Green Practices: Identification of Current Research Trends in the Academic Literature on Environmental Sociology

Methodology

To answer the research questions, an analysis of sources on the topic of environmental practices in the Scopus scientific citation database is carried out. The following criteria are defined, which also serve as search parameters:

- Criterion 0 (search query): The search query for the title, annotation and keywords of publications are the phrases "green practice*", "environment* practice*", "ecolog* practice*", "eco-practice*", "green behav*", "environment* behav*", "ecolog* behav*", "eco-behav*" (Search Query – "green practice*", "environment* practice*", "ecolog* practice*", "eco-practice*", "green behav*", "environment* behav*", "ecolog* behav*", "eco-behav*"). The choice of these phrases is justified by a preliminary study of possible synonyms for the phrase "environmental practice" in the scientific field of environmental sociology. Also, the inclusion of several synonyms allows you to expand the collected database and not miss articles relevant to the topic.
- Criterion 1 (document type): As the next parameter for searching publications, it is important to specify that the goal is to find articles from journals (Document Type – "Article").
- Criterion 2 (subject area): This review is focused on the field of environmental sociology; therefore, another query parameter will be the knowledge domain. In the Scopus database, only a general category of social sciences is distinguished, and there is no breakdown into individual sciences. Therefore, after collecting all the criteria, an additional search is made within the collected publications for the word "Sociology" (Subject Area – "Social Sciences", an additional parameter – "Sociology").
- Criterion 3 (source type): It is crucial that the sources of publications are peer-reviewed journals. Since the data is collected from the Scopus database, there is no need to filter journals separately, as this database already incorporates an algorithm for filtering unreliable scientific journals.
- Criterion 4 (publication year): The review examines publications only from the last 10 years (Publication Year – "2013–2022"). The choice of this time frame is explained by the desire to highlight contemporary trends that reflect the current state of environmental sociology.
- Criterion 5 (language): English is the international language of science and a universal means of communication with the global scientific community. Therefore, publications are analyzed only in English (Language – "English").

Additionally, to form a more comprehensive understanding of the state of environmental sociology in the academic community, there is a plan to analyze data on the rankings of scientific journals in which the identified texts are published. This will help determine whether there is a correlation between types of publications (conceptual and methodological) on environmental practices and the level of academic reputation (expressed by quartile) in various

journals publishing them over the studied period from 2013 to 2022. For this purpose, open data from the Scimago Journal Rank website is used as an additional source. This resource provides information on the authority and popularity of scientific journals. The data on the Scimago website is currently available only until 2022 inclusive, for the integrity of the database, it was decided to stop at 2022 and not include 2023. This is precisely the reason for the restriction on data collection in the Scopus database.

Data collection from the Scopus database is implemented using a web scraping procedure by using the application programming interface (API). Data collection from the Scimago Journal Rank resource is implemented also using a web scraping procedure, but by accessing the open HTML code of the specified website.