100 Years of Social Work Research: A Data Science Perspective

Data collection date: January 8, 2014

Database: PsychInfo (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 Platformon in a *generic bibliographic format*. This is an unstructured text file (*.txt) that was processed using in R.

```
# 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
```

Note the exclusion of social work today.

This section provides further cleaning of retained journals, namely merging two journals with abbreviated titles:

```
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 B
pi.df$articleID <- ifelse(pi.df$articleID == 28, 32, pi.df$articleID)
```

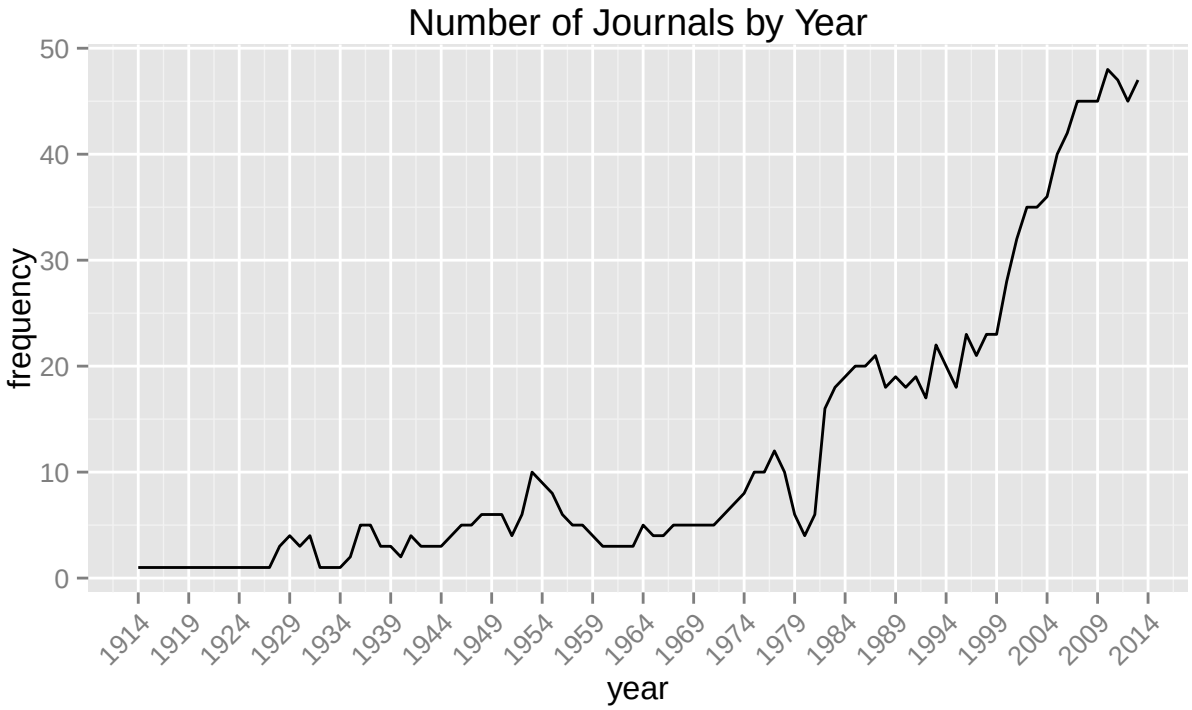
What is the overall number and names of journal titles?

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

```
##  [1] "Clinical Social Work Journal"
##  [2] "Indian Journal of Psychiatric Social Work"
##  [3] "British Journal of Social Work"
##  [4] "Indian Journal of Social Work"
##  [5] "Social Casework"
##  [6] "Social Work"
##  [7] "Smith College Studies in Social Work"
##  [8] "British Journal of Psychiatric Social Work"
##  [9] "Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare"
## [10] "Journal of Social Welfare"
## [11] "Social Work in Health Care"
## [12] "Social Service Review"
## [13] "Journal of Psychiatric Social Work"
## [14] "Medical Social Work"
## [15] "Jewish Social Services Quarterly"
## [16] "Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work"
## [17] "Social Service"
## [18] "Journal of Social Casework"
## [19] "Social Work Yearbook"
## [20] "Social Work Technique"
## [21] "Journal of Social Work Process"
## [22] "University of Chicago Social Service Monograph"
## [23] "Pennsylvania Social Work"
## [24] "Journal of Social Work"
## [25] "Hospital Social Service"
## [26] "Social Service Monographs"
## [27] "International Conference of Social Work"
## [28] "Eugenics and Social Welfare Bulletin"
## [29] "New York State Department of Social Welfare, Division Publication"
## [30] "Social Service Department, Presbyterian Hospital, New York"
## [31] "University of Washington Publications: Social Services"
## [32] "Social Work & Christianity"
## [33] "Journal of Social Service Research"
## [34] "Journal of Religion & Spirituality in Social Work: Social Thought"
## [35] "Social Work with Groups: A Journal of Community and Clinical Practice"
## [36] "Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research"
## [37] "Social Work Research"
## [38] "Social Work Education"
## [39] "Ethics and Social Welfare"
## [40] "Australian Social Work"
## [41] "Practice: Social Work in Action"
## [42] "Journal of Social Work Practice"
## [43] "Journal of Social Work Education"
## [44] "Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal"
## [45] "Affilia: Journal of Women & Social Work"
## [46] "Research on Social Work Practice"
## [47] "Health & Social Work"
## [48] "Journal of Gerontological Social Work"
## [49] "Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment"
## [50] "Administration in Social Work"
```

```
## [51] "Social Work in Mental Health"
## [52] "Social Development"
## [53] "Qualitative Social Work: Research and Practice"
## [54] "International Social Work"
## [55] "Child & Family Social Work"
## [56] "Journal of Technology in Human Services"
## [57] "Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work"
## [58] "Children & Schools"
## [59] "Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life & Palliative Care"
## [60] "Families in Society"
## [61] "Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work: Innovation in Theory, Research & Practi
## [62] "Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions"
## [63] "Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services: The Quarterly Journal of Community & Clinical Practi
## [64] "International Journal of Social Welfare"
## [65] "School Social Work Journal"
## [66] "Journal of Progressive Human Services"
## [67] "The Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work"
## [68] "Psychoanalytic Social Work"
## [69] "Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services"
## [70] "Social Development Issues: Alternative Approaches to Global Human Needs"
## [71] "Social Work and Social Sciences Review"
## [72] "Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services: Issues in Practice, Policy & Research"
## [73] "Rural Social Work"
## [74] "Journal of Social Work Research and Evaluation"
## [75] "Computers in Human Services"
## [76] "Journal of Social Work & Human Sexuality"
## [77] "Journal of Multicultural Social Work"
## [78] "Journal of Analytic Social Work"
## [79] "Maatskaplike Werk/Social Work"
## [80] "Issues in Social Work Education"
## [81] "Journal of Teaching in Social Work"
## [82] "Social Work Research & Abstracts"
## [83] "Prevention in Human Services"
## [84] "Journal of Independent Social Work"
## [85] "Social Work in Education"
## [86] "Pediatric Social Work"
## [87] "School Social Work Quarterly"
```

Number of unique journal titles by year



What journals published the most number of articles

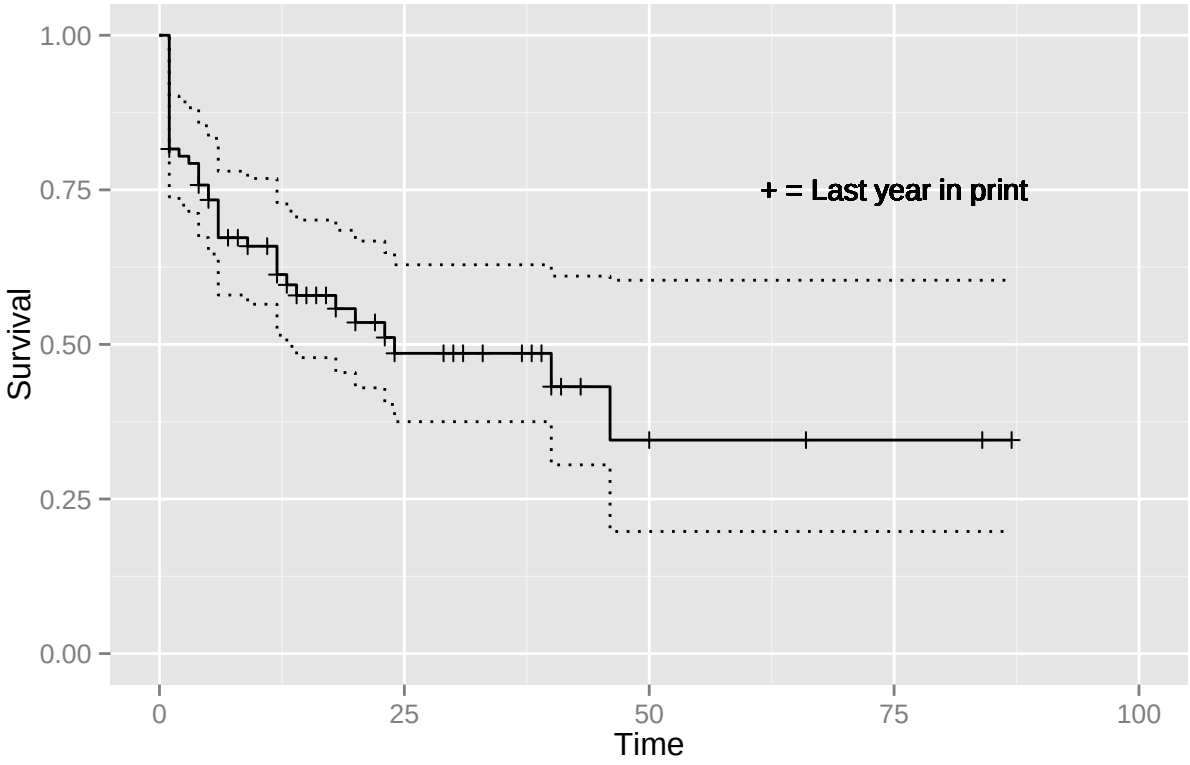
```
## Joining by: "articleID"
```

```
## 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?

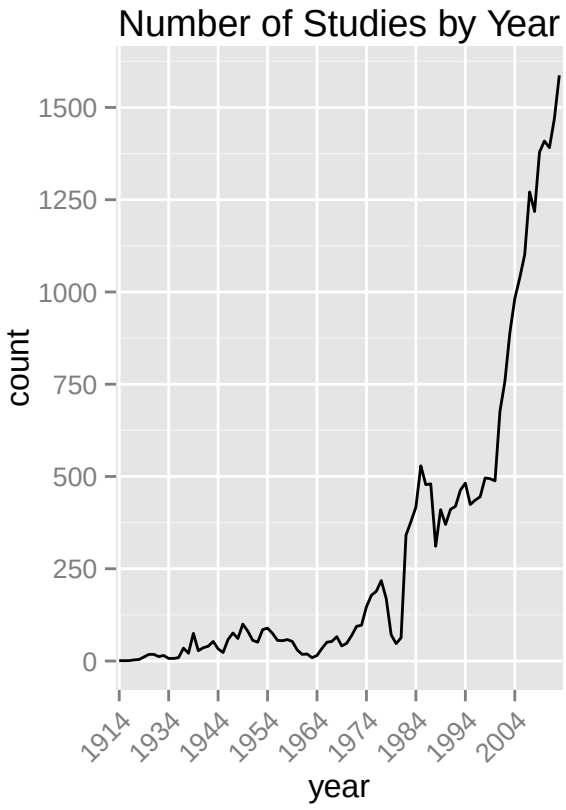
```
## Source: local data frame [6 x 4]
##
##                                 title stop event first
## 1                Social Service Review   86     0  1927
## 2 Smith College Studies in Social Work   83     0  1930
## 3                          Social Work   65     0  1948
## 4               Journal of Social Work   49     0  1964
```

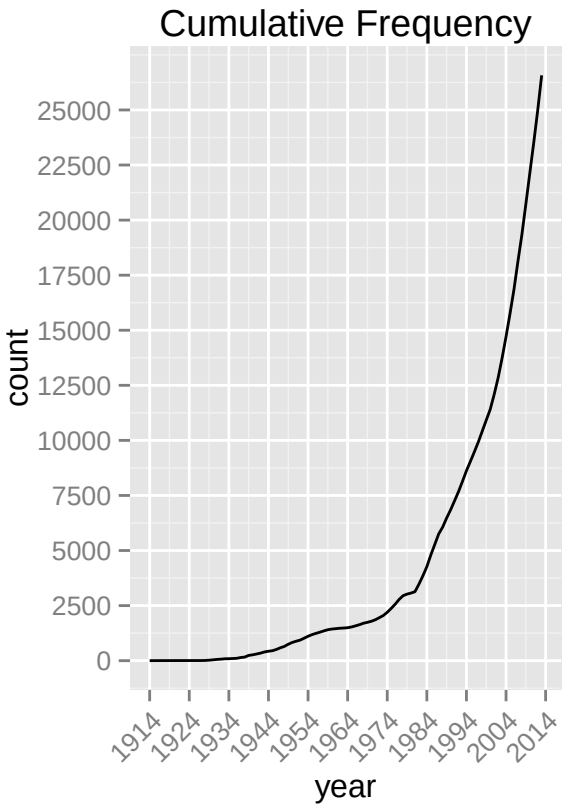
```
## 5        Indian Journal of Social Work   45     1  1941
## 6       British Journal of Social Work   42     0  1971
```



What is the number of articles published per year

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






```
##    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)?

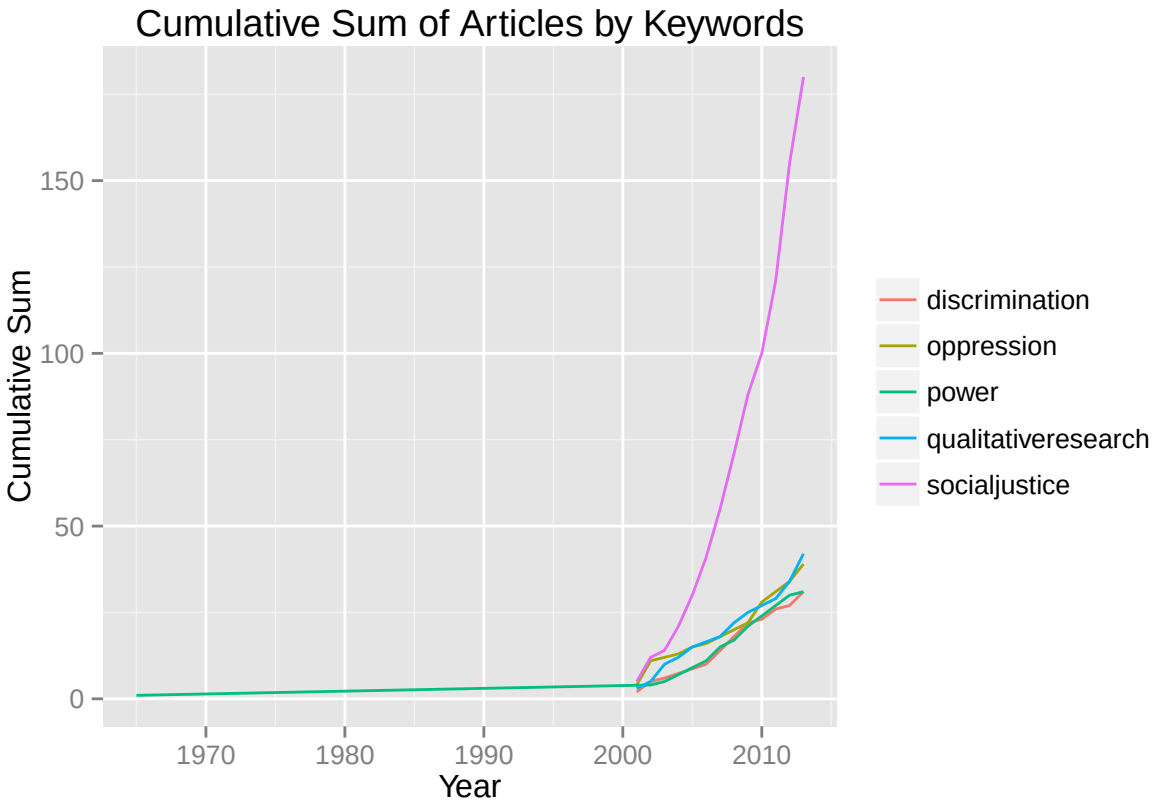
```
$subject.terms.total
[1] 111806

$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

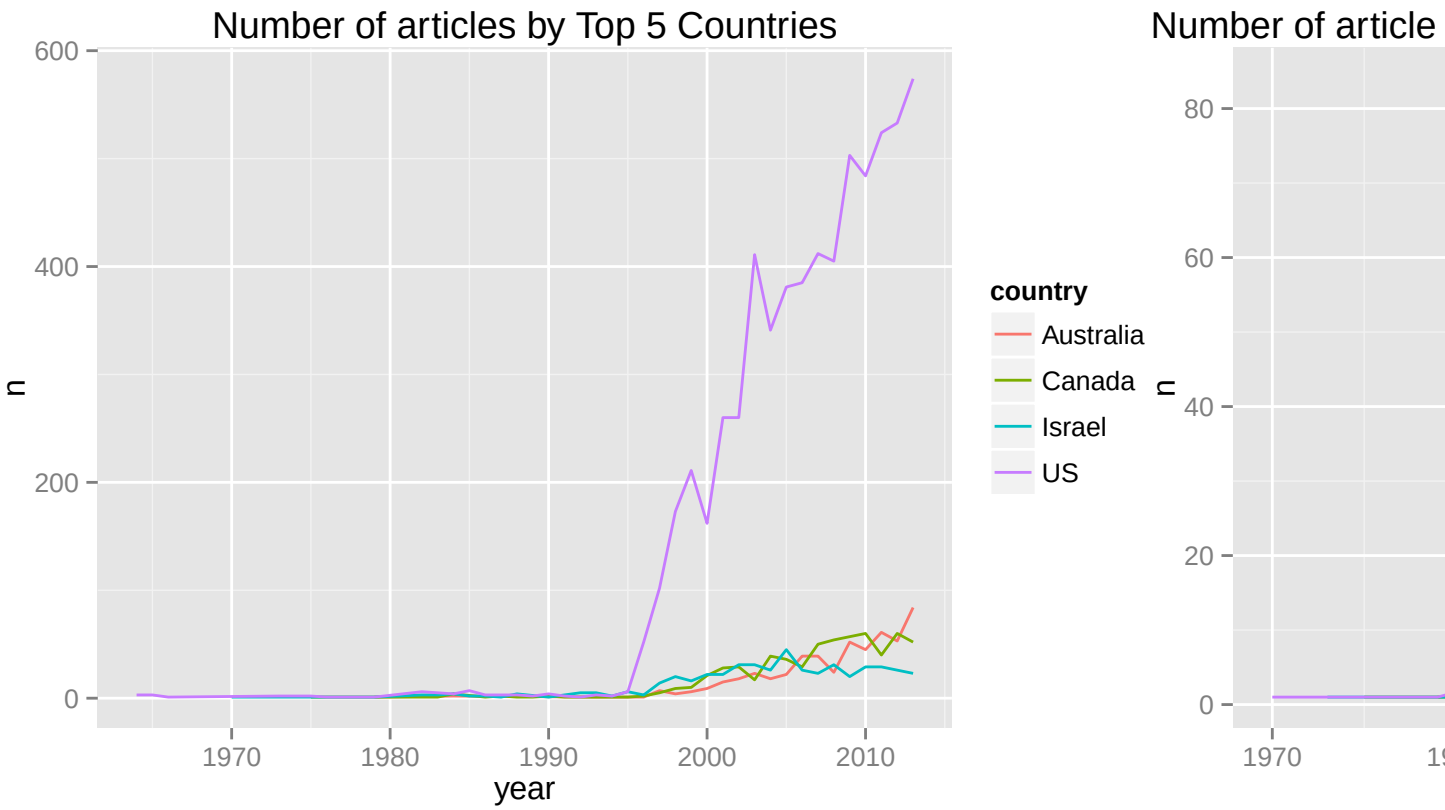
For this analysis (to-do), select a few keywords that may tell an interesting story of how they change over time – something that might be revealing of 'trends.'

- social justice
- evidence-based practice" | "evidence based practice" | "EBP"
- bullying
- child welfare


Cumulative Sum of Articles by Keywords
Cumulative Sum
150
100
50
0
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010
Year
discrimination
oppression
power
qualitativeresearch
socialjustice

Location of Studies

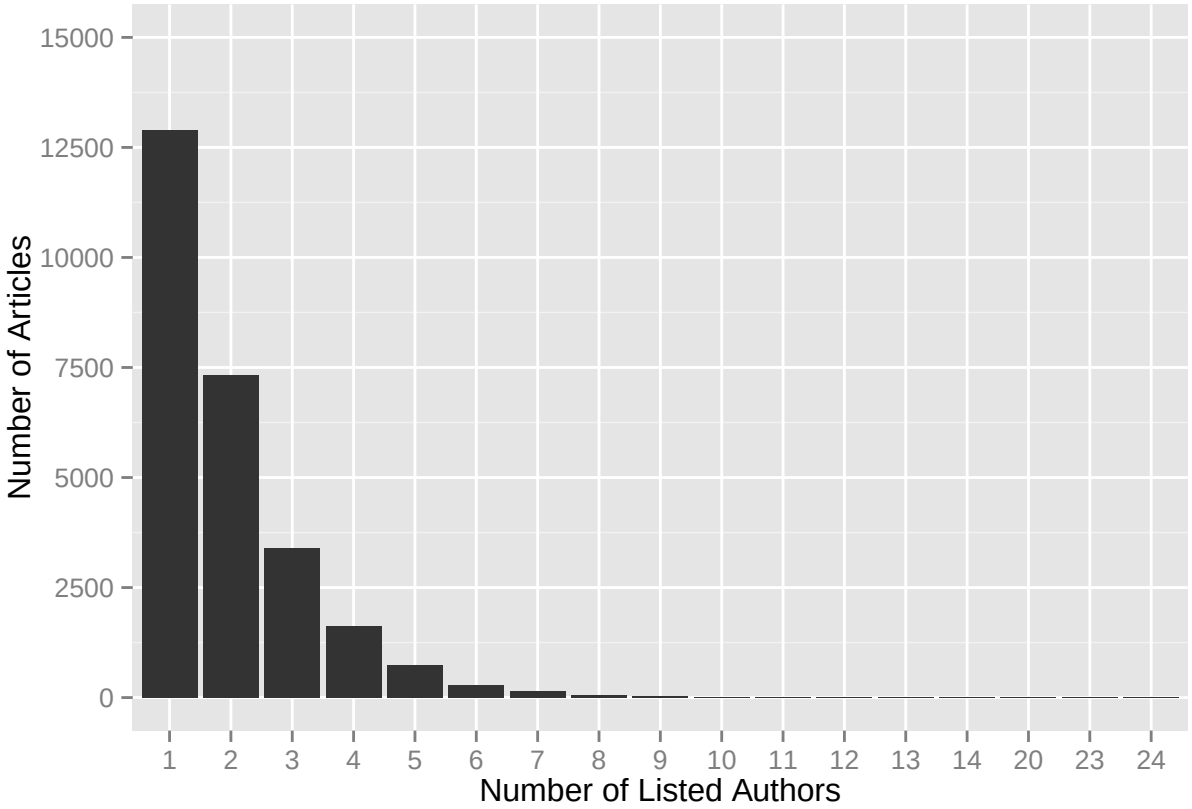
Location of studies over time



Countries not represented in social work research

This section is currently not functional

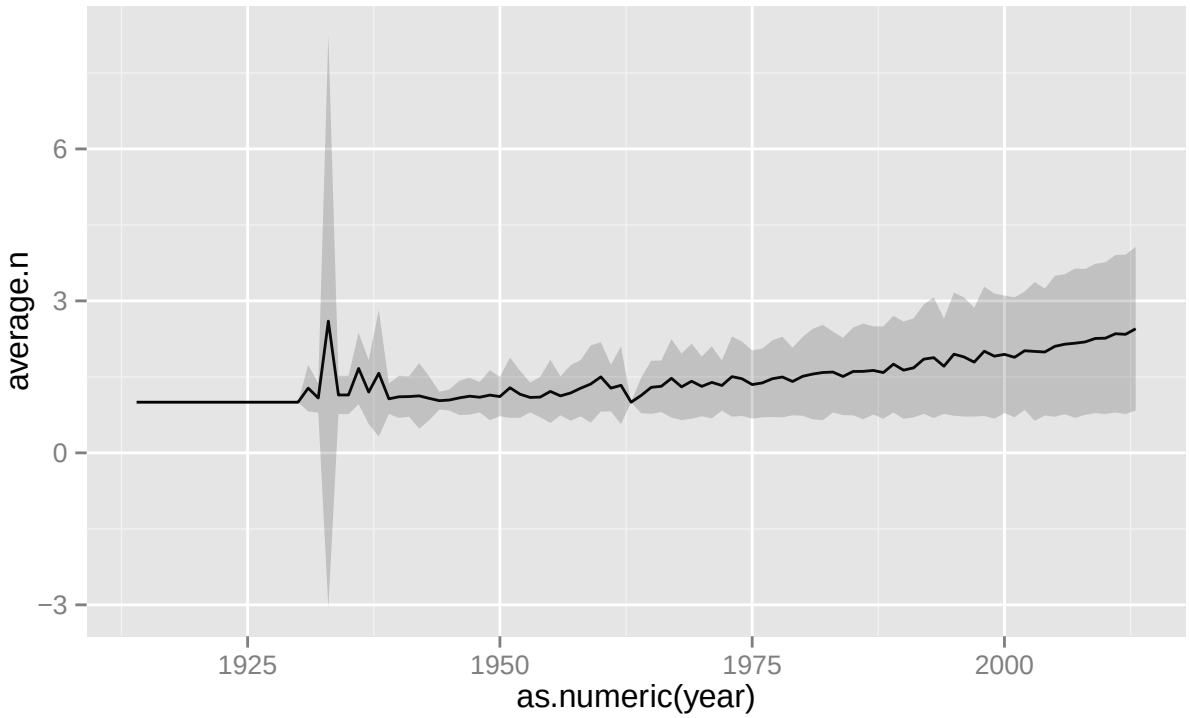
Number of authors




```
Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
1.00    1.00    2.00    1.96    2.00   24.00
```

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.


6
3
0
−3
average.n
1925
1950
1975
2000
as.numeric(year)