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ACCESSIBLE TOURISM: A RETROSPECTIVE USING BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Accessible tourism is an expanding field of research that seeks to provide tourists with equal opportunities and experiences in terms of travel, irrespective of their physical, mental, cultural or social capacities. This research aims to determine up-to-date and emerging productivity fields in accessible tourism literature in conjunction with mapping the understanding structure using advanced bibliometric techniques. This article aims to provide a full-scope bibliometric study using VOSviewer and Biblioshiny of 136 Scopus publications from 2004 to 2023, analysing the scientific literature. It assesses the major attributes of the research domain, recognises pivotal papers, institutions, nations, and authors and performs theme mapping and factor analysis of keywords. The study concludes by considering prevailing research themes, and new trends that are needed to advance accessible tourism.

Keywords: *Accessible Tourism, People with Disability, Bibliometric Analysis, VOSviewer, Biblioshiny*

Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO, 2023) estimates that approximately 1.3 billion people around the world have significant

disabilities and the United Nations Organization (UNO) calls people with disabilities the largest minority in the world. The right to travel is considered an essential human right to happiness (Akinci, 2013). Accessible tourism has evolved as a strategy for many countries to cater to the travel needs of people with disabilities worldwide. Accessible tourism is the tourism and travel activity that provides accessibility for individuals with mobility, hearing, visual, cognitive, intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, including the elderly and people with temporary disabilities, to both disabled and non-disabled individuals (Ahmed & Riaz, 2024; Godtman Kling & Ioannides, 2019; Ishak et al., 2018). Accessibility is not only about having a physically accessible place; it also means that everybody, regardless of their disability, can use the product or service. Currently, the main targets are young people, families, senior citizens, and persons with a disability (Bélanger & Jolin, 2011; Liew et al., 2021; Restrepo-Harner et al., 2022).

The concept of 'bibliometrics' was first introduced as 'statistical bibliography' by Wyndham Hulme in 1922. Later, in 1969, Pritchard coined the term 'bibliometrics,' which is still widely used today. Bibliometrics involves in-depth analysis of scientific literature, such as articles, books, or theses, employing statistical methods. It encompasses examining various attributes such as publication year, keywords, subject matter, publishers, scientific fields, publication locations, citations, and languages to gain comprehensive insights (Broadus, 1987). This analysis allows the summarization of large amounts of scientific data to describe and identify the state of the intellectual structure and emerging trends of a certain research topic (Donthu et al., 2021). Therefore, the bibliometric field has gained increasing popularity in business and economic research in recent years.

At this juncture, it is imperative to undertake a thorough investigation into the potential for research in the domain of accessible tourism. A foundational step involves a deep dive into the current state of the field to ascertain the extent of existing scholarly work. Accordingly, this study is designed to conduct a comprehensive review of the literature to determine the volume of articles published, identify leading authors, and pinpoint the countries that are major contributors to the scientific discourse on this topic. Furthermore, this investigation will analyse the terminology used to conceptualize accessible tourism, examining whether the nomenclature has evolved over time and anticipating future trends in this evolution. Thus, the current study seeks to answer the following questions:

- How has annual scientific production in this field evolved between 2004 and 2023?
- Which authors are the most relevant and who have the most relevant affiliations in this field?
- Who are the most cited authors, and what are the most relevant sources in this field?
- What are the predominant terms in this field, and what trends do they suggest?
- How are the major terms and concepts in the field interconnected?

Based on research questions, the objectives of the study are given below:

- To analyse the development of annual scientific production in a particular area from 2004 to 2023.
- To identify patterns in the scientific production levels of various countries and determine significant affiliations within the discipline.
- To highlight authors who are relevant in this field, identify the most cited among them and evaluate the relevance of their sources.
- To ascertain the most frequently used terms in research within this domain and interpret the trends they indicate.
- To investigate the interrelations between key terms and concepts in this field as well as explore the relationships between them.

These objectives aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the scientific landscape within the specified area, including its trends, key contributors, and the relationships between various concepts and terms. Through this bibliometric analysis, we aim to explore the evolution of accessible tourism research and identify the most relevant authors, globally cited documents, their corresponding countries, and the co-occurrence network of keywords. This type of study enables us to identify trends in research on the topic under study and its applications in the field of interest. The findings of this bibliometric analysis can provide a solid basis for positioning actual contributions in this field and detecting emerging trends and guidelines for future research.

Materials and Methods: A Bibliometric Study

This research study used the Scopus database. We chose this database because it collects scientific publications with the most significant impact

and is used as the main criterion in academic decision-making (AlRyalat et al., 2019). Hence, the study uses Scopus to extract the metadata related to accessible tourism research. The keywords such as "Accessible Tourism", "Inclusive Tourism", "Tourism for all", "People with Disabilities", "PwD" and "Tourist with Disabilities" were used to extract the data from the Scopus. The search was conducted within the article, title and keywords. Boolean operators such as OR and AND were used to combine keywords in a search to focus the search on the results that will be most useful. TITLE-ABS-KEY ("Accessible Tourism" OR "Inclusive Tourism" OR "Tourism for all" AND "People with Disabilities" OR "PwD" OR "Tourist with Disabilities"). The query for the search identified 159 documents that were automatically displayed covering the year from 2004 to 2024 after certain keywords were selected. The filter was used, and the search was limited to year and language. The search was conducted between June and July 2024, and only studies published between 2004 and 2023 were taken into consideration. This search identified 149 documents published in English journals. After the process of screening the articles, the data set was reduced to 149 articles from 159 records. The search was further refined by excluding the articles in the publication year 2024. The final data set was reduced to 136 articles that were finally used for the analysis. A systematic review of the downloaded database using the PRISMA method resulted in the selection of 136 eligible papers for the bibliometric analysis.

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("Accessible Tourism" OR "Inclusive Tourism" OR "Tourism for all" AND "People with Disabilities" OR "PwD" OR "Tourist with Disabilities") AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English")) AND (EXCLUDE (PUBYEAR, 2024).

Fig. 1 displays a Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) flowchart that illustrates the systematic process that was employed to select the papers for this study. It gives a visual summary of the identification, screening, eligibility assessment and inclusion procedures that were followed to choose articles for analysis based on predetermined criteria (Moher et al., 2009; Page & Moher, 2017; Sarkis-Onofre et al., 2021).

Results

Bibliometrics Analysis

The results discussed in this section came from publications brought about by the systematic search process, which took place from 2004 to 2023

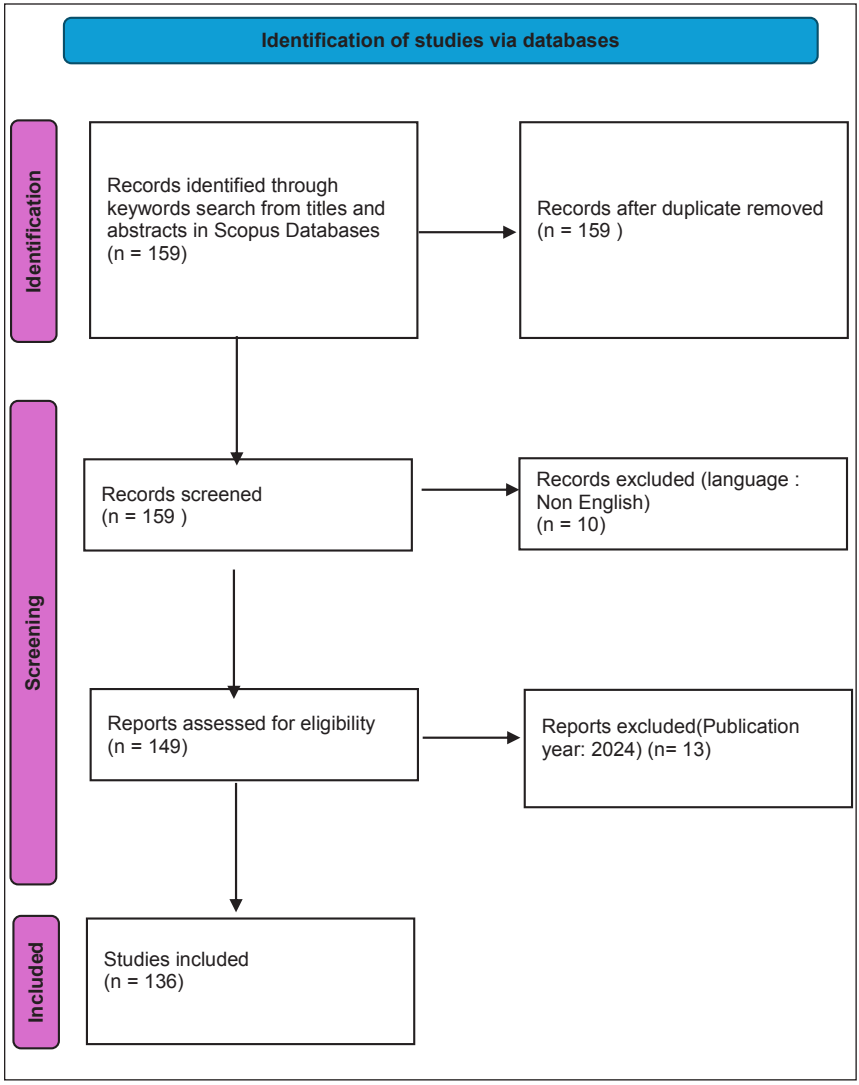


Fig. 1: Data Screening Procedure Adopted by the Authors

as highlighted in the previous section. After consultations were needed for analysis, the results were organized into three parts based on the initial guiding research questions. The first part is an introductory section summarizing the key aspects. A more detailed analysis of the publications is provided in the second part. The third section analyzes the authors from a different perspective.

The fourth part seeks information about the terms used and their relationship. To analyse the bibliometric data, they were imported into VOSviewer and Biblioshiny software (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017; Sadom & Yusoff, 2023). This study chose VOSviewer and Biblioshiny software for several reasons. The VOSviewer tool is one of the most popular bibliometric tools because of its clarity in visual mapping and its ability to create a visualization network that the researcher can easily use (Markscheffel & Schröter, 2021; Zhang et al., 2023). The tool, Biblioshiny, has been actively developed for the mapping and analysis of science literature and is well-structured for maximum analysis and visualization of the scientific literature (Moral-Muñoz et al., 2020).

Main Information and Publication Analysis

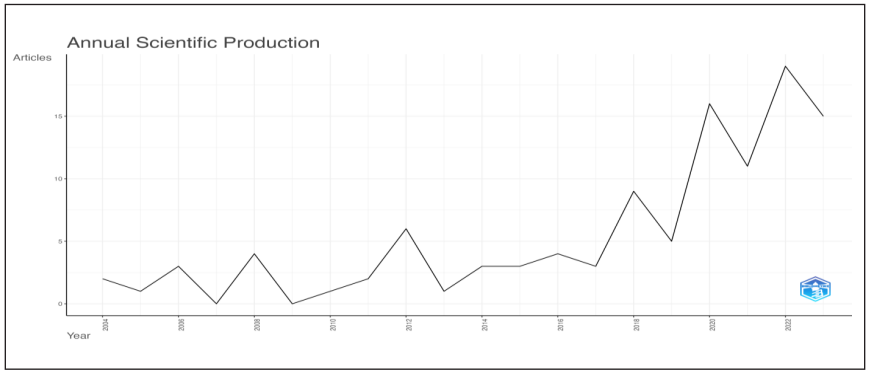
Table 1: Main Data Information

Description	Results
Timespan	2004:2023
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	82
Documents	136
Annual Growth Rate %	17.38
Document Average Age	5.2
Average citations per doc	14.73
References	5579
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	473
Author's Keywords (DE)	370
AUTHORS	
Authors	343
Authors of single-authored docs	16
AUTHORS COLLABORATION	
Single-authored docs	19
Co-Authors per Doc	3.14
International co-authorships %	18.38

Source: Prepared by the authors using Scopus data.

Table 1 contains the general information for this database. The papers were published between 2004 and 2023 in 82 journals. On average, the papers in this database have an age of approximately 5 years, indicating a mix of

recent and established research. A paper is cited 15 times on average. This database contains 5579 references and 370 keywords. The number of authors who contribute to creating these documents equals 343; 18% of the documents are written as an international collaborative effort of the authors.



Sources: Prepared by the authors using Biblioshiny.

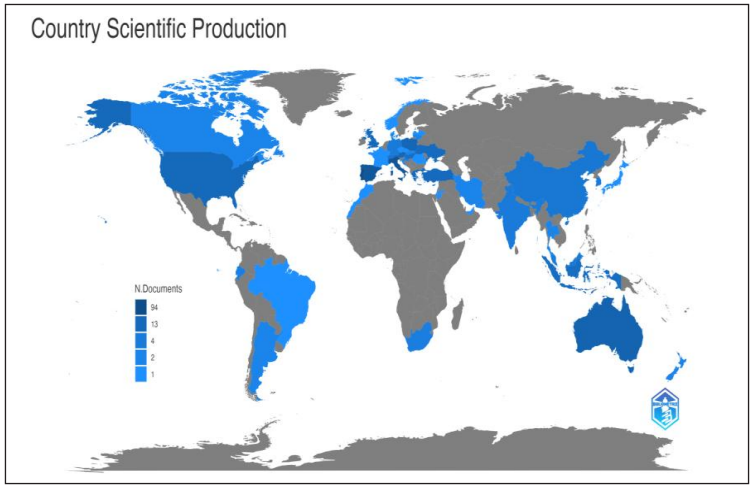
Fig. 2: Annual Scientific Production (2004-2023)

In Fig. 2, starting from 2004, the first year of our study, there were only two publications. The first peak of interest appeared in 2006, followed by a decline in the following year. The next peak of interest appeared in 2008, also followed by a decline in the subsequent year, with interest rising until 2012, with just over six articles worldwide. In the following years, the number of publications fell, and it was not until 2018 that the next important peak occurred, closer to 10 publications worldwide. Towards 2019, the number of publications fell again, and the next peak of interest appeared in 2020, with just over 16 articles, declining in the following year. In 2021, a rise is observed until its highest level, with more than 18 publications, in 2022. However, the number of publications in 2023 decreased again.

Analysis of Countries and Institutions

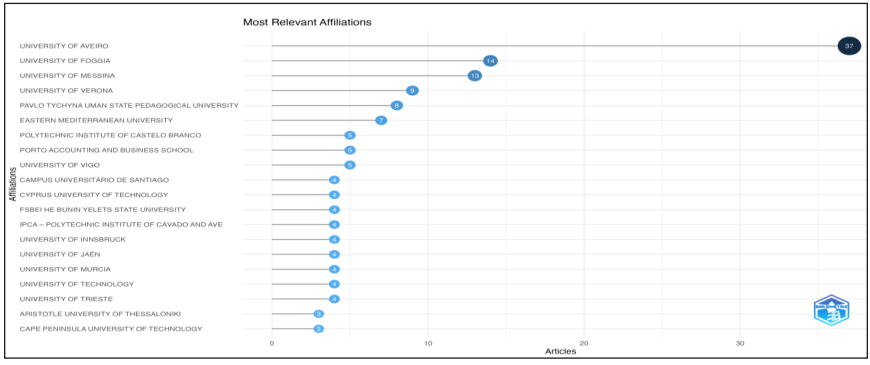
Fig. 3 shows the extent to which each country contributes to research on Accessible Tourism. Authors from 52 countries have written about this topic. By looking at how often publications appear in the data, we can see differences in the amount of research each region produces. Portugal is the leading country with 94 publications, while Italy and Spain have 56 and 45 publications, respectively. Australia, Poland, and Austria show average levels of publication activity with 19, 16, and 15 relevant publications, respectively.

Greece, UK, USA, and Turkey also show similar levels of scientific production with 14, 13, 13, and 12 relevant publications. This shows how regions around the world participate differently in scientific research, with Portugal, Italy, and Spain being the most active in terms of publishing frequency.



Sources: Prepared by the authors using Biblioshiny. (Different shades of blue indicate different productivity rates: dark blue = high productivity; grey = no articles).

Fig. 3: Countries Scientific Production



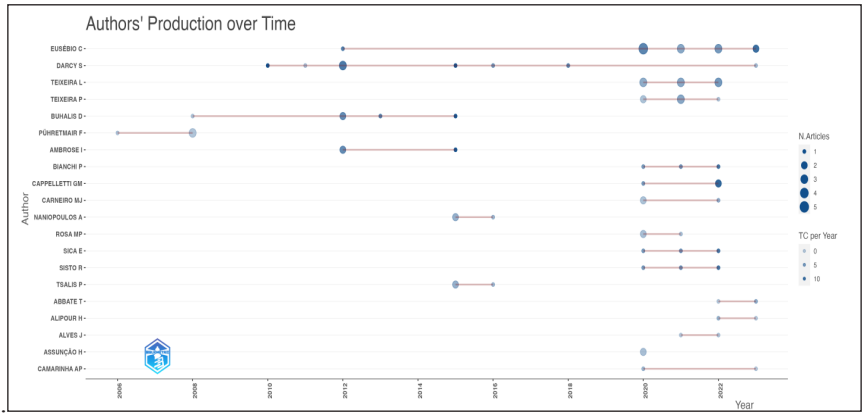
Sources: Prepared by the authors using Biblioshiny.

Fig. 4: Most Relevant Affiliations

Fig. 4 presents the top twenty affiliations ranked by the number of articles between 2004 and 2023. The University of Aveiro holds the highest rank,

with a total of 37 publications. Following closely is the University of Foggia with 14 publications, securing the second position. In the third position is the University of Messina, with a total of 13 publications. It's noteworthy that while the University of Aveiro leads with 37 articles during the analyzed period, the remaining affiliations fall within a much closer range to each other. Nine of the affiliations have four articles each, three have five, two have three, one has nine, one has eight, and one has seven.

First, an overview of the most relevant authors based on their number of publications was obtained using a query. Within these most important authors, we analysed who were the most cited authors and their countries of origin. The relationship between publications and the countries of corresponding authors was also examined since articles are usually written by several authors and have a corresponding author. According to the latter query, there were some differences from what was expected.

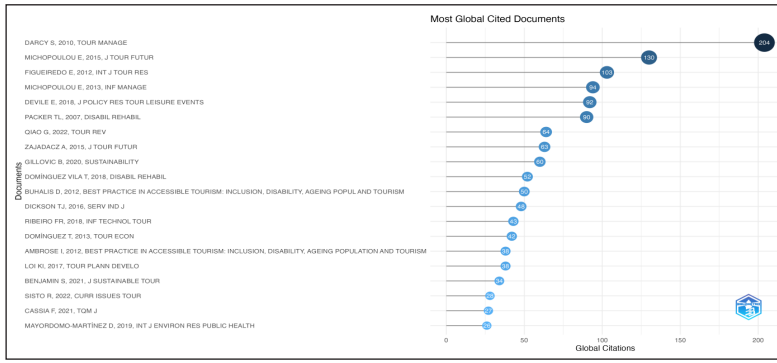


Sources: Prepared by the authors using Biblioshiny.

Fig. 5: Authors Production Over Time

Fig. 5 depicts the author's output with time, which included 20 authors who published works between 2004 and 2023. The number of articles published by the author in the given time was used to assess efficiency. Nonetheless, the influence was measured by the number of citations obtained each year. An author's number of articles produced in that year can be viewed as a circle of darkness in the study. Similarly, little circles indicated that authors received a total number of citations yearly. The most prolific author (Darcy S) received the most citations per year from 2010 to 2023, followed by Eusebio C, who

received the most citations per year from 2012 to 2023. Asscuncao H was the least prolific author, with the most citations per year in 2020.

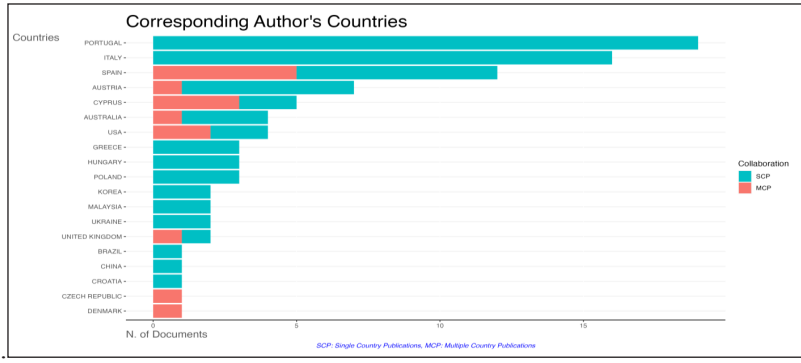


Sources: Prepared by the authors using Biblioshiny.

Fig. 6: Most Global Cited Documents

In Fig. 6, it is evident that Darcy S with the most publications is also the most cited, with one of his publications amassing 204 citations where he only exceeds 200 citations. Additionally, only two authors exceed 100 citations, while the remaining 17 are distributed as follows: eight had over 50 citations, and the other nine had fewer than 50 citations.

The countries of origin of the corresponding authors in the various publications were investigated to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the global landscape on this topic (See Fig. 4).

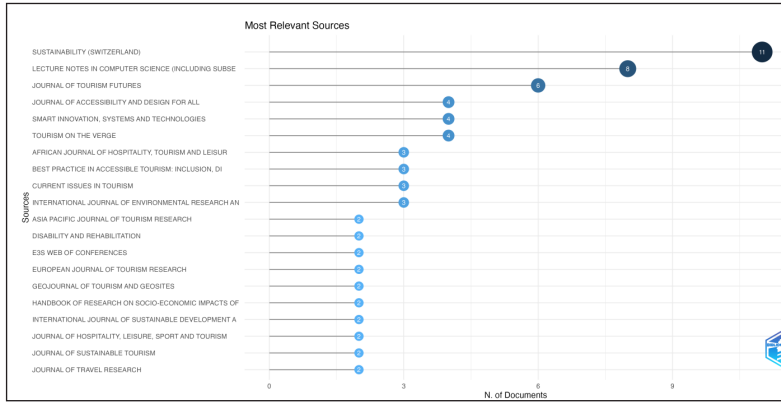


Sources: Prepared by the authors using Biblioshiny.

Fig. 7: Corresponding Author's Countries

Fig. 7 indicates the countries for corresponding authors, Portugal leads the way with 19 publications, followed by Italy with 16 publications, both of which include their contributions. The subsequent position of Spain implies a widespread pattern of collaborative research in accessible tourism, highlighting a substantial number of researchers involved in the field. Additionally, the graph demonstrates that major authors who collaborate with researchers from other countries tend to have more publications in their own countries (Single Country Publications) than in their collaborations with other countries (Multiple Country Publications). Austria has more than five publications in its own country, but there is one publication in collaboration with foreign researchers. On the other hand, the main authors in Cyprus have a relatively low number of publications in their own country, while they appear in a greater number as corresponding authors. In countries such as Greece, Hungary, Poland, Korea, Malaysia, Ukraine, Brazil, China and Croatia, the data indicate that both lead and corresponding authors belong to the same country, whereas in Denmark and Czech Republic, the data show that the lead and corresponding authors belong to different countries.

Sources Analysis



Sources: Prepared by the authors using Biblioshiny.

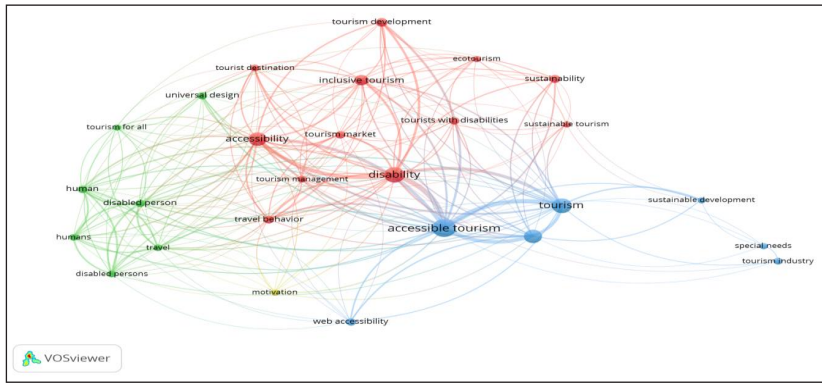
Fig. 8: Most Relevant Sources

Fig. 8 displays the top 20 important sources that focus on publishing scientific articles concerning accessible tourism. It can be confidently asserted that Sustainability (Switzerland) emerges as the primary journal for article publications in the scientific domain of accessible tourism, with a total of 11 articles, followed by Lecture Notes in Computer Science with a total

of eight articles and Journal of Tourism Futures with a total of six articles. The remaining ten sources had two articles, four had three, and three had four articles during the years covered by the study. To continue with the achievement of the objectives set and once the number of publications and authors have been analysed, the following analysis focuses on the terms used in the publications to designate this type of tourism. In the following sections, the different terms used are studied, as well as the relationships between them and between them and the authors.

Analysis and Evolution of Terms Used in Publications

Over time, the terminology for accessible tourism has evolved, ranging from "accessible tourism" to "inclusive tourism" and encompassing designations like "people with special needs" and the broader concept of "tourism for all," which includes social, physical, sensory, and/or psychological differences. The adoption of such expansive language aims to inclusively address the diverse spectrum of individuals within this group. Furthermore, there's a growing trend to broaden the term's scope to encompass not only those with physical, sensory, or psychological disabilities but also individuals with various economic or social needs. In Fig. 7 shows a comprehensive map of keywords that represent accessible tourism over the years, as determined by the bibliometric study.



Sources: Prepared by the authors using VOSviewer.

Fig. 9: Co-Occurrence Network of Keywords Co-Word (Keyword Co-Occurrence) Network Visualization Using VOSviewer

Fig. 9 shows the co-occurrence of 27 keywords, each occurring at least five times each node in a network represents wherein: (1) the size of the node

indicates the occurrence of the keyword (i.e., the number of times that the keyword occurs), (2) the link between the nodes represents the co-occurrence between keywords (i.e., keywords that co-occur or occur together), (3) the thickness of the link signals the occurrence of co-occurrences between keywords (i.e., the number of times that the keywords co-occur or occur together), (4) the bigger the node, the greater the occurrence of the keyword, and (5) the thicker the link between nodes, the greater the occurrence of the co-occurrences between keywords. Each colour represents a thematic cluster, wherein the nodes and links in that cluster can be used to explain the theme's (cluster's) coverage of topics (nodes) and the relationships (links) between the topics (nodes) manifesting under that theme (cluster) (Donthu et al., 2021). The most frequent keywords are depicted in larger nodes. A shorter distance between nodes signifies a stronger relationship between the keywords. The program identified four clusters or groups of related words (nodes of the same colour belong to the same cluster). The largest cluster corresponds to the term "accessible tourism", indicating its prevalence among the analyzed authors. While other nodes are generally similar in size, it's notable that some, such as "tourism", have more connections to other terms in the analysis.

In cluster 1, situated in the lower right portion of the map and highlighted in blue with the largest size, the term "accessible tourism" demonstrates strong associations not only with "tourism" but also with "people with disabilities". This highlights the significant relationship between the ability to partake in tourism and the accessibility of destinations or services (Bianchi et al., 2020; Darcy, 2010; Devile & Kastenholz, 2018; Domínguez Vila et al., 2015; Gillovic et al., 2018; Gomes & Eusébio, 2023; Kamyabi & Alipour, 2022; Mapudzi et al., 2022; Wall-Reinius et al., 2023; Zajadacz, 2015). At the next level of the relationship, we find "special needs" and "web accessibility" positioned further away from the main node (Eusébio et al., 2023; Gillovic & McIntosh, 2020; Singh et al., 2020; Teixeira et al., 2021). This placement contrasts with terms such as "tourism industry" and "sustainable development", which are relegated to a lower level (Borkowski et al., 2021; Cockburn-Wootten & McIntosh, 2020; Sisto et al., 2022). This observation may stem from the limited number of academic studies that comprehensively address the specific needs and information requirements of this demographic from a consumer perspective or the development of industry initiatives catering to them from the supply side.

Cluster 2 is in the centre of the map, in red, "disability" is interconnected with the term "accessibility", which shows the importance of creating environments and systems that are inclusive and accommodating for all

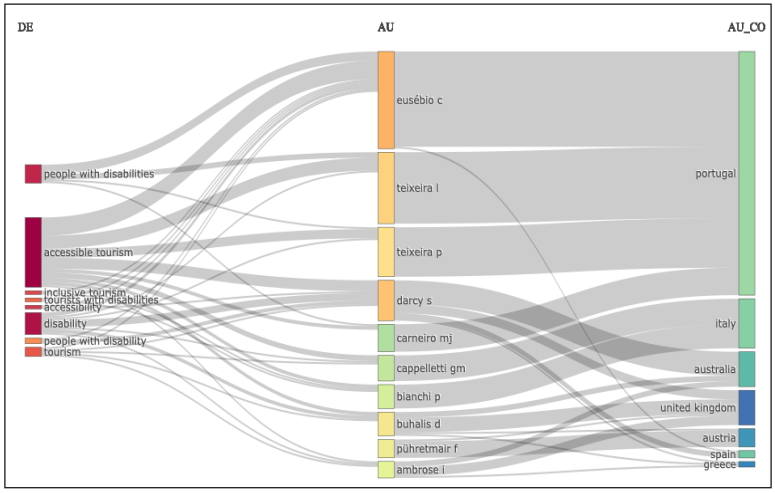
individuals, regardless of their abilities (Darcy et al., 2020; Domínguez Vila et al., 2015; Rubio-Escuderos et al., 2021; Zajadacz, 2015). This connection underscores the need to ensure that spaces, services, and opportunities are designed and structured in a way that allows equal access and participation for everyone, regardless of their physical or cognitive abilities. Next, there are terms such as "travel behaviour", "tourism market", "tourist destination", "tourist management", and "tourists with disabilities" that are interrelated. Each of these terms is related to the theme of accessibility and represents aspects of tourism that cater to the needs of individuals with disabilities to advance inclusivity, equal opportunities, and sustainable tourism (Chikuta et al., 2017; Domínguez Vila et al., 2015; Guamán et al., 2023; Musa, 2008). They also encompass services where accessibility is not strictly regulated by specific rules, though adherence to certain guidelines may be advisable, prompting further study. The term "inclusive tourism" is closely interrelated with "sustainable tourism", and "tourism development", emphasizing the importance of inclusive practices for long-term sustainability (Biddulph & Scheyvens, 2018; Lo, 2021; Nigg & Eichelberger, 2021). Additionally, "eco-tourism" and "sustainability" at the next level of interrelation highlight actions necessary to achieve sustainable tourism, including the formulation of effective tourism policies (Fennell & Garrod, 2022; Garrod & Fennell, 2023).

On the map, cluster 3 in green with the term "disabled people" at its bottom left is linked closely to words like "human" and "travel" (Blichfeldt & Nicolaisen, 2011; Gonda, 2021; Park et al., 2023; Var et al., 2011). Furthermore, smaller nodes also connect to it including "tourism for all" and "universal design", the latter of which is concerned more with the provision of services than individual needs. This particular connection bears mentioning because "tourism for all" is more and more synonymous with Accessible Tourism, which consists of all the different special needs of people including physical condition, psychology or socializing patterns (Eusébio et al., 2022; Freund et al., 2022). It is pertinent to note that "universal design", found at the top of the map, is linked with all key nodes; over the last few years, universal design has evolved as the best method for developing inclusive spaces. Universal design aims to create products and spaces usable and enjoyable by the broadest range of people, without necessitating adaptations or specialized designs (Ayşe Sirel & Osman Ümit Sirel, 2018; Lid, 2014; Senkiv & Tserklevych, 2021; Wan, 2022).

Cluster 4, the node shown in yellow with the word "motivation" is a significant factor that drives individuals, including those with disabilities, to engage in travel activities, the primary concern in the realm of accessible tourism is to overcome barriers and challenges faced by people with

disabilities, ensuring they have equal opportunities to participate in tourism activities (Allan, 2015; Cole et al., 2019). This study highlights the importance of understanding the motivations and constraints faced by individuals with disabilities who travel, as well as the factors that influence their participation in tourism.

Using Fig. 10, we examine the relationship between the terms and concepts most used by the authors in this article, as well as their corresponding countries. In this map, the authors indicate which classification is most frequently used to refer to Accessible Tourism and which countries they belong to.



Source: Prepared by the authors using Biblioshiny.

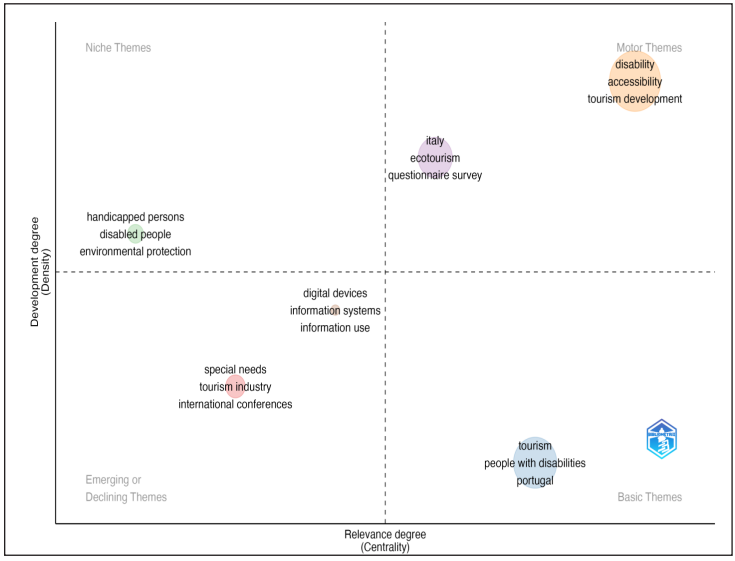
Fig. 10: Bibliometric Analysis—Three-Felds Plot: Keywords on the Left, Authors in the Middle, and Correspondence-Author Countries on the Right

Fig. 10 demonstrates the three field plots visualising the relation between the selected three fields namely keywords, authors and countries used for the analysis based on Sankey plots. The left slide of the field represents keywords, the middle field represents authors, and the right-side field represents counties. Fig. 10 reveals that the most used term is "accessible tourism", followed by "disability" and "people with disabilities", with all authors employing the term "accessible tourism". Thus, the author (Eusebio C) with the most publications and the most citations appears in first place for himself who would be in his own country – Portugal. The following section describes the conceptual analysis we conducted to gain a deeper understanding of the current state of

accessible tourism. This analysis provides a broader and more detailed insight into the subject.

Conceptual Analysis

To accomplish this, we've utilized the R Bibliometrix tool, as elaborated in the methodology section, enabling us to track the interrelation and evolution of terms over time in a clear manner. The depicted results can be observed in Fig. 9.

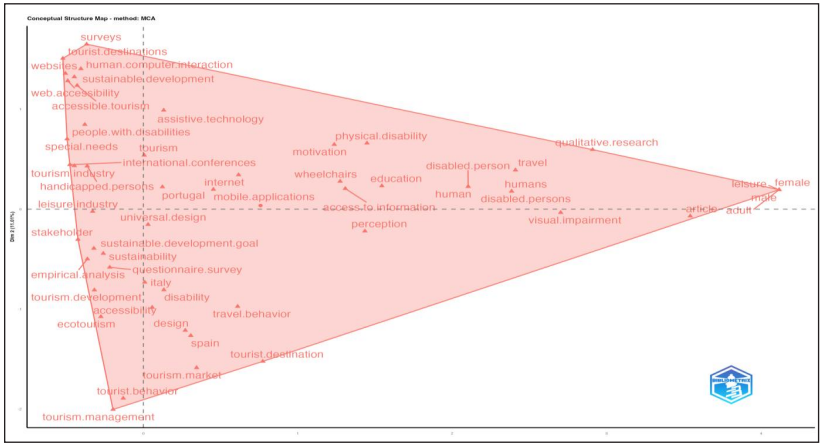


Source: Prepared by the authors using Biblioshiny.

Fig. 11: Concepts Diagram Thematic Map

As shown in Fig. 9, the co-occurrence network of the most popular keywords does not indicate the change in these topics over time. A thematic map in Fig. 11 categorises the most important research topics into four different themes based on their level of centrality and density (Aria et al., 2022). Centrality measures the strength of external ties to other themes. The value can be interpreted as an expression of the theme's importance to the development of the entire field of research. On the other hand, density measures the strength of internal ties among all keywords describing the research theme. This value can be viewed as an indicator of the development of the theme. Motor themes displayed in the upper-right quadrant are defined as high centrality and high density. Therefore, motor themes are very important

research topics. Disability, accessibility, and tourism development related to ecotourism are classified into this quadrant. The Niche theme placed in the upper-left quadrant contains topics with a high density but low centrality. The topics are considered highly developed but isolated. Handicapped persons, disabled people and environmental protection are classified into this quadrant. Emerging or declining research topics are classified into the lower-left quadrant as these topics have both low density and centrality. Special needs and the tourism industry related to digital devices, information systems and information use are classified into this quadrant. Finally, basic research topics with high centrality are classified into the lower-right quadrant. Tourism and people with disabilities are classified into this quadrant.



Source: Prepared by the authors using Biblioshiny.

Fig. 12: Factorial Analysis

A factor analysis of the terms used has been performed in Fig. 12, as a complement to this study (Iman et al., 2023). In this case, the terms do not appear grouped, but rather as simple concepts. As a result of the factorial analysis, the following concepts have a high factor load in the dimension when examining the keywords of the articles about accessible tourism in this study: tourism, disability, accessibility, people with disabilities, travel, accessible tourism, tourism development, travel behaviour, disabled person, human, tourism market, tourist destination, ecotourism, sustainability, access to information, assistive technology, sustainable development, leisure industry, special needs, stakeholder, tourism management, universal design, web accessibility, education, tourist behaviour, human-computer interaction, mobile applications, motivation, perception, sustainable development

goal, physical disabilities, tourist destinations, visual impairment, websites keywords were collected in a single factor.

Conclusion

In the final phase of this study, following an in-depth bibliometric and conceptual analysis of the terms "accessible tourism," and "inclusive tourism," the conclusions drawn in response to the study's initial inquiries are presented. Through an examination of the recent evolution of scholarly output in this domain, it becomes evident that the volume of publications concerning accessible tourism has notably expanded over the past two decades. This increase highlights a growing societal and economic interest in the subject, driven by the opportunities within this specialized market segment. From 2004, the first year of our study, there were only two publications. The first peak of interest appeared in 2006, followed by a decline in the following year. The next peak of interest appeared in 2008, also followed by a decline in the subsequent year, with interest rising until 2012, with just over six articles worldwide. In the following years, the number of publications fell, and it was not until 2018 that the next important peak occurred, closer to 10 publications worldwide. Towards 2019, the number of publications fell again, and the next peak of interest appeared in 2020, with just over 16 articles, declining in the following year. In 2021, a rise is observed until its highest level, with more than 18 publications, in 2022. However, the number of publications in 2023 decreased again. The leading country is Portugal with 94 publications, while Italy and Spain have 56 and 45 publications, respectively. The University of Aveiro holds the highest rank, with a total of 37 publications. Following closely is the University of Foggia with 14 publications, securing the second position. In the third position is the University of Messina, with a total of 13 publications.

On the other hand, one of the objectives was to find out who are the most relevant authors in the area in question and the most cited among the scientific community, and it has been observed that, among the 204 published articles analysed for this study, Darcy S with the most publications is also the most cited, with one of his publications amassing 204 citations where he only exceeds 200 citations. Additionally, only two authors exceed 100 citations, while the remaining 17 are distributed as follows: eight had over 50 citations, and the other nine had fewer than 50 citations. The most prolific author (Darcy S) received the most citations per year from 2010 to 2023, followed by Eusebio C, who received the most citations per year from 2012 to 2023.

Portugal leads the way with 19 publications, followed by Italy with 16 publications, both of which include their contributions. The subsequent

position of Spain implies a widespread pattern of collaborative research in accessible tourism, highlighting a substantial number of researchers involved in the field. Additionally, the graph demonstrates that major authors who collaborate with researchers from other countries tend to have more publications in their own countries (SCP) than in their collaborations with other countries (MCP).

Additionally, the top twenty important sources focus on publishing scientific articles concerning accessible tourism. It can be confidently asserted that Sustainability (Switzerland) emerges as the primary journal for article publications in the scientific domain of accessible tourism, with a total of 11 articles, followed by Lecture Notes in Computer Science with a total of 8 articles and Journal of Tourism Futures with a total of 6 articles. The co-occurrence of 27 keywords, each occurring at least five times. The largest cluster corresponds to the term "accessible tourism", indicating its prevalence among the analysed authors. While other nodes are generally similar in size, it's notable that some, such as "tourism", have more connections to other terms in the analysis.

The three field plots visualising the relation between the selected three fields namely keywords, authors and countries used for the analysis reveal that the most commonly used term is "accessible tourism", followed by "disability" and "people with disabilities", with all authors employing the term "accessible tourism". Thus, the author (Eusebio C) with the most publications and the most citations appears in first place for himself who would be in his own country – Portugal. A thematic map categorizes the most important research topics into four different themes motor theme, niche theme, emerging theme and basic theme. Disability, accessibility, and tourism development related to ecotourism are classified into motor quadrants. Handicapped persons, disabled people and environmental protection are classified into niche quadrants. Special needs and, the tourism industry related to digital devices, information systems and information use are classified into emerging quadrants. Tourism and people with disabilities are classified into basic quadrants.

Furthermore, research in this field and its subsequent publication are frequently conducted collaboratively with other researchers, who may be from the same country or abroad. However, the trend leans towards a higher number of publications originating from the researcher's own country. However, this study has several limitations. First, manually filtering irrelevant papers from Scopus categories might not have been perfect, and it might have resulted in omissions. A second limitation is that only publications published between 2004 and 2023 were considered. Lastly, the Scopus database is

not standardized for certain types of information, such as author names and institutions. We cannot manually correct these errors, and this may have affected our results since our analyses completely depend on the quality of the information imported from Scopus.

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