International Journal of Information, Library and Society
12 (2) 2023, 14-25

GLOBAL TRENDS IN FAMILY BUSINESS RESEARCH: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract *The significance of family business in global economic development is well recognized in literature. As a result, numerous academic works on this topic have been published in prestigious journals, highlighting the importance of studying the development and evolution of family businesses. In this regard, the present study conducts a bibliometric analysis of the literature on family businesses to reveal research trends and provide guidance for researchers. The analysis encompasses all papers published in Scopus between 2002 and 2021. The findings of this study demonstrate several noteworthy contributions. Firstly, there has been a substantial increase in the volume of publications focusing on family businesses, indicating a growing interest in this area of research. Secondly, the majority of contributions originate from the United States, highlighting the country's prominence in the study of family businesses. Thirdly, the study identifies Astrachan J. H. and Danes S. M. as the most influential authors in the field, recognizing their significant contributions. Fourthly, it determines that the most influential journal in this domain is the Family Business Review, which underscores its importance as a platform for scholarly discourse. Lastly, the study highlights a highly cited paper titled 'An Overview of the Field of Family Business Studies: Current Status and Directions for the Future,' authored by Sharma P., which provides a comprehensive understanding of the subject. These insights collectively shed light on the current state of family business research and offer valuable directions for future exploration.*

Keywords: *Family Business, Bibliometric Analysis, Altmetric Analysis, Scopus, Citations, Social Attention*

INTRODUCTION

Family business is a prevalent form of business in all most all the countries of the world accounting for 70 to 80 per cent of total business, involving a set of top listed companies and employing a large part of the workforce. It is true that most of the family businesses are small in size but many of them have grown into giant multinational corporations. Tata and Reliance from India, BMW, Porsche and Adidas from Germany, LG and Hyundai from Korea, Ford and Hallmark from US and L'Oréal and PPR (Gucci and Puma) from France are few examples to mention here.

Family business has been defined in multiple ways. Few researchers' view that family business is the type of business in which family has enough ownership, others say that family or descendant must be CEO/MD and few opine that family members must be on the board. According to Desai (2007), family business is that which has: a) the majority of voting shares owned by one family, or b) one family exerting management control over the business. Another view is that since the family business is governed and managed with intention to shape and pursue the vision of family and has long term orientation, so family business should be sustainable across generations. Miller et al. (2007) state that firm is assigned to the broad family category where there were multiple members from the same family who are officers, directors or >5% owners, contemporaneously or as descendants.

Family businesses possess unique advantages such as clear vision, mutual trust, and the ability to leverage own resources and employing family members. However, they also face challenges such as sibling rivalry, succession planning, and governance conflicts, making them complex entities. With the growing prevalence of family businesses in the global economy, researchers have increasingly focused on understanding their functioning and growth over time. This has led to the emergence of family business as a distinct and rigorous field of study, albeit one that is still considered to be in its early stages.

To consolidate the research on family business as a scientific discipline, it is crucial to comprehend its historical development and the evolution of contributions in this field. Consequently, a comprehensive examination of the family business literature becomes imperative. While previous

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bibliometric studies have been conducted, many of them have been limited in scope, focusing on specific aspects such as family business succession or innovation. For instance, Bernadich and Urbano (2013) conducted a bibliographic study on family firms, analyzing the environmental factors that influence their creation and development. Rovelli et al. (2021) published a bibliometric study focusing on 1381 papers from three key journals exclusively dedicated to family businesses. Similarly, Araya-Castillo et al. (2021) conducted a bibliometric study spanning from 1975 to 2020.

This study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the state, trends, and potential areas of research in the field of family business as a whole. What sets this study apart from others is its extended time coverage, spanning from 2002 to 2021, during which the majority of research on the topic has been conducted. Additionally, this study focuses exclusively on publications with the term "family business" in their titles, ensuring a focused and thorough analysis of the literature.

The remaining sections of the paper are organized as follows: Section 2 provides an overview of the research methodology employed in this study, outlining the database and methods utilized. Section 3 presents the study's findings, while the concluding section discusses the study's conclusions, limitations, and potential avenues for future research in the realm of family business.

METHODOLOGY

Database

When conducting a bibliometric study, the selection of an appropriate database to retrieve publications is crucial. In this particular study, the Scopus Database has been chosen. Scopus stands out as a comprehensive database, surpassing others in terms of size and the number of indexed journals across various disciplines. It offers flexible search options, allowing for queries based on terms within titles, titles/abstracts, journal names, author names, or affiliations. Furthermore, exporting data from Scopus to other programs is relatively straightforward, simplifying the process of data analysis and integration with other tools.

Search Metrics

A bibliometric study begins by making decisions regarding the search metrics, including the selection of search terms, the time period, and the type of publications to be included. It is crucial to use appropriate and comprehensive search terms that capture a wide range of publications related to the topic. In the field of family business, various alternative terms could be used, such as 'family firm,' 'family-owned firm,' 'family-controlled firm,' 'family-owned business,' 'family-controlled business,' 'family enterprise,' 'family-owned enterprise,' 'family-controlled enterprise,' 'family company,' 'family-owned company,' 'family-controlled company,' 'family organization,' 'family-owned organization,' or 'family-controlled organization.' However, based on global usage in research publications, it has been observed that the term 'family business' is the most commonly employed. Therefore, it has been adopted in the present study.

The Scopus Database, which provides data starting from 1996, was utilized in this study. The data was retrieved on April 4, 2021, and a period of 20 years, from 2002 to 2021, was chosen for analysis.

A search was conducted in the Scopus Database using the search term 'family business' specifically in the titles of publications, resulting in an original retrieval of 2023 publications. The data was then exported to a Microsoft Excel sheet. Upon sorting by author name, it was found that 30 publications had 'No author name' and were subsequently removed from the dataset, resulting in a total count of 1993 publications. Further sorting by title revealed 23 publications that did not contain the term 'family business' in their titles and were excluded from the list. Additionally, nine publications were removed due to the unavailability of author affiliations. After eliminating a total of 62 documents, the final count of publications included in the study was 1961. Therefore, all bibliometric indicators were analysed based on these 1961 publications.

Table 1: A Synopsis of Data Source and Sample Selection Methodology

Search Database	Scopus
Search Words	"Family Business"
Search Period	2002 to 2021
Publications Found	2023
Publications Deleted	62
Final Number of Publications Analysed	1961

Methods

The aim of the present study was to conduct a performance analysis in order to gain insights into the research productivity and impact of publications in the field of family business. Performance analysis involves utilizing bibliometric indicators and metrics to evaluate the research productivity and impact of individuals, research groups, or institutions. By employing indicators such as impact factor and citation counts, performance analysis can identify researchers and research groups that have demonstrated high levels of productivity and impact.

In this study, a unique feature of performance analysis was utilized, namely the altmetric attention score. This score provides a comprehensive summary of the online attention received by scholarly content from various sources. To obtain the altmetric attention score, data was collected from the Dimensions database. Additionally, bibliometric data from the Scopus database was extracted in Excel format and subjected to further analysis. This analysis aimed to identify the quantity of prevalent publications in the field, document types, the authors with the highest productivity, the most prolific countries, journals exhibiting substantial publication output, highly cited papers, and those garnering notable attention scores according to the altmetric attention score.

FINDINGS

Descriptive Analysis

The analysis of data in the field of family business revealed a total of 1961 publications authored by 2990 individuals. The average number of publications per author was 0.66, with a publication rate of 98.05 per year. Among the publications, 2359 were single-authored, while 631 were multi-authored. The study encompassed research contributions from 111 different countries, indicating a global perspective on family business research. The analysed publications received a total of 36055 citations from other scholarly works. On average, each publication garnered approximately 18.39 citations, indicating the impact and influence of the research within the field.

Table 2: Descriptive Analysis

Criteria	Quantity
Total Publications	1961
Authors	2990
Average publications per author	0.66
Publication per year	98.05
Single-authored publications	2359
Multi-authored publications	631
Countries involved	111
Total Citations	36055
Average citations per publication	18.39

Performance Analysis

Volume of Publications

Table 3 provides a breakdown of the yearly publications. The data indicates a consistent upward trend in the number of articles published per year, suggesting a growing interest among researchers in the field of family business. The peak year for publication output was 2016, with 195 papers published, followed closely by 191 papers in 2020. It's important to note that the lower number of publications in 2021 (39 papers) is likely due to the data being available only until March of that year. Fig. 1 visually represents the increasing volume of publications on the topic, highlighting the rising trend.

Table 3: Volume of Publications

Year	Number of Publications	Year	Number of Publications
2002	31	2012	115
2003	40	2013	137
2004	30	2014	130
2005	39	2015	129
2006	67	2016	195
2007	46	2017	153
2008	43	2018	153
2009	72	2019	138
2010	111	2020	191
2011	102	2021(March)	39

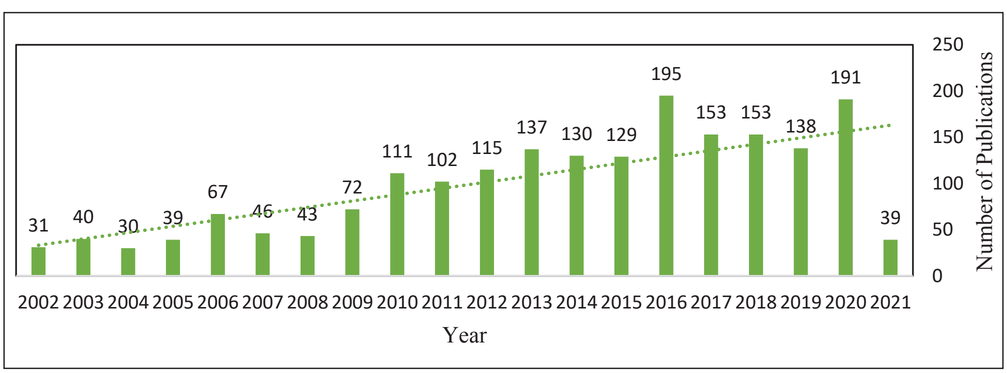

Fig. 1: Volume of Publications

Publication Type

Table 4 and Fig. 2 depict the distribution of document types within the analysed publications. The findings reveal that articles dominate the field of family business, accounting for the majority of publications (66.19%). This indicates that research articles are the most prevalent form of documentation in this domain. Additionally, a significant portion of the publications consists of book chapters (16.27%), followed by conference papers (5.30%) and reviews (5.15%). Smaller representation percentages are observed for other document types, including books, editorials, notes, erratum, retractions, and short surveys.

Table 4: Publication Type

Document Type	Number	Percentile
Articles	1298	66.19
Books	41	2.09
Book Chapters	319	16.27
Conference Papers	104	5.30
Editorials	53	2.70
Erratum	05	0.25
Notes	28	1.43
Retracted	09	0.47
Reviews	101	5.15
Short Surveys	03	0.15
Total	1961	100

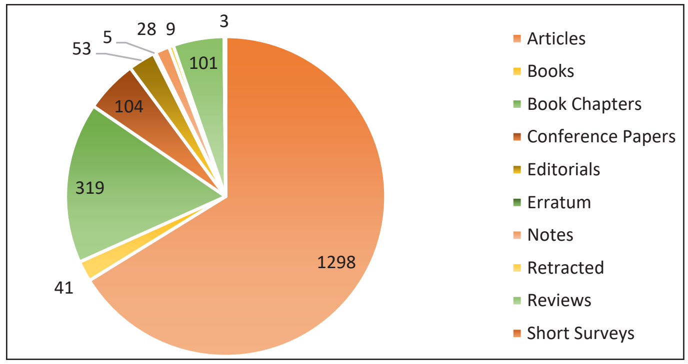

Fig. 2: Publication Type

Most Influential Journal

Numerous esteemed scientific journals have published research on family businesses. When selecting a journal for publication, authors tend to consider both its relevance to the subject matter and its broad readership. According to Table 5, there are 467 journals that have published only one article on the topic, followed by 105 journals with two articles, and 40 journals with three publications each. In total, 713 journals, conference proceedings, and books have contributed to the body of literature on family business.

Table 5: Distribution of Publications across Journals

No. of Journals	467	105	40	21	18	12	8	6	6	2	3	2	2	4	6	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	**713**
Publications per Journal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	20	22	24	32	83	89	159	
Total Publications	467	210	120	84	90	72	56	48	54	20	33	24	26	56	90	32	18	20	22	24	64	83	89	159	**1961**

Table 6 and Fig. 3 offer an overview of the top nine influential journals within the field of family business. Leading the pack is the Family Business Review with the highest number of publications at 159. Following closely behind is the Journal of Family Business Management with 89 publications, and the Journal of Family Business Strategy with 83 publications. It is noteworthy that all three journals closely align with the subject matter of family business, reinforcing their significance within the field.

Table 6: Most Influential Journals

Name of the Journal/Conference	Number of Publications	Percentage
Family Business Review	159	8.11%
Journal of Family Business Management	89	4.54%
Journal of Family Business Strategy	83	4.23%
International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business	32	1.63%
Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice	32	1.63%
Father-Daughter Succession in Family Business: A Cross-Cultural Perspective	24	1.22%
The Sage Handbook of Family Business	22	1.12%
International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour & Research	20	1.02%
Journal of Small Business and Enterprise Development	18	0.92%

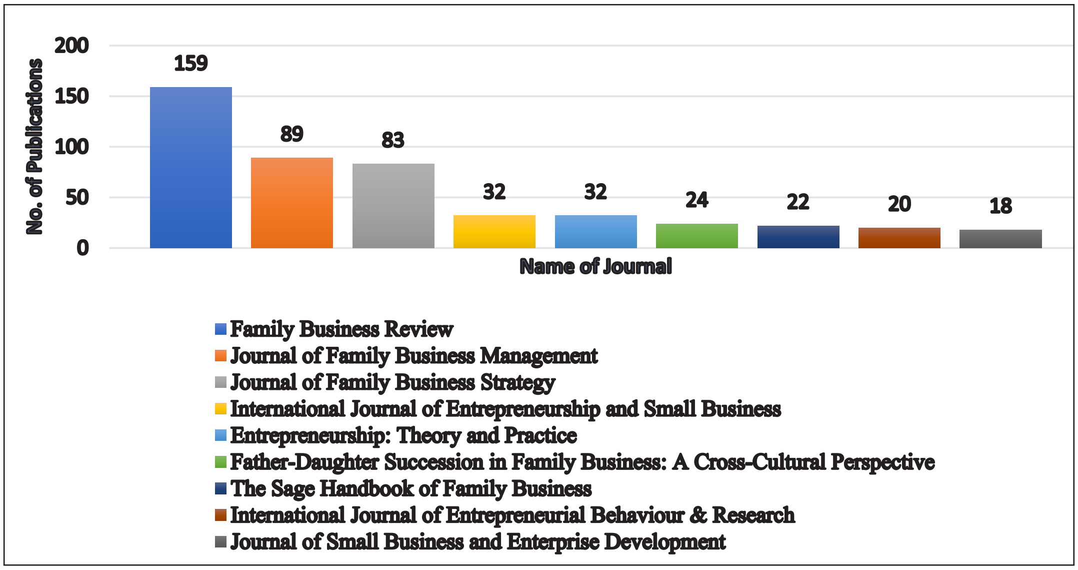

Fig. 3: Most Influential Journals

Most Productive Countries

Table 7 and Fig. 4 highlight the global participation of authors from various countries in the publication of articles within the field of family business. The data reveals contributions from a total of 111 countries. Leading the pack is the United States, accounting for 469 publications, which represents 23.92% of the total. Spanish authors have also made substantial contributions, amounting to 6.78% of the overall publications. The United Kingdom follows closely with 122 papers, contributing 6.22% to the total.

In addition to these leading countries, Italy, Canada, China, and Australia have also made significant contributions to the field of family business literature. German authors have contributed 73 papers, Australian authors have written 77 papers, and China has published 79 papers. These findings emphasize the global nature of research within the field of family business, with contributions coming from a diverse range of countries worldwide.

Table 7: Most Productive Countries

Name of the Country	Number of Publications	Percentage of Publications*
USA	469	23.92%
Spain	133	6.78%
UK	122	6.22%
Italy	113	5.76%
Canada	83	4.23%
China	79	4.03%
Australia	77	3.92%
Germany	73	3.72%
Sweden	52	2.65%
France	46	2.35%

*Percentage of Publications have been calculated with reference to total number (1961) of publications.

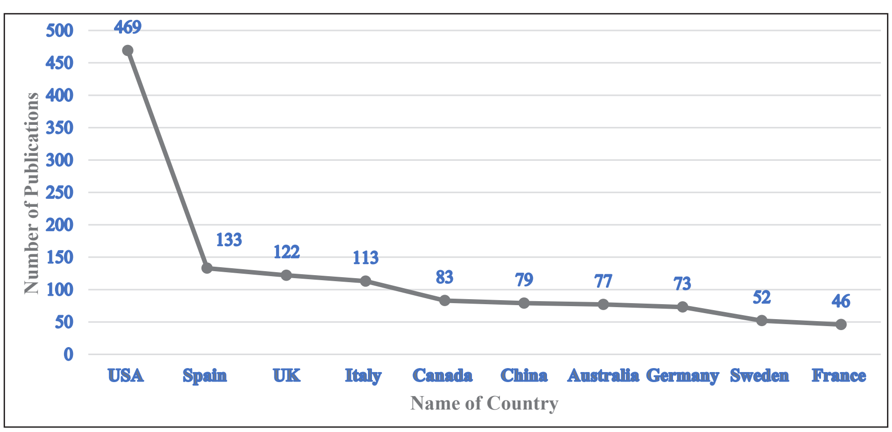

Fig. 4: Most Active Countries

Most Prolific Authors

The results presented in Table 8 reveal that that the most prolific authors in the field of family business literature predominantly hail from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, and North Macedonia. Notably, the leading contributors are Astrachan J.H. and Danes S.M. from the United States, with each having 24 publications to their credit. Following closely is Nordqvist M. from Sweden, who has made significant contributions to the family business literature with 21 publications.

Table 8: Most Prolific Authors

Sr. No.	Name of Author	Author Affiliation	Number of Publications on the Topic during the Period	Total Citations against Publications
1	Astrachan J.H.	USA	24	1847
2	Danes S.M.	USA	24	1353
3	Nordqvist M.	Sweden	21	776
4	Miller D.	Canada	20	2091
5	Sharma P.	Canada	20	2110
6	Kellermanns F.W.	USA	19	655
7	Ramadani V.	North Macedonia	18	230
8	Melin L.	Sweden	17	423
9	De Massis A.	UK	16	630
10	Seaman C.	UK	15	60

Distribution of Publications by Number of Authors

Table 9 highlights the distribution of publications in terms of the number of authors involved. Out of a total of 1,961 publications, 528 have been authored by a single author, indicating individual contributions. However, the majority of the publications reflect collaborative research efforts. Specifically, 656 publications involve two authors, 458 involve three authors, and 225 involve four authors.

Collaborative research not only enriches the learning experience but also broadens the scope of research. It has been suggested by several researchers that collaborative studies receive more citations and have greater opportunities for funding. In the current study, 23 out of the 25 highly cited papers are the result of collaborative efforts, further supporting this claim.

Table 9: Distribution of Publications by Number of Authors

Number of Authors	Number of Publications
Single Author	528
Two Authors	656
Three Authors	458
Four Authors	225
Five Authors	70
Six Authors	13
Seven Authors	07
Eight Authors	03
Ten Authors	01
Total	1961

Citation Analysis

Citation analysis provides insights into the impact of a publication by measuring the number of times it has been referenced by other authors in their own publications. Out of a total of 1,961 papers, 1,389 papers have received citations, amounting to a cumulative count of 36,055 citations.

Table 10 reveals that a small fraction, specifically 7 papers (0.50%), have accumulated more than 400 citations. These 7 highly cited papers contribute to a total citation count of 3,802 (10.55%). Additionally, 20 papers have garnered citations ranging between 200 and 400, accounting for a total count of 4,424 citations (12.27%).

In contrast, the majority of the papers have received fewer citations, with 817 papers (58.82%) cited less than 10 times. These papers collectively contribute to a total of 3,241 citations (8.99%), highlighting the varying degrees of impact and recognition in the field of family business literature.

Table 10: Citation Analysis of Family Business Literature

Number of Times a Paper Cited	Number of Papers	Percentage of Papers	Total Citations	Percentage of Citations
>400	07	0.50%	3802	10.55%
>200 ≤ 400	16	1.15%	4424	12.27%
>100 ≤ 200	59	4.25%	8395	23.28%
>50 ≤ 100	102	7.34%	7190	19.94%
>20 ≤ 50	191	13.75%	6103	16.93%
>10 ≤ 20	197	14.19%	2900	8.04%
≤ 10	817	58.82%	3241	8.99%
Total	1389	100	36055	100

Table 11: 25 Highly Cited Papers in Family Business Literature

Sr. No.	Title	Scopus Metrics			
		Citations	Percentile	Field-Weighted Citation Impact	Views Count
1	An Overview of the Field of Family Business Studies: Current Status and Directions for the Future	968	99th	15.22	194
2	Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM): A Useful Tool for Family Business Researchers	887	99th	15.75	229
3	The F-PEC Scale of Family Influence: A Proposal for Solving the Family Business Definition Problem	718	98th	8.95	138
4	Stewardship Vs. Stagnation: An Empirical Comparison of Small Family and Non-Family Businesses	675	99th	14.97	158
5	International Expansion of U.S. Manufacturing Family Businesses: The Effect of Ownership and Involvement	595	98th	7.31	144
6	Family Businesses' Contribution to the U.S. Economy: A Closer Look	596	98th	7.62	75
7	Why do Some Family Businesses Out-Compete? Governance, Long-Term Orientations, and Sustainable Capability	577	97th	5.49	203
8	A Theory of Pyramidal Ownership and Family Business Groups	437	98th	8.31	156
9	Lost in Time: Intergenerational Succession, Change, and Failure in Family Business	446	98th	6.45	176
10	Prior Family Business Exposure as Intergenerational Influence and Entrepreneurial Intent: A Theory of Planned Behavior Approach	475	92th	3.08	119
11	Internationalization Strategy of Small and Medium-Sized Family Businesses: Some Influential Factors	422	98th	6.76	217
12	The Impact of the Family and the Business on Family Business Sustainability	376	98th	7.74	209
13	Non-Target-Site Herbicide Resistance: A Family Business	383	87th	2.11	55
14	Should I Stay or Should I Go? Career Choice Intentions of Students with Family Business Background	404	98th	7.29	210
15	Why Can't a Family Business be more Like a Nonfamily Business?: Modes of Professionalization in Family Firms	381	99th	22.52	188

Sr. No.	Title	Scopus Metrics			
		Citations	Percentile	Field-Weighted Citation Impact	Views Count
16	Family Business Research: A Strategic Reflection	314	97th	5.71	43
17	Four Bases of Family Business Successor Commitment: Antecedents and Consequences	344	96th	4.75	64
18	Long-Term Orientation: Implications for the Entrepreneurial Orientation and Performance of Family Businesses	365	98th	7.43	145
19	Emotional Returns and Emotional Costs in Privately Held Family Businesses: Advancing Traditional Business Valuation	306	99th	9.64	110
20	Messenger RNA Editing in Mammals: New Members of the APOBEC Family Seeking Roles in the Family Business	249	91th	2.82	76
21	Evolving Research in Entrepreneurship and Family Business: Recognizing Family as the Oxygen that Feeds the Fire of Entrepreneurship	279	99th	34.76	53
22	Stewardship or Agency? A Social Embeddedness Reconciliation of Conduct and Performance in Public Family Businesses	299	98th	7.67	102
23	Family Business Succession: Appropriation Risk And Choice Of Successor	248	92nd	3.02	120
24	Intellectual Foundations of Current Research in Family Business: An Identification and Review of 25 Influential Articles	250	99th	16.7	90
25	Family Business Research: The Evolution of an Academic Field	231	95th	3.98	33

Table 11 provides insights into the 25 most highly cited papers in the field of family business literature. Among the notable findings, seven out of the 25 papers were published in top 1% journals, while ten papers were published in top 2% journals, highlighting the credibility of these publications. For instance, the paper titled "An Overview of the Field of Family Business Studies: Current Status and Directions for the Future," authored by Sharma, P. and published in the Family Business Review, has received 968 citations (194 count). Its Field-Weighted Citation Impact stands at 15.22, indicating that it has been cited 152% more frequently than the global average for papers of similar nature. Another noteworthy paper is "Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM): A Useful Tool for Family Business Researchers," which has accumulated 887 citations, surpassing the global average by 157%.

Additionally, all 25 papers listed in the table have a Field-Weighted Citation Impact greater than 1.00, signifying that they receive more citations than the global average for similar publications, further highlighting their impact and significance within the field of family business literature.

Altmetric Analysis

The Altmetric Attention Score assesses the level of social attention received by a research publication. This score takes into account various factors such as the number of times the publication has been shared on online platforms like Google Scholar, Mendeley, ResearchGate, Scopus, and commented upon on blogs, videos, or social media posts on platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google, and Pinterest. It also considers the frequency of references to the publication in press clippings and news websites. The Altmetric Attention Score (AAS) is a weighted count that reflects the overall attention garnered by the publication.

According to Table 12, among the top 25 papers, the majority (12) have not received any social attention. The paper titled "Lost in Time: Intergenerational Succession, Change, and Failure in Family Business" published in the Journal of Business Venturing has the highest AAS of 37. It is followed by "Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM): A Useful Tool for Family Business Researchers" published in the Journal of Family Business Strategy, which has a score of 15. The primary sources of attention for these papers include news outlets, Facebook, Twitter, blogs, and policy documents.

Table 12: Altmetric Analysis of 25 Highly Cited Publications

Rank	Title	AAS	AAS Context by Publication Age and Source	Journal and Impact Factor	Month and Year of Publication	Main Source of Attention	Raw Number of Mentions
1	An Overview of the Field of Family Business Studies: Current Status and Directions for the Future	3	17	Family Business Review (7.575)	July, 2016	Policy Documents	1
2	Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM): A Useful Tool for Family Business Researchers	15	1	Journal of Family Business Strategy (6.114)	March, 2014	Facebook	6
3	The F-PEC Scale of Family Influence: A Proposal for Solving the Family Business Definition Problem	n/a	n/a	Family Business Review (7.575)	March, 2002	n/a	n/a
4	Stewardship Vs. Stagnation: An Empirical Comparison of Small Family and Non-Family Businesses	n/a	n/a	Journal of Management Studies (9.72)	July, 2007	n/a	n/a
5	International Expansion of U.S. Manufacturing Family Businesses: The Effect of Ownership and Involvement	n/a	n/a	Journal of Business Venturing (13.139)	July, 2003	n/a	n/a
6	Family Businesses' Contribution to the U.S. Economy: A Closer Look	6	14	Family Business Review (7.575)	July, 2016	Blog	1
7	Why do Some Family Businesses Out-Compete? Governance, Long-Term Orientations, and Sustainable Capability	6	40	Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice (9.993)	December, 2017	Blog	1
8	A Theory of Pyramidal Ownership and Family Business Groups	3	11	Journal of Finance (7.915)	January, 2007	Policy Documents	1
9	Lost in Time: Intergenerational Succession, Change, and Failure in Family Business	37	1	Journal of Business Venturing (13.139)	July, 2003	News Outlets	5
10	Prior Family Business Exposure as Intergenerational Influence and Entrepreneurial Intent: A Theory of Planned Behavior Approach	n/a	n/a	Journal of Business Research (10.969)	October, 2007	n/a	n/a
11	Internationalization Strategy of Small and Medium-Sized Family Businesses: Some Influential Factors	n/a	n/a	Family Business Review (7.575)	March, 2005	n/a	n/a
12	The Impact of the Family and the Business on Family Business Sustainability	1	n/a	Journal of Business Venturing (13.139)	September, 2003	Twitter	1
13	Non-Target-Site Herbicide Resistance: A Family Business	6	2	Trends in Plant Science (22.012)	January, 2007	Patents	2
14	Should I Stay or Should I Go? Career Choice Intentions of Students with Family Business Background	n/a	n/a	Journal of Business Venturing (13.139)	September, 2011	n/a	n/a

Rank	Title	AAS	AAS Context by Publication Age and Source	Journal and Impact Factor	Month and Year of Publication	Main Source of Attention	Raw Number of Mentions
15	Why Can't a Family Business be more Like a Nonfamily Business?: Modes of Professionalization in Family Firms	1	3	Family Business Review (7.575)	September, 2011	Twitter	1
16	Family Business Research: A Strategic Reflection	n/a	n/a	Family Business Review (7.575)	December, 2004	n/a	n/a
17	Four Bases of Family Business Successor Commitment: Antecedents and Consequences	n/a	n/a	Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice (9.993)	January, 2005	n/a	n/a
18	Long-Term Orientation: Implications for the Entrepreneurial Orientation and Performance of Family Businesses	3	1	Entrepreneurship & Regional Development (6.408)	July, 2010	Policy Documents	1
19	Emotional Returns and Emotional Costs in Privately Held Family Businesses: Advancing Traditional Business Valuation	n/a	n/a	Family Business Review (7.575)	June, 2008	n/a	n/a
20	Messenger RNA Editing in Mammals: New Members of the APOBEC Family Seeking Roles in the Family Business	10	2	Trends in Genetics (11.821)	April, 2003	Wikipedia	28
21	Evolving Research in Entrepreneurship and Family Business: Recognizing Family as the Oxygen that Feeds the Fire of Entrepreneurship	n/a	n/a	Journal of Business Venturing (13.139)	September, 2003	n/a	n/a
22	Stewardship or Agency? A Social Embeddedness Reconciliation of Conduct and Performance in Public Family Businesses	n/a	n/a	Organization Science (5.152)	June, 2011	n/a	n/a
23	Family Business Succession: Appropriation Risk And Choice Of Successor	n/a	n/a	Academy of Management Review (13.865)	October, 2003	n/a	n/a
24	Intellectual Foundations of Current Research in Family Business: An Identification and Review of 25 Influential Articles	n/a	n/a	Family Business Review (7.575)	December, 2009	n/a	n/a
25	Family Business Research: The Evolution of an Academic Field	n/a	n/a	Family Business Review (7.575)	December, 2002	n/a	n/a

Abbreviation: AAS: Altmetric Attention Score.

CONCLUSIONS, LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

Research on family businesses has seen a significant increase worldwide, reflecting the importance of these businesses in global economic activity. Scholars and researchers from numerous countries have actively contributed to the growing body of knowledge in the field of family business. The current study employs a bibliometric analysis of family business literature to uncover research trends and offer valuable guidance for researchers. The study's findings indicate that over a span of 20 years, there have been 1961 documents authored by 2990 individuals, which have been published across 713 journals dedicated to the subject of family businesses. The volume of publications has shown a rising trend, with the highest number of publications (195) recorded in the year 2016. Although there was a slight decline in 2018, the number picked up again in 2019. The majority of publications (66.19%) are in the form of articles, and the subject is widely published across the 713 journals. Among these journals, the journal named Family Business Review has the highest number of publications, totalling 159.

The authors from the United States have contributed the maximum number of publications (469) on the subject, followed by Spain with 133 publications, the United

Kingdom with 122 publications, and Italy with 113 publications. Additionally, there are 23 countries that have each contributed only one publication.

The top active authors in terms of publications are Astrachan J.H. and Danes S.M., both of whom have 24 publications to their credit. Out of the 2990 authors involved in all the publications, 2359 authors have authored only one publication each. While 528 out of the 1961 publications have been published by a single author, the majority of publications reflect collaborative research work.

Out of the 1961 papers, 1389 have received citations, amounting to a total count of 36055 citations. A small percentage, 7 papers (0.50%), account for a total citation count of 3802 (10.55%). The paper titled "An Overview of the Field of Family Business Studies: Current Status and Directions for the Future," authored by Sharma, P. and published in Family Business Review, has received the maximum number of citations (968) with a Field-Weighted Citation Impact of 15.22.

It has been observed that the subject has not received significant social attention. However, the paper titled "Lost in Time: Intergenerational Succession, Change, and Failure in Family Business," published in the Journal of Business Venturing, has captured the highest Altmetric Attention Score of 37. This is followed by the paper titled "Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM): A Useful Tool for Family Business Researchers," published in the Journal of Family Business Strategy, which has a score of 15. The main sources of attention for these papers include news outlets, Facebook, Twitter, blogs, and policy documents.

The bibliometric study on family business literature provides valuable insights, but it also has limitations and suggests potential avenues for future research. One limitation is the reliance on published literature, which may introduce publication bias and overlook unpublished or rejected studies. Future research can address this limitation by incorporating gray literature, such as industry reports, case studies, and practitioner-oriented publications to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the field. Additionally, the study focuses on quantitative data, such as publication and citation counts, without considering the quality or content of the publications. Future research could adopt a mixed-methods approach, combining bibliometric analysis with qualitative methods, such as content analysis or interviews, to gain a deeper understanding of the themes, methodologies, and theoretical frameworks employed in family business research.

Another limitation is the study's temporal scope of 20 years, which may not capture recent developments or emerging trends in the field. It would be beneficial for future studies to consider shorter timeframes or conduct periodic bibliometric analyses to provide a more up-to-date and comprehensive overview of the research landscape. Additionally, the study primarily focuses on English-language publications, potentially neglecting valuable contributions from non-English speaking researchers. Future research could adopt a more inclusive approach by incorporating publications in different languages and considering the global perspectives and experiences of family businesses. Furthermore, the study highlights the limited social attention received by the field. The assessment of social attention is limited to Altmetric Attention Scores and specific sources such as news outlets, Facebook, Twitter, blogs, and policy documents. Future research could explore innovative methods to measure social impact and engagement, such as analyzing online discussions in specialized forums or assessing the influence of family business research on policy-making and practice.

Overall, future research in family business bibliometrics should strive for a comprehensive and inclusive approach by incorporating qualitative methods, extending the temporal scope, and exploring alternative measures of impact. This will provide a deeper understanding of the field's dynamics and societal relevance.

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