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State of the Art Behavioral Science Research: A Review of the Publications in the International Journal of Behavioral Science

Title should be
around 12 words
(APA 6th ed.)

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This research aimed to review, analyze, and synthesize information regarding the contents of the published work in the *International Journal of Behavioral Science* (IJBS), right from its inception in 2006 till 2014 (a period of 9 years). For the research synthesis of the published work, the authors adapted the technique of quantitative content analysis. There were 86 publications in the IJBS in the selected period, which included a mix of research papers ($n = 70$), academic articles ($n = 11$), research proposals ($n = 2$), and book reviews ($n = 3$). For collecting the relevant data, a recording form was created. The synthesis of this research is shared in the form of research findings, which highlight the characteristics of this journal, the diversity in its authorship, the multi-disciplinary contributions from various academic fields, and the various perspectives of the methodologies used in the articles. Finally the findings are discussed in terms of their salience to the journal, to the development of the behavioral sciences and to the academicians and practitioners of behavioral sciences.

Keywords: research synthesis, quantitative content analysis, behavioral science research

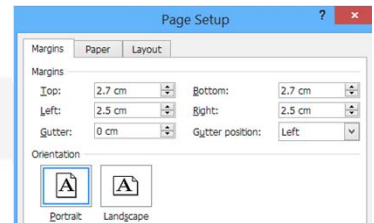
In the year 2015 the *International Journal of Behavioral Science* (IJBS) marked its 10th anniversary, and endeavors to continue on developing as a high-quality journal with its distinctive focus on the behavioral sciences and their application. The journal has been published since the year 2006; and it has evolved over the last decade as the efforts of its editorial teams became more focused on reviewing the aims and scope to guide the journal's development in the changing world. Frequent and strategic review of this progress was aimed towards developing high standards in quality that are needed for indexing and acceptance of an academic journal in the international database. The IJBS is a unique platform provided for the academicians and researchers not only in Thailand, but also in Asia and world over, who seek to publish their original research papers and articles in the field of behavioral sciences. This research based article endeavors to share the *raison d'être* that lead to the launch, and then traces the growth of the IJBS, and also aims to outline the various perspectives about the journal's publications from 2006 to 2014. It ends by sharing some recommendations for the further growth of this journal as well as some suggestions that could be useful for other journal editors in the region.

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The development of the IJBS has been focused to support and promote the research and its applications in the field of behavioral sciences by providing the researchers an outlet to publish and share their original researches that have an applied significance. Behavioral sciences play a significant role in understanding the complexities of behavior from a multilevel perspective (Mohan, 2015; Chuawanlee, 2005). The knowledge that accrues from the research in the behavioral sciences is then substantial as it can be used to merge the gap between scientific theory and its application in the real life practice (Latham, 2007). Irwin and Suplee (2012) highlighted that the real value of the behavioral sciences thus lies in the

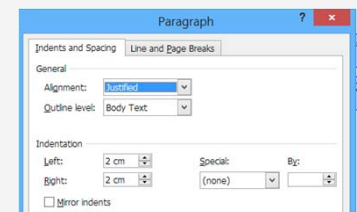
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A Review of the IJBS Publications (2006-2014)

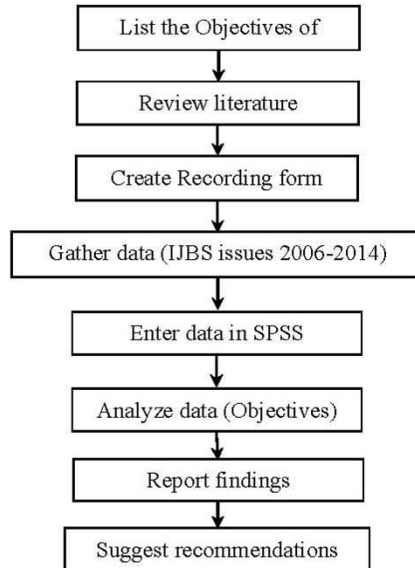


Figure 1. The Research Process.

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A series of collaborative meetings among the members of the current research team were held to review each step, record, modify actions (if needed), and plan the next step forward.

Results

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The results of the quantitative content analysis and the synthesis of the information published in the IJBS from 2006-14 are shown in tables and explanations are shared for each section.

Part 1: IJBS Characteristics

First the data was analyzed to reveal the characteristics of the publications in the journal IJBS. Tables 1 to 4 show the various aspects of the IJBS.

As shown in the table 1, there were a total of 86 publications in the journal IJBS from 2006 till 2014. Initially from 2006-2008, there were more papers, including proposals. It may be noted that from 2011 onwards the number of papers published in each issue were 7 per year/issue. For analyzing the contents of the IJBS, only 83 published works were included, leaving out the 3 book reviews published in the issues of 2009, 2014/1, and 2014/2.

Table 1

Articles Published in the IJBS (2006-2014)

Year of publishing	Published articles in IJBS		Selected works for IJBS content analyses*	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
2006	12	14.0	12	14.5
2007	11	12.8	11	13.3
2008	12	14.0	12	14.5
2009	8	9.3	7	8.4
2010	8	9.3	8	9.6
2011	7	8.1	7	8.4
2012	7	8.1	7	8.4
2013	7	8.1	7	8.4
2014/1	7	8.1	6	7.2
2014/2	7	8.1	6	7.2
Total	86	100.0	83	100.0

Note. a) From 2014, IJBS increased the number of issues to two per year.

b) *Book reviews were not included for the Content analysis.

Further as shown in the table 2, the various types of published work in the IJBS during the 9 years (10 issues), included 84.3% research papers, 13.3% academic articles, and 2.4 % research proposals (which were published only in the initial years). The 3 book reviews were excluded for the analyses. It may be pointed out that the IJBS increased the number of publications per year from one to two in the year 2014, and this has been continued in 2015.

Table 2

Types of Papers Published in the IJBS

Type	Frequency	Percentage
Research paper	70	84.30
Academic article	11	13.30
Research Proposal	2	2.40
Total	83	100.00

Part 2: Academic Fields and the Content of IJBS

For the further investigation of the published works in the IJBS only the 83 research papers, proposals, and the academic articles were considered; the 3 book reviews were omitted. The contents of the publications were examined in terms of the academic fields and then further in-depth to understand and reveal the theoretical links of the papers.

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