Factors Affecting the Scientific Impact of Literature Reviews

A Scientometric Study

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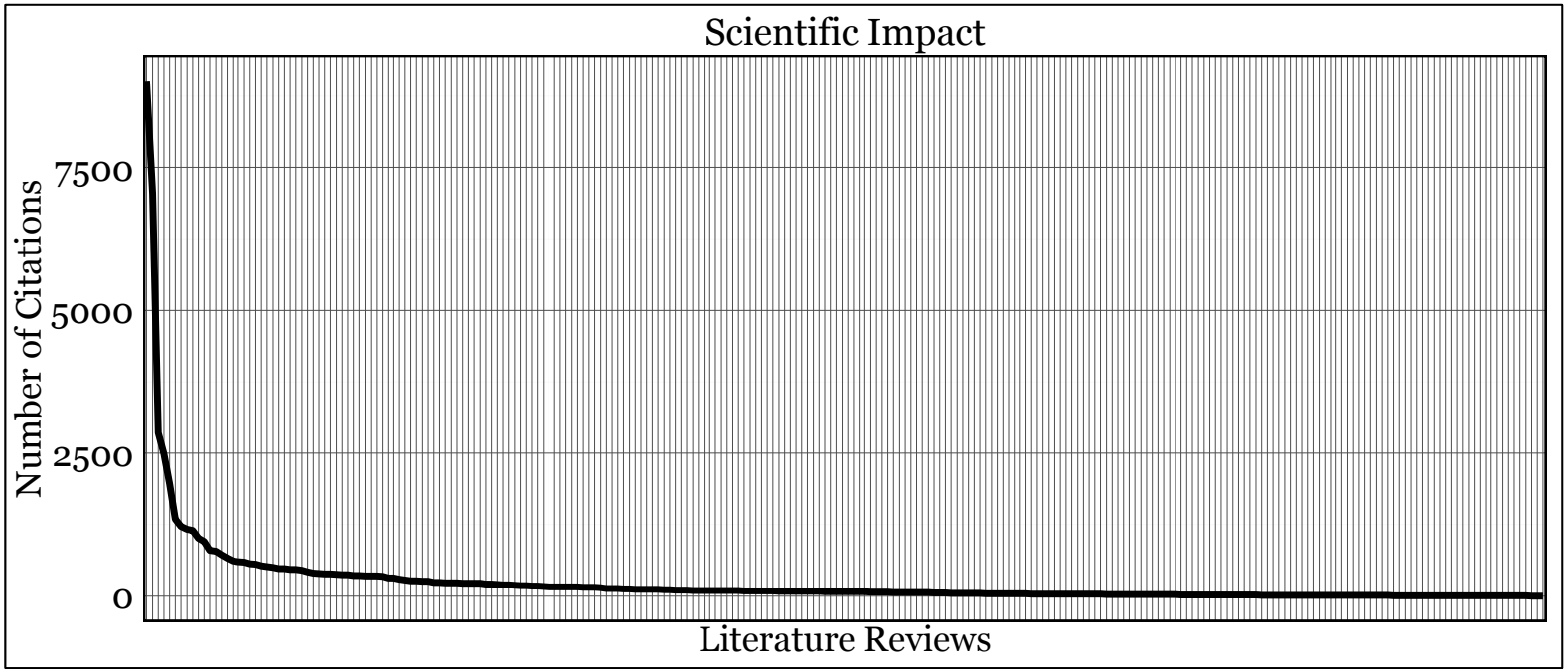
Agenda

- Introduction
- Literature Reviews and Scientometric Research
- Model Development
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion

Introduction



Literature reviews: the quest for impact … and the struggle of creating it

Introduction

The **quest for impact** …. and the **struggle of creating it**

Effective reviews
- create a firm foundation for advancing knowledge
- facilitate theory development
- uncover areas where research is needed

(Webster and Watson 2002)

Literature reviews can provide **tremendous value** for the field. Not surprisingly, some reviews have had **considerable impact** if judged by citations

(Rowe 2014)

„Comprehensive search“

(Webster and Watson 2002)

„This is still not what is expected“

(Rivard 2014)

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(Dibbern et al. 2004)

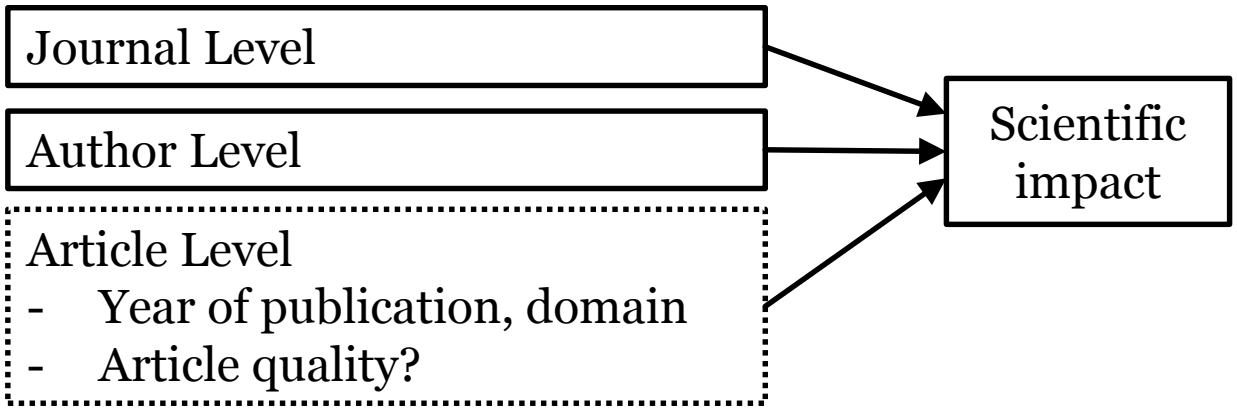
What are the main factors affecting the scientific impact of IS literature reviews at the journal, author and article level?

Literature Reviews and Scientometric Research

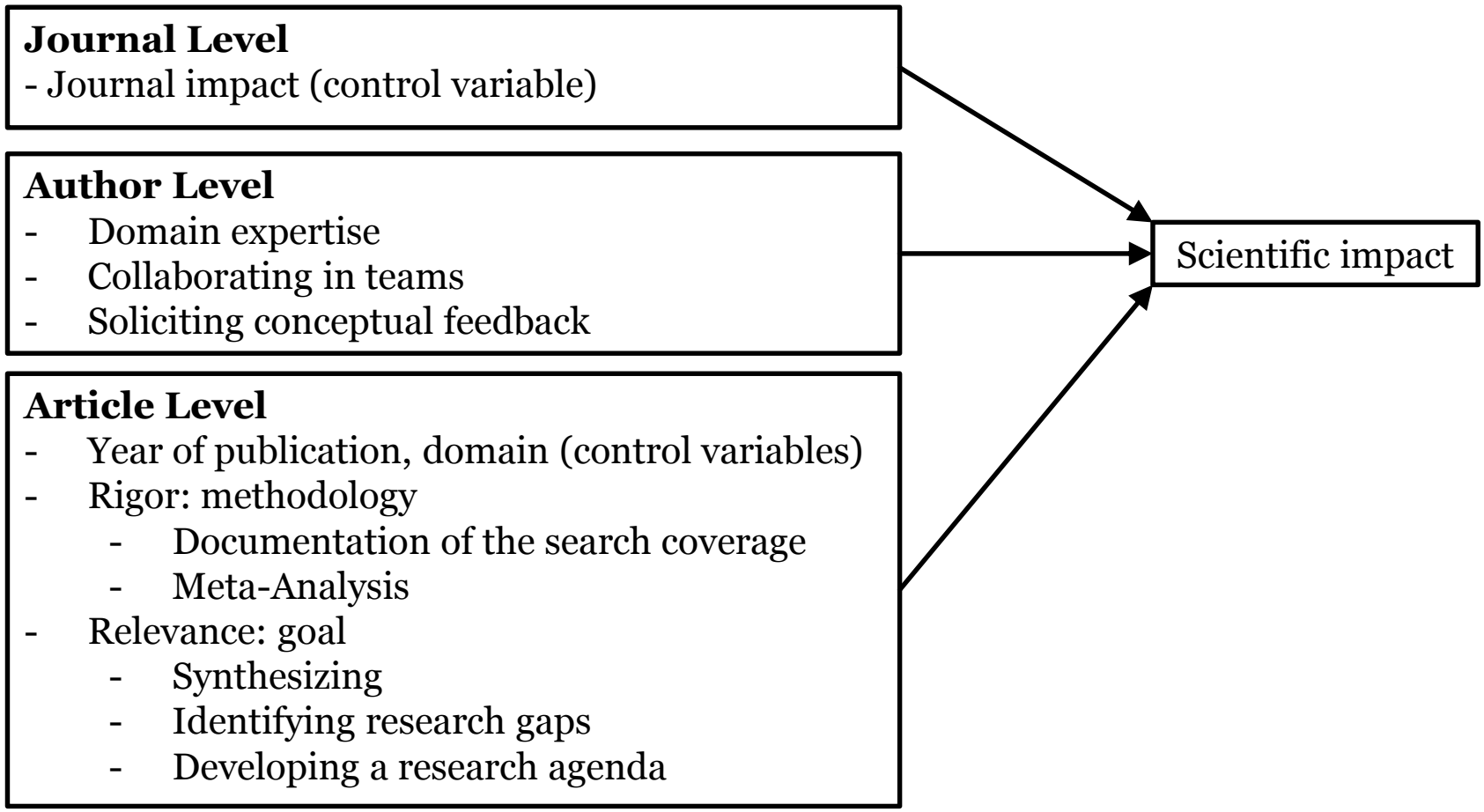
Definition

*A literature review provides a **synthesis** of the body of **knowledge of a specified domain**.*

Scientometric Research



Research Model



Methodology

- **Identification of literature reviews (n=214), scope**
  - Top-40 IS journals (Lowry et al. 2013)
  - between 2000 and 2014
  - in English
- **Coding of measures**
  - Journal: Thomson Reuters Journal Impact Factor
  - Authors and Article: PDFs
- **Negative binomial generalized linear model (GLM)**

Results

		Estimate (Std. Error)
Journal	Journal impact factor (control variable)	0.30*** (0.05)
Author	Domain expertise	0.29** (0.11)
	Team (2-3 authors)	0.59** (0.19)
	Team (4 or more authors)	0.01 (0.27)
	Feedback	0.24 (0.16)
Article	Time (control variable)	0.26*** (0.02)
	Rigor: transparent search	0.63** (0.16)
	Rigor: meta-analysis	-0.50* (0.25)
	Relevance: research gaps	-0.12 (0.18)
	Relevance: research agenda	-0.12 (0.20)

Significance levels: *** indicates $p<0.001$, ** indicates $p<0.01$, * indicates $p<0.05$.
The model includes an intercept and domain dummies.

Conclusion

Further research

- Refining factors (e.g., methodological rigor, experience)
- Including additional control variables (e.g., author reputation)

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