

Bibliometric Analysis of Women's Studies from 1989 to 2024

Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar, Librarian, Govt. Arvind College, Kirandul, Dantewada, C.G.

Rohit Yadav, Assistant Professor, Institute of Library Science, Magadh University, Gaya, Bihar

Garima, Librarian, PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya Cossipore, Kolkata, W. B.

ABSTRACT:

The purpose of the present study is to analyze the bibliometric data of the journal, namely: Women's Studies. Women's Studies is a journal of international repute and published online by Taylor & Francis Group. A total of 1088 publications have been found in this journal for the period between 1989 and April 2024. The majority of the publications were comprised of articles (55%), followed by book reviews (32%). In terms of publication, 2009 is significant for the journal; it had a total of 36 publications, and after that, the publications of the journal have gradually increased, with the highest number of documents published in 2015 and 2016, comprising 94 and 91, respectively. Laura L. Bauer and Rachel Tie are leading authors of women's studies. The USA is the leading country and holds the 1st rank in terms of publications, with 716 publications, followed by Canada and England with 43 and 42 publications.

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Corresponding Author:

Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar, Librarian, Govt. Arvind College, Kirandul, Dantewada, C.G., ORCID ID: 0000-0003-2651-4424

Email: ravibhu19@gmail.com

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1. Introdcution

Women's Studies" is a core journal dedicated to scholarly publications on worldwide women's literary works. It encompasses a multidisciplinary approach, providing a forum for scholarship and criticism across diverse fields such as literature, history, art, sociology, law, political science, economics, anthropology, and the sciences. The journal also features poetry, film, and book reviews. Since its inception in 1989, "Women's Studies" has been published continuously, currently producing eight issues per year. It is available in both print and online formats, the online version published by Routledge Taylor & Francis Group with ISSN: 1547-7045. As a significant international journal focused on women's literary works, "Women's Studies" has garnered substantial attention from researchers and readers globally. The journal has maintained an impact factor (IF) of 0.3 over five years, with its highest IF score being 0.2 in 2022, as reported in the Web of Science categories. Additionally, it achieved a CiteScore of 0.3, a Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP) of 0.491, and a SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) of 0.125 for the year 2022. These metrics, provided by worldwide-recognized databases such as Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics) and Scopus (Elsevier) are recognized tools for assessing the prestige and impact of academics ([Women's Studies journal metrics \(tandfonline.com\)](https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/metrics)).

Clearly, "Women's Studies" is an influential journal in its field, both in terms of quality as well as quantity of publications. Therefore, it is important to analyze the bibliometric data of this journal. Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative study of various aspects of literature publish in a journal, utilized to identify publication patterns, authorship, and journal coverage, providing insights into the dynamics of knowledge growth in a particular journal (Kannan & Thanuskodi, 2019). A bibliometric analysis of the journals explores various aspects of contributions from an individual authors and institutions to the national level and assess their impact in specific subject area. The study aims to quantitaive analysis of Women's Studies publications based on various bibliometric aspects, including the distribution of document types, year-wise growth of publications, author productivity, and country-wise distribution of publications.

1. Aim of the study

The present study is based on bibliometric perspective of Women's Studies data, extracted from the Web of Science. It has been conducted to achieve the following objectives;

- a) To analyze the document-wise distribution in Women's Studies.
- b) To examine the year-wise publication growth of the journal.
- c) To identify the top 15 contributors to the journal.
- d) To study the top 15 countries based on their publications in this journal.

2. Data source and Methodology

For the present study, publication records of the journal were collected from the Web of Science Database. It provides a search facility with the complete publication records of a journal by using an ISSN. So, the authors have put the ISSN of the Women's Studies journal as IS= "1547-7045" in the advance search option of the database. This ISSN is assigned to the online version of Women's Studies. The print version of this journal has distinct features such as different ISSN, differ publication year, issue and coverage. The present study is restricted to online version of the journal. A total of 1088 publications were found from 1989 to 2024. By using the filter options of the database, the data were examined and scrutinized accordingly. The final dataset, consisting of 1088 records, included only publications in English language and in the final stage of publication; it aligned with the objectives of the study. Data extraction occurred during the third and fourth weeks of May 2024.

3. Data analysis and result discussion

4.1. Document-wise distribution

Academic journals encompass various types of publications, such as research articles, review articles, short notes, editorials, discussions, letters, and retractions. Among these, research articles have consistently been prioritized in high-quality journals, serving as the foundation of their overall publication. Table 1 presented below shows that more than half of the publications in Women's Studies are research articles, one third are book reviews, and one out of five are editorial materials. It presents the different types of scholarly works published in Women's Studies and

found that the majority (54.87%) of total publication published by the journal is articles, followed by book reviews (31.99%), editorial material (5.61%), poetry (4.60%) and film reviews (1.01%). Other scholarly publications include discussion, bibliography, art exhibit review, correction, retraction letter, TV and radio review.

Overall, the results of the study reveal that more than 90% of the publications in the journal are articles, book reviews, and editorial materials, while less than 10% consist of poetry, film reviews, letters, and other works. This distribution indicates that while the journal includes a wide range of scholarly publications, the core of its output remains focused on research articles.

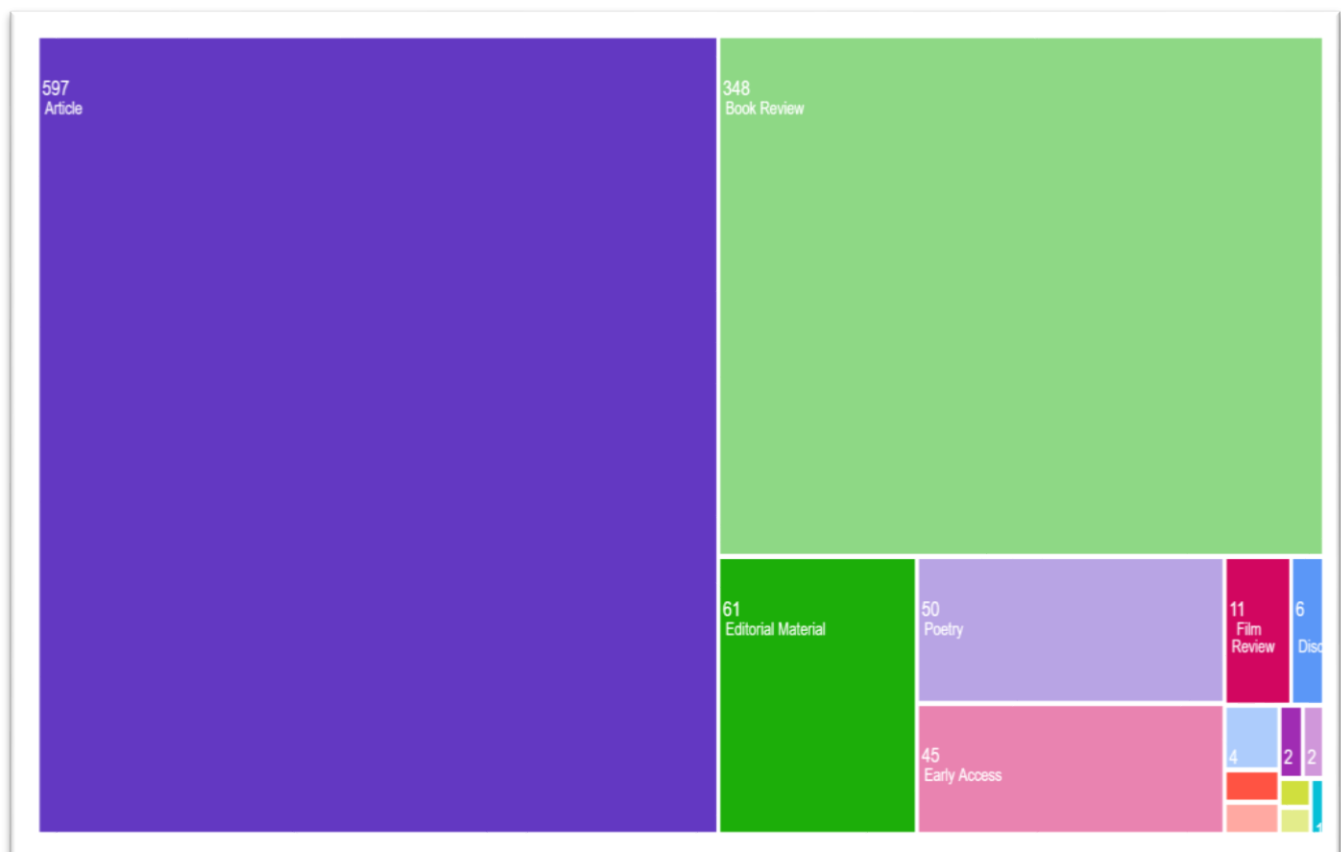
Table-1

Documents Type	No. of Publications	Percentage (%)
Article	597	54.87
Book Review	348	31.99
Editorial Material	61	5.61
Poetry	50	4.60
Film Review	11	1.01
Discussion	6	0.55
Bibliography	5	0.46
Art Exhibit Review	2	0.18
Correction	2	0.18
Letter	2	0.18
TV Review, Radio Review	2	0.18
Retraction	1	0.09
Review	1	0.09
	1088	100

Figure 1 depicts the tree map of document-wise publication patterns in Women's Studies. The tree map visually represents the contribution of each document type within the journal, where the area

of each segment corresponds to the proportion of that document type. This visualization helps to clearly illustrate the predominance of research articles, as well as the significant presence of book reviews and editorial materials. The figure highlights the top 15 document types published in Women’s Studies from 1989 to 2021, providing a comprehensive overview of the journal’s publication trends and scholarly focus over the years.

Figure-1 Tree Map of Document-wise Publication



4.2 Annual growth analysis

Table 2 shows the publication growth of Women’s Studies from 1989 to 2024. The findings reveal that the journal had a total of 9 publications in 1989. Subsequently, the yearly publications decreased and remained below 5 until 1996. For the period from 1997 to 2008, bibliometric data for Women's Studies (both Print and Online) are unavailable in the Web of Science. Therefore, the study cannot examine the growth of publications for this specified period. From a publication standpoint, the year 2009 is significant for the journal. In 2009, the journal had a total of 36 publications. Furthermore, publications of the journal have gradually increased, with the highest number of documents published in 2015 and 2016, comprising 94 and 91 respectively. After 2016, the journal maintained more than 80 publications each year until 2023, with the exception of 2020. In 2024, there are 29 publication records found as of April. The growth of documents in recent years indicates that researchers have a keen interest in publishing their work in Women’s Studies.

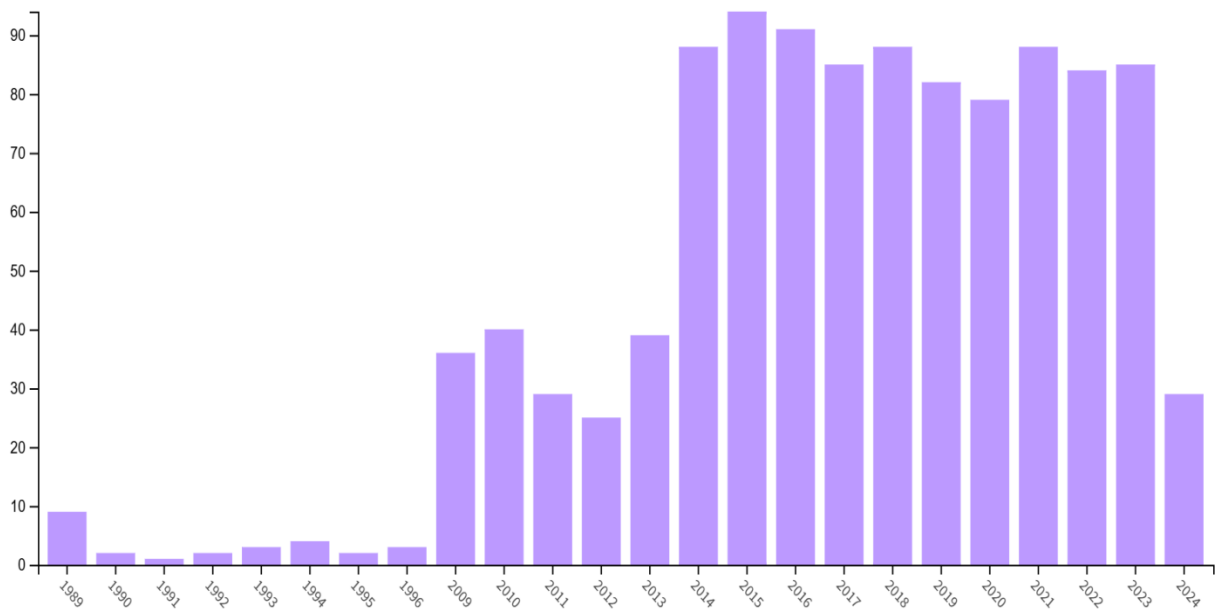
Table-2. Annual Growth of Journal Publications

Publication Years	No. of Publication	Percentage (%)	Publication Years	No. of Publication	Percentage (%)
1989	9	0.83	2013	39	3.59
1990	2	0.18	2014	88	8.09
1991	1	0.09	2015	94	8.64
1992	2	0.18	2016	91	8.36
1993	3	0.28	2017	85	7.81
1994	4	0.37	2018	88	8.09
1995	2	0.18	2019	82	7.54
1996	3	0.28	2020	79	7.26
2009	36	3.31	2021	88	8.09

2010	40	3.68	2022	84	7.72
2011	29	2.67	2023	85	7.81
2012	25	2.30	2024	29	2.67
Total				1088	100.00

Figure 2 given below illustrates the trend in Women’s Studies literature from 1989 to 2024. The findings indicate that the journal has gained substantial popularity among researchers over the examined period. The highest number of documents was published between 2015 and 2016, with a noticeable peak during these years. This gradual increase in publications may be attributed to the journal’s growing influence in terms of both quality and quantity.

Figure- 2. Annual Growth of Journal Publications



4.3 Top 15 Most Productive Authors

Table 3 indicates that the top 15 most productive authors in Women’s Studies are led by Laura L. Bauer with 31 papers (2.84), followed by Rachel Tie with 11 papers (1.011). Finding reveals that only three authors Laura L. Bauer, Rachel Tie, and Md. Ziaul Haque produced publications in double digits. The remaining 12 authors out of the top 15 have contributed in a single digit of publications in this journal. However, it should be noted that as the number of publications by individual authors decreases, the number of contributors to the journal increases. So, the findings of this study align with Lotka's law of author productivity (Lotka, 1926).

Table-3 Top 15 Most Productive Authors

	Top 15 Contributors		
Sl. No.	Researcher Profiles	Total Publication	% of 1,088

1	Bauer, Laura L.	31	2.849
2	Tie, Rachel	11	1.011
3	Haque, Md. Ziaul	10	0.919
4	Rivers, Daniel Lanza	7	0.643
5	Broe, Mary Lynn	6	0.551
6	Fox, Susan	6	0.551
7	Klairmont Lingo, Alison	4	0.368
8	Parker, Joe	4	0.368
9	Martin, Wendy B.	4	0.368
10	Twichell, C	4	0.368
11	Cartier, Eugenie	4	0.368
12	Garcia, Lindsay	4	0.368
13	Byrne, Elena	4	0.368
14	Morrison, Rachel Tie	3	0.276
15	Starn, Frances Smith	3	0.276

4.4 Top 15 most Productive Countries

Data presented in Table 4 highlight the top 15 most productive countries that have published works in Women’s Studies. This comprehensive table provides a clear view of the global contributions to the journal, showcasing the leading nations in terms of their research publications. The USA leads the list with a substantial 716 publications, accounting for 65% of the total publication of journal. This dominance underscores the significant role of American scholars and institutions in advancing Women’s Studies. Canada ranks second with 43 publications, demonstrating a strong presence in the field despite its smaller volume of work

compared to the USA. England is close behind in third place with 42 publications, indicating a robust engagement with Women’s Studies

BJ\	Countries/Regions	Record Count	% of 1,088
1	USA	716	65.809

research within the UK. Further analysis of the data reveals that among the top 15 most productive countries, India holds the 4th position, preceding China. India's position is notable, as it highlights the country's growing emphasis on and contributions to Women’s Studies. This ranking is particularly significant given the diverse challenges and cultural contexts that shape feminist discourse and research in India. China's placement, just after India, also reflects its active participation in the field, albeit with a slightly lower publication count.

2	CANADA	43	3.952
3	ENGLAND	42	3.86
4	INDIA	24	2.206
5	PEOPLES R CHINA	19	1.746
6	AUSTRALIA	15	1.379
7	SOUTH KOREA	14	1.287
8	SPAIN	14	1.287
9	ISRAEL	10	0.919
10	GERMANY	8	0.735
11	SWEDEN	8	0.735
12	TAIWAN	8	0.735
13	TURKEY	8	0.735
14	EGYPT	7	0.643
15	ITALY	7	0.643

Overall, these data not only emphasize the leading contributors to Women’s Studies but also provide insights into the geographical distribution of research activity in this important area of scholarship. The rankings illustrate the varying levels of engagement and highlight regions that are emerging as key players in the ongoing development of Women’s Studies.

Conclusion

The study intended to review the literature growth and author productivity in Women’s Studies from 1989 to 2024. 1088 documents were retrieved from the Web of Science database and analyzed using standard bibliometric parameters. From 2015-2016, the highest numbers of articles were contributed to this journal. *Laura L. Bauer and Rachel Tie* were identified as the most productive authors in the journal. The study determined the frequency distribution of scientific productivity through classical bibliometric law: Lotka’s law. USA and Canada were the leading contributors of scholarly work in women’s studies. The study provides a standard methodology that can be used by researchers in other fields to conduct bibliometric analysis using standard parameters. The study contributed to the field by extending current reviews and presenting a

comprehensive outlook of 37 years of research in women's studies. The study can be useful to understand emerging themes, patterns, and trends in an academic journal.

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