



Letter to the editor

Comments on “State of the art on food waste research: A bibliometrics study from 1997 to 2014”



Recently, [Chen et al. \(2017\)](#) published the paper entitled “State of the art on food waste research: A bibliometrics study from 1997 to 2014”. In 3.4. Research emphasis: author keywords, authors mentioned “These keywords were calculated and ranked using six-year intervals to minimize year-to-year fluctuations.” without any references ([Xie et al., 2008](#); [Zhang et al., 2010](#); [Ho et al., 2010](#)). In fact, Ho and coworkers firstly proposed the method using author keywords in different intervals to reveal the research emphases and trends in 2008 ([Xie et al., 2008](#)). Later, a series of studies were conducted by Ho and coworkers to investigate various research topics ([Li et al., 2009](#); [Fu et al., 2010](#); [Ho et al., 2010](#); [Li et al., 2011](#)) using this method, which has been widely accepted in the scientific world, receiving more than two hundred citations in Web of Science.

Since some journals don't have author keywords information, title words, abstract words, and *KeyWords Plus* were also quantitatively analyzed to monitor the development of science ([Li et al., 2009](#); [Ho et al., 2010](#)). Statistical analysis of words in title, author keywords, and *KeyWords Plus* in different periods, for example 4-year ([Li et al., 2009](#)), 5-year ([Ho and Ho, 2015](#)), and 6-year ([Ho et al., 2010](#)) interval has been developed only in recent years, and has proved to be significant in evaluating trends of research fields ([Li et al., 2009](#); [Zhang et al., 2010](#); [Mao et al., 2010](#); [Fu et al., 2013](#)). The analysis including words in title, author keywords, and *KeyWords Plus* together could minimize some limitations, such as the uncompleted meaning of single words in title, the small sample size for author keywords, and the indirectly relationship between *KeyWords Plus* and the research emphases ([Fu and Ho, 2013](#)). These kinds of words were examined by time periods to show the trends, as well as to minimize the year-to-year fluctuations. [Chen et al. \(2017\)](#) presented the 30 most frequently used author keywords in three six-year intervals in Table 3. According to statistical analysis, the most frequently author keywords in 4-year ([Li et al., 2009](#)), 5-year ([Ho and Ho, 2015](#)), and 6-year ([Ho et al., 2010](#)) intervals has been illustrated in several research topics. Furthermore, only author keywords were used by [Chen et al. \(2017\)](#) to obtain research emphasis of food waste research, and it might cause some biases due to the lack of statistical samples from the journals without author keywords information. In addition, similar rebuttals have also been published in *Environmental Earth Sciences* ([Ho, 2016a](#)) and *Scientometrics* ([Ho, 2016b](#)).

Citing the original paper is not only respecting authors who presented a novel idea in research but also to read the original idea and method in detail of the work ([Ho, 2014](#)). In my view, [Chen et al. \(2017\)](#) should have cited the original paper for what they

mentioned in their paper and thereby provided greater accuracy and information details about the concept and the methods that they employed.

References

- Chen, H.B., Jiang, W., Yang, Y., Man, X., 2017. State of the art on food waste research: a bibliometrics study from 1997 to 2014. *J. Clean. Prod.* 140, 840–846.
- Fu, H.Z., Ho, Y.S., 2013. Independent research of China in science citation index expanded during 1980–2011. *J. Inf.* 7 (1), 210–222.
- Fu, H.Z., Ho, Y.S., Sui, Y.M., Li, Z.S., 2010. A bibliometric analysis of solid waste research during the period 1993–2008. *Waste Manag.* 30 (12), 2410–2417.
- Fu, H.Z., Wang, M.H., Ho, Y.S., 2013. Mapping of drinking water research: a bibliometric analysis of research output during 1992–2011. *Sci. Total Environ.* 443, 757–765.
- Ho, H.C., Ho, Y.S., 2015. Publications in dance field in *arts & humanities citation index*: a bibliometric analysis. *Scientometrics* 105 (2), 1031–1040.
- Ho, Y.S., 2014. Comments on “Adsorption characteristics and behaviors of graphene oxide for Zn(II) removal from aqueous solution”. *Appl. Surf. Sci.* 301, 584.
- Ho, Y.S., 2016a. Rebuttal to: “A bibliometric review on carbon cycling research during 1993–2013” by Zhi et al. *Environ. Earth Sci.* 2015 74 (7), 6065–6075. *Environmental Earth Sciences*, 75(9), 819.
- Ho, Y.S., 2016b. Rebuttal to: “Progress in global parallel computing research: a bibliometric approach”; Liu et al. *Scientometrics* 95, 967–983, 108 (3), 1693–1694.
- Ho, Y.S., Satoh, H., Lin, S.Y., 2010. Japanese lung cancer research trends and performance in science citation index. *Intern. Med.* 49 (20), 2219–2228.
- Li, J.F., Wang, M.H., Ho, Y.S., 2011. Trends in research on global climate change: a science citation index expanded-based analysis. *Glob. Planet. Change* 77 (1–2), 13–20.
- Li, L.L., Ding, G.H., Feng, N., Wang, M.H., Ho, Y.S., 2009. Global stem cell research trend: bibliometric analysis as a tool for mapping of trends from 1991 to 2006. *Scientometrics* 80 (1), 39–58.
- Mao, N., Wang, M.H., Ho, Y.S., 2010. A bibliometric study of the trend in articles related to risk assessment published in science citation index. *Hum. Ecol. Risk Assess.* 16 (4), 801–824.
- Xie, S.D., Zhang, J., Ho, Y.S., 2008. Assessment of world aerosol research trends by bibliometric analysis. *Scientometrics* 77 (1), 113–130.
- Zhang, G.F., Xie, S.D., Ho, Y.S., 2010. A bibliometric analysis of world volatile organic compounds research trends. *Scientometrics* 83 (2), 477–492.

Hui-Zhen Fu

Department of Information Resources Management, School of Public Affairs, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310058, Zhejiang, China

Yuh-Shan Ho*

Trend Research Centre, Asia University, No. 500, Lioufeng Road, Wufeng, Taichung County 41354, Taiwan

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: ysho@asia.edu.tw (Y.-S. Ho).

20 April 2017

Available online 22 April 2017