Content analysis of volume III articles of medical encyclopedia of Islam and Iran

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Abstract

Background and Purpose: Volume III articles of Medical Encyclopedia of Islam and Iran were published. The present research analyzes the content of articles in this Medical Encyclopedia making a comparison between the articles of first volume with the articles of second and third volume.

Methods and Materials: This research is a descriptive research and the method of content analysis was selected as the research method. The study population included the only published volume of Medical Encyclopedia of Islam and Iran (volume 3) which contains 254 articles. Due to the limited volumes published by the Encyclopedia, sampling was not performed in this research and all of the articles of volume 3 were examined. For data collection, the articles were studied and the needed data, including the degree of authors, was inserted in the checklist that was formulated based on the research questions.

Results: The research was done on 254 articles. Most of them (62%) have a master's degree and men (51%) were involved more than women (49%) in the production of articles. Also, most of the authors (83%) had Iranian nationality. Among 254 reviewed articles, 242 articles (95 %) had been written originally and 12 articles (5%) had been translated; 47% was belonged to the subject of "specific issues", 28% to the subject of "persons", 13% had the "general" subject, 10% had the "books and writings" subject, and 2% to the "miscellaneous issues". Each article contains an average of 2 pages of encyclopedia with an average of 17 citations used per article. In these reviewed articles, a total number of 98 pictures had been used in 62 articles and 192 articles were lacking picture. Checking the status of citations that had been used in the encyclopedia articles, from 4544 citations in volume 1, the most citations (52%) were in Farsi language and 48% of the citations were non-Persian in general. The highest rate of citation was found to be in the Arabic language including 35% of the citations. As for the date, 55% had solar date citations while 34% were on the date of A.D. and 5% on lunar date. The highest frequency of the cited author in the articles was Muhammad ibn Zakariya Razi, with the frequency of 97 and the highest frequency of the cited source was *Al-Qanun fi al-Tibb* (in Farsi language) by Ibn Sina, with the frequency of 51.

Conclusion: It seems that there was a significant relationship between the number of citations and the nationality of authors; however, there is no direct and significant relationship between the time of publication and citation frequency.

Keywords: Content Analysis; Encyclopedia; Islamic Medicine; Medical Encyclopedia of Islam and Iran.

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