

# A Study on Performance and Characteristics of International Art Papers in 1998-2013

## --Based on SSCI and A&HCI

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**Abstract**—This paper studies the basic performance and characteristics of the papers on arts with the methodology of bibliometrics, taking the art papers from SSCI and A&HCI of Web of Science in 1998-2013 as samples. The study shows that, from the perspective of metrics, art papers in SSCI and A&HCI are stable in terms of publication volume, with a trend of decreasing slightly, from 1998 to 2003; the papers are diversified in types, with a lower percentage of articles and higher percentage of reviews; the papers of art and other disciplines are integrated to a certain extent, yet not highly integrated; relatively speaking, art papers published in China is less influential compared with those in America, England and France, but from the viewpoint of time period they are also increasing their impact in recent 10 years.

**Keywords**- art papers; performance and characteristic; bibliometrics

### I. INTRODUCTION

SSCI and A&HCI have been one of the standards of research achievement assessment applied in humanity and social science in Chinese colleges. The study of the status of the art papers collected in international authoritative database is greatly meaningful for understanding the whole development, basic characteristics and changes in trend of the international arts academics.

The disciplines of arts in China are classified into categories as Art Theory, the Fine Arts, Design, Music and Dance, Television and Drama. According to Web of Science, the categories related to arts are Art, Architecture, Dance, Film Radio Television and Music, which are correspondent with the art categories in China. This thesis chooses ART as the main research area and the art papers in SSCI and A&HCI as the research subject. It studies their overall development and distribution by analyzing the papers' volume, content, author, citation and the like, for the aim of understanding the development of art-related researches.

### II. SAMPLE AND RESEARCH METHOD

This paper mainly relies on quantitative research, and chooses SSCI and A&HCI as the index database. It sets the category as "art" and time period from 1998 to 10 August

2013. There are totally 109442 art papers retrieved accordingly, accounting for 2.5% of the total volume of 4364459 pieces in the database during this period.

This paper establishes statistics and analysis for the 109442 papers by the analytic tool provided by the database. The analysis includes three aspects: publishing time and type, research direction, source publication and citation. Besides, this paper has its analysis and research on the art papers published in China.

### III. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

#### A. Papers' Publishing Time and Type

From the perspective of publication volume, it is basically stable in this period of 15 years, but shows an overall slight decreasing trend (Figure 1). During this period, the year of 2004 has witnessed the lowest annual volume while 2000 the highest. These 109442 papers are with abundant and diversified types—25 types totally. Their types are mainly about articles, art exhibit reviews, book reviews, editorial materials and news items, of which articles account for 33% at the first place while art exhibit reviews account for 32% at the second. The total volume of reviews outnumbers general articles (Table I. ). For the types of all papers collected in these two databases, articles account for 50% of them and art articles account for 33% only. So, articles' percentage of art papers is much lower than of the total papers in the database.

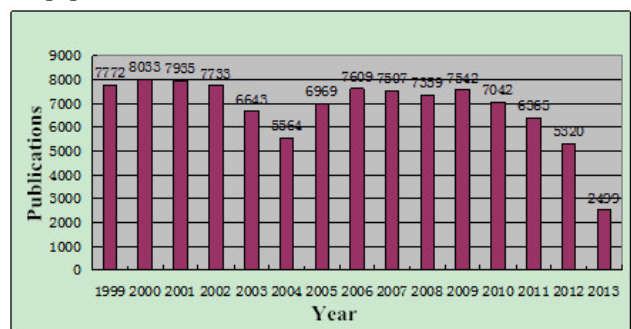


Figure 1. Annual Publication Volume of Art Papers (Jan,1998- Aug,2013)

TABLE I. TYPE DISTRIBUTION LIST OF ART PAPERS IN SSCI AND A&HCI(JAN,1998- AUG,2013)

NO.	Type	Vol.	Pct.
1	ARTICLE	36444	33.300 %
2	ART EXHIBIT REVIEW	36012	32.905 %
3	BOOK REVIEW	18135	16.570 %
4	EDITORIAL MATERIAL	7555	6.903 %
5	NEWS ITEM	4964	4.536 %
6	BIOGRAPHICAL ITEM	2156	1.970 %
7	LETTER	1809	1.653 %
8	PROCEEDINGS PAPER	668	0.610 %
9	REVIEW	586	0.535 %
10	FILM REVIEW	367	0.335 %
11	TV REVIEW RADIO REVIEW	347	0.317 %
12	CORRECTION	240	0.219 %
13	FICTION CREATIVE PROSE	138	0.126 %
14	POETRY	128	0.117 %
15	BIBLIOGRAPHY	102	0.093 %
16	REPRINT	97	0.089 %
17	RECORD REVIEW	95	0.087 %
18	EXCERPT	82	0.075 %
19	BOOK CHAPTER	59	0.054 %
20	THEATER REVIEW	53	0.048 %
21	MUSIC PERFORMANCE REVIEW	47	0.043 %
22	SOFTWARE REVIEW	43	0.039 %
23	DANCE PERFORMANCE REVIEW	28	0.026 %
24	SCRIPT	6	0.005 %
25	DATABASE REVIEW	4	0.004 %

**B. Research Direction**

In the categories of arts, some papers are integrated with other disciplines and belong to other research directions, mainly including: Asian studies, arts humanities, archaeology, chemistry, spectroscopy, etc(Table II.). Besides the top ten research directions listed in the following table, there are others like philosophy, architecture and other social scientific studies. However, in general, other research directions share a very low percent of the total, which implies a low-level integrity of different disciplines in art research.

TABLE II. RESEARCH DIRECTION DISTRIBUTION LIST OF ART PAPERS IN SSCI AND A&HCI(JAN,1998- AUG,2013)

NO.	Research Direction	Papers Publication	Percentage
1	ASIAN STUDIES	2207	2.017 %
2	ARTS HUMANITIES OTHER TOPICS	2162	1.975 %
3	ARCHAEOLOGY	1688	1.542 %
4	CHEMISTRY	1484	1.356 %
5	SPECTROSCOPY	1484	1.356 %
6	GEOLOGY	917	0.838 %
7	MATERIALS SCIENCE	917	0.838 %
8	EDUCATION EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH	717	0.655 %
9	CULTURAL STUDIES	377	0.344 %
10	ENGINEERING	125	0.114 %

**C. Source Publication and Citation**

From the perspective of publication, *Connaissance Des Art* from France is the journal with the largest publication volume, 12439 in all, accounting for 11.36% of the total art papers publication. This journal has been embodied for 16 years ever since 1998 (Table III.).

The H-index is an index that attempts to measure both the productivity and impact of the published work. H means high citations. A journal with an index of H has published H papers each of which has been cited in other papers at least H times. The higher the H of a journal is, the more influential this journal will be. From Table IV. we can see that *Connaissance Des Art* has the largest publication of papers but its citations are 21 only and its H-index is 1, which means this journal is high-producing in papers but the papers' impact is weak. Studies show that America's *Leonardo* and *Artforum* plus England's *Burlington Magazine* are the ones with both considerable publications and impact.

TABLE III. TOP TEN ART JOURNALS THAT PUBLISHED MOST ART PAPERS(JAN,1998- AUG,2013)

NO.	Organization	Publishing Year	Years	Publication	Pct.
1	Connaissance Des Art	1998-2013	16	12439	11.36%
2	Artnews	1998-2013	16	11850	10.82%
3	Art In America	1998-2013	16	10411	9.51 %
4	Artforum International	2004-2013	10	6991	6.38%
5	Burlington Magazine	1998-2013	16	6107	5.58%
6	Oeil Magazine International D'art	1998-2002	5	3611	3.29%
7	Du Die Zeitschrift Der Kultur	1998-2009	12	3608	3.29%
8	Artforum	1998-2004	7	3403	3.10%
9	Magazine Antiques	1998-2013	16	2896	2.64 %
10	Leonardo	1998-2013	16	2476	2.262 %

TABLE IV. CITATIONS AND H-INDEX OF THE TOP TEN ART JOURNALS WITH MOST PAPERS (JAN,1998- AUG,2013)

NO.	Organization	Citations	H-index
1	Connaissance Des Art	21	1
2	Artnews	138	2
3	Art In America	145	2
4	Artforum International	157	3
5	Burlington Magazine	676	5
6	Oeil Magazine International D'art	2	1
7	Du Die Zeitschrift Der Kultur	16	1
8	Artforum	218	6
9	Magazine Antiques	79	2
10	Leonardo	930	12

**D. Research of Papers Published in China**

Statistically speaking, art papers are mainly published in America, England and France, the papers from which together account for 15% of the total publications. Arranged by publications, the top ten countries also include Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada, Scotland, the Netherlands and Australia.

China is at the fifteenth place, with totally 210 papers published, accounting for about 0.192% only.

Statistic analysis for the 210 papers published in China shows an overall increasing productivity of art papers from 1998 to 2013. The publication reached its peak in 2010, with totally 36 papers published in this year (Figure 2). There are 7 types of art papers published in China. The type of the papers in China is simple, mainly as articles. There are 162 articles, accounting for 77%; 20 letters, accounting for 9.5%; 11 editorial materials, accounting for 5.2%; 7 art exhibit reviews and 5 book reviews, 4 biographical items and 1 news item. Compared with the general performance of art papers, art exhibit reviews and book reviews published in China account for only 3% and 2% respectively, which is far behind the average percentage 32% and 16% (Table V.).

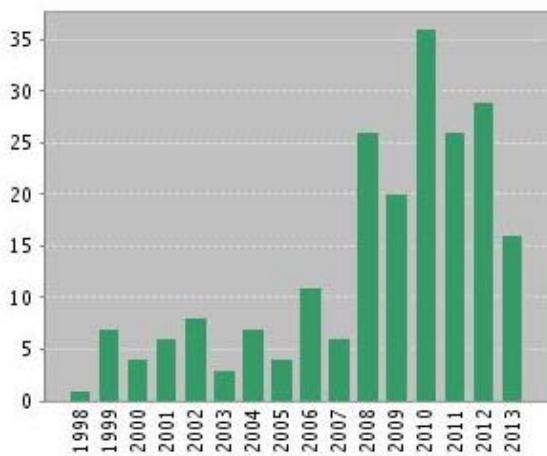


Figure 2. Annual Publication Distribution Map of Art Papers in China (Jan, 1998- Aug, 2013)

TABLE V. TYPE DISTRIBUTION MAP OF ART PAPERS PUBLISHED IN CHINA IN SSCI AND A&HCI (JAN, 1998- AUG, 2013)

NO.	Papers Type	Publication	Percentage
1	ARTICLE	162	77.143 %
2	LETTER	20	9.524 %
3	EDITORIAL MATERIAL	11	5.238 %
4	BOOK REVIEW	7	3.333 %
5	ART EXHIBIT REVIEW	5	2.381 %
6	BIOGRAPHICAL ITEM	4	1.905 %
7	NEWS ITEM	1	0.476 %

From the viewpoint of publication, the art papers from China are mainly published in Arts of Asia, Journal of Cultural Heritage and Museum International, which have 68, 20 and 14 articles respectively. Related papers are rarely found in other journals.

In the aspect of funding agencies, they are fewer funding agencies for art papers published in China. Among these agencies, National Natural Science Foundation of China donated funds for 7 papers, which is at the first place. Chinese Academy of Sciences comes the second with funds for 2 papers. The rest 33 organizations donated only one paper respectively. Funding support is almost the same for

national and municipal agencies. There are international funding agencies as well, like the agencies from England, Italy, and Sweden. The municipal agencies are mainly located in Jiangsu, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Qingdao and Xi'an, and five papers are supported by them.

From the perspective of publishing institutes, art papers published in China are mainly from the universities in Hong Kong. The top four of these institutes are all located in Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The University of Hong Kong, Lingnan University and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, in sequence. China Central Academy of Fine Arts, an art college, published 3 papers totally and ranks 14. Higher education institutions are the main research units, while non-university organizations like museums and research institutes also share a certain percentage in publication (Table VI).

TABLE VI. DISTRIBUTION LIST OF PUBLISHING INSTITUTES OF ART PAPERS IN CHINA IN SSCI AND A&HCI, THRESHOLD>3 (JAN, 1998- AUG, 2013)

NO.	Institutes	Publication
1	CHINESE UNIV HONG KONG	19
2	UNIV HONG KONG	19
3	LINGNAN UNIV	15
4	HONG KONG POLYTECH UNIV	14
5	SHANGHAI MUSEUM	12
6	HONG KONG MUSEUM ART	10
7	CHINESE ACAD SCI	7
8	PALACE MUSEUM	6
9	BEIJING UNIV	6
10	FUDAN UNIV	5
11	CITY UNIV HONG KONG	4
12	NANJING UNIV	4
13	NANKAI UNIV	4
14	CENT ACAD FINE ARTS	3
15	CHINESE ACAD SOCIAL SCI	3
16	HONG KONG INST EDUC	3
17	JIANGNAN UNIV	3
18	TSINGHUA UNIV	3

From the perspective of citations, citations of China's art papers have been increasing over the years, reaching the peak in 2012. It demonstrates an increasing impact of art papers of China in recent 10 years (Figure 3). It shows a decreasing performance in 2013, due to the incomplete citation statistics as it is not yet finished this year. In general citations, the art papers published in China during 1998 to 2013 Aug are cited for 124 times with the h-index of 5 (the higher the h-index is, the more influential the paper will be). The h-index of America, England and France is 20, 18 and 11 respectively. Compared with them, China is far behind in terms of the impact of art papers.

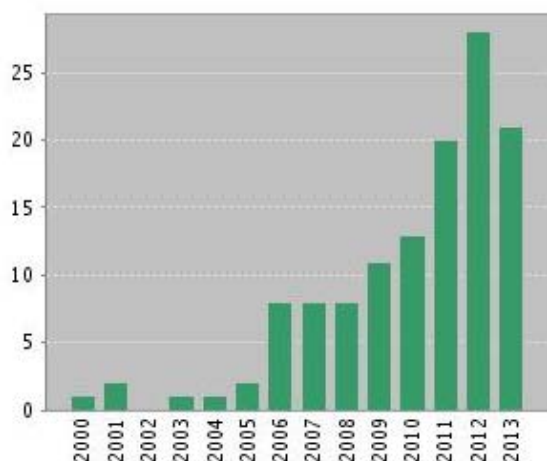


Figure 3. Annual Citations of Art Papers Published in China(Jan,1998-Aug,2013)

#### IV. CONCLUSION

By the statistics on the papers in SSCI and A&HCI, characteristics of research on international art papers are observed as follows:

- From the perspective of publication volume, art papers are basically stable in productivity, with a slight decreasing trend. The year of 2004 witnessed the lowest volume. It is abundant and diversified in types, and they are mainly about articles, art exhibit reviews, book reviews, editorial materials and new items, yet articles are with a lower percentage. It shows that art papers are special and diversified, and they pay more attention to reviews and less to articles.
- Art papers are integrated with other disciplines to some extent, including Asian studies, arts humanities, archaeology, chemistry, spectroscopy, etc. However, in general, cross-discipline research accounts for a very low percentage up to 2% only. It can be said that art papers are not highly integrated with other disciplines.
- From the perspective of publication, *Connaissance Des Art* from France is the journal with the largest publication volume, but its impact is weak in relevant papers. The journals with both high productivity and strong impact in art papers are

America's *Leonardo* and *Artforum* and England's *Burlington Magazine*.

- Art papers are mainly published in America, England and France. China published 210 relevant papers, ranked 15. Art papers published in China are relatively less diversified and they are mainly in the type of article. Art exhibit reviews and book reviews are sharing a lower percentage of the total art papers in China. There are not many funding agencies, and national funding agencies and municipal agencies are almost the same in terms of quantity. The art papers from China are mainly published in *Arts of Asia*, *Journal of Cultural Heritage* and *Museum International*. Publishing institutes are mainly the universities in Hong Kong, while non-university organizations like museums and research institutes also share a certain percentage of publication.
- For the art papers published in China from 1998 to 2013 Aug, 124 times of citations are observed and the H-index is 5. It indicates that the impact of China's art papers is weak. China is far behind America, England and France in the aspect of impact of art papers. However, speaking from time distribution, citations of art papers published in China have been increasing and reached the peak in 2012. It demonstrates that art papers published in China have been enhancing their impact in recent 10 years.

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