

Citation Habits of Spanish Modern Historians Publishing in Journals and Congress Proceedings

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Abstract: This paper analyzes the scientific production and references included in papers authored by Spanish modern historians who published articles in journals and congress proceedings in 2000-2001. The findings identified the characteristics of the research conducted by historians publishing in these two types of source documents.

Objectives

The study aimed to determine the information consumption behaviour of Spanish modern historians when publishing in journals and congress proceedings. Mutual citing was used to ascertain the existence or otherwise of relationships among these historians in terms of subject matter.

Methodology

Articles in modern history journals and congress proceedings published in Spain in 2000 and 2001

were analyzed, along with the bibliographic references used by the authors of these papers. Relationships between the citing and cited authors were studied in both types of domains by means of sociograms charted with Pajek social network analysis software using the Fruchterman-Reingold algorithm to generate particularly clear results. The relationships were weighted by frequency.

Results

Table 1 summarizes some of the characteristics of the documents analyzed. While the co-authorship index values showed similar degrees of collaboration in the two domains, a higher number of references per paper was found in the journal articles than in the congress proceedings.

Table 1.- Characteristics of the documents analyzed

Type of publication	Num. documents	Num. authors	Co-authorship index	Num. of references	References/source documents
Modern history articles	284	307	1.07	12,869	41.92
Congress proceedings	753	811	1.08	25,191	31.06

Of a total of 1,118 authors, only 57 published in both types of source documents, signing 69 papers in journals and 85 in congress proceedings. For reader visualization of these relationships, however, only the ones established by the seven most productive authors in each domain are shown here. All had published at least four papers in the years analyzed.

Further to the sociogram for the articles published in Spanish modern history journals shown in Figure 1, on the whole the number of mutual citations by the seven researchers studied was very small.

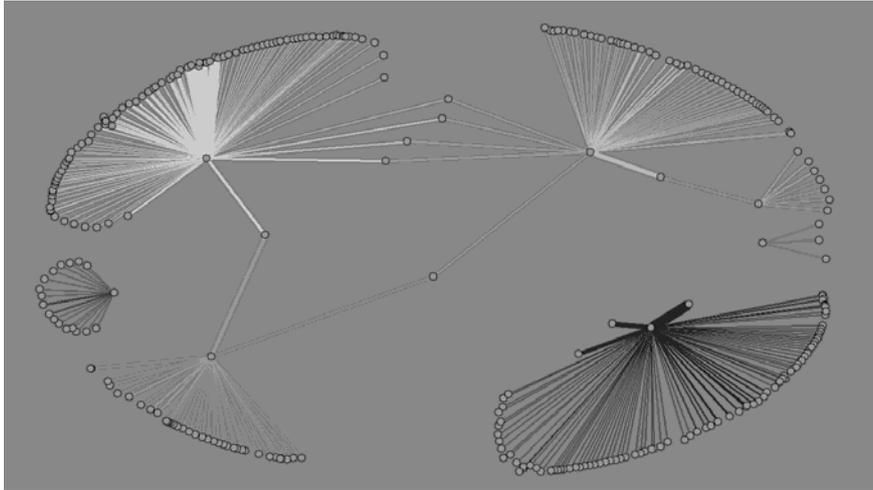


Figure 1.- Citing and cited authors when publishing in scientific journals

Figure 2, in turn, shows the sociogram for the same set of researchers when publishing in congress

proceedings. Here a larger number of mutual references was found in the papers published.

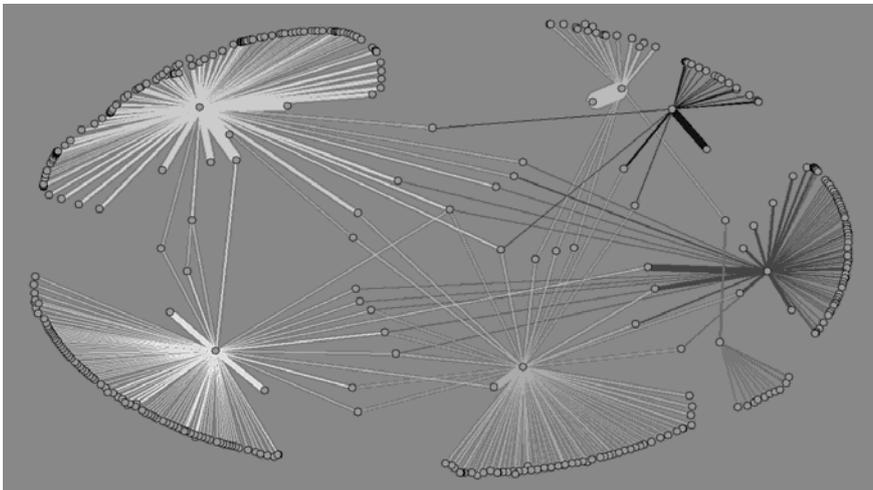


Figure 2.- Citing and cited authors when publishing in congress proceedings

Conclusions

An analysis of the authors cited revealed differential behaviour depending on whether historians published their papers in journals or congress proceedings. The number of mutual citations was higher in congress proceedings, indicating greater subject matter affinity among researchers in this domain than in journals. Nonetheless, a larger number of papers were used specifically by each author in articles, denoting a high degree of subject matter specialization by authors and their papers. Such specialization is consistent with the scant collaboration described in previous papers (Brockman, 2001; Sanz-Casado, E. et al., 2002) and the low rates of co-authorship found in the present study.

Acknowledgments

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