Reviewer's report

Title: Geographic trends of scientific output and citation practices in psychiatry

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Reviewer: Chris Piotrowski

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Review: Geographic Citation Patterns in Psychiatry Journals

Overall, this is a well-conceived study on gaining a perspective on the top cited 'Leading' journals in the field of Psychiatry. The presentation is well-written. Second, the analysis provides some hard data on the country impact regarding citation rates. However, I found the ranking of the ‘top’ Psychiatry Institutes a bit self-serving, as many of the authors/research groups that produce this voluminous literature in psychiatry serve as editorial board members and editors of these leading journals—thus, this finding is not at all surprising.

Although the authors acknowledge the limitation of their select group of 50 journals, I think that this actually begs another important question: What are the top cited ‘Second-order’ or ‘B’ level psychiatry journals?....and what countries tend to publish their ‘psychiatric’ findings in these less-regarded publications? This is important as many of these journals are collaborative publications with adjunctive fields like nursing, mental health, psychology, social work, and psychotherapy. This secondary literature plays an important function in a vast, ever emerging field like Psychiatry.

The methodology is quite sound and appropriate procedures were used. However, I would have preferred that ‘minor’ research like ‘letters’ or ‘comments’ be excluded from the analysis. Also, as noted in the Table, 4855 articles could not be categorized by country. It is speculative how this might affect the results.

Overall, the findings are based on the data analysis and seem quite appropriate. Although I would like more emphasis (Table 1) on the great discrepancy between the Total# of citations for the U.S. (202,781) versus other countries......... e.g. U.K. (62,486). Furthermore, Google Scholar is today a much acceptable ‘metric’ in citation analysis. Could the authors speculate how their methodology, if applied in Google Scholar (GS), might compare to their findings or influence their conclusions? Comparisons between Web of Science/ Google Scholar are frequent areas of study in bibliometric journals like Scientometrics and Informetrics.

This article, with minor modifications, is a worthwhile contribution to the psychiatric literature and should be published.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests