

The History of Social Work Research: A Data Science Perspective

Data collection

- Article record retrieval date: January 8, 2015 Database: PsychInfo and Social Science Index (via EbscoHost Platform)
- Search terms: SO “social work” or SO “social welfare” or SO “social casework” or “social case work” or SO “social service” or “social services” or SO “human service” or SO “human services” or SO “social development” or SO “social environment”
- Search limiters: Publication Type: Peer Reviewed Journal; Document Type: Journal Article
- Search modes: Boolean/Phrase
- Search results were exported from EbscoHost Platform in a *generic bibliographic format*. This is an unstructured text file (*.txt) that was processed using in R.
- EbscoHost full journal listing retrieval date: January 11, 2015 (<http://www.ebscohost.com/title-lists>)

Data Pre-Processing

```
# Clear workspace
rm(list=ls())

# Read BWR functions for Mac OS
source("/Users/beperron/Git/BibWrangleR/functions/piWrangleR.R")
source("/Users/beperron/Git/BibWrangleR/functions/packages.R")
# Set the path where original raw data are stored
setwd("/Users/beperron/Git/SocialWorkResearch/Data")

# Set the working directory to store files created by BWR functions
path <- "/Users/beperron/Git/SocialWorkResearch/Data"

# Wrangle the data with the BWR function suite
#piBWR.f(csv=FALSE, path=path)
#save(pi.df, file = "piArticles.R")
```

```
[1] 545365      3
```

```
[1] "attributes" "articleID"  "record"
```

```
[1] 26572
```

Journals excluded from search results. *Social Work* today excluded because it is of a magazine format.

```
pi.df <- pi.df %>% filter(
  record != "Journal of Applied Social Sciences" &
  record != "Early Child Development and Care" &
  record != "The Clinical Supervisor" &
  record != "Children and Youth Services Review" &
  record != "General Hospital Psychiatry" &
  record != "Canadian Journal on Aging" &
  record != "Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health" &
  record != "Behavior Modification" &
  record != "Employee Assistance Quarterly" &
  record != "Journal of Applied Behavioral Science" &
  record != "The Scientific Review of Mental Health Practice: Objective Investigations of Controversies" &
  record != "Systems Research and Behavioral Science" &
  record != "Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling" &
  record != "Journal of Educational & Psychological Consultation" &
  record != "Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology" &
  record != "Evaluation and Program Planning" &
  record != "Journal of Nonverbal Behavior" &
  record != "Brain and Cognition" &
  record != "Early Education and Development" &
  record != "American Journal of Preventive Medicine" &
  record != "Social Work Today")
```

Two journal titles were merged because one set of records was a logical abbreviation of another set of records.

```
pi.df$record <- ifelse(pi.df$record == "Practice", "Practice: Social Work in Action",
  pi.df$record)
pi.df$articleID <- ifelse(pi.df$articleID == 74, 42, pi.df$articleID)

pi.df$record <- ifelse(pi.df$record == "Eugenics & Social Welfare Bull.", "Eugenics and Social Welfare Bulletin",
  pi.df$record)
pi.df$articleID <- ifelse(pi.df$articleID == 28, 32, pi.df$articleID)
```

Preliminary Analyses

All analyses provided here are not in publishable format, but presented to determine the basis of a storyline. All tables and figures will be styled according to a target journal.

Summary of all journal titles included in the analysis

To do:

- In the table, include the first and last years of indexing, and the numbers of articles.
- Write the script to output a *.csv file so that it can be included as an Appendix without any formatting.

```
## [1] 87
```

```
## [1] "Administration in Social Work"
## [2] "Affilia: Journal of Women & Social Work"
```

[3] "Australian Social Work"
 ## [4] "British Journal of Psychiatric Social Work"
 ## [5] "British Journal of Social Work"
 ## [6] "Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal"
 ## [7] "Child & Family Social Work"
 ## [8] "Children & Schools"
 ## [9] "Clinical Social Work Journal"
 ## [10] "Computers in Human Services"
 ## [11] "Ethics and Social Welfare"
 ## [12] "Eugenics and Social Welfare Bulletin"
 ## [13] "Families in Society"
 ## [14] "Health & Social Work"
 ## [15] "Hospital Social Service"
 ## [16] "Indian Journal of Psychiatric Social Work"
 ## [17] "Indian Journal of Social Work"
 ## [18] "International Conference of Social Work"
 ## [19] "International Journal of Social Welfare"
 ## [20] "International Social Work"
 ## [21] "Issues in Social Work Education"
 ## [22] "Jewish Social Services Quarterly"
 ## [23] "Journal of Analytic Social Work"
 ## [24] "Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work: Innovation in Theory, Research & Practice"
 ## [25] "Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work"
 ## [26] "Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services: Issues in Practice, Policy & Research"
 ## [27] "Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services: The Quarterly Journal of Community & Clinical Practice"
 ## [28] "Journal of Gerontological Social Work"
 ## [29] "Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services"
 ## [30] "Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment"
 ## [31] "Journal of Independent Social Work"
 ## [32] "Journal of Multicultural Social Work"
 ## [33] "Journal of Progressive Human Services"
 ## [34] "Journal of Psychiatric Social Work"
 ## [35] "Journal of Religion & Spirituality in Social Work: Social Thought"
 ## [36] "Journal of Social Casework"
 ## [37] "Journal of Social Service Research"
 ## [38] "Journal of Social Welfare"
 ## [39] "Journal of Social Work"
 ## [40] "Journal of Social Work & Human Sexuality"
 ## [41] "Journal of Social Work Education"
 ## [42] "Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life & Palliative Care"
 ## [43] "Journal of Social Work Practice"
 ## [44] "Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions"
 ## [45] "Journal of Social Work Process"
 ## [46] "Journal of Social Work Research and Evaluation"
 ## [47] "Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare"
 ## [48] "Journal of Teaching in Social Work"
 ## [49] "Journal of Technology in Human Services"
 ## [50] "Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research"
 ## [51] "Maatskaplike Werk/Social Work"
 ## [52] "Medical Social Work"
 ## [53] "New York State Department of Social Welfare, Division Publication"
 ## [54] "Pediatric Social Work"
 ## [55] "Pennsylvania Social Work"
 ## [56] "Practice: Social Work in Action"

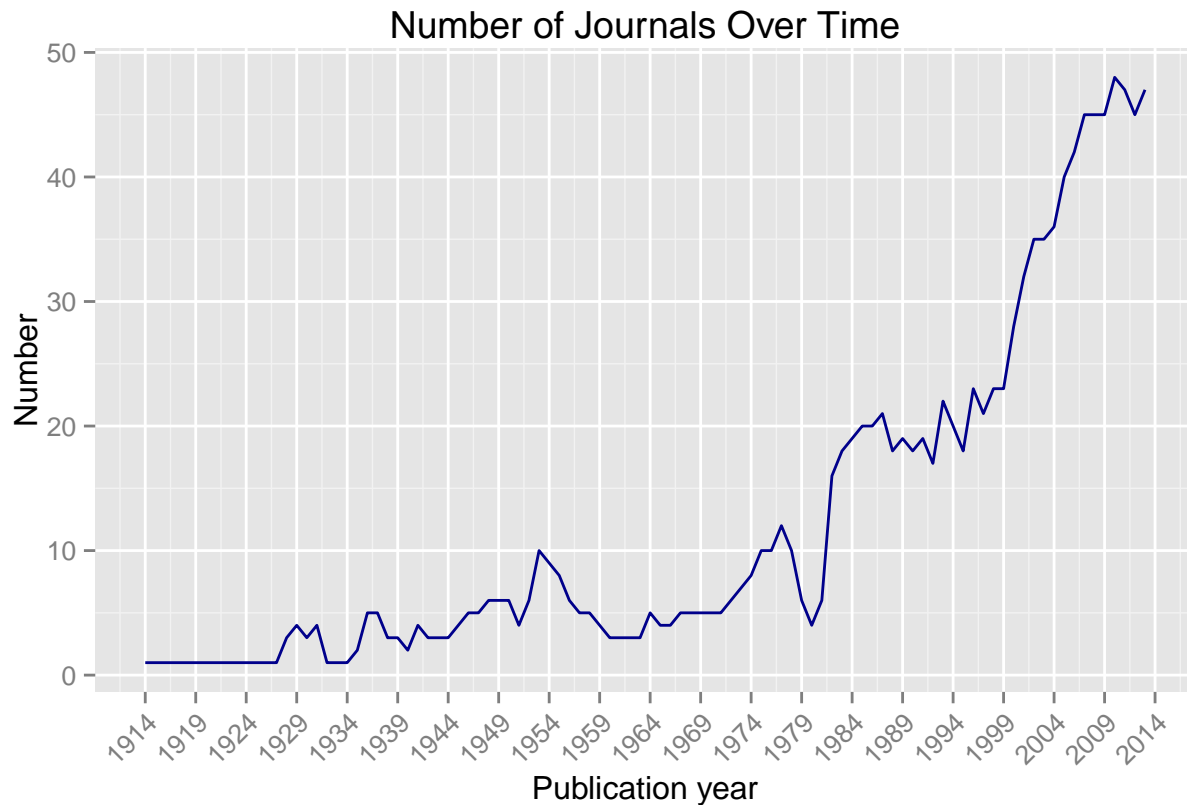
```

## [57] "Prevention in Human Services"
## [58] "Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work"
## [59] "Psychoanalytic Social Work"
## [60] "Qualitative Social Work: Research and Practice"
## [61] "Research on Social Work Practice"
## [62] "Rural Social Work"
## [63] "School Social Work Journal"
## [64] "School Social Work Quarterly"
## [65] "Smith College Studies in Social Work"
## [66] "Social Casework"
## [67] "Social Development"
## [68] "Social Development Issues: Alternative Approaches to Global Human Needs"
## [69] "Social Service"
## [70] "Social Service Department, Presbyterian Hospital, New York"
## [71] "Social Service Monographs"
## [72] "Social Service Review"
## [73] "Social Work"
## [74] "Social Work & Christianity"
## [75] "Social Work and Social Sciences Review"
## [76] "Social Work Education"
## [77] "Social Work in Education"
## [78] "Social Work in Health Care"
## [79] "Social Work in Mental Health"
## [80] "Social Work Research"
## [81] "Social Work Research & Abstracts"
## [82] "Social Work Technique"
## [83] "Social Work with Groups: A Journal of Community and Clinical Practice"
## [84] "Social Work Yearbook"
## [85] "The Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work"
## [86] "University of Chicago Social Service Monograph"
## [87] "University of Washington Publications: Social Services"

```

Count of unique journal titles over time

To do: + Integrate the full journal listing of EbscoHost + Plot overall number of journals over time + Plot overall number of journals by major discipline category as defined by EbscoHost classification – use sociology, anthropology, economics, psychology, and political science + The following “overall growth” plot excludes social work journals in this study. There were a small number of overlap journals between social science and social work journals ($N = 4$ – double check for final analysis. The journals that overlapped were included in the social work group.



Growth of Social Work compared to growth of the social sciences

This section shows the overall growth of the social sciences. This includes all *academic journals* (excluding magazines and trade publications) that have the following discipline tag:

- Sociology
- Psychology
- Economics
- Political Science & Studies
- Economics
- Anthropology

Some of the journals have duplicate entries in the database because they are cross-classified in multiple social science disciplines. The following code is used to create a data set that excludes duplicate entries in the database and ensures no overlap between the social science list and the social work list of journals. Duplicates are identified based on ISSN, not journal title. This will ensure all duplicates are identified.

```
ebJournals.df.issn <- ebJournals.df %>% select(issn)
ebJournals.df.unique <- !duplicated(ebJournals.df.issn)

#This function here tests whether the duplication identifier correctly gets the first unique record (by
#cbind(ebJournals.df.unique, ebJournals.df.issn$ISSN)

#This subsets out the duplicates
ebJournals.df.no.duplicates <- ebJournals.df[ebJournals.df.unique, ]
```

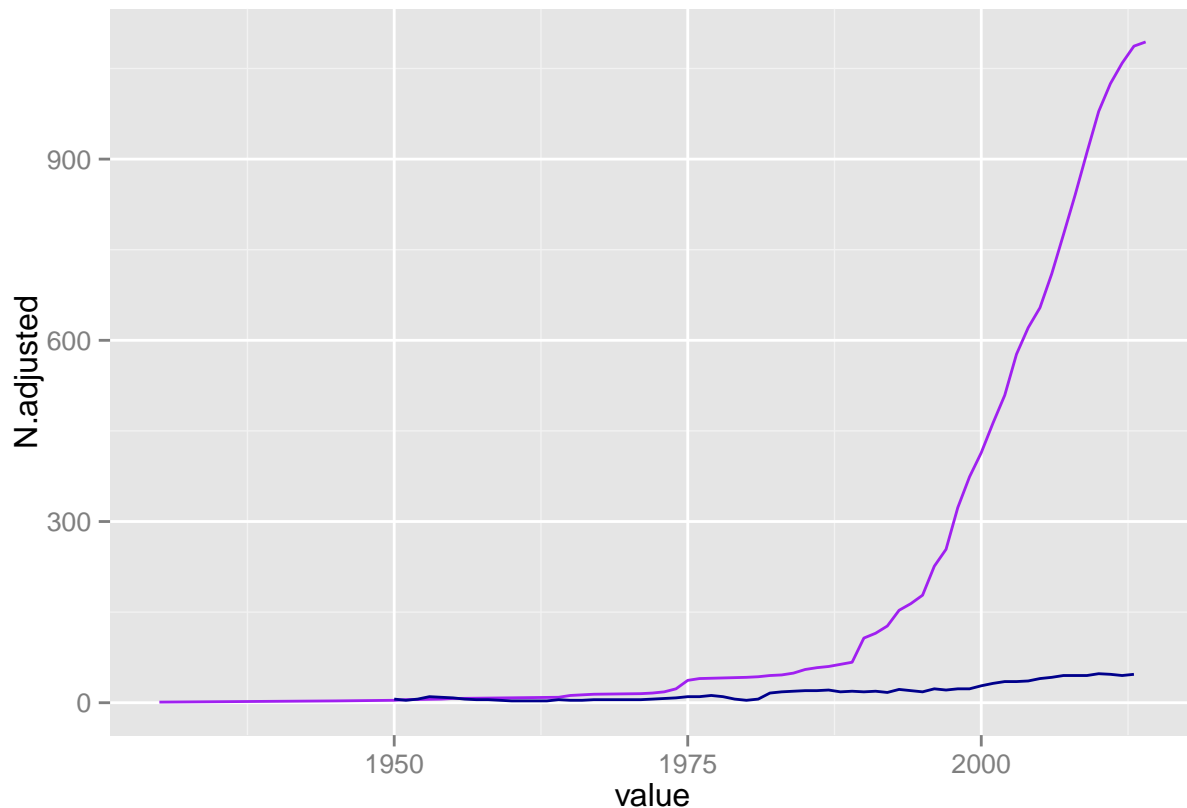
```
#This function does a logical comparison of the social science journals and the social work journals to
overlap <- ebJournals.df.no.duplicates[(ebJournals.df.no.duplicates$PublicationName %in% journals.unique
print(overlap)
```

```
##      Discipline IndexingStart IndexingStop
## 212 Psychology          2000           NA
## 620 Economics          1999           NA
## 1307 Psychology        1992           NA
## 1317 Economics        1975           NA
##
##              PublicationName      ISSN
## 212              Children & Schools 1532-8759
## 620 International Journal of Social Welfare 1369-6866
## 1307              Social Development 0961-205X
## 1317              Social Work 0037-8046
```

```
#This reduces the overlap from the social science journal lists, retaining the overlap in the social wo
ebJournals.df.no.overlap <- ebJournals.df.no.duplicates[!(ebJournals.df.no.duplicates$PublicationName %
```

This section uses the `melt` function to transform the social science data file into a format that can be plotted using `ggplot2`.

```
## Using journalID as id variables
## Joining by: "value"
```



What journals published the most number of articles

Joining by: "articleID"

Source: local data frame [10 x 4]

##

##		title	first	last	n.to.date
## 1		Social Work	1948	2013	1828
## 2	British Journal of Social Work		1971	2013	1407
## 3	Families in Society		1990	2013	1186
## 4	Journal of Gerontological Social Work		1981	2013	1135
## 5	Social Work in Health Care		1975	2013	1112
## 6	Social Casework		1950	1989	1088
## 7	Smith College Studies in Social Work		1930	2013	1050
## 8	Clinical Social Work Journal		1973	2013	1027
## 9	Research on Social Work Practice		1991	2013	928
## 10	Health & Social Work		1976	2013	889

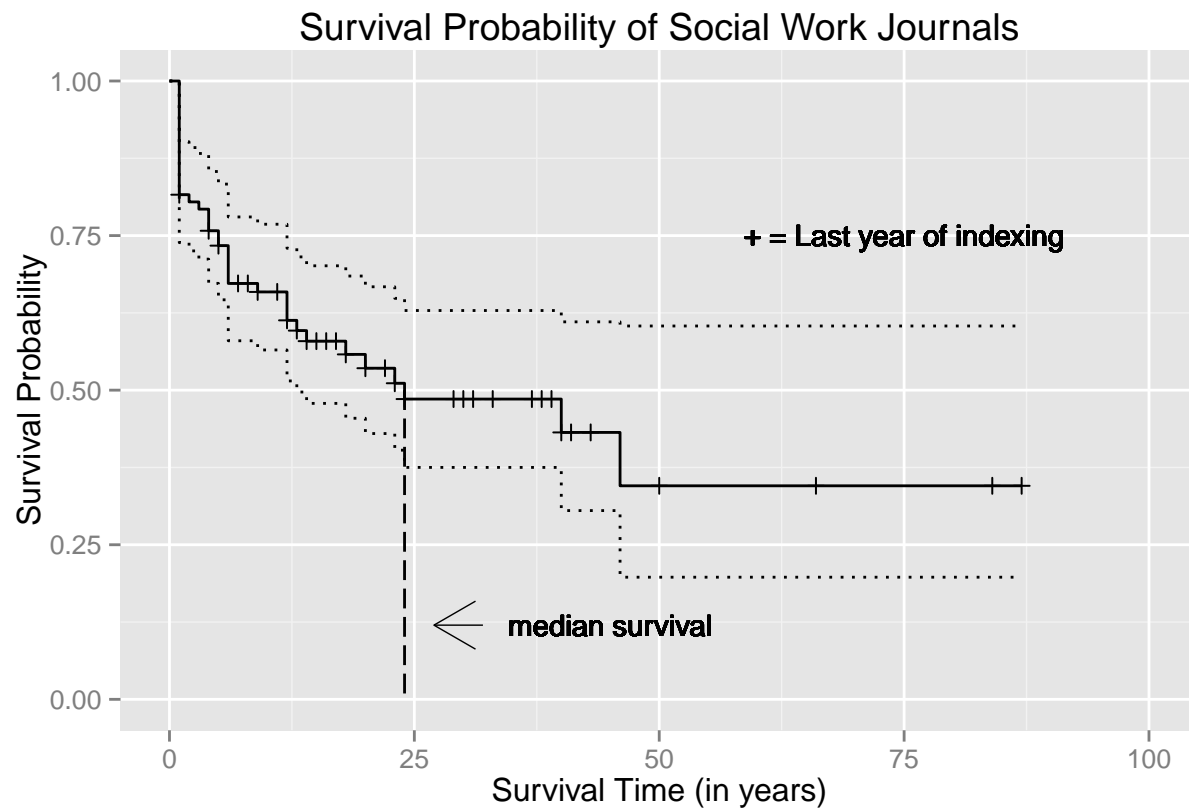
What is the lifespan of journals?

To do: + Incorporate all EbscoHost journals and the separate disciplinary journals

Source: local data frame [6 x 4]

##

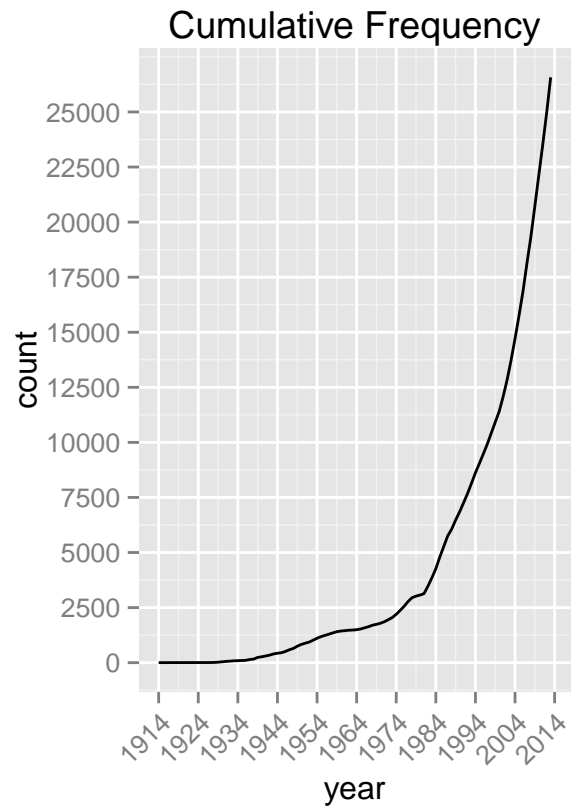
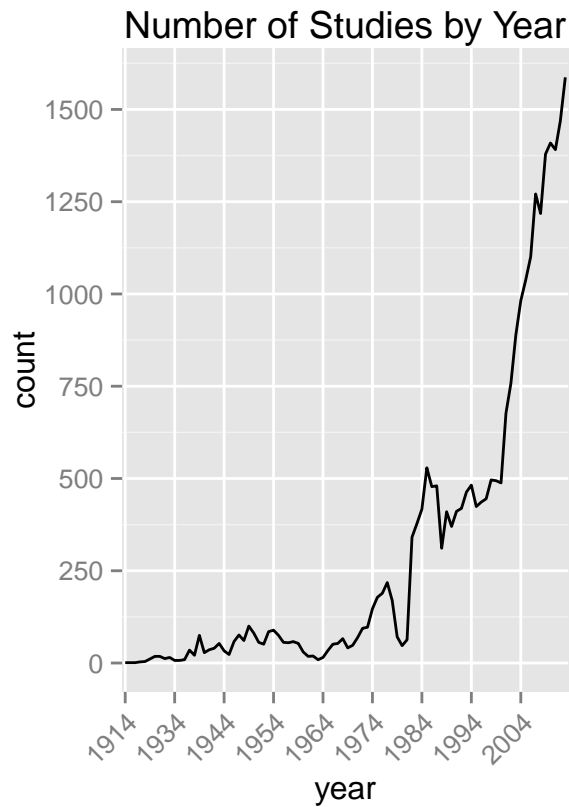
##		title	stop	event	first
## 1		Social Service Review	86	0	1927
## 2	Smith College Studies in Social Work		83	0	1930
## 3		Social Work	65	0	1948
## 4		Journal of Social Work	49	0	1964
## 5	Indian Journal of Social Work		45	1	1941
## 6	British Journal of Social Work		42	0	1971



What is the number of articles published per year

To do: + Plot against major disciplinary categories

Scale for 'x' is already present. Adding another scale for 'x', which will replace the existing scale



```
##      years year.count
## 81  2004      982
## 82  2005     1038
## 83  2006     1101
## 84  2007     1271
## 85  2008     1218
## 86  2009     1379
## 87  2010     1409
## 88  2011     1391
## 89  2012     1469
## 90  2013     1587
```

What are the most frequent topic areas (by author specified keywords)?

To do:

+ Fix script that performs matching – convert all keywords to lower before matching

```
$subject.terms.total
[1] 111806
```

```
$subject.terms.unique
[1] 50736
```

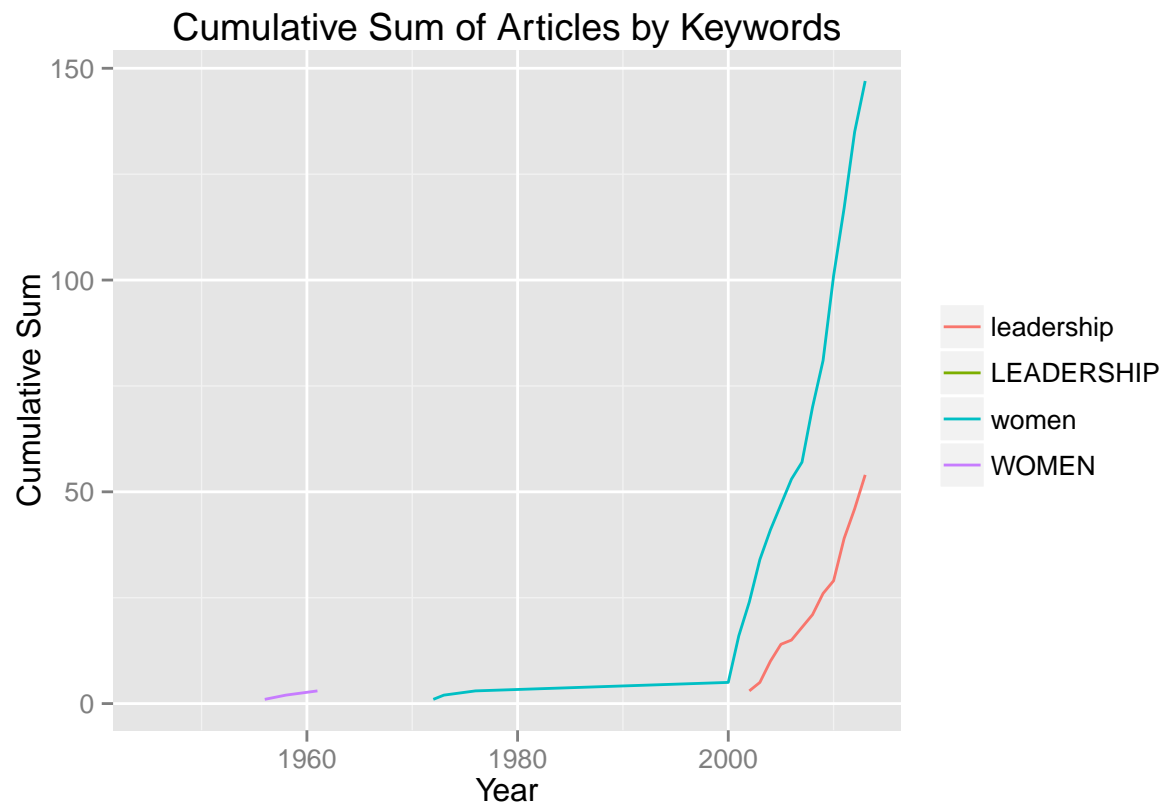
```
subject.terms Freq
```

1	socialwork	1883
2	socialworkers	1798
3	socialworkeducation	737
4	socialworkpractice	538
5	children	355
6	socialservices	334
7	mentalhealth	319
8	socialworkstudents	315
9	childwelfare	269
10	childhoodandadolescence	252
11	family	252
12	hiv	247
13	socialsupport	237
14	riskfactors	230
15	socialcasework	222
16	fostercare	219
17	adolescents	213
18	psychotherapy	211
19	india	202
20	spirituality	198
21	methodology	196
22	poverty	194
23	intervention	183
24	depression	182
25	decisionmaking	181

Most Frequent Author Keywords

DO NOT INTERPRET RESULTS HERE THIS SECTION IS NOT WORKING PROPERLY

For this analysis (to-do), select a few keywords that may tell an interesting story of how they change over time – something that might be revealing of ‘trends.’

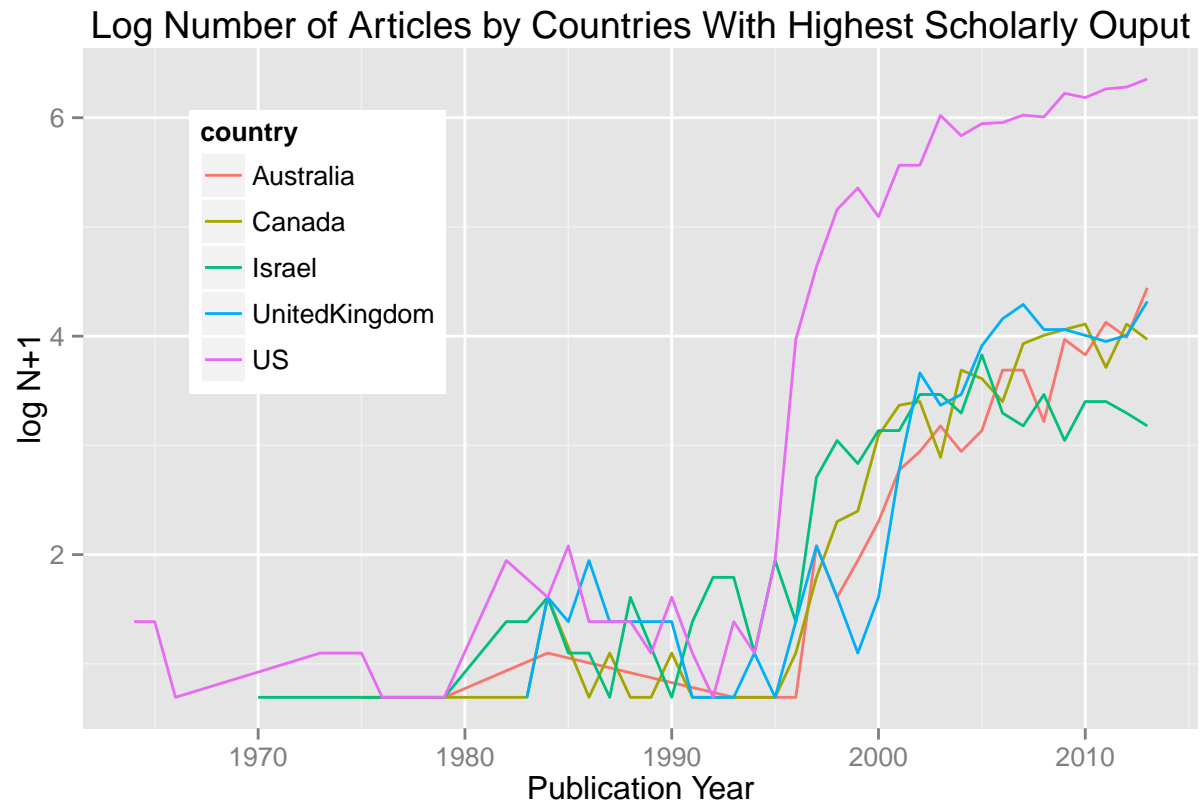


Location of Studies

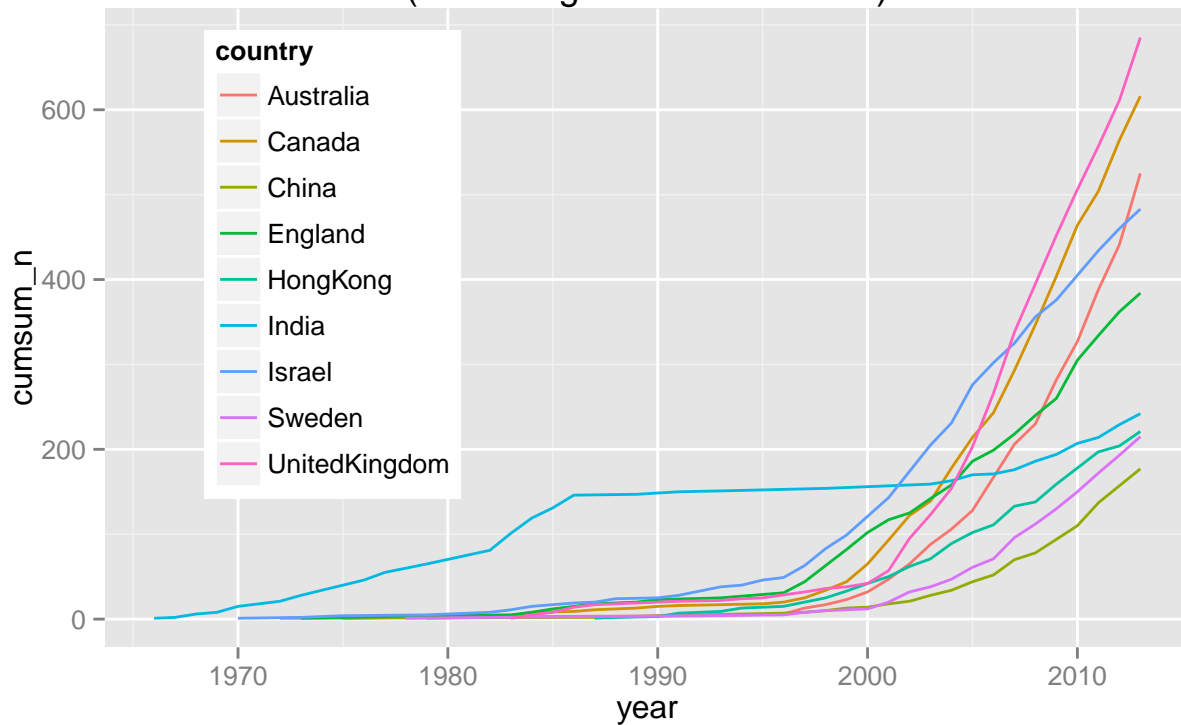
To do: + Determine best format / presentation of map

Location of studies over time

To do: + Determine best format / presentation of map



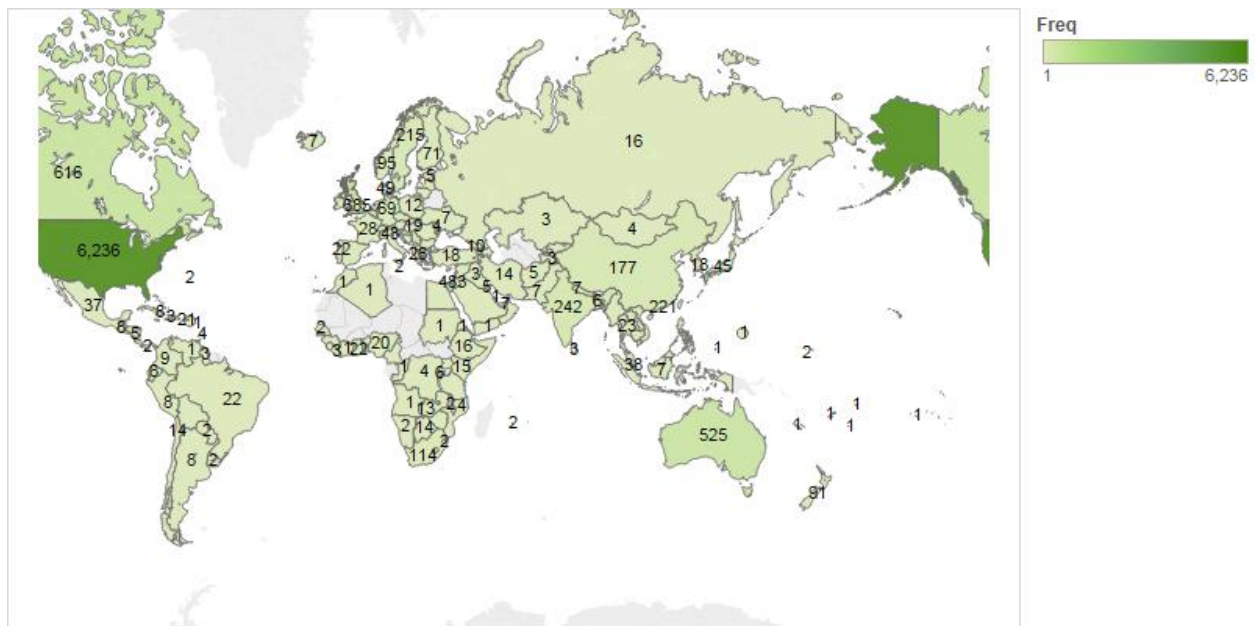
Cumulative Number of Article by Countries with Highest Scholarly Output (Excluding the United States)



Countries represents in the social work research

To do: + Obtain definition of LO tag.

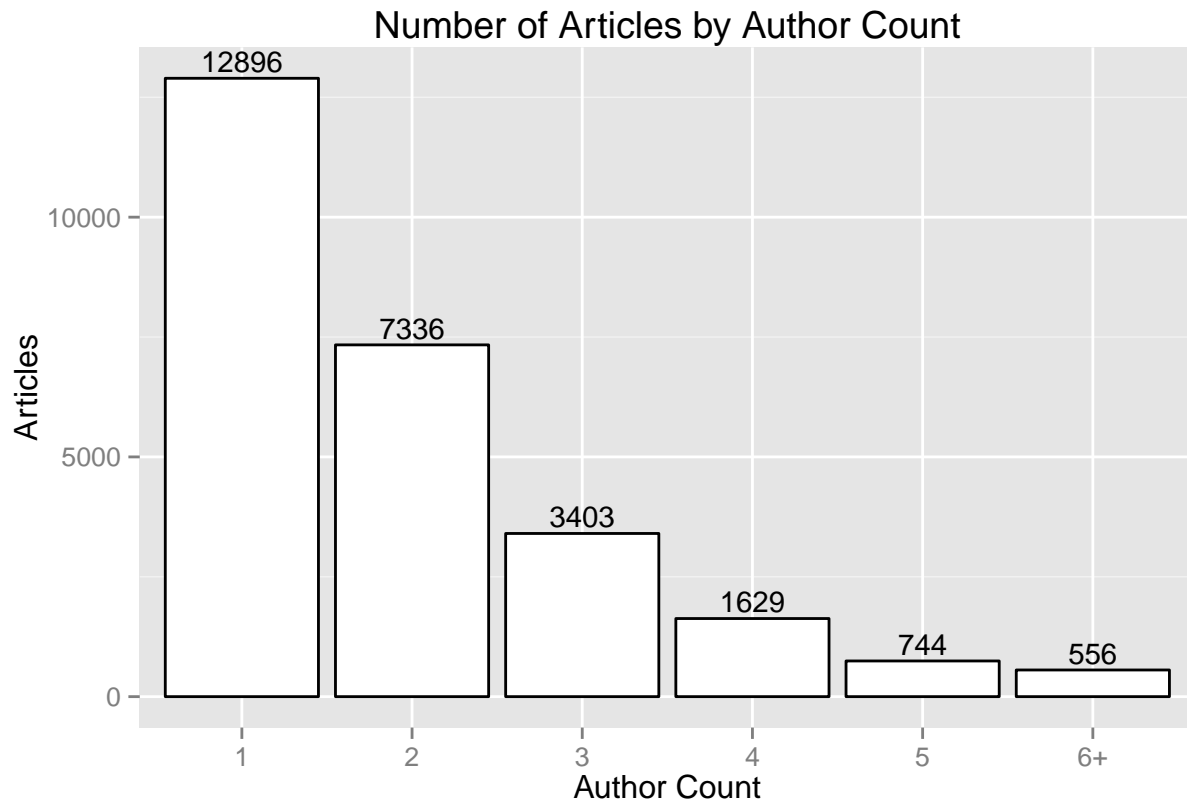
+ Determine how many articles had LO tag (note the issue if not included from Social Science Index)



Countries not represented in social work research

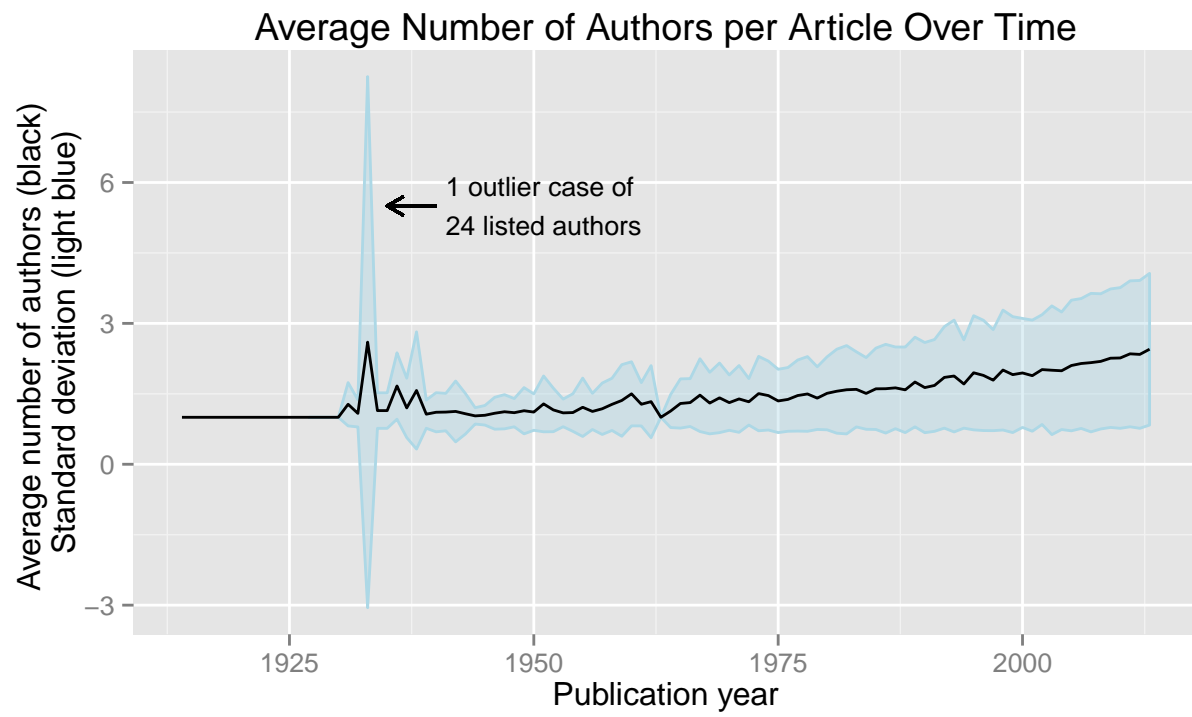


Number of authors



Number of authors over time

This figure shows the average number of authors, along with the standard deviation as the ribbon around the average. Note that there is a possible problem in these data, with a single article listing a huge number. That can be corrected at a later time.



““