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CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS USING THE SCOPUS DATABASE

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Abstract

The main objective of this study is to perform a bibliometric analysis on the trends and other important meta-data on research publications related to the concept of "corporate sustainability". There is a noted dearth on this area and this study could be considered to be a pioneering attempt to conduct a bibliometric analysis on this area. The present paper applies bibliometric and network analysis to examine research publications trends, citations, country of publications, top journals, top authors, top publishers and top cited papers related to concept Corporate Sustainability over the past 20 years from the year 1989 in the Scopus database, where empirical evidence suggest that Scopus has a comprehensive coverage of publications in the social science discipline. Standard bibliometric indicators including the growth rate of publications, analysis of the citations, and research productivity were used in order to evaluate bibliometric data, which were analyzed using standard Publish or Perish and Vos Viewer software. 105,725 references in 1,950 source publications were analysed. In terms of findings, in 1989, the first publication was noted in the Scopus database on corporate sustainability and it is indicated that the publications related to this field has tremendously increased continuously within the last two decades. Furthermore, findings suggest that the highest number of publications and number of citations are related to three countries (i.e., United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia) and leading journals in this area included the Journal of Cleaner Production, Sustainability Switzerland, Business Strategy and the Environment, Journal of Business Ethics, and the Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management. Moreover, researcher, Isabel Schaltegger, S et al. published the highest number of articles (sixteen) on Corporate Sustainability and second highest publications were by Searcy, C. (twelve). Additionally, the findings indicated that the highest cited article was the "Beyond the business case for corporate sustainability" by Dyllick, T. & Hockerts, H. in 2017 with 1,432 citations and the second highest cited publication is done by Marrewijk, M. in 2003 with 950 citations. Finally, it was found that the areas of sustainable development and environmental sustainability are the main key areas focused by the researchers. Based on the findings, we propose that future researchers could investigate on the areas such as environmental management, environmental impact, corporate-sustainability, corporate strategy and environmental economics.

Keywords: Bibliometric Analysis, Corporate Sustainability, Environmental Management, Environmental Economics, Trends