, in which the accountability process involves the assessment of the following three contributions; *'productivity'*, defined by some kind of quantitative measurement of the work attributed to a particular academic or institution over a given period of time; *'quality'*, which is often dependent on judgements made by peer or independent experts; and *'impact'*, defined as the frequency with which individual's work is cited by other authors, a reflection of the importance of a particular piece of research to the overall advancement of knowledge in a field. The ability of institutions to attract and retain high quality faculty and to provide and guarantee certain conditions of employment has made performance and accountability particularly sensitive issues in academia, where the focus is on productivity and impact as an output.

An overview of the academic citation index in Turkey

Today, the evaluation of academic activities at many levels is based on the transformation of research outputs into publications, sharing them with other researchers and actively disseminating them. The publication of these outputs in international journals has as a top priority. According to Moed et al. (2020, p.2); the concept of international journal has two connotations. The first one is related to journal quality and is synonymous with expressions such as *'international quality'* or *'among the best journals in its field'*. The second connotation refers to the geographical distribution of authors who publish in or cite a journal. In this case, international means *'used by authors from all over the world'*. Conversely, a national journal can be defined as a journal in which most articles are written or cited by researchers from a single country.

Citation indexes, as a means of measuring internationality, are widely used resources especially by academicians in the world. In Turkey, although the concept of journals indexed in citation directories was introduced in the 1970s, the publication of scientific articles in refereed journals did not become prevalent until the mid-1990s. The fact that the Council of Higher Education introduced publishing in 'indexed journals' as one of the criteria for academic appointment and promotion, followed by The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey's (TÜBİTAK) financial support for publications in some journals indexed in WoS within the scope of the Incentive Program for International Scientific Publications (UBYT), which was initiated in 1993 with the aim of increasing the impact and visibility of international scientific publications with Turkish addresses, increased the number of articles and journals indexed in various indexes (Tonta, 2017, p.450). However, the fact that scientific performance remained relatively limited compared to the international scale necessitated some new regulations, and in 2015, the Academic Incentive Allowance, which regulates the payments to be made to academic staff in public higher education institutions within the scope of activity types, was introduced.

Among these types of incentives, TÜBİTAK UBYT provides financial support according to the *'Article Influence Score (AIS)'* value, if the application is made until the end of the year following the publication year. In other words, no payment is made for years without an application and each publication is awarded once. For this reason, in terms of its scope, it is not considered a performance indicator as a determinant for appointment and promotion criteria and is not included in the content of the research. On the other hand, as of September 2023, there are 129 state and 75 private – 204 universities in total in Turkey (Url-1). In the *'Regulation on Promotion and Appointment to Faculty Membership'* (Url-2), which was prepared based on the provisions of the fourth subparagraph of paragraph (a) of Article 65 of the Higher Education Law dated 4/11/1981 No.2547, the conditions to be met in order to be appointed to the positions of assistant professor (PhD), associate professor and professor in these higher education institutions are specified in Article 3. However, each university determines the minimum conditions for promotion and appointment with a directive prepared in accordance with the provisions of this regulation and uses it as a criterion in evaluating the competencies of the candidates (Url-3). At this point, there are differences in implementation, performance scoring and criteria determination among universities. It is beyond the scope of this research to examine these appointment criteria, which vary widely, and to identify the differences. Therefore, it is appropriate to focus on the criteria for associate professorship, where the activities in each basic field are evaluated with the same points for each candidate.

According to Article 3 of the Law on Higher Education, *'Purpose, Scope and Definitions of the Law'*, academic staffs are divided into three classes: *'lecturers, teaching staff members and research assistants/ ancillary staff working in higher education institutions'*. Among these classes, faculty staff members are professors, associate professors and assistant professors employed in higher education institutions. The definitions of faculty staff members in the relevant

article are as follows (Url-4): "(1) Professor: A teaching staff member holding the highest academic title. (2) Associate Professor: A teaching staff member who has successfully fulfilled the requirements of the Inter-Universities Council (ÜAK) and given the title of Associate Professor. (3) Assistant Professor: A teaching staff member who received a doctorate, or has obtained the title of specialization in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and veterinary medicine or received a qualification in one of the certain branches of art determined by the Higher Education Council upon the recommendation of the Inter-Universities Council". These definitions clearly state that, while professors and assistant professors obtain their titles by being appointed to the staff of the higher education institution to which they are affiliated, the title of associate professor is obtained as a result of the application to the Inter-Universities Council and the examination of the studies by the evaluation juries. According to Article 3 of the Associate Professorship Regulation, this evaluation is made "within the framework of examining the candidate's academic publications and studies in the fields of science/art determined by the Higher Education Council upon the opinion of the Inter-Universities Council" (Url-5). The current (2024) basic fields of science/art fields to be applied for are as follows (Url-6); Educational Sciences; Science and Mathematics; Philology; Fine Arts; Law; Theology; Architecture, Planning and Design; Engineering; Health Sciences; Social, Humanities and Administrative Sciences; Agriculture, Forestry and Aquaculture; and Sports Sciences. The application conditions determined for these basic fields are updated and published on the website of ÜAK for each semester.

When the application conditions are analyzed, it is seen that a significant share is distributed to publication activities. For instance, for applications in the Basic Field of Law, it is necessary to have 100 points of scientific activity-provided that at least 90 points are completed after the PhD degree-related to the field of science of the applied associate professorship. Among these activities, an upper limit (such as a maximum of 10 or 20 points) has been imposed on postgraduate thesis counseling, taking part as a researcher/coordinator in scientific research projects; while a lower limit (such as at least 4 publications or 5 points) has been imposed on national/international articles, citations from these articles, books and papers presented and published in scientific meetings. It is also possible to extend this example to other basic fields. The former criteria for associate professorship application consisted of nine

Table 1

Part of the Former Criteria for Application to Associate Professor for the Basic Field of Architecture, Planning and Design, Inter-Universities Council (ÜAK) (Url-7)

Full research articles (excluding letters to the editor, abstracts, reviews, technical notes and book critiques) that are related to the field of science applied for and are not produced from postgraduate theses prepared by the candidate	
1a) Article published in journals covered by SCI, SCI-Expanded, SSCI, AHCI or field indexes	20
1b) Article published in other internationally refereed journals	8
1c) Articles published in national refereed journals scanned by ULAKBİM (National Academic Network and Information Center)	8

sections, including publications, postgraduate research-related publications, books, competition, application, software and patent, citations, graduate thesis advisory, scientific research projects, scientific meeting activity and education-training activity. Due to space limitations and the irrelevance of the rest of the sections to this research, only the first section—publications—are highlighted in **Table 1**. The highest score among the international articles belongs to articles published in SSCI, SCI, SCI-Expanded, A&HCI and field citation indexes. In other words, in terms of quality, field citation indexes are considered equivalent to WoS platform databases. Another issue about the application conditions is this concept of 'field index'. As defined in Article 3 of the Academic Incentive Allowance Regulation (Url-8), "(b) Field indices: Indices prepared by the Presidency of the Inter-Universities Council and approved by the Council of Higher Education and accepted for associate professorship application". However, when the most current application requirements (**Table 2**) are analyzed, it is seen that there is no field citation index determined by ÜAK all of the basic fields. The new set of criteria for associate professorship application includes 14 subsections, with key additions emphasizing the internationalization of research outputs. Notably, publications are now categorized as both international and national, and there is greater recognition of prizes and editorial roles. Additionally, the importance of the H-index has increased, and research visits abroad are now acknowledged and rewarded in the promotion process. According to the application conditions until October 2023, the quality of the studies of the candidates for the title of associate professor or the impact factor of the journal in which they have published was not relevant. The fact that it is sufficient for all candidates to have published in journals in the citation indexes mentioned has led researchers -especially in the fields of Architecture, Planning and Design, Educational Sciences and Sports Sciences- to publish in journals indexed in field citation indexes with the same impact factor in terms of collected points for application. Namely, when the researcher A publishes in a journal with a Q1 ranking and impact factor and the researcher B publishes in a journal that does not meet Q ranking but is indexed in the field citation indexes apply for associate professorship, both of them received same points from the 1A category depending on the number of authors. However, the value, prestige and trend-making potential of both studies to the journal and the literature are not the same. While one of these studies may be cited in journals considered to be of high quality, the other may be unlikely to be cited in any journal. On the other hand, according to the General Assembly Decisions of the Council of Higher Education published in June 2023, Q ranking was prioritized in the new associate professorship application criteria that entered into force as of March 2024. It is seen that the score equivalents of the field citation index concept, which cannot be found in the world as it applies in Turkey, was removed and could not find a response in the new set of criteria. The key focus here is the increased emphasis on the value, prestige, and trend-setting potential of research, particularly through international publications which is shown individually in **Table 2** due to space limitations and the irrelevance of other sections.

Table 2

Part of the most current Criteria for Application to Associate Professor for the Basic Field of Architecture, Planning and Design, Inter-Universities Council (ÜAK) (Url-6)

International Publication (provided that it is not produced from a postgraduate theses prepared by the candidate and excluded letters to the editor, abstracts, reviews, technical notes and book critiques)			
1a)	Article published in a journal covered by SCIE or SSCI	Q1	30
		Q2	20
		Q3	15
		Q4	10
1b)	Article published in a journal within the scope of AHCI		20
1c)	Article published in a journal covered by ESCI or Scopus		10
1d)	Article published in journals indexed in other international indexes.		5

Based on the use of journals indexed in citation directories as a performance criterion, this research discusses the current trends of journals that provide accessibility for the ever-increasing mass of scientific publications and for educational scientists in universities, which have a key role in educating future generations. Many studies analyzing the journals indexed in the WoS database within the scope of different fields have contributed to the literature. For instance, there has been an attempt to understand how urbanization and cities are discussed in Turkey from the publications indexed in the WoS database (Kahraman, 2022). However, it has been observed that these studies are not limited within the framework of the 'basic field' accepted in Turkey, and the criteria lists prepared for associate professorship evaluations, which are a crucial step in academic appointment-promotion and selection stages, are excluded from the scope. In this context, the content was limited to the journals indexed in the citation indexes of '*Architecture, Planning, and Design Basic Field*', which include the fields of Industrial Design, Interior Architecture, Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban and Regional Planning, and origin to Turkey. Thus, the contributions of these journals to the literature on architecture, planning and design were evaluated through bibliometric analyses based on their status. The results will guide researchers who want to expand their work in the field, increase their awareness of the current situation and provide a roadmap and a guiding work clarifying issues as for topics discussed in design related disciplines in Turkey, and how relational networks are clustered when evaluated in terms of the institutions and researchers. For these reasons, this research examines the Turkey origin journals indexed in WoS. In the following section, the method of the research is explained in more detail.

Method of the research

According to the new criteria published by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), candidates applying for associate professorships in the Architecture, Planning, and Design disci-
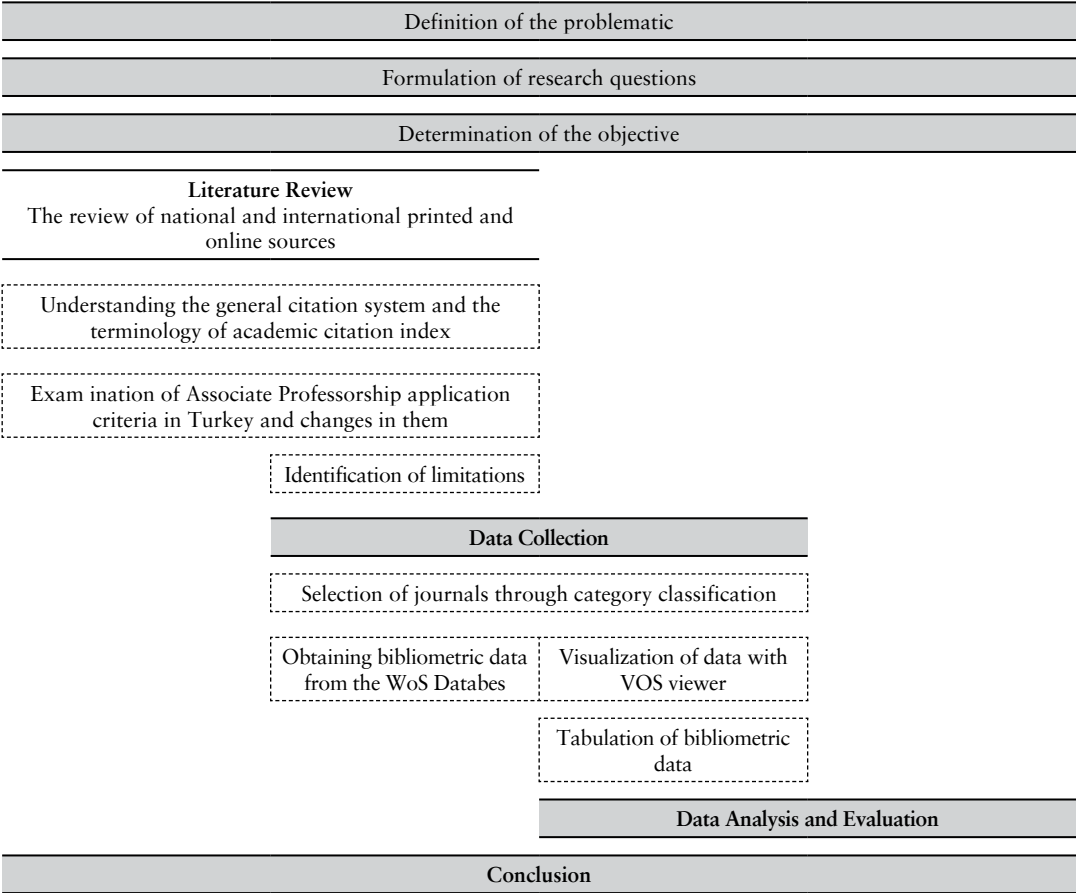
plines are evaluated based on their international articles in four categories: a) Articles published in journals indexed by SCIE or SSCI (30 points for Q1, 20 points for Q2, 15 points for Q3, and 10 points for Q4); b) Articles published in journals indexed by A&HCI (20 points); c) Articles published in journals indexed by ESCI and Scopus (10 points); d) Articles published in journals indexed by other international databases (5 points). As the point allocations indicate, the citation indexes under the WoS Core Collection provide the highest scores. Therefore, the accessible population of this study consists of Turkey origin journals in the field of Architecture, Planning, and Design indexed in SCIE, SSCI, A&HCI and ESCI.

The research employs a quantitative research method utilizing the descriptive survey model (Figure 1), which aims to systematically observe and describe the existing state of scientific literature without modifying it (Karasar, 2012: 77). In this context, bibliometric analysis serves as a descriptive survey research approach to analyze academic publications, citation structures and research trends within social sciences. By utilizing bibliometric data from the major academic database as Web of Science, this study examines publication outputs, co-authorship networks, keyword distributions, and research impact metrics (see also Donthu et al., 2021).

The descriptive survey method applied to bibliometric data enables the classification and quantitative assessment of scholarly work over time. Techniques such as citation analysis, bibliographic coupling, co-citation analysis and keyword co-occurrence mapping provide insights into the intellectual structure and evolution of academic disciplines (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017). Moreover, science mapping tools like VOSviewer, CiteSpace and Bibliometrix facilitate the visualization of research networks, helping to identify influential authors, institutional collaborations and emerging research themes (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). This methodological approach ensures a comprehensive and systematic evaluation of academic knowledge production, offering empirical insights into the growth, dissemination and interdisciplinary connections within social sciences. By applying descriptive bibliometric survey methods, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of publication trends, therefore informing future research directions.

The research data was retrieved from the WoS database on 26.09.2023, following a defined set of criteria and constraints. The data preparation process involved several steps, which are detailed below. First, the WoS Master Journal List was accessed via the website (Url-9). No keywords were entered in the search box to initiate the search, and the system's default filters were automatically activated. These filters included WoS Core Collection categories such as the SCIE, SSCI, A&HCI and ESCI. Additional filters were available such as Current Contents (Agriculture, Biology & Environmental Sciences; Arts & Humanities; Business Collection; Clinical Medicine; Electronics & Telecommunications Collection; Engineering, Computing & Technology; Life Sciences; Physical, Chemical & Earth Sciences; Social and Behavioral Sciences), Other (BIOSIS, Current Chemical Reactions, Essential Science Indicators, Index Chemi-

Figure 1
Representation of the study's stages

Definition of the problematic

Formulation of research questions

Determination of the objective

Literature Review
The review of national and international printed and online sources

Understanding the general citation system and the terminology of academic citation index

Exam ination of Associate Professorship application criteria in Turkey and changes in them

Identification of limitations

Data Collection

Selection of journals through category classification

Obtaining bibliometric data from the WoS Databes	Visualization of data with VOS viewer

Tabulation of bibliometric data

Data Analysis and Evaluation

Conclusion

cus, Zoological Record), Open Access, Category, Country/Region, Language, Frequency and Journal Citation Reports.

A crucial focus of this study was the *'category'* classification (filter). The WoS Master Journal List includes key subject categories such as Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, Environmental Science, Biology, Genetics, Clinical Medicine, Psychology, Economics, Philosophy and Multidisciplinary Sciences, offering comprehensive coverage across disciplines in science, social sciences and the arts and humanities. The categories *'Architecture,' 'Regional & Urban Planning,'* and *'Urban Studies'* were selected to identify journals relevant to the Basic Field of Architecture, Planning and Design. The choice of keywords was also guided by the lack of a specific category in the WoS database directly correlating with the scope of this study (Url-10). All languages and frequencies were included in the search. At the same time,

filters related to Open Access and Journal Citation Reports were not prioritized, as they were considered irrelevant to this study's objectives.

Following a purposive sampling approach, a search conducted on 26.09.2023 in the WoS database identified four Turkey origin journals (**Table 4**): *METU/ Journal of the Faculty of Architecture, Megaron: Yıldız Technical University Faculty of Architecture E-Journal, Planlama: The Journal of Planning and ICONARP: International Journal of Architecture and Planning*. Journals of Turkish origin that were not indexed in any WoS citation index were excluded. Additionally, the study referenced Kahraman (2022), which highlights leading journals in Turkey within the relevant field (**Table 3**). For instance, the *Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences* journal ceased publication in 2019. Similarly, other journals such as *Cities, Journal of Geography, European Planning Studies, International Journal of Geography and Geography Education*, and *Habitat International* were excluded due to their non-Turkey origin. The *Journal of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture of Gazi University* was also excluded because its primary focus is associated more with engineering than with architecture, planning or design. According to its description, the journal prioritizes "non-social, computational areas" (Url-11) in the field of architecture. Furthermore, the WoS categorizes this journal under *'engineering,'* which further justifies its exclusion. Lastly, *the IDA-International Design and Art Journal*, which has been indexed in ESCI since 2022, was excluded from this study due to its limited number of published articles.

After identifying the relevant journals, a systematic approach was adopted to verify the data. The analysis data was validated using the WoS Master Journal List website (Url-12) by searching the full names and ISSN numbers of each journal. These records were then exported in Research Information Systems (RIS) and Excel workbook formats.

The research data were analyzed using the VOSviewer software on 26-27.09.2023, which is a specialized software tool for constructing and visualizing bibliometric networks, widely used in analyzing co-authorship, co-citation, and keyword co-occurrence relationships (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). It begins by processing data from bibliometric databases such as WoS and Scopus, converting it into a network where nodes represent entities like authors or keywords, and edges signify their relationships, quantified by measures such as co-occurrence frequency or citation strength (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). Visualization is achieved using a force-directed layout algorithm, where the placement of nodes reflects their link strengths and clusters are identified using modularity optimization to group related entities into distinct thematic areas (Waltman et al., 2010). These visualizations are particularly valuable for identifying influential works, tracking research trends and uncovering the structure of scholarly fields (van Eck & Waltman, 2014). The data for this research is obtained from the WoS database. In this process, keyword usage was visualized to conduct quantitative content analysis. According to Neuman (2017: 466), quantitative content analysis involves systematic and objective counting and recording procedures to create numerical descriptions of any content-bearing

Table 3

Top 10 journals that publish the most studies on urbanization and cities in Turkey (Kahraman, 2022, p.515).

Top 10 Journals that publish the most studies on urbanisation and cities in Turkey				
Journal	Number of Publications	Number of Citations	h-Index	Ratio (%)
Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences	78	290	9	3.242
METU JFA	46	132	6	1.912
Megaron	75	61	4	3.117
Planlama	66	57	4	2.743
ICONARP	36	21	3	1.496
Cities	35	693	16	1.455
Journal of Geography	33	9	2	1.372
European Planning Studies	32	289	10	1.330
International Journal of Geography and Geography Education	29	13	1	1.205
Habitat International	26	752	14	1.801

Table 4

List of Turkey origin journals indexed in WoS Core Collection (until September 2023).

Journal	ISSN	Year/ Publisher	Index	Number of Issues for Analysis
METU JFA	0258-5316	1975 Middle East Technical University	A&HCI	2007-476 records
Megaron	1309-6915	2005 Yıldız Technical University	ESCI	2005-605 records
Planlama	1300-7319	Irregularly: 1986 Regularly: 2003 The Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects- Chamber of Planners	ESCI	2013-297 records
ICONARP	2147-9380	2013 Konya Technical University	ESCI	2013-295 records

elements. In this study, keywords were grouped into thematic clusters for content analysis, with each cluster visualized in a different colour, and co-occurrence relationships were used to construct a relational network. This approach provided both numerical and descriptive data to address the research questions effectively.

It is important to mention the purpose and scope of these four journals to be analyzed with their own explanations and definitions to see their relations with the Basic Field of Architecture, Planning, and Design more clearly.

- *METU/ Journal of the Faculty of Architecture* (Url-13), also known as the *Middle East Technical University Journal of the Faculty of Architecture*, is an academic publication affiliated with the Faculty of Architecture at the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey. This journal serves as a platform for scholarly research and contributions related to the field of architecture. It typically features articles, research papers, and studies on various aspects of architecture, urban planning, design, and related disciplines. *METU JFA* invites papers on theory, research and history in the following fields and related interdisciplinary topics; architecture and urbanism, planning and design, restoration and conservation, buildings and building systems technologies and design, product design and technologies. *METU JFA* is indexed and abstracted by A&HCI, AIAP, The RIBA Index, DAAI, EBSCOhost Art&Architecture Complete, EBSCOhost Art Source and Elsevier Scopus.

- *Megaron: Yıldız Technical University Faculty of Architecture E-Journal* (Url-14), a scientific, peer-reviewed journal, publishes national and international academic and original research in architecture and planning that offer a certain contribution to related literature with definite methods and proved results. The journal, which excludes data analysis, research summaries, technical reports, survey results, statistical studies, reviews and articles produced from master's thesis, prioritizes articles that can induce scientific discussions under current areas of interest of the field. *Megaron* is indexed by ESCI, AIAP, as 'national peer reviewed journal' in ULAKBIM (National Academic Network and Information Center) Social Sciences Databases by TÜBITAK, EBSCOHost Art&Architecture Complete, Arts Premium Collection, ProQuest, ProQuest Central Essentials, ProQuest One Academic, SciTech Premium, ERIH PLUS, DOAJ, Gale/Cengage Learning, and Ulrich's.

- *Planlama: The Journal of Planning* (Url-15), an official publication of the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (UCTEA), Chamber of Urban Planners, was initially released in 1986 with the primary objective of establishing a connection between practical applications and theoretical frameworks with the valuable input of academics. Its purpose also extends to sharing and assessing pro-

fessional practices within the community. Although there were intermittent pauses in its publication history, *Planlama* has maintained a consistent presence since 2003. In 2013, the UCTEA Chamber of Urban Planners İstanbul Branch took charge of its publication and embarked on a mission to elevate the journal to the status of a peer-reviewed indexed journal, recognized as a reputable scholarly publication. Since 2013, *Planlama* has published three volumes annually as a *'listed national peer-reviewed journal'* in the fields of planning, design, urban sociology, and urban and regional studies. The journal accepts original articles, research summaries, book reviews and current discussions, opinions, and reviews in the field of urban and regional studies. In addition to examples of practice in this field, it also accepts research on policy implementation, implementation tools and sociological studies. *Planlama* is indexed in Ulrich's and AIAP, ESCI, the TÜBITAK ULAKBIM TR Index Social Science Database, ERIHPLUS, and in EBSCO.

- *ICONARP: International Journal of Architecture and Planning* (Url-16) is an academic e-journal that operates as an open-access platform, welcoming original research articles and perspectives, which undergo a peer-review process. The realms of Architecture, Planning, and Design are profoundly influenced by an array of disciplines including fine arts, philosophy, engineering, geography, economics, politics, sociology, history, psychology, geology, information technology, ecology, law, security, and management. *ICONARP* seeks to address this void by serving as a dedicated space for the exploration of theoretical, methodological, and empirical contributions in the domains of architectural, urban, and real estate studies. *ICONARP* is indexed and abstracted by ESCI, DOAJ, TR Index, ICONDA, AIAP, ERIHPLUS, Ulrich's, ROAD, SCILIT, BASE, NSD.

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Analysis

• *METU/ Journal of the Faculty of Architecture*

The limitation of the review according to the publications in the WoS database determined within the scope of the research made it necessary to focus on the period between 2007-2023 for *METU JFA*. According to the findings obtained in this framework, the journal published a total of 476 publications in 17 years (**Table 5**). The numbers are above 30 in 2007, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014. In the case of invited guest editors, more articles have been published. For example, in 2010, a *'material'* file guest edited by Owain Pedgley was added to Volume 2.65% of these articles are in English (**Table 6**). For the journal, which has published only once in German, this does not give a significant result that other languages are included.

Table 5

The number of publications in *METU JFA* by years.

Journal's Publication Numbers by Years																				
Journal	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
METU JFA	-	-	32	21	28	36	27	38	36	45	25	26	26	25	27	20	27	25	12	476

Table 6

Language of research published in *METU JFA.*

Language of Research	
Language	Count of Language
English	305
Turkish	170
German	1

When the institutions of the authors are analyzed, it is seen that the institutions with 10 or more publications are Middle East University (63), Gazi University (16), Istanbul Technical University (15), Mersin University (13), İ. D. Bilkent University (11), İzmir Institute of Technology (11), Çankaya University (10) and Yıldız Technical University (10) (**Table 7**). Considering that *METU JFA* is a publication of the Middle East Technical University Faculty of Architecture, half of these institutions are from Ankara universities and the others are from big cities such as İstanbul and İzmir where the most established architecture faculties are located. On the other hand, considering the increasing number of architecture faculties and architecture programs in Turkey, these percentages to publish remain still within a limited academic reach. The articles are mainly prepared in English although the journal accepts Turkish publications too. This may be evidence that the journal is trying to create content for an international platform.

Out of the 476 publications analyzed, 372 (78%) are research articles. While the percentage of review, letter, proceedings paper type publication in the general framework is quite low; biographical item, book review and editorial material publications have a percentage between 4-10% (**Table 8**).
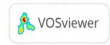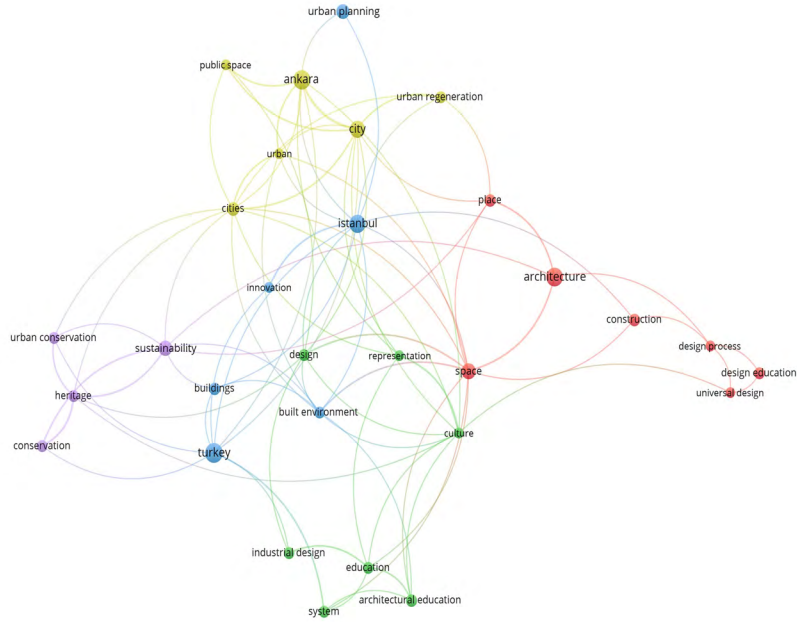
Table 7

Affiliations of authors in *METU JFA*.

Affiliations of Authors	
University	**Count of Affiliations**
Middle East University	63
Gazi University	16
İstanbul Technical University	15
Mersin University	13
İ. D. Bilkent University	11
İzmir Institute of Technology	11
Çankaya University	10
Yıldız Technical University	10

Table 8

Document types of publications in *METU JFA*.

Document Type of Publications	
Document Type	**Count of Document Type**
Article	372
Article/ Proceedings Paper	7
Biographical Item	50
Book Review	20
Editorial Material	24
Review	1
Letter	1
Art Exhibit Review	1
Total	**476**

Total of 1828 different keywords were used in 476 publications of *METU JFA*. **Table 9** shows the 30 most frequently used keywords. According to the keyword analysis, there are five different coloured clusters. As can be seen from the keywords in these clusters, which represent different research focuses of the journal, the words *'Turkey'* and *'İstanbul'* in the blue cluster, *'Ankara'* in the yellow cluster, *'sustainability'* in the purple cluster, *'architecture'* in the red cluster, and equally *'design'*, *'system'*, *'education'* in the green cluster are prominent in terms of repetition frequency (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2
Network visualization based on keyword occurrences.

VOSviewer

Source: Image generated by authors using VOSviewer (2023)

Table 9
METU JFA Network analysis keyword clusters.

	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5
Keyword	architecture	architectural education	buildings	Ankara	conservation
	construction	culture	built environment	cities	heritage
	design education	design	innovation	city	sustainability
	design process	education	İstanbul	public space	urban conservation
	place	industrial design	Turkey	urban	
	space	representation	urbanplanning	urban generation	
	universal design	system			

Table 10

The occurrence and total link strengths of the top keywords.

Keyword	Occurrences	Total Link Strength
city	12	48
Ankara	16	40
Turkey	17	40
İstanbul	14	34
space	11	29
place	7	28
cities	8	26
sustainability	10	22
culture	5	21
design	6	21
heritage	6	20
architecture	15	19
built environment	6	19
public space	5	19
system	6	19
urban	5	19
education	6	17

To obtain clear and meaningful data in the keyword analysis, 1828 different keywords were limited by selecting the condition of occurring at least five times. The occurrence values in **Table 10** for the most frequently occurring keywords that meet this limitation are *'Turkey'*, *'Ankara'*, *'architecture'*, *'İstanbul'* and *'city'*. Similarly, the words *'city'*, *'Ankara'*, *'Turkey'* and *'İstanbul'* have the highest total link strength values and strong relationships with other words. The journal includes publications that are appropriate to the content specified in the purpose and scope of the journal, and that there is a linear relationship between the words of key importance. On the other hand, as an important journal for the Field of Architecture, Planning, and Design, it is seen that the research is distributed evenly among these disciplines.

• *Megaron/ Yıldız Technical University Faculty of Architecture E-Journal*

Megaron, which is accepted as one of the important journals in the Basic Field of Architecture, Planning, and Design, has published 605 articles in 19 years. The number of studies published by the journal, which regularly publishes four issues each year, increased 50 in 2016-2017-2018-2020 and 70 in 2019 (**Table 11**). The reason for the increase in 2019 is the papers

presented at the İstanbul 1st Housing Congress, which was organised by Yıldız Technical University Faculty of Architecture in cooperation with the Governorship of İstanbul and İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality, and where the main theme was *'safe living spaces and accessible housing'*. It is seen that the journal published a special issue only in 2012 and 2019. The average number of articles published by the journal was 17 in the 8-year period (2006-2013) when it was published in three issues per year, and 46 in the 10-year period (2014-2023) when it was published in four issues up to today. Another reason for these averages, apart from the annual number of publications, is that the journal is seen as a positive status by researchers, especially since it started to be indexed in many international citation indexes in 2014 and 2019.

Table 11

The number of publications in *Megaron* by years.

Journal's Publication Numbers by Years																			
Journal	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Megaron	2	12	19	15	20	16	18	25	16	24	45	50	52	52	72	55	48	45	19	605

Table 12

Language of research published in *Megaron*.

Language of Research	
Language	**Count of Language**
English	170
Turkish	434
Hungarian	1

Megaron only accepts articles in English as of February 2022. 72% of *Megaron* articles were prepared in Turkish (**Table 12**). Until the process of including research in English, the journal was indexed in international citation indexes and also emphasised local studies. The foreign language publication policy, which can be seen as a necessary step in the context of increasing international visibility, could increase the interest in the journal and increase the diversity.

Table 13

Affiliations of authors in *Megaron*.

Affiliations of Authors	
University	**Count of Affiliations**
Yıldız Technical University	185
İstanbul Technical University	37
Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University	28
Dokuz Eylül University	19
İzmir Institute of Technology	13
Gazi University	12
Gebze Technical University	10
Mersin University	10

Examining the institutions of the researchers who published in the journal, Yıldız Technical University ranks first with 185 publications representing more than 30% (**Table 13**). This value is followed by İstanbul Technical University (37) with a percentage of 6%, and Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University (28) with a percentage of 4%. The other two universities with the highest number of publications are Dokuz Eylül University (19) and İzmir Institute of Technology (13). In this context, the top 6 of the ranking of the institutions of researchers publishing in *Megaron* are universities in the metropolises of İstanbul-Ankara-İzmir. What is noteworthy in this table is that Mersin University is included in a list dominated by these universities with 10 publication. This institution, which also ranks as fourth in *METU JFA* with similar values, is keeping up in the leading academic reach through scientific work that published.
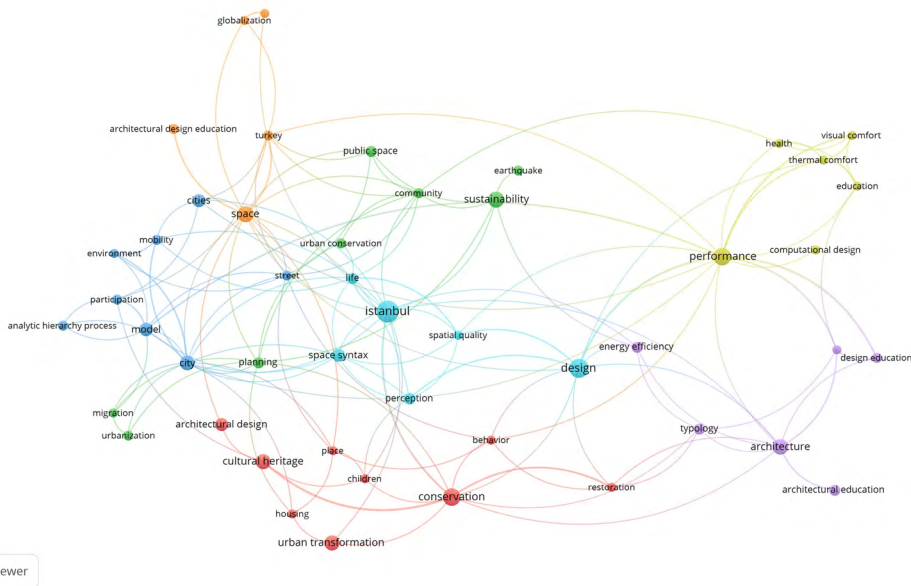
Table 14

Document types of publications in *Megaron*.

Document Type of Publications	
Document Type	**Count of Document Type**
Article	587
Article/ Proceedings Paper	1
Editorial Material	11
Review	5
Letter	1
Total	**605**

According to **Table 14**, 587 of the studies published in *Megaron* are research articles. The reviews and letters are included in the least numbers, and there are no publications such as book reviews, biographical item etc. In this context, it is evident that the journal does not include publications such as data analysis, research summaries, technical reports and survey results as stated on its website.

Figure 3

Network visualization based on keyword occurrences.

Source: Image generated by authors using VOSviewer (2023)

2379 different keywords were used in a total of 605 publications in *Megaro*n. According to the minimum number of 5 occurrence criteria, 48 keywords were clustered in 7 different colours (**Figure 3**). The cluster number is important in terms of identifying similarly related but different focus areas that occur in the keywords in the journal's publications. Therefore, the clusters formed by the keywords reveal that *Megaron* has a wide range of topics. Keywords such as *'architectural design'*, *'design'*, *'community'*, which ranked first in each cluster, confirm the scope of the journal related to the Basic Field of Architecture, Planning, and Design with the intensive inclusion of keywords belonging to these disciplines. The strongest of these clusters contains 7 keywords (**Table 15**). By analyzing the word groups, journal focuses on topics such as design, conservation and culture in architecture.

Table 15

Megaron network analysis keyword clusters.

	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5	Cluster 6	Cluster 7
Keyword	architectural design	community	analytic hierarchy process	computational design	architectural education	design	architectural design education
	behavior	earthquake	cities	education	architecture	İstanbul	globalization
	children	migration	city	health	design education	life	identity
	conservation	planning	environment	performance	design studio	perception	space
	cultural heritage	public space	mobility	thermal comfort	energy efficiency	space syntax	Turkey
	housing	sustainability	model	visual comfort	typology	spatial quality	
	place	urban conservation	participation				
	restoration	urbanization	street				
	urban transformation						

The most frequently used keywords in the occurrence values resulting from the analysis are *'İstanbul'*, *'design'*, *'performance'*, *'conservation'*. The words with the highest total link strength values are *'performance'*, *'İstanbul'*, *'city'*, *'conservation'*. The words *'performance'*, *'İstanbul'*, *'city'*, *'conservation'* are used most frequently and have the largest and strongest relationships, especially in terms of their high values (**Table 16**). This reveals that different themes reviewed in the journal are linked to these words of pivotal importance.

• *Planlama/ The Journal of Planning*

Although the *Planlama* journal started its publication life in 1986, this research includes the period from 2013 to 2023 due to the publication archive available on WoS. The journal published 297 articles during these 11 years (**Table 17**). The annual number of publications of the journal has continued to increase every year except 2019. This increase has been realized with a balanced distribution over the years, and the average number of articles has remained at 27. Maintaining this balance during the period of publication as one of the highest rated journals within the scope of the field index in the list of associate professorship criteria due to the Avery Index to Periodicals, can be interpreted that the journal prioritizes quality in publications. The journal has been publishing three issues a year since 2013. There is an *'Appendix'* prepared only in 2018.

Table 16

The occurrences and total link strength of the top keywords.

Keyword	Occurrences	Total Link Strength
performance	18	24
İstanbul	28	18
city	12	18
conservation	18	17
space	15	16
design	21	14
architecture	14	12
model	11	10
community	6	10
life	7	9
planning	7	9
street	6	9
Turkey	6	9
design studio	5	8
spatial quality	5	8
cultural heritage	13	7
perception	8	7
mobility	6	7
restoration	5	7
thermal comfort	5	7

Table 17

The number of publications in Planlama by years.

Journal	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Journal's Publication Numbers by Years																				
Planlama	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	19	21	22	29	31	22	32	39	41	24	297

Table 18

Language of research published in *Planlama*.

Language of Research	
Language	**Count of Language**
English	67
Turkish	230

The *Planlama* journal reports that it accepts articles in Turkish and English languages through its online system. All research is prepared in two languages. However, Turkish articles are predominant with 230 articles (**Table 18**). The explanation for this may be that the journal is a publication of the UCTEA Chamber of Urban Planners İstanbul Branch and its main purpose is to provide a platform where professional activities are shared and evaluated among the members of the profession. For this reason, the journal is more effective on a national scale.

Table 19

Affiliations of authors in *Planlama*.

Affiliations of Authors	
University	**Count of Affiliations**
İstanbul Technical University	36
DokuzEylül University	21
Yıldız Technical University	20
Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University	19
Gazi University	18
Middle East University	16
Mersin University	14
Karadeniz Technical University	12

The information on the institutions with 10 or more publications in the journal is given in **Table 19**. When these numbers are reviewed, İstanbul Technical University (36) is in the first rank with more publications; however, starting from the second rank, Dokuz Eylül University (21), Yıldız Technical University (20), Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University (19) and Gazi University (18) have values close to each other without a significant difference. For the journal, which has a mixed structure consisting of publications from universities located in various cities such as İstanbul-Ankara-İzmir-Trabzon-Mersin, the contribution to the field has been achieved to a wider geographical coverage.
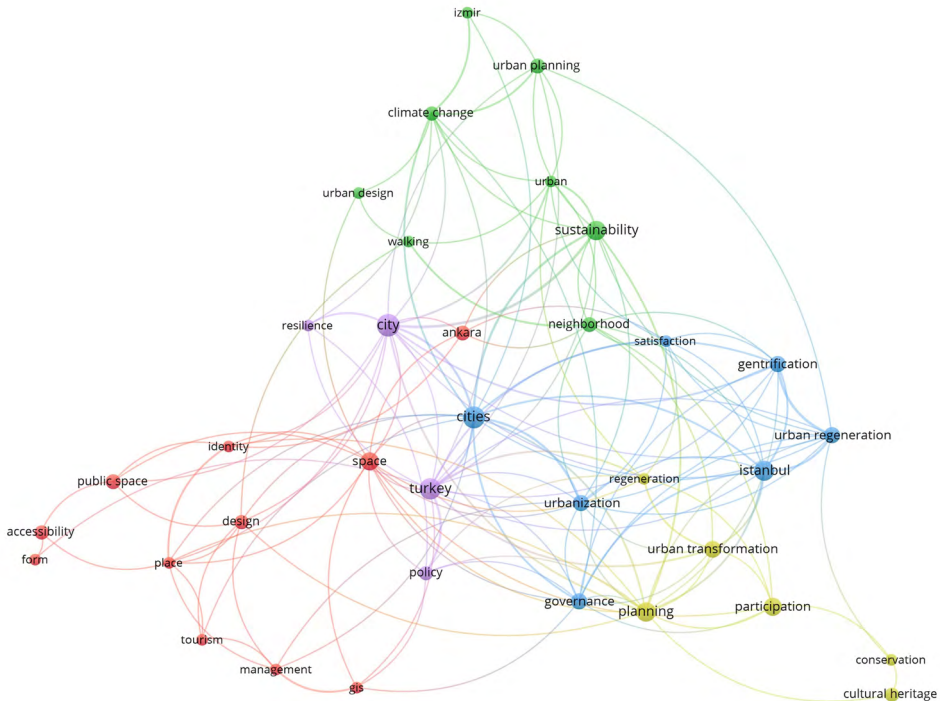
Table 20

Document types of publications in *Planlama*.

Document Type of Publications	
Document Type	**Count of Document Type**
Article	223
Book Review	7
Editorial Material	24
Review	41
Letter	2
Total	**297**

Figure 4

Network visualization based on keyword occurrences.

Source: Image generated by authors using VOSviewer (2023)

Among the 297 articles published in the *Planlama* journal, 223 were research articles, while 41 reviews and 24 editorial materials. Although most of the publications were articles, the number of reviews should not be underestimated (**Table 20**). It is important to note that the journal gives importance to the authors' works in which they question and evaluate current developments according to their own interpretations and research. Thus, by building a connection between theory and practice, the journal contributes to the close follow-up of developments with scientific content and to the freedom of thought and expression. On the other hand, diverse types of research such as technical reports or data analysis were not included from the beginning of the publication process.

Among 1172 keywords identified in 297 studies published in the *Planlama* journal, 36 words step forward. These words form clusters in 5 different colours (Figure 4). Within this relationship indicating different focal points, the yellow cluster stands out with the concepts of *'conservation'* and *'cultural heritage'*, the blue cluster with *'cities'* and *'gentrification'*, the purple cluster with the fewest sub-concepts with *'city'*, the green cluster with *'climate change'* and *'İzmir'* and the red cluster with *'accessibility'*. While the concepts of the red cluster, which can be read as the strongest of these clusters, show knowledge production in a broader framework, more peculiar subject areas with words such as *'neighborhood'*, *'walking'*, *'İzmir'* can also find a place in the journal, especially in the green cluster. Moreover, concepts such as *'cities'*, *'urban regeneration'*, *'urbanization'*, *'urban planning'*, *'urban planning'*, *'governance'* in the green, blue, yellow and purple clusters clearly indicate a focus on urban and regional planning (**Table 21**).

Table 21
Planlama network analysis keyword clusters.

	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5
Keyword	accessibility	climate change	cities	conservation	city
	Ankara	İzmir	gentrification	cultural heritage	policy
	design	neighborhood	governance	participation	resilience
	form	sustainability	İstanbul	planning	Turkey
	GIS	urban	satisfaction	regeneration	
	identity	urban design	urban regeneration	urban transformation	
	management	urban planning	urbanization		
	place	walking			
	public space				
	space				
	tourism				

Table 22
The occurrences and total link strength of the top keywords.

Keyword	Occurrences	Total Link Strength
Cities	17	28
City	18	26
Turkey	16	24
Planning	13	20
İstanbul	14	18
Sustainability	13	18
Urban regeneration	9	17
Gentrification	9	16
Governance	9	15
Space	11	15
Urbanization	9	15
Climate change	7	13
Neighborhood	8	11
Urban transformation	10	11
Place	5	10
Satisfaction	5	10
Urban	5	10
Policy	7	9
Regeneration	5	9
design	7	8

On the other hand; according to the total link strength, the keywords *'cities'*, *'city'*, *'Turkey'*, *'planning'* and *'İstanbul'* have the highest number of links, and since these words are directly related to the subjects specified in the purpose and scope of the journal, it can be claimed that a parallel relationship is maintained with the highlighted topics (**Table 22**). Based on the analyses, it can be interpreted that the subject framework is clearly defined, and the scope of the studies is appropriate, which is expected to support continuous and sustainable publishing.

• *ICONARP/ International Journal of Architecture and Planning*

ICONARP has a total of 295 publications analysed. In the period between 2013-2023, the journal published two issues per year and the number of articles in these issues increased (**Table 23**). 2017 (Special Issue: Memory of Places), 2018 (Special Issue: Universal Design),

2019 (Special Issue: Urban Morphology) and 2020 (Special Issue: Space and Process) also contributed to the number of publications. The content of three of these special issues consists of studies presented at international symposiums organized by Selçuk University and submitted to the referee process for publication in the journal. Considering that the symposiums aim to discuss the current topics of the era and to provide an academic accumulation of knowledge, the content of these special issues focused on trending topics. Although the increase in the number of articles between 2017 and 2020 can be attributed to special issues, the increase in the number of publications continued as of 2021, although there was no special issue, and the number of annual issues did not increase. One of the reasons for this increase can be seen as the high interest shown by the researchers with the inclusion of the journal in ICONDA (in 2017) and Avery Index of Periodicals (in 2019) databases, which bring high collected points as they were field indexes according to the associate professorship criteria of the previous period.

Table 23

The number of publications in *ICONARP* by years.

Journal's Publication Numbers by Years																				
Journal	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
ICONARP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	14	11	15	22	28	39	45	43	39	24	295

Table 24

Language of research published in *ICONARP*.

Language of Research	
Language	**Count of Language**
English	286
Turkish	9

The language analysis of the studies published in the journal shows that there are publications in Turkish and English (**Table 24**). Articles in Turkish were only included in the first two issues in 2013, then since 2014 the journal continued to publish in English. The journal accepts only in English as part of its vision of becoming internationally recognized and successful.

Affiliations of Authors	
University	**Count of Affiliations**
İstanbul Technical University	22
Konya Technical University	19
Selçuk University	17
Gazi University	12
Karadeniz Technical University	10

Five universities were found when the institutions with 10 or more publications in the journal were analyzed. While Istanbul Technical University (22) ranked first as the most active institution, the contribution of Konya Technical University (19), where the academicians who have founded the journal, and Selçuk University (17), which is located in the same city with this university, to the journal remained around 5-7%. The decrease in the number of institutions in this list may indicate that 295 publications are distributed among authors from different institutions and that a core list of institutions is not adhered to (**Table 25**). For this reason, the distribution of institutions in the journal is not limited to certain communities.
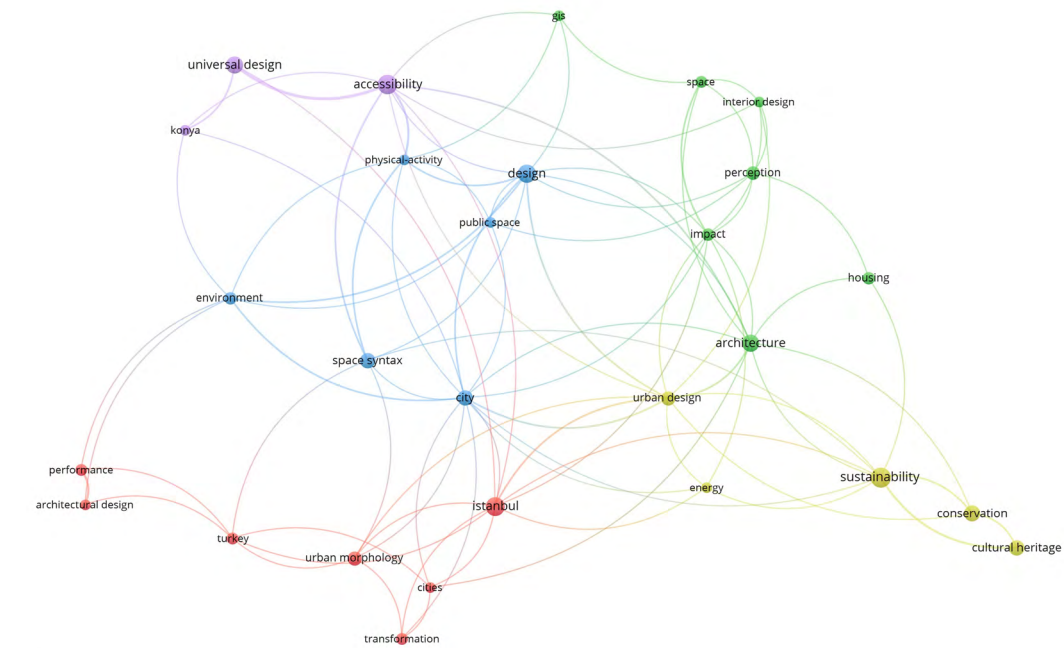
Document Type of Publications	
Document Type	**Count of Document Type**
Article	286
Book Review	2
Editorial Material	4
Review	3
Total	**295**

Among the publications of *ICONARP* journal, 286 were published as research articles. Several types of publications such as book review (2), editorial material (4), review (3) are not enough to form a meaningful inference (**Table 26**). This data may show that the journal emphasizes the type of article, clearly determines the scope as in the journal's publication language and goes beyond this in exceptional cases. Seeing that the journal has not included

arbitrary practices in its publication acceptance criteria over a period of 11 years and that it has progressed in a clear and consistent manner may have a positive impact on researchers who question whether this journal might be suitable for their scientific research articles.

Figure 5
Network visualization based on keyword occurrences.

Source: Image generated by authors using VOSviewer (2023)

295 publications in the journal contained a total of 1308 keywords. Among these words, the number of keywords with at least five repetitions is 28. These words are clustered in 5 different colours (Figure 5). An analysis of the clusters shows that words that can be associated with architecture such as *'architectural design'*, *'architecture'*, *'conservation'*, *'housing'*; words that can be interpreted in the scale of urban and regional planning such as *'cities'*, *'city'*, *'urban design'*, *'urban morphology'*, *'public space'* and design-oriented words such as *'interior design'*, *universal design'*, *'accessibility'*, *'physical-activity'*, *'design'* are included in different clusters (**Table 27**). Considering that clusters focus on specific subject areas and the keywords they contain form sub-groups, the subjects in the Basic Fields of Architecture, Planning, and Design are handled in a similar-associated manner and prioritized interdisciplinary cooperation.

Table 27

ICONARP network analysis keyword clusters.

Keyword	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5
	architectural design	architecture	city	conservation	accessibility
	cities	gis	design	cultural heritage	Konya
	İstanbul	housing	environment	energy	universal design
	performance	impact	physical-activity	sustainability	
	transformation	interior design	public space	urban design	
	Turkey	perception	space syntax		
	urban morphology	space			

Table 28

The occurrence and total link strength of the top keywords.

Keyword	Occurrences	Total Link Strength
accessibility	16	19
city	10	18
design	14	15
urban design	9	15
architecture	13	12
İstanbul	15	12
sustainability	17	12
physical-activity	5	11
impact	7	10
environment	7	9
space syntax	10	9
universal design	13	9
conservation	11	6
perception	8	6
space	6	6
Turkey	6	6
urban morphology	9	6
architectural design	5	5
cities	5	5
cultural heritage	10	5

According to the occurrence values, the most repeated words in the publications are *'sustainability'*, *'accessibility'*, *'İstanbul'*, *'design'* and *'architecture'* and *'universal design'* with the same values (**Table 28**). By analyzing the total link strength values of these keywords, the word *'accessibility'*, which also has a high occurrence value, is important and associated with many keywords. Therefore, the journal focuses on user-oriented current topics such as design, sustainability, physical activity, environment, universal design and associates these words within a wide range of subject areas.

Conclusion

As a result of globalization and internationalization, university ranking systems with different approaches, such as Times Higher Education (THE), Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd. (QS), US News & World Report, and the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), are used as data for assessing the quality of universities worldwide. In these evaluations, citation counts and research impact factors are used to create rankings of universities. The importance of publishing in prestigious citation indices is highlighted by these systems, which have been increasingly discussed in recent years due to concerns about scoring and index pressures on researchers. Criticisms have been raised regarding the lack of scientific basis, the failure to consider the education system as a whole, and the use of non-transparent measurement techniques (Fonn, 2024). In particular, many universities ranked at the top of these lists have recently announced their withdrawal from the rankings after refusing to provide data to the ranking organizations. This has summarized academic concerns that the positive perceptions of practices aimed at increasing academic productivity and researcher visibility actually support quantitative and popular knowledge production. Although this situation, which may also lead to the commercialization of the publishing culture, has been criticized, it has manifested in Turkey as well, particularly in the changes made to academic promotion and appointment processes in 2023, one of which includes the condition of publishing in journals indexed in WoS as an important performance criterion for associate professorship candidates. However, academics in design disciplines face difficulties in publishing in journals indexed in citation databases, as they often produce research papers that require originality rather than a high quantity of publications. In this context, the research focuses on the limited number of Turkish origin journals indexed in WoS within the Field of Architecture, Planning, and Design, with the aim of providing data that will help researchers follow an efficient path to meet the fundamental criteria for academic career continuity. The journal analyses conducted within a systematic framework include several limitations: a) since the focus country is Turkey, only Turkish origin journals are considered, b) only journals indexed in WoS are included as they hold the highest scores in evaluations, c) due to the absence of previous research on the field

of Architecture, Planning, and Design, priority is given to journals and publications produced within this specific domain, and d) the *IDA-International Design and Art Journal*, which has been indexed in ESCI since 2022, could not be included in this study due to its limited number of publications. According to the information obtained from the WoS database, the results of the analysis can be summarized as follows:

- *METU JFA* published 476 studies in 17 years, *Megaron* 605 studies in 19 years, *Planlama* 297 studies in 11 years and *ICONARP* 295 studies in 11 years. According to this data, journals included 26-31 studies on average per year. However, *METU JFA* and *ICONARP* publish two issues per year, while *Planlama* publishes three and *Megaron* publishes four. This may be a determinant for researchers to consider the frequency of publication for their research.

- All of the journals accepted studies in Turkish and English languages at the beginning of their publication life; however, only *METU JFA* and *Planlama* journals continue in the same manner today. Researchers who wish to publish in *Megaron* and *ICONARP* journals are expected to apply with research written in English.

- The institutions that contribute the most with 10 or more publications in the analyzed journals are the universities with the longest history in the fields of architecture, planning and design in Turkey. On the other hand, it is clear that İstanbul Technical University has a significant contribution to all four journals that are not published within its own institution, and Gazi University can be evaluated in a similar manner.

- According to the results obtained based on the document type classifications made by WoS; it is seen that all of the journals are inclined to publish mostly research articles.

- According to the keyword analyses, which is considered as one of the most important components determining the scope of the journals, the words used with high frequency are *'Turkey'*, *'Ankara'*, *'architecture'*, *'İstanbul'*, *'design'*, *'conservation'*, *'city'*, *'sustainability'* and *'accessibility'*. These words are associated with many diverse subjects and that all four journals keep the framework of their own tendencies within the scope of the field of architecture, planning and design. This will make it easier for researchers to select journals according to the content of their research and help them get a comprehensive overview. This will guide researchers with specific research topics to analyze the focused areas.

The findings derived from this research aim to serve as a guide for academics. The inferences and future recommendations for each inference are as follows:

The pressure to publish on researchers is also related to the frequency of publication of the journals. In situations where there are limited journal alternatives, the demand for certain journals may increase, potentially affecting the evaluation processes both positively and

negatively. Therefore, journals like *Planlama* and *Megaron*, which publish three to four issues per year, and *METU JFA* and *ICONARP*, which publish two issues annually, may offer more opportunities for early-stage researchers. Future studies could explore how the diversity and content of the works accepted by journals change as publication frequency increases, how evaluation processes are affected by this frequency, and how the originality of the published content is influenced.

Researchers' tendency to publish in their native language may conflict with their concerns about ensuring international visibility and receiving citations. The fact that all the journals examined in this study support the English language may provide advantages for researchers. The notion that works published in local languages may receive fewer citations raises the issue of the exclusion of Turkish scientific literature, and whether these works are overlooked. This presents a new avenue for research and discussion.

The fact that all the journals support types of publications other than research articles may encourage researchers who have publications with an advantage in performance evaluations. On the other hand, it could be investigated how the higher return assigned to research articles impacts design research within other publication types.

The presence of high-frequency keywords such as *'architecture'*, *'design'*, and *'city'* in the journals indicates that the thematic trends and research areas within each journal reflect these fields directly. Similarly, keywords like *'Turkey'*, *'İstanbul'*, *'Ankara'*, *'sustainability'* and *'accessibility'* highlight that the focal topics emphasize significant and contemporary issues in the national context. This situation may lead researchers, in their efforts to align with international norms, to focus on topics expected to generate impact in the journals, thus potentially distancing themselves from the local context, failing to produce original works on local issues, or losing sensitivity to local problems. Researchers could observe the stated research topics of the journals clearly, preventing time loss due to the rejection of manuscripts deemed out of scope by the journals. Future studies could examine the position of Turkey-focused, local studies in the international context and investigate the continuity of the journals' stated scope.

The aim of this research is to shed light on the challenges faced by academics in the academic publishing world and to facilitate the process of selecting the appropriate journal. Although researchers may have published numerous articles in various journals, they may still encounter obstacles in their academic careers due to failure to meet appointment and promotion criteria. Under the pressure of the *'publish or perish'* conditions, they may also face burnout and stress. Therefore, rather than offering a critique of the system, the focus has been on providing a systematic evaluation of the requirements of the evolving academic system, with the goal of offering guidance on how to navigate the current conditions most effectively. Given the challenges early-career academics face in connecting with the publishing world, providing guidance on selecting the right journal and fostering positive author-journal relationships has been considered particularly important.

Future studies may go beyond this analysis by examining other national and international journals using similar methods. The limitations identified in this study contribute to the content of future discussions. For instance, the international recognition of these four journals publishing in foreign languages could be subjected to citation analysis. The academic titles of the researchers publishing in these journals could also provide an interesting approach for future research. From an organizational perspective, investigating the number and/or proportion of early-career researchers working and volunteering on editorial boards presents an interesting avenue for future research. As the workload of academic journals continues to grow, involving early-career researchers offers a valuable opportunity for them to learn. This experience equips them with essential skills that can only be acquired through hands-on involvement in the behind-the-scenes operations of academic publishing.

The findings presented above indicate that the journals under investigation offer researchers different perspectives and focal points, thereby supporting academic diversity. This could contribute to a broader evaluation of academic production in the fields of Architecture, Planning, and Design. Additionally, examining the editorial policies of journals, peer review processes, and author profiles could offer a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of these journals on the academic community. A further extension of this research could explore the impact of central versus peripheral universities on academic promotion and publication strategies. While central universities might have more access to broader academic networks and high-impact international journals; on the contrary, peripheral universities that are comparatively less connected, might face different challenges in terms of publication activities and recognition. Analyzing the differences in promotion criteria among these universities could shed light on how centralization and/or localization of publication efforts impacts career advancement and the overall success of scholars from both central and peripheral institutions. For the time being, a holistic view is provided for new researchers producing knowledge in the fields of Architecture, Planning, and Design, and the authors anticipate that this research will guide the researchers in their future academic endeavors.

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