Reviewer’s report

Title: Nursing and midwifery research activity in Arab countries from 1950 to 2017

Version: 0 Date: 29 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Peter Kokol

Reviewer's report:

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The bibliometric analysis is a popular and useful approach in nursing research, The paper is well written, and on of the first which analyse the nursing and midwifery research literature production in nursing in Arab countries, but it has some limitations. The use of bibliometric methods is valid however search strategy could be extended with more nursing/midwifery related keywords and subject focused search - nursing is a subject category in Scopus. The use of VOSViewer and its short description should be added to the Methodology section, with some details of how it has been used - did the authors use default parameters, did they omit common words, how did they obtain most frequent keywords. I would suggest to omit country names from the Figure 1 and to perform thematic analysis to name the five emerged clusters. Authors indicated that the study could support funding bodies, but they did not analyse funding information which can be found in Scopus. The implications to the health service research and practice should be made more explicit and limitations and strength of the study made more evident.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
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Yes
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I am able to assess the statistics

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