



## Bibliometric Analysis of Researches on Street Food

\* Emre AYKAÇ<sup>a</sup> , Lütfi BUYRUK<sup>b</sup> 

<sup>a</sup> Independent Scientist, Çorum/Turkey

<sup>b</sup> Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University, Faculty of Tourism, Department of Gastronomy and Culinary Arts, Nevşehir/Turkey

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### Abstract

With this research, it is aimed to make a bibliometric analysis of the works published in the international literature between 1975-2021 on street food, which is thought to have an important role in the attractiveness and marketing of tourism destinations. Publications on street food were accessed via Web of Science (WOS) database on February 01, 2021, with two different keywords: "Street Food" and "Street Flavor". "VOSviewer" software was used to perform and visualize the bibliometric analysis of 189 academic publications. Researches made; publication years, publication types, institutions, authors, sources, countries, languages, citations and keywords. "Co-authorship and Co-occurrence" techniques, which is a citation analysis technique of prominent documents, sources, authors, institutions and countries, were used in the analysis. According to the results of the analysis, the studies were mainly published in 2019, in the article type, in the United States, in English, in the journal Food Control, by Lisa Campbell, by the researchers at Universidade Do Porto, in the year of citations in 2019, and the keyword "Street Food". was found to be. When evaluated according to years, it is seen that the research on street food has increased in recent years.

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\* Corresponding Author

E-mail: emreaykac1@hotmail.com (E. Aykaç)

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## INTRODUCTION

Food, drinks and snacks sold by street vendors, especially in developing countries, are widely consumed by millions of people in recent years. The low cost and easy accessibility of street food make them popular, especially in urban areas (Ohiokpehai, 2003, p.76). There is no doubt that street food is an important source of income for many urban community members. Street food not only contributes to production and distribution but also to the overall economy of the city. Furthermore, studies carried out by researchers such as Winarno and Allain (1991), Dawson and Canet (1991), Draper (1996) and Chung et al. (2010) reveal that street food has a large economic return and provides employment and income to millions of people (Solunoğlu, 2018, p.33). Since businesses, vehicles or stands where street food will be sold do not require major investments, it is an opportunity for family businesses to generate income (Matalas & Yannakoulia, 2000, p. 15).

Countries that have developed with rapid industrialization activities after the 1960s have gained a cosmopolitan structure both with migration from rural areas to cities and irregular migration from foreign countries for employment purposes. However, people who came to the big cities from their native geographical areas started to produce and sell food of their own cultures in their homes or on mobile stalls for financial gain to earn their livelihoods when job opportunities turned out to be limited. Reasons such as the fact that current conditions require people to use their time more efficiently, distances between the home and the workplace and changing working conditions have led people to consume ready-made foods that do not require a long time in the kitchen at home, and low-income individuals to consume affordable and high-calorie foods (Akarçay & Suğur, 2015, p. 6).

Street food is a part of life with different roles in different cultures. Each country has its own unique street food. Street food plays an important role in the protection of both the culture and the economy of a country with its content, preparation, sales methods and forms of consumption. The concept of street food was first adopted in the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation) Asian Street Foods Regional Workshop held in Indonesia in 1986. The FAO defines street food as “convenience foods and drinks prepared and / or sold by vendors, especially on the streets and in other similar venues” (Demir, Akdağ, Sormaz & Özata, 2018, p.592). Likewise, the World Health Organization (WHO) defines street food as food and beverages that are prepared or sold by vendors on the street or in public places, and consumed without the need for immediate or subsequent processing. This definition includes fruits and vegetables sold outside the marketplaces as street food (WHO, 1996). Street food is sold in mobile vehicles in highly populated public places (Steyn & Labadarios, 2011, p.462). Currently the fact that street food has become a trend and is considered a gastronomic product has enabled these flavors to be included in restaurant menus and to be sold in various businesses other than street vendors. For example, kokoreç (kokoretsi) is sold on mobile stalls, but it is also available in restaurants. Therefore, it is not enough for a food to be sold on the street to qualify as street food. Hence the definition of street food needs to be a little more specific. Food and beverages that are originally prepared and sold on the street from mobile vehicles, baskets or counters, as well as by businesses that have a part facing the street and provide service without seating, that are ready to be consumed sitting or standing without the need for any preparation is street food (Şahin & Yıldız, 2016). The World Health Organization lists the benefits of street flavors in line with the definition as follows (WHO, 1996, p. 2):

- Affordable, suitable and often nutritious food for low-income people living in urban and rural areas,
- Street food is an important source of work and income for many people, especially women,

- Street food provides people the opportunity to develop their business skills and self-employment with low capital,
- Street food offers variety that is attractive for tourists.

Based on the definitions and explanations of street food in general, it is possible to list the characteristics of street food as follows;

- There are no restraints in terms of time and space (Leong et al., 2010, p. 170).
- The products are mostly sold in places described as shabby, in motorized or non-motorized mobile vehicles or on mobile counters or trays (Calloni, 2013, p. 3046; Bayraktar & Zencir, 2019, p. 1369).
- The products can be sold in the busy streets of cities, near public buildings, in parks, the seaside and beaches, train stations, bus terminals, ferry piers, near venues that host sport competitions, concerts and so on (Steyn & Labadarios, 2011, p. 462; Yıldırım & Albayrak, 2019, p. 1078).
- Generally, street foods are foods that can be consumed quickly (Chang, Kivela & Mak, 2010, p. 993).
- They are affordable and have a unique taste (Hiamey, Amuquandoh & Boison, 2013, p. 5),
- They are in great demand because they reflect the local atmosphere and taste and suppress hunger momentarily (Nield, Kozak & LeGrys, 2000, p. 400).
- Street food is an attraction for visitors coming for touristic purposes (Bhowmik, 2005, p. 2280).
- Street food is considered a leading motivation tool in terms of destination preferences (Ünal & İpar, 2020, p.847).
- Street food presents more opportunities for interpersonal communication and socialization (Ballı, 2016, p. 4).

In this respect, the demand for street flavors has a diverse structure varying from low-income to high-income segments, from students to businessmen and tourists at the destination (Ünal & İpar, 2020, p.848). Street flavors can be grouped as animal sourced products, seafood, pastries, drinks, desserts and fruits (Yiğit & Yiğit, 2019, p.435). Although these groups include street delicacies consisting of a wide variety of foods and beverages, they can be further classified under three different headings according to the way they are prepared;

1. Fruits and vegetables that do not need to be cooked, freshly squeezed fruit juices, etc.
2. Pastries, bagels, pilaf with chicken / meat, stuffed mussels, desserts etc. that have been prepared beforehand and are transported to the place of sale,
3. Meatballs, kokoreç, fish & bread, baked potatoes, toast, etc. prepared and presented in the sales area are examples of such (Cumhur, 2020, p. 129).

Methods such as frying, roasting, sautéing, grilling, boiling, baking and steaming are generally used when preparing street delicacies other than those offered raw (Demir, Akdağ, Sormaz & Özata, 2018, p.593).

## Method

The aim of this study was to examine and carry out a bibliometric analysis of documents (articles, papers, books, etc.) published in international literature between 1975 and 2021 regarding street food, which qualifies as a cultural phenomenon, an authentic experience and an attraction element of important destinations.

The concept of bibliometry was introduced by “Alan Pritchard” in 1969 (Lawani, 1981). Pritchard stated that bibliometry should replace the term statistical bibliography. The concept of bibliometry was defined by Pritchard as “the application of mathematical and statistical methods to books, articles, papers and other communication media.” (Pritchard, 1969). In other words, bibliometry is the application of mathematics and statistical methods to shed light on the processes and course of written sources by counting and analyzing the various aspects of these sources (Lawani, 1981). The first study on bibliometry was made by Campbell which is a source titled “Theory of The National and International Bibliography” published in 1896. In the aforementioned study, the distribution of the subjects of the relevant publications was made by a statistical analysis method (Sengupta, 1992; Tekeli & Kırıcı Tekeli, 2020, p.108).

A search was made on the Web of Science (Wos) database on 01 February 2021 to determine the scientific publications on street food. The contents of the Web of Science (Wos) appeared to be more focused on social sciences (Jacso, 2005). It should be noted that Wos has a database containing scientific citation indexes such as “Science Citation Index (SCI)”, “Social Science Citation Index (SSCI)” and “Art and Humanities Citation Index (A & HCI)” which enable access to important publications throughout the world (Goodman & Deis, 2005). In addition, the main factor in the use of WOS was the facilitated collection of data suitable for bibliometric analysis and the fact that the database is the most widely acknowledged and used database (Yang et al., 2013). The search was made with two different title keywords such as “Street Food” or “Street Flavors”. The years between 1975 and 2021 were preferred for the time period. If the same search strategy is applied on a different date, it is likely that different results are obtained. The main reason for this difference is that Wos is regularly updated and the field of study is constantly supported by new articles, papers and books (Liu et al., 2013).

As a result of the search, 189 academic publications were accessed and a bibliometric analysis was performed within the framework of these publications. Any publication used to apply bibliometric analysis in Web of Science (Wos) covers many different categories such as the year of publication, type of publication, institutions, supporting institutions, authors, sources, countries, editors, co-authors, languages, fields of research, citations, etc. Studies on street food were tabulated and handled within the framework of the years of publication, types of publication, institutions, authors, sources, countries, languages and citations. Subsequently, a bibliometric analysis was applied to the most collaborative authors, institutions, countries, and the most used keywords in studies on street food.

“VOSviewer” software, which is open to the use of researchers and for which no fee is charged, was used to perform bibliometric analysis and visualize the parameters determined within the scope of the study. VOSviewer is a scientific mapping program designed for the visual representation of bibliometric networks. Essentially designed to analyze bibliometric networks, the program displays the formal representation of the networks (Van Eck & Waltman, 2017). The study aimed to reveal the documents, sources, authors, institutions and countries that stand out in publications on “Street Food” with “Co-authorship and Co-occurrence” techniques, which is an analysis technique available in Vosviewer. Therefore, the articles, papers and books written about street food, the journals in which the articles were published, the authors, the institutions where the authors worked and the countries they were in were determined. Only the WOS (Web of Science) database was used to obtain data for the study. It can be said that this choice constitutes the main limitation of the study. Furthermore, the use of only “Street food” and “Street flavor”

keywords to obtain scientific publications about street food can be seen as another limitation of the study. It is assumed that the VOSviewer software used to perform the analysis reflects the best results.

## Findings

“VOSviewer” software was used to perform and visualize the bibliometric analysis of the street food research as mentioned earlier. Each circle in the visual presented by the VOSviewer software expresses an item in the filter as a result of the filtering made by the researcher according to the number of repetitions. This item can represent an author, institution, country, document, source, etc. A large circle means that the number of repetitions of the item in the image is high. The largest circle is the most repeated item. Items are shown with a single color according to their repetition scores and are clustered in groups. Although each item is included in only one cluster, it is also possible for an item not to be included in a cluster. At the same time, the lines between the items show the connections. Each link has a strength. A thin line indicates a weaker connection, while a thicker line indicates a stronger connection (Van Eck & Waltman, 2019).

**Table 1.** Studies on Street Food according to Years

Years	Number of publications	Years	Number of publications	Years	Number of publications	Years	Number of publications
1988	1	2001	1	2008	3	2015	19
1989	1	2002	3	2009	5	2016	14
1994	1	2003	1	2010	1	2017	20
1995	1	2004	1	2011	6	2018	20
1997	1	2005	1	2012	7	2019	28
1998	4	2006	8	2013	8	2020	18
2000	1	2007	3	2014	11	2021	1

**Source:** Established by the researchers by benefiting from the Web of Science database.

Studies on street food were reached by using the WOS database in line with the purpose of the study. In this context, it was determined that 189 studies were conducted on street food between 1975 and 2020. The first study on this subject was carried out in 1988. The number of publications for all years is given in Table 1. It is noted that the highest number of studies on the subject was conducted in 2019 (28 publications). The information in Table 1 indicates that the studies on the subject have increased in recent years.

**Table 2.** Distribution of Studies on Street Food According to the Type of Publication

Type of Publication	Number of Publications
Article	146
Paper	6
Book	25
Other	12

**Source:** Established by the researchers by benefiting from the Web of Science database.

An examination of the studies on street food in Table 2 indicates that the publications have been made in the form of articles, papers, books and other genres. It is understood from Table 2 that the most publications related to the subject are articles (146 publications), books (25 publications) and papers (6 publications), respectively.

**Table 3.** Distribution of Research on Street Food according to Country

Countries	Number of Publications	Countries	Number of Publications	Countries	Number of Publications
Usa	35	Belgium	4	Paraguay	2
India	15	Colombia	4	Russia	2
Brazil	13	Japan	4	Singapore	2
South Africa	12	South Korea	4	Sri Lanka	2
Italy	11	Chile	3	Trinidad Tobago	2
Ghana	10	Netherlands	3	Turkey	2
Indonesia	8	China	3	Uganda	2
England	7	Poland	3	Uruguay	2
Portugal	7	Saudi Arabia	3	Vietnam	2
Bandladesh	6	Argentina	2	Benin	1
Canada	6	Burkina Faso	2	Costa Rica	1
Denmark	6	Cameroon	2	Cote Ivoire	1
Germany	6	Ethiopia	2	Cyprus	1
Australia	6	France	2	Ecuador	1
Malaysia	5	Greece	2	Egypt	1
Nigeria	5	Mozambique	2	Iran	1
Thailand	5	Panama	2	Mexico	1
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>228*</b>

\* The total number of publications is 189. Some studies have more than 1 author and these authors are from different countries, therefore the total number according to countries has been calculated as 228.

**Source:** Established by the researchers by benefiting from the Web of Science database.

Table 3 displays the distribution of the studies on street food according to country. Studies on street food were conducted by authors from 51 countries in total. The countries conducting the most research on this subject are the USA (35 publications), India (15 publications), Brazil (13 publications) and South Africa (12 publications). Table 3 reveals that considering the potential of street food in Turkey, the number of studies on this subject is low.

**Table 4.** Distribution of Studies on Street Food according to Language

Publication Language	Number of Publications
English	176
Portuguese	6
French	3
German	1
Indonesian	1
Italian	1
Spanish	1

**Source:** Established by the researchers by benefiting from the Web of Science database.

The data in Table 4 obtained from WOS, which is an international database, indicate the languages in which the studies on street food have been published. According to the table, 176 of the 189 studies on street food were published in English, 6 in Portuguese, 3 in French, 1 in German, 1 in Indonesian, 1 in Italian and 1 in Spanish.

**Table 5.** Distribution of Studies on Street Food according to Journals

Sources	Number of Publications
Food Control	14
Library Journal	9
British Food Journal	6
Ciencia Saude Coletiva	4
Journal of Food Protection	4

**Source:** Established by the researchers by benefiting from the Web of Science database

Studies on street food can be encountered in 100 different sources. Five sources with the most publications out of 100 sources are given in Table 5. This information indicates that the journal “Food Control” is the source with the most publications (14 publications).

**Table 6.** Distribution of Studies on Street Food according to Authors

Authors	Number of Publications
Campbell L	5
Lunet N	5
Padrao P	5
Albuquerque G	4
Cardoso RDV	4

**Source:** Established by the researchers by benefiting from the Web of Science database

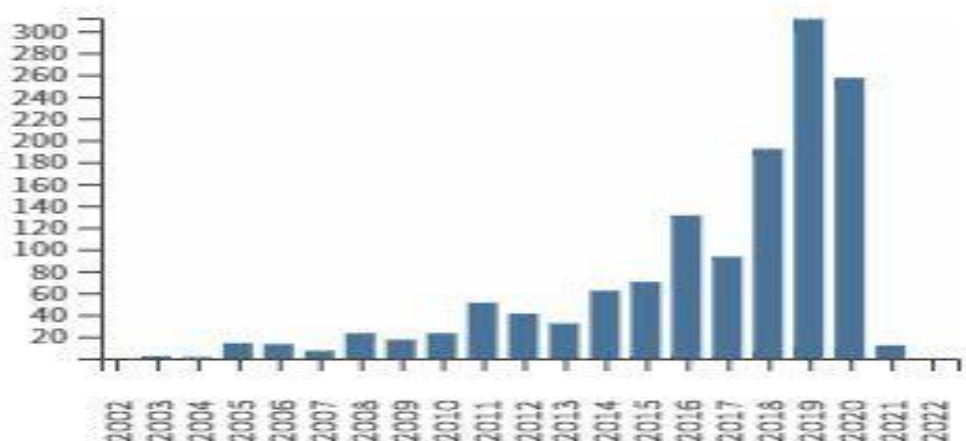
An examination of the studies on street food in the WOS database reveals a total of 100 authors. The first five authors who conducted studies on this subject are given in Table 6.

**Table 7.** Distribution of Studies on Street Food according to Institutions

Institutions	Number of Publications
Universidade Do Porto	7
University of Michigan	6
University of Michigan System	6
Universidade Federal Da Bahia	5
Diponegoro University	4

**Source:** Established by the researchers by benefiting from the Web of Science database

Table 7 indicates the distribution of studies on street food according to institutions. It has been determined that studies have been conducted on this subject by 59 different institutions. Table 7 includes the top five institutions that have carried out the most studies.



**Figure 1.** Distribution of Citations of Studies on Street Food by Years

**Source:** Web of Science (Access date: 31 January 2021)

The information obtained from the WOS database indicates that the first studies on street food started in 1988. Therefore, it is understood from Figure 1 that the first references were made in 2003. The most cited reference

regarding this topic was made in 2019. The total number of citations for all publications is 1372. Figure 1 indicates that the citations show an increasing trend in general and the studies on the subject have increased accordingly.

**Table 8.** Most Cited Studies on Street Food

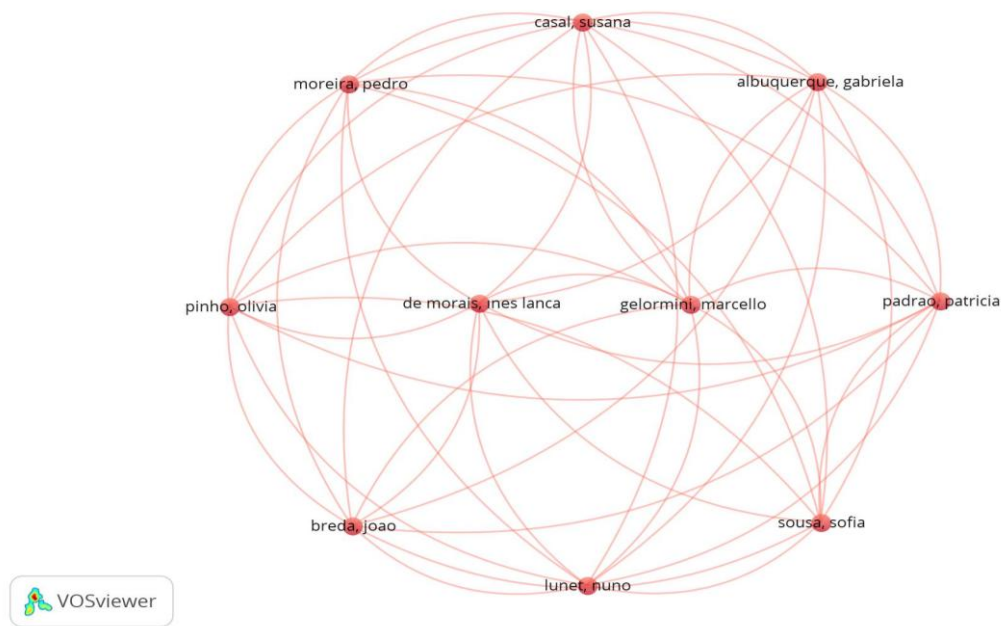
Name of Publication	Author	Source	Year of publication	Number of citations
Food safety knowledge and practices of street food vendors in the city of Abeokuta, Nigeria	Omemu, A. M.; Aderoju, S. T.	Food Control	2008	74
The street food trade in Africa: safety and socio-environmental issues	Ekanem, EO	Food Control	1998	71
Microbiological hazard identification and exposure assessment of street food vending in Johannesburg, South Africa	Mosupye, FM; von Holy, A	International Journal of Food Microbiology	2000	61
Keeping Up Appearances: Perceptions of Street Food Safety in Urban Kumasi, Ghana	Rheinlander, Thilde; Olsen, Mette; Bakang, John Abubakar; Takyi, Harriet; Konradsen, Flemming; Samuelsen, Helle	Journal of Urban Health-Bulletin of The New York Academy of Medicine	2008	60
Practices, knowledge and risk factors of street food vendors in Uganda	Muyanja, Charles; Nayiga, Leontina; Breda, Namugumya; Nasinyama, George	Food Control	2011	45
Hygienic status assessment of dish washing waters, utensils, hands and pieces of money from street food processing sites in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)	Barro, Nicolas; Bello, Abdoul R.; Aly, Savadogo; Ouattara, Cheik Amadou T.; Jules, Ilboudo A.; Traore, Alfred S.	African Journal of Biotechnology	2006	43
Food safety and hygiene practices of vendors during the chain of street food production in Florianopolis, Brazil: A cross-sectional study Food safety knowledge, attitudes and practices of street food vendors and consumers in Port-au-Prince, Haiti	Cortese, Rayza Dal Molin; Veiros, Marcela Boro; Feldman, Charles; Cavalli, Suzi Barletto	Food Control	2016	41
Food safety knowledge, attitudes and practices of street food vendors and consumers in Port-au-Prince, Haiti	Samapundo, S.; Climat, R.; Khaferi, R.; Devlieghere, F.	Food Control	2015	41
Assessing food safety and associated food handling practices in street food vending	Lues, Jan F. R.; Rasephei, Mpeli R.; Venter, Pierre; Theron, Maria M.	International Journal of Environmental Health Research	2006	39
Improving street food vending in South Africa: Achievements and lessons learned	von Holy, A.; Makhoane, F. M.	International Journal of Food Microbiology	2006	36

**Source:** Established by the researchers by benefiting from the Web of Science database.

The ten studies with the most cited street food are given in Table 8. These studies have been detailed according to the name of the publication, the name of the author, the source from which it was cited, the year of publication and the number of citations. The most cited study with 74 citations was an article titled “Food safety knowledge and

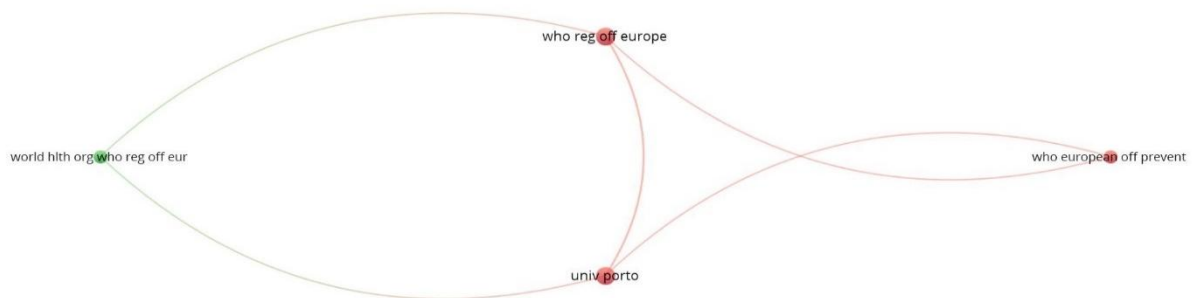


practices of street food vendors in the city of Abeokuta, Nigeria” published by “Omemu, A. M. & Aderoju, S. T.” in 2008 in the “Food Control” journal.



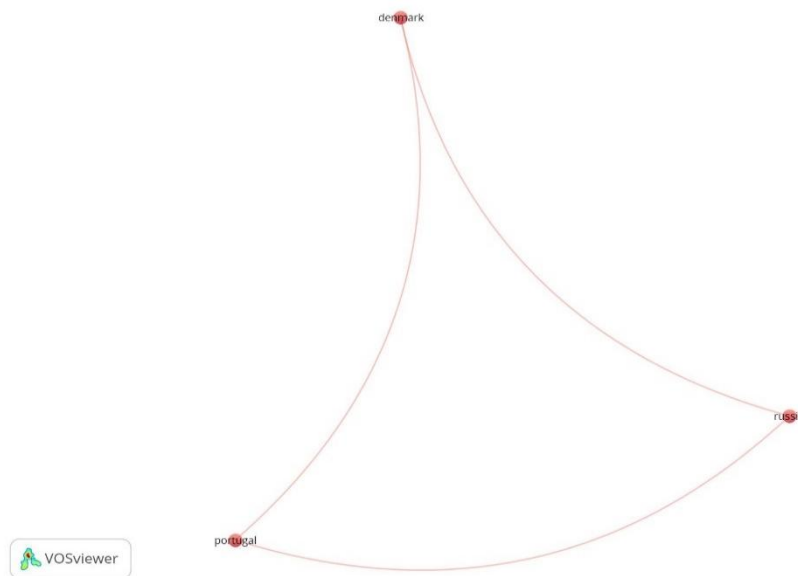
**Figure 2.** Most Collaborative Authors in Studies on Street Food

10 out of 29 authors in total meet the threshold value when the minimum number of documents and minimum number of citations of the author is selected as “1” in the program (VOSviewer). The information about the 10 most collaborating authors is visualized in Figure 2, and the most collaborative authors appear in 1 cluster in studies on street food. Each color represents a cluster. The size of the red circles portrays the image of the most collaborative author, but as can be seen, the circles of ten authors are the same size, indicating that all authors collaborate at the same rate.



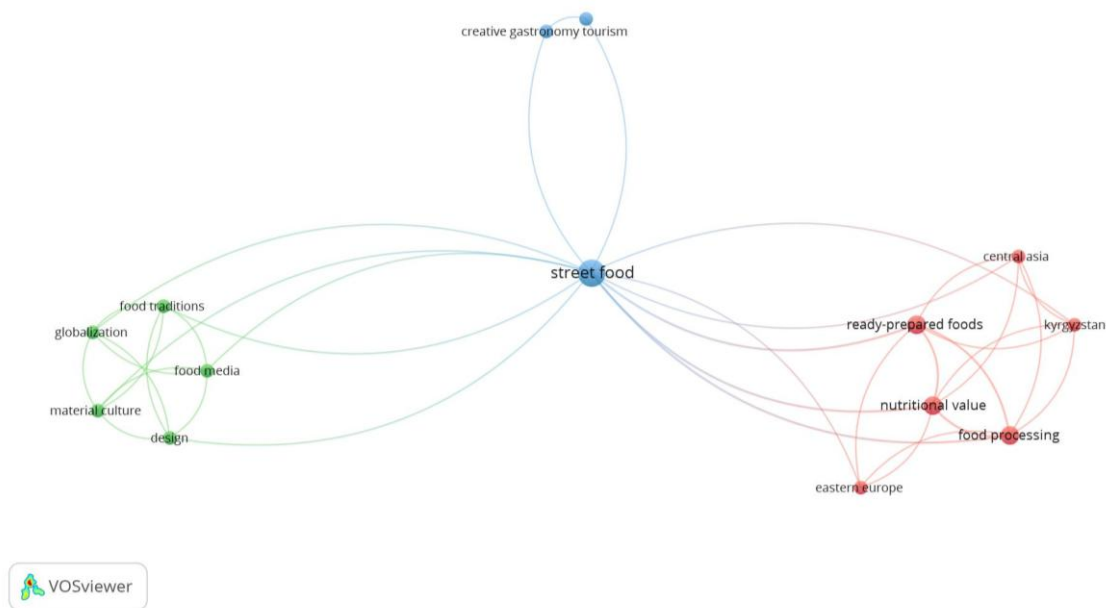
**Figure 3.** Most Collaborating Institutions in Studies on Street Food

When the minimum number of documents and minimum number of citations of the institution is selected as one in the program (VOSviewer), 16 out of 59 institutions in total meet the threshold value. Information on the institutions collaborating the most in the studies on Street Food is visualized in Figure 3, and these institutions appear in 2 clusters. Each color forms a cluster. As the size of the red circle indicates, the most collaborating institution is “who reg off Europe” and “univ porto”.



**Figure 4.** Most Collaborating Countries in Studies on Street Food

When the minimum number of documents and minimum number of citations of the country is selected as one in the program (VOSviewer), 3 out of 13 countries in total meet the threshold value. The information for the countries that collaborate the most in the studies on street food is visualized in Figure 4, and these countries appear as 1 cluster. These countries are Portugal, Denmark and Russia.



**Figure 5.** Keywords Network on Studies on Street Food

Mapping based on text data in the VOSviewer program was used to identify the most commonly used keywords for studies on street food. When the minimum use of the keyword is selected as 1 in the program, 14 out of 39 keywords in total meet the threshold value. According to Figure 5, keywords are visualized in 3 clusters. The words in the first cluster were visualized in red and defined as “Central Asia, Eastern Europe, food processing, Kyrgyzstan, nutritional value, convenience foods”. The word in the second separate cluster was visualized in green and defined as “food traditional, food media, globalization and material culture, design”, and the third separate cluster was visualized in blue and defined as “Street food, creative gastronomy tourism and Teheran's 30 pavement street”.

According to this information, the most frequently used keywords were “Street food (42 times), food (30 times), porto (26 times), study (24 times), food control (17), padrao (13 times) and center dot (11 times)”.

## Conclusion

Bibliometric analysis allows the measurement and evaluation of research on any subject. Related publications made with bibliometric analysis compiles various details such as years of publication, types of publication, institutions, supporting institutions, authors, sources, countries, languages, fields of research, citations, etc. as data and these data contribute significantly to the analysis of the current situation and determining future publication strategies in this field. Furthermore, it enables researchers to identify any subject in international literature and what other issues related to this topic are available.

It is known that gastronomy, which has developed in recent years, has a positive contribution on tourism. On the other hand, gastronomic elements, which are also considered cultural heritage, play a very important role in the development of touristic destinations. In this context, the increase in scientific research on gastronomy tourism manifests the importance of the subject and the examination of the status of scientific publications on this subject is considered a necessity.

Accordingly, a bibliometric analysis of the studies carried out on street food has been made and 189 academic publications have been accessed through the WOS database. VOSviewer software was used to visualize the results of the data analyzed by considering various criteria.

When the distribution of the studies on street food by years was examined, it was observed that the first study in the relevant database was published in 1988. It was determined that the most research was conducted in 2019. In general, it is possible to say that studies on street food have increased in recent years. It has been determined that the studies on this subject are mostly published articles in addition to books and papers. The analysis indicates that the country that publishes the most about street food is the United States of America. In addition, it has been determined that studies on this subject are mainly published in English.

Articles on street food have been published mostly in the Food Control journal, and one of the most published authors in this field is Lisa Campbell. The institution where the most research was done was Universidade Do Porto. The most citations involving street food were made in 2019. The study with the most citations totaling 74 were mentioned in the article titled Food safety knowledge and practices of street food vendors in the city of Abeokuta, Nigeria written by Omemu, A. M . and published by Aderoju, S.T. in the Food Control journal.

The most collaborative authors, institutions and countries in street food studies were determined with an analysis made with the VOSviewer program. It was determined that ten authors collaborated the most, and all of them collaborated at the same rate. Most of the studies carried out about street food have been done by “who reg off Europe” and “univ porto” and the most collaborative countries are mostly separate countries, namely Portugal, Denmark and Russia.

The common keywords used in publications for street food were determined through the analysis. The analysis revealed that the most used keywords were “Street food,” “food,” “porto,” “study,” “food control,” “padrao,” and “center dot”.

An overall evaluation indicates that research on street food has increased in recent years. Studies that influence the literature make important contributions to the formation and development of the relevant discipline. It is thought that this study will make great contributions and serve as a guide to both the field of street food and the researchers who have shaped this area. Furthermore, using a bibliometric analysis and WOS, an international database, and the choice of VOSviewer software for analysis and visualization in street food studies is a contribution to the literature and method.

The use of Scopus database, which is an important international database in social sciences in addition to WOS, will make a more comprehensive contribution to the field in future studies and provide the opportunity for comparisons. In addition, the repetition of bibliometric studies on this subject at certain intervals will provide important information about development in the area and a detailed survey will reveal any deficiencies in the relevant field.

### Declaration

The contribution of all authors of the article to the article process is equal. There is no conflict of interest to be declared by the authors.

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