

Bibliographic Reference List Mistakes: The Case of Turkish Librarianship

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Abstract

In this paper we studied bibliographic reference mistakes. Bibliographic references are an important part of scholarly publishing and are also crucial for visibility and accessibility of studies in the databases. We have searched how much of the bibliography of the works published in the Turkish Librarianship journal appeared in the Web of Science (WoS) citation database. Between 2015 and 2017, a total of 2959 studies, 2707 (91.4%) of which placed in the WoS, appear in the reference lists of 192 studies in Turkish Librarianship. 96 (38%) out of the 252 remaining non-indexed sources in WoS have been created in accordance with the original APA rules. Therefore, the reason why these sources are not indexed is either due to minor errors made by the authors or to the indexing algorithm of WoS.

Introduction

Bibliographic references are an integral part of scientific publishing in the process of creation and dissemination of information. This is also one of the areas where authors make the most mistakes. This may be due to the inattention of the authors or their lack of knowledge. Besides that, numerous bibliographic reference standards which are used for different scientific areas (Park, Mardis & Ury, 2011) also add to the mistakes. In recent years, the diversity of the resources used in research, with the widespread use of internet and electronic resources, has also made way for more mistakes in reference. Especially in classical, traditional areas (such as history, literature, archeology) these updates are not well known by the authors. Moreover, the fact that different journals in one area request different bibliographic standards is confusing the authors.

In bibliographical mistakes, it is known that there are mistakes caused by the inattention of the author as well as unethical citations (citation from secondary resources) (Bahar et al., 2012; Lok, Chan & Martinson, 2001; Oermann, Cummings & Wilmes, 2001). These mistakes may also arise from the inattention of journal editors (Oermann, Cummings & Wilmes, 2001). It does not offer an example of comprehensive bibliography preparation to many journalists. Again, the use of non-updated standards also increases the mistakes (Onwuegbuzie, Hwang, Combs, and Slate, 2012). Localized standard rules also can increase these mistakes by creating confusion.

The most important problem caused by such mistakes in given situations is the issue of appearance in citation databases of many resources with erroneous reference. When a study that has bibliographical mistakes is indexed in the citation databases, citations that do not comply with the standard or given incorrectly are not in place in the mentioned databases. For example, in a study, 19 references are shown in the database in which the study is indexed; although 20 references were used. This suggests that the missing reference is given incorrectly. It is

necessary that the location and description information of the resource is given in full, so that the cited resource can be easily accessed (Moorthy, 1988).

In this study, we have searched how much of the bibliography of the works published in the Journal of Turkish Librarianship appeared in the Web of Science (WoS) citation database. We discussed the reasons why the resources not included in WoS are not indexed.

Method

The Turkish Librarianship was indexed in the ESCI (Emerging Sources Citation Index) of WoS in 2015. For this reason, we have analyzed articles indexed since 2015. In total, 192 articles covering 2015-2017 period were downloaded from WoS. With the data available, we checked from the web page of the journal and compared the relevant bibliography of articles. We were able to evaluate the bibliography of the articles written in Turkish and English, as the language of the article is included in the metadata in WoS (see Figure 1).

article_id	VL	IS	Title	Author	Number of References in WoS	Number of References in Journal	Non-indexed	Reasons
1	31	4	What If It Is "Fake"?	Akgul M., 1996, TURK KUTUPHANECILIGI, 1	21	21	0	
2	31	4	Journals Published in Turkey and Indexed in the Web of Science: An Evaluation	Al U., 2012, BILIG, V62, P1; Al U., 2008, TH	45	46	1	Proje Raporu
3	31	4	A Multifaceted Analysis of the Works Introduced in the "Children's Library"	Cat Akalin S., 2014, IYI KITAP DERGISI, V62, P2	75	78	3	Rapor, 2 web sitesi
4	31	4	An Assessment of the Importance and Relevance of Occupational Health and S	Akkaya M. A., 2013, HALK KUT SEMP KUTU	35	41	6	6 Web sitesi
5	31	4	Aphorisms on Language in the Field of Information and Records Management	n/a			#DEĞER!	
6	31	4	To Memory of My Dear Big Brother and Colleague Ramazan Kayalar	n/a			#DEĞER!	
7	31	4	In Memory of Ramazan Kayalar	n/a			#DEĞER!	
8	31	4	Reflections on TR Index National Academic Publishing Symposium 2017	Bahsioglu H. K., 2014, BILGI DUNYASI, V11	9	10	1	Web sitesi
9	31	4	Impressions on Berlin State Library "Turkish and Turkic Manuscript Studies: An	BDK, 2017, OR DIG; BDK, 2017, OR DEP NE	2	2	0	
10	31	4	UNAK From a Public Librarians' Point of View	n/a			#DEĞER!	
11	31	4	About the Transfer of Books with Artistic Value in Halet Efendi Library	n/a			#DEĞER!	
12	31	4	Impacts of Information Technologies on Information Centers and Services	2017, IMPACTS INFORM TECHN	1	0	-1	değerlendirilen kitabın kü
13	31	4	Educational and Cultural Services of Archives	2014, ED CULTURAL SERVICES	1	0	-1	değerlendirilen kitabın kü
14	31	4	Librarianship and Human Rights: A twenty First Century Guide	Berman Sanford, 1993, PREJUDICES ANTIP	3	2	-1	değerlendirilen kitabın kü
15	31	2	Editorial	George E. P. B., 1979, ROBUSTNESS STRAT	2	2	0	
16	31	3	Open Science	Tonta Y., 2015, IC ARMAGAN ICINDE, P235	1	1	0	
17	31	3	Department of Information and Records Management Students' Information	S Ahmad U. K., 2012, ADV LANGUAGE LITRA	85	88	3	Bir aynı künye var. Web si
18	31	3	The Impact of Innovative Service Approach on User Satisfaction in Bartin Ulus	(Alaca E., 2015, THESIS; Altay A., 2013, GEN	15	15	0	
19	31	3	An Education Supported Life of a Librarian: A Section of Medical Librarianship in Turkey and Library Management Experie	n/a			#DEĞER!	
20	31	3	An Analysis of the Twitter Accounts of University Libraries in Ankara	Al U., 2002, BILGI DUNYAST, V3, P1; Belli J.	13	17	4	2 Web sitesi, 2 Wikipedi n
21	31	3	University Libraries Staff-User Relationship and the Conformity of the Current	[Anonymous], 2011, STAND LIB HIGH ED; P	8	9	1	Web sitesi
22	31	3	Institutions Offering 3 in 1 Exquisite Mixture of Reading Habits (Game-Toy-Boo Akman I, 2017, TURK LIBRARIANSH, V31, P		11	40	29	28 Web sitesi, IFLA Okul K
23	31	3	A Current Look at Librarianship	n/a			#DEĞER!	
24	31	3	"What, So What, Now What"	Kaynakca Association for College and Rese	6	6	0	
25	31	2	Innovative Service Approach in 6 Public Libraries in Ankara: An Evaluation App	Alaca E., 2016, BELEDİYELERİN KİTAPHAN, P1	14	14	0	
26	31	2	A Research on Reading Habits of the Public Librarians in Ankara	Aciyan A. A., 2008, THESIS; Akca C., 2008,	41	41	0	
27	31	2	Role of Books and Libraries in Creating Social and Cultural Environment	Kazimi P. F., 2011, INFORMASIVA MUHENE	5	5	0	
28	31	2	A Study on Education and the Organization of School Libraries in the Perspect	Cetin K., 2002, MİLLİ EĞİTİM DERGISİ, P15	3	4	1	Web sitesi
29	31	2	Reading Culture and School Libraries Report 2017 / School Libraries Association	n/a			#DEĞER!	

Figure 1. The sample of data set

Findings

Between 2015 and 2017, 192 studies which were published in 12 issues of the Journal of Turkish Librarianship have been indexed in WoS. Eight of these studies are in English. Between 2015 and 2017, a total of 2959 studies, 2707 (91.4%) of which placed in the WoS, appear in the reference lists of 192 studies in Turkish Librarianship. 20% or more of the studies in the reference lists of 16% of 192 studies (N=30) have not been indexed. Keeping in mind that 88 of them (46%) do not have any references, more than 20% of the resources in the reference lists of 32% (N=30) of the resources that have reference have not been indexed.

As some studies have not been indexed at all, sometimes extra studies have been indexed. WoS also includes the bibliographic record of the book introduced in the book introductions into the reference list. 25 of the 192 studies in our dataset are in this way.

The indexing rate of the reference list of English sources is 98.6%. 227 of the 230 resources in the reference list of the English source have been indexed. The type of three non-indexed studies are in the website format. In Turkish sources this rate is 91.4%. In our opinion, this difference is closely related to the localization of the APA rules. Due to the syntax differences in languages, the standard structure has been corrupted and the local rules have moved away from being a machine-readable standard.

Figure 1 shows the distribution by type of 252 sources from the studies in the reference list of 192 studies, which are not indexed in WoS for a variety of reasons.

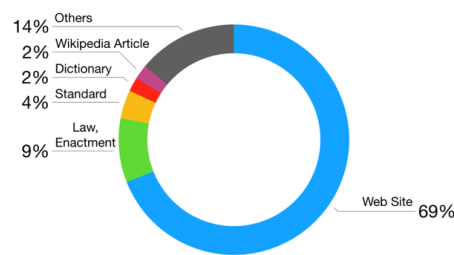


Figure 2. Distribution by type of 252 sources which are not indexed in WoS

Conclusion

- 96 (38%) out of 252 non-indexed sources in WoS have been created in accordance with the original APA rules. Therefore, the reason why these sources are not indexed is either due to minor errors made by the authors or to the indexing algorithm of WoS.
- The remaining 156 resources (62%) have not been indexed although prepared in accordance with "localized APA rules (Turkish version)".
- Disruptions related to the localized rules mostly arise from the syntax differences in the Turkish and English language rules. For example, according to APA rules, the phrase "Retrieved from" is used before the address is given. On a localized copy, "adresinden erişildi (accessed from address)" or "erişim adresi: (access address:)" phrases are used after the access address is given. Both the presence of the ":" sign and the corresponding pattern given before the access address lead to indexing problems.
- Apart from this, there are also resources not indexed by WoS even if they conform to APA style. Legal entity or organizations are indexed as title instead of author; or as [Anonymous] if the author name does not have a comma. At the entrance of the website, if there is a comma in the section up to the date, the author name is indexed as the journal name.

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