

Seventeen Years of International Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Systems: A Bibliometric and Thematic Analysis

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Abstract In 2024, the International Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Systems (IJHTS) celebrating a journey of 17 years. IJHTS has established itself as an emerging journal with immense opportunities to grow and become one of the most prominent journals in the hospitality and tourism (H&T) industry. This study analyzes the IJHTS's performance and publications from 2018 to 2024 (up to Volume 3). In addition to providing an updated systematic analysis of publications, the current study attempts to highlight the journal's past performance. Performance analysis of the study provides a picture of publication trends and citation status by authors, affiliations, and countries. Science mapping analysis offers insights into the co-citation scenarios and co-occurrence of keywords through visuals. The thematic analysis contains the thematic evaluation of IJHTS publications. Biblioshiny and VOSviewer software are used in the study, publication data of the IJHTS from 2018-2024 has been extracted from the Scopus. Over the past few years, the journal's performance has shown a positive progression. The articles, topics, authors, journals, themes, and countries that are common in the hospitality and tourist industry are all covered in detail throughout this analysis.

Keywords: Bibliometric, Tourism, Hospitality, Journal Analysis, Science Mapping, Thematic Analysis, VOSviewer

INTRODUCTION

The hospitality and tourism (H&T) industry has grown remarkably in recent years. Initially, grand hotels and resorts emerged with the development of railways and steamships in the region during the 18th and 19th centuries. In the 20th century, the advancement of air travel, improved infrastructure, and globalization led to the rise of mass tourism. Today, the H&T industry is a multi-trillion-dollar global industry that includes various services such as hotels, resorts, restaurant chains, and travel agents. The industry is taking shape through a focus on digital platforms, sustainable tourism practices, and personalized experiences. Industry 4.0, which combines cloud computing, big data analytics (BDA), and the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) is a concept that applies equally to the hospitality sector. Because of these technological foundations business operations models are

changing, and procedures and equipment are becoming more intelligent and interconnected (Eissa, 2020). This leads to a data-driven decision-making culture in the hospitality sector, where BDA uncovers previously undiscovered trends in client information to open up new avenues for more individualized service delivery and increased satisfaction among clients (Adekuajo et al., 2023). Technology will probably continue to be integrated in the future, with eco-friendly travel, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence driving new trends (Jangid & Bhardwaj, 2024; Bhardwaj, 2017; Balkrishan et al., 2024).

Since the early 1970s, to advance this industry by implementing innovations and AI tools and to teach the upcoming generation (Kumar et al., 2024; Jaswal et al., 2024; Thakur et al., 2020) of H&T professionals, academicians have contributed their expertise to the sector. Scholars have been expanding the academic horizons of future generations

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by making substantial contributions to the H&T industry for over two generations (Zopiatis et al., 2015). As the academic family expanded, many researchers began a journey of self-discovery or self-fulfilment, intending to evaluate the quality of publications, tourism and hospitality journals, and researchers in the field, although several initial endeavors were primarily exploratory (Ferreira et al., 1994; Sheldon, 1991). Several sources have evolved since the beginning and many have expanded the reach of research to the public. Today, there are several ways for researchers to disseminate their studies in the H&T industry and make their findings available to the general public, and the International Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Systems is a promising source.

International Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Systems (IJHTS) is a peer-reviewed journal committed to encouraging research in hospitality and tourism worldwide. This journal reflects current events and trends in the H&T industry, providing an exciting and challenging international platform. The journal helps meet the requirements - theoretically and practically - by providing critical and insightful information about global hospitality and tourism affairs, practices, challenges, and solutions. "Hospitality and Tourism Systems" is guided by a distinguished international editorial board consisting of leading professionals in the field of tourism and hospitality from hospitality education institutions. The journal is divided into six sections: primary research articles, industry viewpoints, upcoming events and conference reports, case studies, research reports, and book reviews (IJHTS, 2024).

In 2008, the IJHTS released its first edition and 2024 marked the 17th anniversary of IJHTS. The IJHTS has published 36 issues since its inception and under the supervision of several editors, demonstrating its impressive growth and progress. Furthermore, IJHTS is indexed in all of the major bibliographic databases, such as Proquest, Ulrich's Web, EBSCO (Hospitality & Tourism Complete), CABI, Indian Citation Index (ICI), Cabell's Directory, and most recently and significantly, SCOPUS, have indexed the IJHTS since 2018. The present study analyzes and overviews the journey of IJHTS. Schwert (1993) has emphasized the significance of creating a bibliometric analysis of the journal as it offers thorough historical data that permits a critical evaluation of the publication's influence and progression. Thus, this study's main objective is to present a bibliographic evaluation of IJHTS so that readers may follow the evolution of its academic publications in great depth. This will be unable to answer the following questions as a result:

Q1. How many publications are there in IJHTS overall?

Q2. What major papers belong to IJHTS?

Q3. Who are IJHTS's major researchers, universities, and nations?

Q4. What affiliations do the researchers have?

Q5. What structural networks exist between the parties that publish in IJHTS?

Q6. What themes have evolved over the years in IJHTS publications?

The subsequent sections of the study cover the methodology applied to conduct the journal analysis, the results obtained from three different processes including science mapping, performance analysis, and thematic analysis and finally conclude with a discussion of the key findings while acknowledging current work limitations and future directions.

METHODOLOGY

To accomplish the objective and address the previously mentioned questions, the present study focuses on these bibliometric techniques, namely the scientific mapping analysis (Gaviria-Marin et al., 2018), the performance analysis, and the thematic analysis. The first technique relies upon the examination of productions and influence metrics, including citations and the quantity of produced documents. The second one, the scientific mapping analysis, is performed using the VOSviewer software (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). It includes co-occurrence of keywords, bibliographic coupling (Kessler, 1963), co-authorship, and co-citation analysis (Small, 1973). The thematic analysis offers key insight into the themes studied over the years, it includes a thematic map, thematic evolution, and trend topics. Since there have been limited studies in this context previously in IJHTS, this type of analysis is unique and important, as it will provide a comprehensive overview of the journal's primary research trends. Large amounts of data can be explored, organized, and analyzed using bibliometrics. Bibliometric analysis allows the identification of subsequent study paths through its indicators and facilitates information about the past and the progress of an investigation (Albort-Morant et al., 2017).

The current study presents a bibliometric analysis incorporating science mapping and performance analysis to provide an overview of IJHTS trends. The performance analysis includes indicators that measure the influence of certain domains of knowledge and academic activity (Garfield Eugene, 1972). The current investigation evaluated the number of articles, the total amount of publications by country, the number of prominent authors and institutions, and the number of citations (Gaviria-Marin et al., 2018). Performance analysis of this investigation was performed using Rstudio and Biblioshiny. Additionally, the science mapping investigation was conducted through VOSviewer software (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). By combining clustering and visualization techniques, this software makes

it possible to complete numerous analyses, such as co-citation, keyword co-occurrence, and bibliographic coupling.

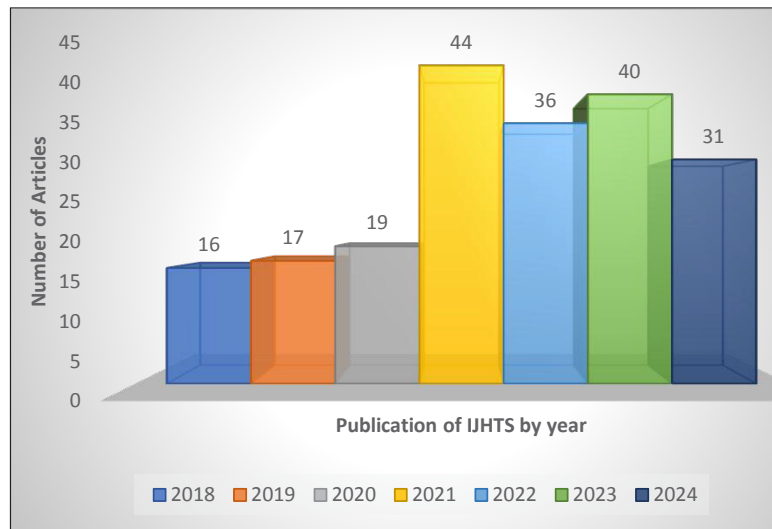
The current study's bibliographic information was sourced from the Scopus database. Because Scopus is now used for citation analysis and bibliographic searches (Meho & Yang, 2007), it is regarded as a suitable source for getting bibliographic data (Vieira & Gomes, 2009). To collect the data of IJHTS bibliographic records and publications, we considered only the single keyword "International Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Systems" with the search criteria of the source title only. The publication period of this search was by default in Scopus as currently IJHTS publications in Scopus are covered only from 2018. The final result of the Scopus search with the query "SRCTITLE (international AND journal AND of AND hospitality AND tourism AND systems) AND PUBYEAR > 2017 AND PUBYEAR < 2025" provided a sample of 203 documents on date 18/11/2024.

RESULT

Performance Analysis

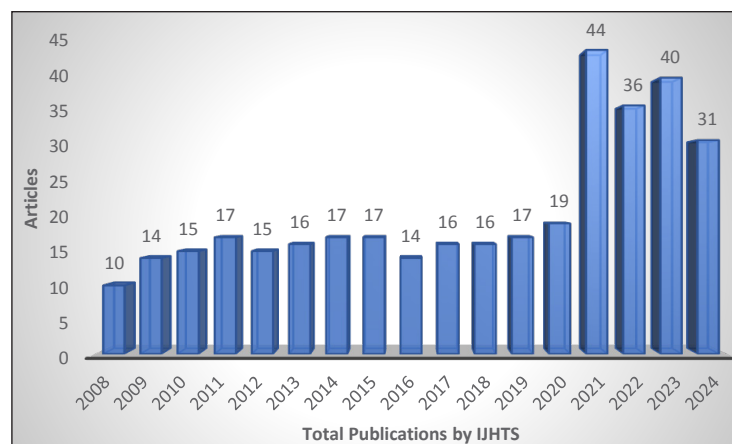
Productivity and Citation Structure of IJHTS

The IJHTS celebrates 17 years of publications and productivity in the H&T sector. Launched in 2008, the journal's first edition featured single issues. The subsequent years saw variations in the number of issues in each volume. But since 2023, the IJHTS has been releasing four issues per volume every year. IJHTS is recognized as an emerging journal in its respective field by following established editorial processes and peer-reviewed evaluation of the literature in the publication process. The number of publications for articles from 2018 to 2024 is shown in Fig. 1 and the number since its inception till date is shown in Fig. 2.



Source: Authors' own elaboration.

Fig. 1: Number of Publications from 2018 to 2024



Source: Authors' own elaboration.

Fig. 2: Number of Publications from 2008 to 2024

The annual publication growth and cumulative output of articles along with the information of published volumes and issues of IJHTS are displayed in Table 1. As we can see, 2021 had the most publications in a single year, with 44

documents. In 2021 and 2022 during the COVID pandemic, IJHTS publishes Special Issues- Open Access which increases from 2 to 3 issues per volume. Now from 2023, IJHTS has started publishing 4 issues per volume.

Table 1: Annual Production of the IJHTS

Yr.	Vol.	Issue				TA	AA	TI	AI
		{1}	{2}	{3}	{4}				
2018	11	8	8			16	16	2	2
2019	12	10	7			17	33	2	4
2020	13	9	10			19	52	2	6
2021	14	13	13	18		44	96	3	9
2022	15	10	14	12		36	132	3	12
2023	16	10	10	10	10	40	172	4	16
2024	17	11	10	10		31	203	3	19

Sources: Authors' own elaboration.

Abbreviations: AA: accumulated articles; AI: accumulated issues; TA: total articles; TI: total issues; Yr: years; Vol.: volume

Citations count often identifies the most influential studies. The citation count of each article reflects its level of influence and popularity among the researcher's community (Merigó et al., 2017). The reasons for referencing a document may vary, so it should be noted that this analysis may be biased (Krampen et al., 2007). The annual citation structure of IJHTS is displayed in Table 2. With 145 citations, 2021 stands as the most cited year, followed by the years 2023 and 2020 with 78 and 61 citations, respectively. Table 2 also displays the annual average citations of annual publications which also shows that 2021 is the year with the highest annual average citations.

Table 2: Annual Citation Structure of IJHTS

Year	Total Articles (TA)	Total Citations (TC)	Mean (TC/TA)
2018	16	50	3.12
2019	17	49	2.88
2020	19	61	3.21
2021	44	145	3.3
2022	36	47	1.31
2023	40	78	1.95
2024	31	12	0.39

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

The fact that publications in the H&T sector sometimes have lower citation rates than standard business journals makes this argument important, as citation analysis may be biased (Law & Chon, 2007). In the same way, Law et al. (2009) determined that H&T publications have fewer citations than journals in other domains, as they are not well recognized in mainstream academic disciplines and the field is still in an emerging stage. One significant contributing element could

be the size of the research community in comparison to other business and social science domains. Thus, articles from the tourism sector have little influence on researchers from other domains (Law et al., 2010; Racherla & Hu, 2010).

In Table 3, the 32 most cited IJHTS articles are displayed. The more recent document is shown first when there are an equal number of citations. With 21 citations, the works of Soliman et al. (2023) and Elzek et al. (2021) are the most referenced publications by IJHTS. The article by Soliman et al. (2023) has received the most citations because of the nature of bibliometric and network analysis that provides valuable insights into research trends and topics in hospitality and tourism journals during and before the COVID-19 pandemic. Elzek et al. (2021) developed an empirical study that examined how green innovation affects travel agents' and hotels' sustainability performance. The most cited work after the above is the study by Bhardwaj et al. (2023).

Table 3: Highly-Cited Articles of IJHTS

Sr. No.	Article	Year	CY	TC	TC/CY
1	(Soliman et al., 2023)	2023	2	21	10.50
2	(Elzek et al., 2021)	2021	4	21	5.25
3	(Bhardwaj et al., 2023)	2023	2	18	9.00
4	(Suhud et al., 2021)	2021	4	15	3.75
5	(Gupta et al., 2023)	2023	2	14	7.00
6	(Walia et al., 2021)	2021	4	14	3.50
7	(Chand & Ambardar, 2020)	2020	5	10	2.00

Sr. No.	Article	Year	CY	TC	TC/CY
8	(Fahmi & Mohamed, 2020)	2020	5	10	2.00
9	(Belias et al., 2024)	2024	1	8	8.00
10	(Chand & Ranga, 2018)	2018	7	8	1.14
11	(Srinivaasan & Kabia, 2020)	2020	5	8	1.60
12	(Chatterjee & Suklabaidya, 2021)	2021	4	8	2.00
13	(Bhushan Kumar & Kumar, 2018)	2018	7	7	1.00
14	(Hassan Itoo & Nagar, 2019)	2019	6	7	1.17
15	(Ambardar et al., 2023)	2023	2	6	3.00
16	(Meskele et al., 2018)	2018	7	6	0.86
17	(Dileep & Nair, 2021)	2021	4	6	1.50
18	(Botelho & Botelho, 2018)	2018	7	6	0.86
19	(Salah et al., 2019)	2019	6	6	1.00
20	(Chugh, 2018)	2018	7	6	0.86

Sr. No.	Article	Year	CY	TC	TC/CY
21	(Cardoso et al., 2022)	2022	3	5	1.67
22	(Dsouza et al., 2023)	2023	2	5	2.50
23	(Sharma et al., 2022)	2022	3	5	1.67
24	(Garg, 2021)	2021	4	5	1.25
25	(Khanh & ThiHoai, 2020)	2020	5	5	1.00
26	(Vivek, 2021)	2021	4	5	1.25
27	(Yasmeen, 2019)	2019	6	5	0.83
28	(Jangra & Gupta, 2021)	2021	4	5	1.25
29	(Khan, 2021)	2021	4	5	1.25
30	(Dinakaran, 2021)	2021	4	5	1.25
31	(Khan, 2019)	2019	6	5	0.83
32	(Saravana Kumar & Krishnaraj, 2018)	2018	7	5	0.71
33	Rest 171 articles	Less than 5 citations			

Source: Authors own elaboration.

Abbreviations: TC: Total citations; CY: Citable year; TC/CY: Citation per year.

Major Authors, Influential Institutions, and Nations of IJHTS

The most influential and prominent authors in IJHTS are included in Table 4, along with information on their overall productions and impact on the research community. Each author's total number of articles, citations, h-index, and further bibliometric indicators are displayed to track the

effectiveness of these authors. With 16 publications and the most 53 citations, Chand is the most productive and influential author. He is followed by Ambardar and Chauhan with 8 and 6 articles respectively. Sharma and Soliman are the other influential authors in terms of highly cited articles with 34 and 26 citations. Table 4 displays the 20 most influential authors out of a total of 399 authors.

Table 4: Most Influential Authors in IJHTS

Author Name	Total Article (TA)	Year First Publication	Total Citation (TC)	Citation Per Paper (TC/TA)	H-Index
Chand, M	17	2018	55	3.24	3
Ambardar, A	8	2020	21	2.63	3
Chauhan, V	6	2020	6	1.00	2
Dahiya, A	6	2018	8	1.33	2
Duggal, S	6	2018	9	1.50	2
Gupta, S. K.	5	2019	22	4.40	3
Walia, S	5	2018	17	3.40	2
Singh, A	4	2022	9	2.25	2
Chaudhary, M	3	2020	3	1.00	1
Dada, Z.A	3	2018	4	1.33	1
Giampiccoli, A	3	2020	6	2.00	2
Khan, S	3	2019	13	4.33	3

Author Name	Total Article (TA)	Year First Publication	Total Citation (TC)	Citation Per Paper (TC/TA)	H-Index
Soliman, M	3	2022	26	8.67	2
Singh, V	3	2022	9	3.00	2
Sharma, D	2	2023	20	10.00	2
Abou-Shouk, M	2	2019	9	4.50	2
Bhardwaj, B	2	2023	20	10.00	2
Akrofi-Ansah, H	2	2018	3	1.50	1
Allan, M	2	2021	15	7.50	1
Ahmed, Mo	2	2019	3	1.50	1

Source: Authors own elaboration.

Another fascinating topic is the analysis of the major influential and productive institutions publishing in IJHTS. In light of the objectives, The academic institutions that publish the most papers in the journal are shown in Table 5. Other factors, such as affiliation by years and total affiliations by institutions, are also displayed in this table. The result depicts that *Kurukshetra University* is the most influential

institution with 16 articles, followed by *Fayoum University* and *Lovely Professional University* in second and third place with 15 and 11 submissions, respectively. In terms of total affiliations by a university, *Fayoum University* is seen to have the highest number of affiliations, followed by *Kurukshetra University* and *Lovely Professional University* in second and third place with 58 and 36 total affiliations, respectively.

Table 5: Highly Productive and Influenced Universities in the IJHTS

Sr. No.	Institution	TP	Affiliation by Years							TA
			2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
1	Kurukshetra University	16		1	5	7	13	16	16	58
2	Fayoum University	15	1	7	12	12	15	15	15	77
3	Lovely Professional University	11				7	7	11	11	36
4	University of Jammu	10				3	6	10	10	29
5	Pondicherry University	6				1	6	6	6	19
6	University of Nigeria	6							6	6
7	Himachal Pradesh University	6	1	2	2	6	6	6	6	29
8	Maharishi Dayanand University	6				3	6	6	6	21
9	Amity University	5			1	3	4	5	5	18
10	Christ (deemed to be university)	5				2	5	5	5	17
11	Central University of Himachal Pradesh	4					1	4	4	9
12	Durban University of Technology	4				1	1	3	4	9
13	International School of Management Excellence	4							4	4
14	Management and Science University	4						4	4	8
15	Universitas Sebelas Maret	4				4	4	4	4	16
16	University of Calabar	4							4	4
17	University of Technology Mauritius	4							4	4
18	Autonomous University of Baja California	3						3	3	6
19	Bina Nusantara University	3						3	3	6
20	Goa University	3						3	3	6

Source: Authors own elaboration.

Abbreviations: TA: Total Affiliation; TP: Total Publication.

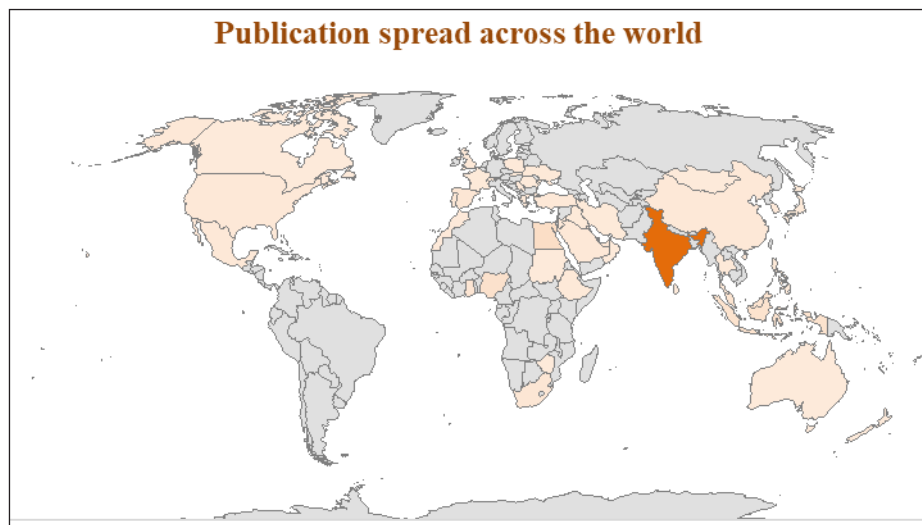
To further clarify the characteristics of IJHTS, The most influential and productive nations are listed in Table 6, which usually publish in the journal through their institutions and researchers. Table 6 displays the countries with the highest production and citations along with citations per article. As per the results displayed in Table 6 and Figure 3, *India*

is the most prominent and influential country, with 120 publications and 267 citations, followed by *Egypt* in second place, with a total of 77 citations for 15 publications. Both Table 6 and Fig. 3 display the 20 most influential countries out of a total of 44 countries.

Table 6: Most Influenced Country in the IJHTS

Sr. No.	Country	Articles	Citations	Citation Per Article
1	India	120	267	2.23
2	Egypt	15	77	5.13
3	Indonesia	8	19	2.38
4	Malaysia	8	12	1.50
5	Vietnam	6	10	1.67
6	Nigeria	5	4	0.80
7	Spain	5	7	1.40
8	South Africa	5	6	1.20
9	Saudi Arabia	4	6	1.50
10	United Arab Emirates	4	6	1.50
11	United States	4	26	6.50
12	China	3	3	1.00
13	Ghana	3	4	1.33
14	Jordan	3	15	5.00
15	Oman	3	26	8.67
16	South Korea	3	9	3.00
17	Thailand	3	4	1.33
18	Ethiopia	2	9	4.50
19	Kuwait	2	5	2.50
20	Poland	2	21	10.50

Source: Authors own elaboration.



Source: Authors' own elaboration.

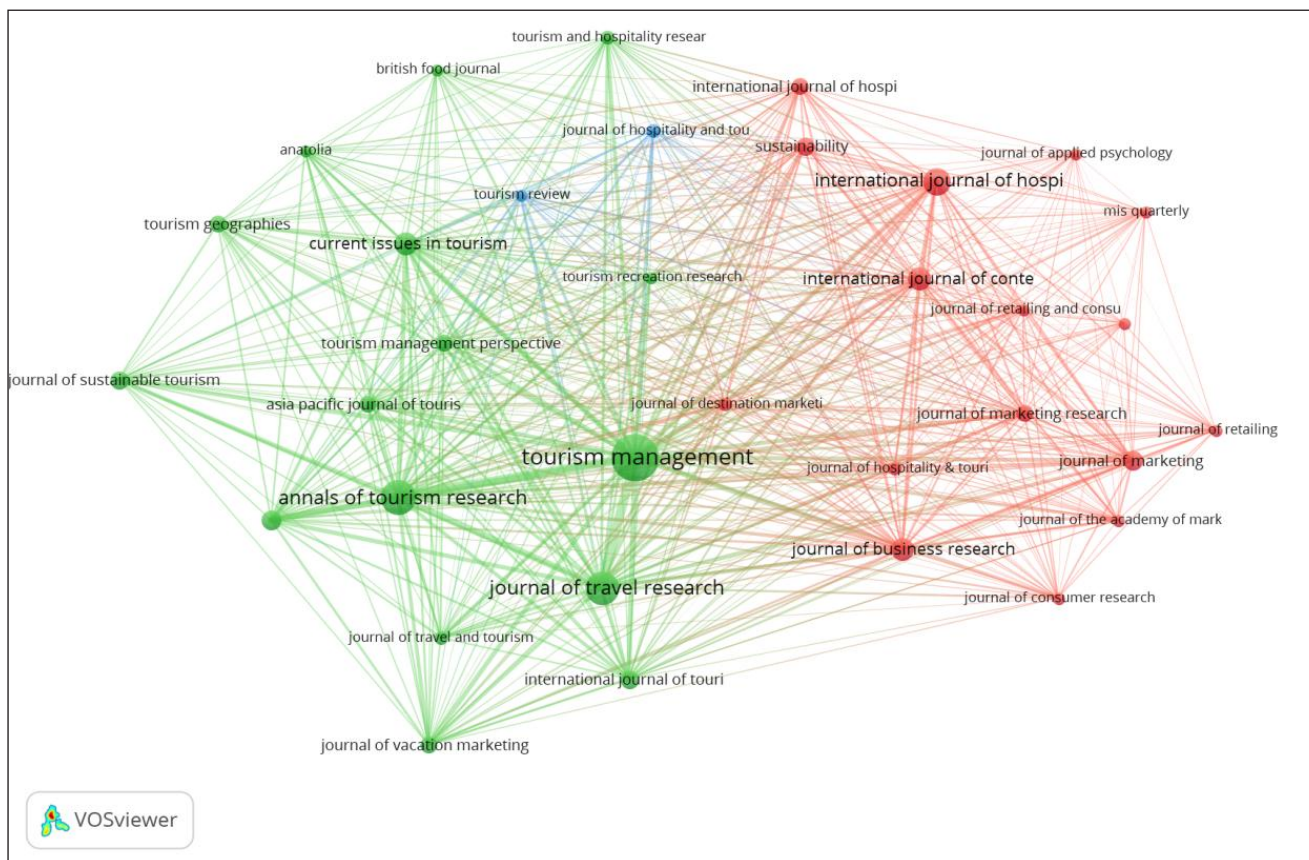
Fig. 3: Geographical distribution of Most Influenced Country in the IJHTS

Science Mapping Analysis

Numerous IJHTS performance indicators were shown in the preceding section. Using the bibliographic evidence, this part provides a science mapping inquiry to further characterize the IJHTS. In a constantly evolving discipline of knowledge, this technique aims to present a visual anatomical picture of the connections among numerous scientific actors (Small, 1973).

The science mapping in the current work is based on co-citations in the IJHTS. Considering that the purpose of co-citation is to find instances where a third journal cites

a document that was previously published in two different journals (Gaviria-Marin et al., 2018). Fig. 4 displays the co-citations of journals with the 34 most representative co-citation connections, with one journal having at least 30 citations. A visual representation of the connections between the most frequently cited journals in IJHTS articles is provided by three clusters. A considerable number of nodes are present in each of these clusters. With 445 co-citations, the journal *Tourism Management* has the most co-citations, followed by the *Annals of Tourism Research* with 254 co-citations and the *Journal of Travel Research* with 226 co-citations.



Source: Authors' own elaboration.

Fig. 4: Structural Networks of the Journal's Co-Citation in the IJHTS

Analyzing the co-citations of the authors most frequently mentioned in the IJHTS is another significant matter. The data is shown in Fig. 5 with a minimum of 20 citations and 33 thresholds of author co-citation relationships. The representation also provides insight into the authors' network

of connections. This indicates that Chand M. has the largest network. Among other authors, Hair J. F., Sarstedt M., and Uysal M. are the next most cited authors in the IJHTS. These writers have emerged as the main contributors to IJHTS throughout the years 2018–2024.

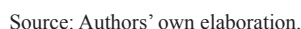


Fig. 5: Structural Networks of the Author's Co-Citation in the IJHTS

The countries' bibliographic couplings in the journal *IJHTS* is another fascinating topic to examine and compare the findings of the bibliographic performance investigation. This will make it possible to determine which countries use the same literature and are the most productive (Gaviria-Marin et al., 2018). Fig. 6 displays the findings taking into account the 27 most frequently found bibliographic link connections as well as the minimum threshold of an article containing

at least one citation. The result displays the relationships between each nation. India is the leading country with the most bibliographic connection links with practically every other country, followed by Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam. The close relationship and centrality of nations imply that their authors concentrate around linked subjects that have impacted the production of literature from multiple countries.

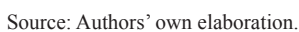
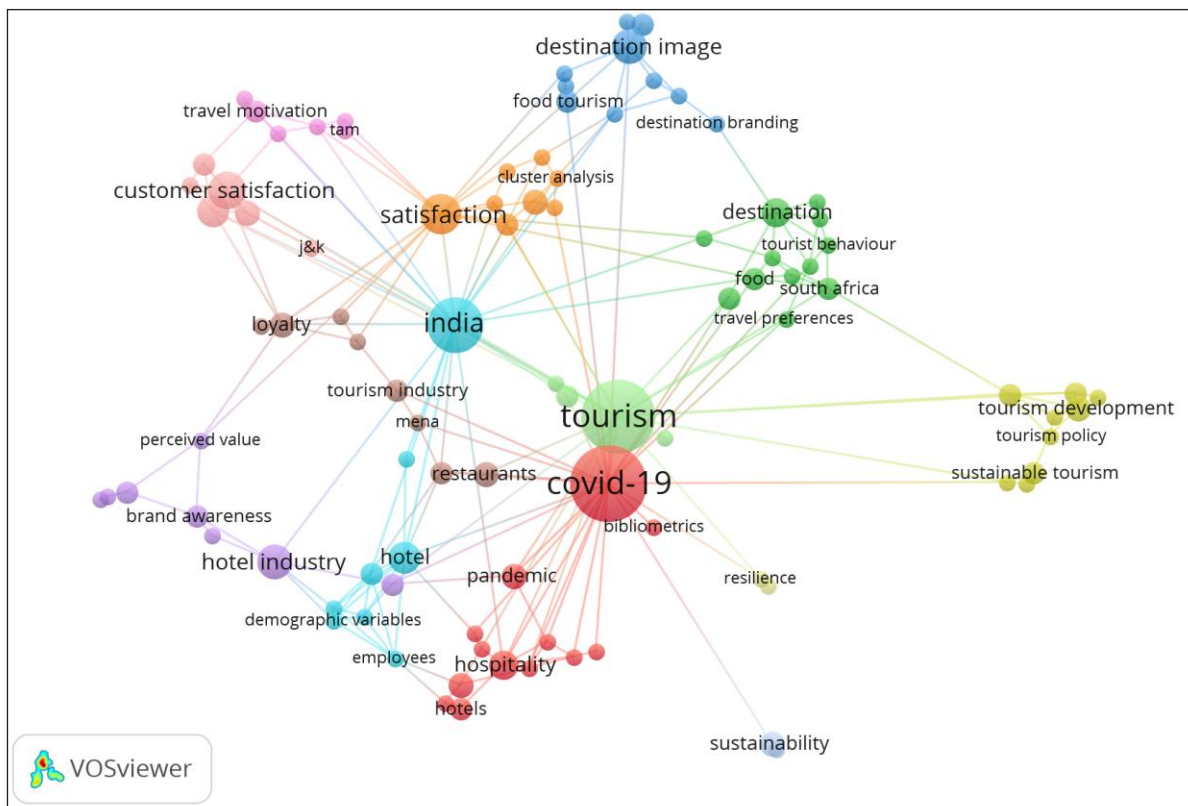


Fig. 6: Structural Networks of Countries' Bibliographic Couplings in IJHTS

Fig. 7 shows how keywords occur together in IJHTS documents. Keeping the knowledge about author-assigned keywords, keyword co-occurrence shows how often one keyword occurs subsequent to another in published articles. From a broader viewpoint, Fig. 7 displays the most frequently utilized words in IJHTS-published articles with their unique connections. Depending on how relevant a word is in IJHTS, the circles representing it are larger in size. Authors' keyword co-occurrence findings are shown with the top 98 most prevalent co-occurrences with a threshold

of two occurrences.

The results of the analysis clearly show that the terms “COVID-19” and “Tourism” displayed in the middle of co-occurrence visuals have the maximum co-occurrence from the author's indexed keywords in IJHTS. Additionally, followed by the above keywords, India, satisfaction, customer satisfaction, destination image, and hotel industry are the most prominent and emerging terms in the H&T industry for the research work.



Source: Authors' own elaboration.

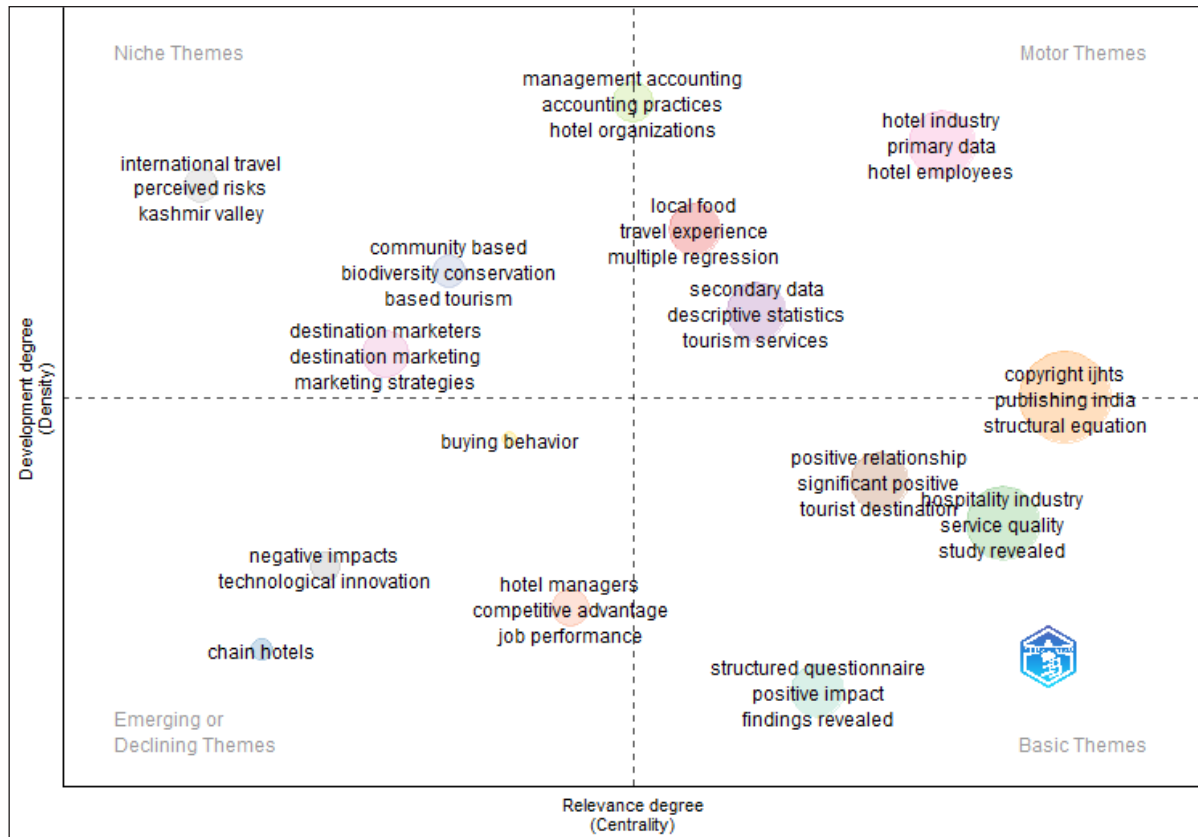
Fig. 7: Structural Networks of Keywords Co-Occurrence in IJHTS

Thematic Analysis

The thematic analysis of IJHTS publications is presented in this section. It contains the thematic evaluation of IJHTS publications, a thematic map of themes grouped across four categories, the evolution of the themes, and various trends in topics from 2018 to 2024.

The thematic map makes it possible to see important themes within the field of study (Cobo et al., 2011). Fig. 8 displays the thematic map based on the abstracts extracted through

Biblioshiny. Themes are identified in the subject matter domain and keyword clusters are generated by this analysis. The x-axis of the map represents centrality, while the y-axis represents density. Density is the development of the theme, while centrality is the spectrum of relevance of the theme (Madsen et al., 2023). Each of the four quadrants' keyword frequency is shown by the size of the bubbles. Employing thematic mapping, four different theme typologies can be obtained: lower left quadrant, lower right quadrant, upper left quadrant, and upper right quadrant,



Source: Authors' own elaboration.

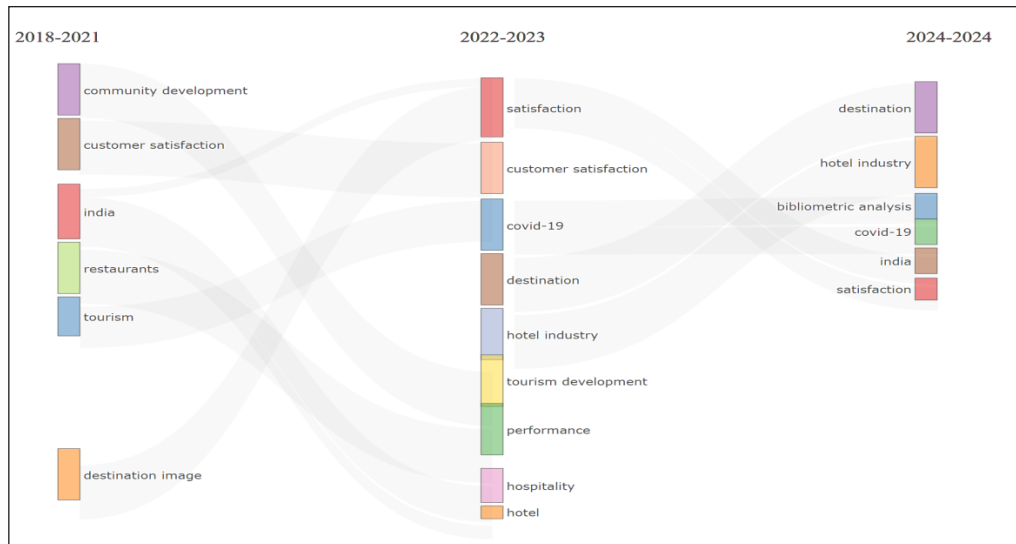
Fig. 8: Thematic Map from IJHTS Publications

Upper Left Quadrant (High Density, Low Centrality): The upper left quadrant represents well-developed, highly specialized, dense, and peripheral themes, also referred to as *niche themes* (Bagdi et al., 2023). Themes related to international travel, perceived risks, Kashmir valley, community-based studies, biodiversity conservation, tourism-based activities, marketing strategies, and destination marketing are the niche themes represented in the upper left quadrant of the thematic map.

Upper Right Quadrant (High Density, High Centrality): *Motor themes* displayed in Fig. 8, which appear in the upper right quadrant, are central, dense, and well-developed themes that contribute to the advancement of the research (Bagdi et al., 2023). Motor themes in the IJHTS publications include the hotel industry, management accounting, accounting practice, hotel organization, hotel employees, local food, travel experience, and tourism services.

Lower Right Quadrant (Low Density, High Centrality): The *basic themes* in the lower right quadrant are underlying, transversal, and fundamental themes with modest network development and significant potential. In the future, these fundamental concepts can be explored in more depth (Bagdi et al., 2023). Tourist destinations, the hospitality industry, and service quality are the basic and fundamental themes.

Lower Left Quadrant (Low Density, Low Centrality): Themes with low density and centrality, which are less significant and offer the potential for further investigation, are represented by the lower left quadrant, which is commonly referred to as the *emerging themes* (Bagdi et al., 2023). Themes such as buying behavior, technological innovation, hotel managers, job performance, chain hotels, and competitive advantage are emerging themes in the IJHTS publications from 2018 to 2024, which can be explored in depth in the future.

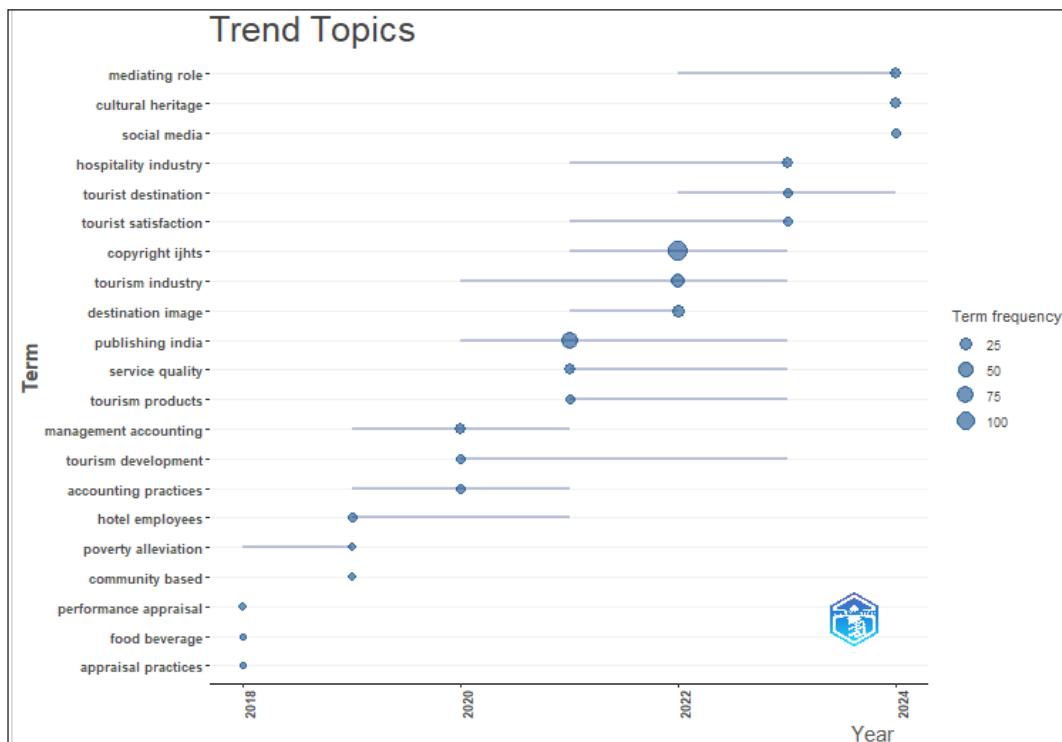


Source: Authors' own elaboration.

Fig. 9: Thematic Evolution of Publications by IJHTS from 2018 to 2024

In Fig. 9, the IJHTS thematic evolution of publications is displayed in an alluvial diagram, which is a type of flow map that encompasses the years 2018-2024 and is divided into three sub-periods: 2018-2021, 2022-2023, and 2024. A graph of this kind might be used to illustrate the thematic development of a particular field of study. Examining the IJHTS publications' theme development offers an intriguing

overview of the research being done in the hospitality and tourism industry. Highlighting how themes combine or divide into several themes becomes possible by such longitudinal analysis (Madsen et al., 2023). Examining the shifts in authors' indexed keywords from 2018 to 2024 is the aim of this inquiry.



Source: Authors' own elaboration.

Fig. 10: Trends in Topics from 2018 to 2024

During the period 2018-2021, researchers tended to work on topics such as community development, customer satisfaction, restaurants and tourism, and destination image. During the period 2022-2023, the focus of researchers shifted to customer satisfaction, tourism development, hospitality and hotel industry, performance, and tourism development. In the context of the Indian hospitality and tourism sector in the year 2024, most researchers worked in the area of destination, satisfaction, and hotel industry.

The patterns of topics on which IJHST has published articles between 2018 and 2024 are displayed in Fig. 10. Topic trends can draw attention to the wide range of topics that researchers are currently focusing on in IJHST publications. The breakdown by year indicates how topics have evolved throughout time. That indicates the topics that have been investigated for a long period and those that have recently been added to the list of study topics (Bhawna et al., 2023).

The majority of the researchers focused on topics including management accounting, food and beverage, hotel employees, community-based, poverty alleviation, performance appraisal, and appraisal practices between 2018 and 2020. The researchers investigated the following topics between 2020 and 2022; growth of the tourism industry, accounting practices, service quality, tourism products, destination image, and tourism development. From 2022 to 2024, the majority of the articles published in IJHST were focused on the hospitality industry, tourist destinations, tourist satisfaction, the role of mediation, cultural heritage, and social media.

CONCLUSION

The IJHST majorly focuses on the H&T sector and publishes prominent works in the form of research papers, case studies, research reports, and industry viewpoints from the past 17 years. Currently, IJHST has done well in establishing itself as the leading emerging journal in this field of research. A bibliometric study of every scientific paper published by the journal between 2018 and 2024 is the aim of this work. From a broad perspective, the present study provides information on the primary theoretical and empirical studies that have been published during the 17-year journey of IJHST. The current study is pertinent to academics from a variety of fields, but especially for those researchers who are working and interested in working in the H&T sector.

A list of the total 203 published literature by IJHST was extracted from the Scopus database and analyzed in the present work. The findings came from three processes: a scientific mapping examination of all actors involved with IJHST, performance analysis incorporating both productivity and impact metrics, and thematic analysis providing insight into the evolution of themes. This

document provides productivity indicators and the impact of the major nations, universities, and authors that publish in the IJHST concerning the performance analysis. The findings of the study depict that *India* is in a strong position and dominates the IJHST publications in terms of output and influence followed by Egypt as a major nation. According to the university analysis, Kurukshetra University and Fayoum University stand out for their publication and are the most productive institutions. Concerning the authors, we can state that Chand M. is the most prolific and significant author to publish in the journal, followed by Ambardar A. Findings also shed light on the most cited articles entitled, “Research Trends and Themes in the Top-Tier Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality Journals: A Bibliometric and Network Analysis before and during the COVID-19 Era” authored by Soliman et al. (2023) and “The impact of green innovation on sustainability performance in travel agencies and hotels: The moderating role of environmental commitment” authored by Elzek et al. (2021).

The scientific mapping analysis of the current study utilizes co-occurrence of keywords, bibliographic coupling, and co-citation to display the publication structure of countries, universities, and authors. The outcomes of the scientific mapping align with the findings of the performance analysis. Finally, the analysis of the most frequently used keywords and their co-occurrence in IJHST reflects the findings of the science mapping. According to this analysis, IJHST authors publish a broad range of topics mainly linked to the wide idea of “hospitality and tourism”. The study also reveals that authors are currently interested in a wide range of new subjects, including destination image, religious tourism, service quality, sustainability, and many different topics. The thematic analysis includes thematic evolutions, trend topics, and thematic maps that emerged over the years published by IJHST. Hence, future issues of the journal may include contemporary issues such as sustainability, technological advancement, innovation and Cloud computing (Anshima et al., 2024; 2025; Sharma et al., 2024).

The present work also has some limitations. Firstly, only the data of IJHST from 2018 to 2024 was considered for this analysis. All the bibliometric analyses were done by software and tools like VOSviewer, Biblioshiny, and RStudio which can be considered programmatically biased or technical error in terms of evaluation of data. Further studies can be done on the entire period from the beginning of IJHST to the present. Other software like CiteSpace, HistCite, and SCiMat can be considered for the same analysis in the future. Conclusively, this bibliometric work provides valuable insight into “IJHST”, a prominent and emerging journal in the H&T sector.

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