

## The Status of Children's and Young Adults' Literature in Google Scholar (A Scientometric Study)

Mahdi Mohammadi<sup>1\*</sup>, Rahil Karimian<sup>2</sup>, Hadiseh Heidari<sup>3</sup>

Received: June, 12, 2025; Revised: October, 11, 2025

Accepted: November, 2, 2025; Published: December, 1, 2025

### Abstract

**Purpose:** This study aims to identify the position of children's and young adult literature within Google Scholar using a scientometric approach.

**Methodology:** This applied scientometric research analyzed the profiles of researchers who listed "Children and Young Adult Literature" as a research interest in their Google Scholar profiles. A researcher-developed checklist was used for data extraction, with analysis performed using Microsoft Excel 2022 and IBM SPSS 2023.

**Findings:** Fifty-nine researchers on Google Scholar indicated an interest in this field, comprising 46 women and 13 men. Collectively, they have published 2,098 works, receiving 8,926 total citations. However, only 640 citations were specifically attributed to publications in children's and young adult literature. The most active researchers were affiliated with institutions in Indonesia, Iran, and India. The predominant academic backgrounds were literature, educational sciences, and English language studies, with the majority holding a PhD. The top three researchers by overall profile metrics were Seyit ATEŞ, Dilek Altun, and Zakir Ali Rajnish. In terms of publications specific to the field, Seyit ATEŞ, Angelica Hobjila, and Mahdi Mohammadi were the most prominent.

**Conclusion:** Google Scholar can serve as a valuable tool for mapping the research landscape of children's and young adult literature. However, inherent limitations of the platform can constrain its utility for comprehensive scientometric analysis.

**Value:** This study represents the first quantitative investigation to systematically examine the challenges and opportunities of using Google Scholar data for scientometric purposes in this specific field, providing actionable insights into its current research state.

**Keywords:** *Google scholar, Social network Analysis, Scientometrics, Literature, Children and Young Adults.*

### How to Cite:

Mohammadi, M., Karimian, R., & Heidari, H. (2026). The status of children and young adults literature in Google Scholar (A scientometric study). *Journal of Knowledge-Research Studies*, 4 (4), 120-139.

Doi: [10.22034/jkrs.2025.20685](https://doi.org/10.22034/jkrs.2025.20685)

URL: [https://jkrs.tabrizu.ac.ir/article\\_20684.html?lang=en](https://jkrs.tabrizu.ac.ir/article_20684.html?lang=en)

Article Type: Original Article

©The Author(s)

Publisher: University of Tabriz

E-ISSN: [2821-045X](https://doi.org/10.22034/jkrs.2025.20685)

The paper is an open access and licensed under the Creative Commons CC BY NC license.



1. Associated Professor, Department of Knowledge and Information Science, Faculty of Literature and Humanities, University of Qom, Qom, Iran, (corresponding author) mahdi.mohammadi203@gmail.com
2. PhD Student, Department of Knowledge and Information Science, Faculty of Literature and Humanities, University of Qom, Qom, Iran.
3. PhD Student, Department of Information Science, Faculty of Educational sciences and Psychology, Alzhra University, Tehran, Iran.

## **Extended Abstract**

**Introduction:** Children's and young adult literature encompasses works created for children and adolescents. It also includes texts that, although primarily intended for children as the primary recipients, have been embraced by adult readers over time (Deszcz- Tryhubczak & García- González, 2023). Early academic engagement with this literature focused on analyzing works produced for and about young people. However, the growing volume of publications eventually necessitated thorough evaluation. This process of assessment gradually shifted scholarly approaches and fostered the emergence of dedicated researchers in children's and young adult literature. The rise of specialized researchers, in turn, helped establish children's and young adult literature as a formal academic discipline, leading to the creation of dedicated university programs. Once the field gained institutional recognition, the need for systematic scientific evaluation of research output and impact followed. This is where the field of scientometrics becomes relevant. Scientometrics—the quantitative study of scholarly communication—provides tools to analyze the scientific status of publications, researchers, groups, institutions, and entire fields. Consequently, scientometric studies require a clearly defined research context (Chapman & Ellinger, 2019; Holmberg, 2018, p. 83). The development of scientometrics spurred the creation of specialized bibliographic databases such as Web of Science (ISI), Scopus, and ISC. Among these, Google Scholar, launched in 2010, has grown rapidly. Despite its relatively recent inception, it has become a major platform due to its advantages: ease of access, extensive journal coverage, free availability, and frequent updates. It now stands as one of the most important scientific social networks, enabling researchers worldwide to create profiles, share their work, and track publication and citation metrics, thereby offering a comprehensive overview of scholarly activity (Zeb et al., 2021). Therefore, this study addresses the following main research question: What is the status of research and researchers in the field of children's and young adult literature within the Google Scholar network?

**Purpose:** The primary objective of this study is to investigate the status of research and researchers in the field of children's and young adult literature on Google Scholar. Specifically, it aims to address the following research questions:

1. How many researchers on Google Scholar have listed children's and young adult literature as a research interest, and what is their total publication output?
2. What is the gender distribution (female-to-male ratio) among these researchers within this field on the Google Scholar network?
3. How are researchers in this field distributed across different countries on the Google Scholar network?
4. What is the disciplinary background distribution of these researchers (i.e., from which academic fields do they primarily originate)?
5. What is the distribution of the highest educational degrees obtained by these researchers?
6. a) Who are the top ten researchers in this field based on overall Google Scholar profile metrics (e.g., citations, h-index)?  
b) Who are the top ten researchers based specifically on their publications within children's and young adult literature?

7. What are the ten most cited publications and the ten leading journals in the field of children's and young adult literature, as indexed by Google Scholar?

**Methodology:** This study is an applied research project conducted using a scientometric approach. The research population comprises all scholars who have listed "Children's and Young Adult Literature" as a research interest in their personal Google Scholar profiles. After identifying these researchers, their profiles were examined to extract the following data: name, country, academic discipline, total number of publications, total citations, h-index, and i10-index. Data were collected and analyzed using a researcher-developed checklist, Microsoft Excel 2022, and IBM SPSS 2023.

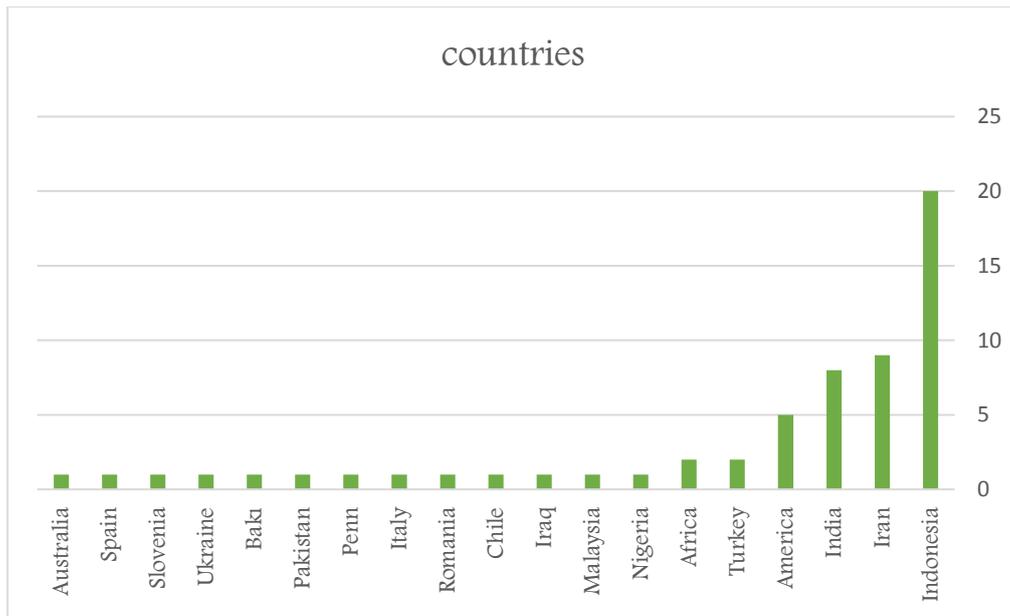
**Findings:** As presented in Table 1, a total of 59 researchers listed children's and young adult literature as a field of interest on their Google Scholar profiles. However, a detailed examination of their publication records reveals a significant discrepancy between their declared interest and their actual research output in this specific field. For instance, the highest-ranked researcher in this dataset, Seyit ATEŞ, has published 164 works, of which only 23 (approximately 14%) pertain to children's and young adult literature. More notably, the analysis showed that some researchers who declared an interest in this field had no recorded publications in it whatsoever. Specifically, of the 59 interested researchers, 45 (76.3%) had at least one publication in the field of children's and young adult literature, while 14 researchers (23.7%) had no publications in this area, despite listing it as an interest.



**Table 1. Number of researchers in the field of children's and young adult literature on the social network Google Scholar**

Frequency Component	Frequency	Number of works	Number of citations	Rate of citations per work Gender	Gender	
					Female	Male
Number of researchers interested in the field of children's and young adult literature	59	2098	8926	4.25	46	13
Number of researchers with research works in the field of children's and young adult literature	45	273	640	2.34	35	10

As illustrated in Figure 1, researchers in this field represent 19 different nationalities. Indonesia is the most represented country, with 20 researchers. Iran, with 9 researchers, and India, with 8, hold the second and third positions, respectively. The distribution suggests a pronounced regional interest, with Asian countries-particularly Indonesia, Iran, India, and to some extent Turkey-demonstrating greater engagement in this academic domain.



**Figure 1. The participation of researchers from different countries**



Furthermore, an analysis of the researchers' academic disciplines revealed that those holding degrees in literature constituted the largest group, with 22 researchers (37%). This was followed by educational sciences with 10 researchers (17%), and English language/literature with 8 researchers (14%). In terms of highest degree obtained, the PhD was predominant, held by 36 researchers (63%).

As presented in Table 2, the top ten researchers in this dataset based on overall Google Scholar metrics are as follows: Seyit ATEŞ (2,500 citations), Dilek Altun (813 citations), and Zakir Ali Rajnish (668 citations) rank first through third, respectively. Regarding publications specifically within the field of children's and young adult literature, Seyit ATEŞ (35 works), Angelica Hobjila (23 works), and Mahdi Mohammadi (21 works) are among the top ten contributors.

**Table 2. The top ten researchers in the field of children's and young adult literature, without considering their works in the field of children's literature and including their works in the field of children's and young adult literature.**

Row	Ten most prolific researchers, considering all works					Ten most prolific researchers in the field of children's literature				
	Name & Family Name	Number of works	Number of citations	H-Index	i10-index	Name & Family Name	Number of works	Number of citations	H-Index	i10-index
1	Seyit ATEŞ	165	2500	28	46	Seyit ATEŞ	35	508	12	12
2	Dilek Altun	88	813	17	22	Angelica Hobjila	23	29	3	2
3	Zakir Ali Rajnish	32	668	11	11	Mahdi Mohammadi	21	10	3	0
4	Andi Febriana Tamrin	52	664	14	16	Dilek Altun	20	229	8	7
5	Nia Budiana	25	565	9	8	Obaid Raza	17	9	1	0
6	Mehri Parirokh	88	506	11	13	Novi Rahmania Aquaiza	15	22	3	0

Ten most prolific researchers, considering all works						Ten most prolific researchers in the field of children's literature				
Row	Name & Family Name	Number of works	Number of citations	H-Index	i10-index	Name & Family Name	Number of works	Number of citations	H-Index	i10-index
7	Clara Evi Citraningtyas	48	463	7	2	Ahid Hidayat	15	10	2	0
8	Obaid Raza	367	441	9	9	Clara Evi Citraningtyas	12	34	4	0
9	Sola Owolabi	49	401	11	12	Mehri Parirokh	8	20	2	0
10	Retno Purnama Irawati	62	299	10	11	Retno Purnama Irawati	7	64	3	2



Journal of  
Knowledge-Research  
Studies (JKRS)

Vol 4

Issue 4

Serial Number 14

Regarding publication impact, the three most-cited works in the field of children's and young adult literature are: "The effect of cognitively-oriented writing processes on fourth-grade students' writing skills" with 71 citations; "The efficacy of multimedia stories in preschoolers' explicit and implicit story comprehension" with 57 citations; "Pengembangan buku ajar bahasa indonesia tematik berkarakter bagi siswa sd melalui sastra anak" (English: "Development of a thematic, character-based Indonesian language textbook for elementary school students through children's literature") with 36 citations.

Furthermore, among the top ten journals publishing in this field, the leading three are *Children and Youth Services Review*, *Children*, and *Children's Geographies*, respectively.

**Conclusion:** Scientometric analysis utilizing the Google Scholar social network can serve as a valuable tool for mapping the current research landscape of children's and young adult literature. However, the platform's inherent limitations and data inconsistencies currently hinder its reliability for robust scientometric output. Should the platform's administrators address these shortcomings—such as refining profile verification and field-specific metadata—Google Scholar has the potential to become a principal and highly useful source for the data required in scientometric research.

**Value:** This study represents the first scientometric investigation of children's and young adult literature conducted via Google Scholar. It provides a foundational profile of scientific production and researcher participation patterns within this field on the platform. Furthermore, it critically examines the challenges of using Google Scholar for such analyses, thereby paving the way for methodological improvements and more effective research processes in future studies.

## References

- Dokhani, F., & Moradi, S. (2018). *A look at altmetrics and their applications in science and technology evaluation*. National Research Institute for Science Policy. [https://book.nrisp.ac.ir/book\\_30.html](https://book.nrisp.ac.ir/book_30.html) [In Persian]

- Dehghanpour, Z., Samadi, L., & Norouzi Chakli, A. (2023). Analysis of functional and structural approaches of scientific communications in knowledge production by scientometrics researchers in Iran. *Scientometrics Research*, 9(1), 259–286. <http://doi.org/10.22070/rsci.2021.15031.1526> [In Persian]
- Jabari, D. A., & Radad, I. (2019). Examining story elements in children's books for age group "J" published between 2011–2015. *Public Libraries and Information Research*, 25(1), 117–152. <http://publij.ir/article-1-1958-fa.html> [In Persian]
- Sharifi, V. (2003). Scientometrics and cognitive sciences. *Cognitive Science Updates*, 5(2), 89–92. <https://icssjournal.ir/article-1-200-fa.html> [In Persian]
- Shamsi, E., Heydari, H., & Chanbari, Z. (2020). Scientific collaboration of authors in *Payesh* journal between 2011 and 2018. *Caspian Scientometrics*, 7(1), 42–51. <http://doi.org/10.22088/cjs.7.1.42> [In Persian]
- Norouzi Chakli, A. (2023). *Introduction to scientometrics: Principles, concepts, relations, and ideas*. Samt. <https://samt.ac.ir/fa/book/99/> [In Persian]
- Norouzi Chakli, A. (2012). Role and position of scientometric studies in development. *Journal of Information Processing and Management*, 27(3), 723–736. [https://jipm.irandoc.ac.ir/article\\_699164.html](https://jipm.irandoc.ac.ir/article_699164.html) [In Persian]
- Nozari, S. (2022). Books, libraries, and children's librarianship in theses and dissertations in Iran. *University Library and Information Research*, 56(3), 13–28. <http://doi.org/10.22059/JLIB.2022.350511.1653> [In Persian]
- Holmberg, K. (2015). *Altmetrics for information professionals: Past, present, future* (M. Sedighi, Trans., 2018). Iranian Research Institute for Information Science and Technology: Chapar. <https://www.gisoom.com/book/11494404/> [In Persian]
- Antwi-Afari, P., Ng, S. T., & Hossain, M. U. (2021). A review of the circularity gap in the construction industry through scientometric analysis. *Journal of cleaner production*, 298, 126870. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2021.126870>
- Bayraktar, A. (2021). Value of Children's Literature and Students' Opinions Regarding Their Favourite Books. *International Journal of Progressive Education*, 17(4), 341-357. <https://doi.org/10.29329/ijpe.2021.366.21>
- Chapman, K., & Ellinger, A. E. (2019). An evaluation of Web of Science, Scopus and Google Scholar citations in operations management. *The International Journal of Logistics Management*, 30(4), 1039-1053. <https://doi.org/10.1108/ijlm-04-2019-0110>
- Chen, X. X., & Chen, W. H. (2025). Core Themes and Emerging Trends in International Children's Literature Research: A Bibliometric Analysis. *Children's Literature in Education*, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10583-025-09613-2>
- Clarivate Analytics. (2021). *Web of Science: A Comprehensive Research Platform*. Retrieved from Web of Science.
- Deszcz- Tryhubczak, J., & García- González, M. (2023). Thinking and doing with childism in children's literature studies. *Children & Society*, 37(4), 1037-1051. <https://doi.org/10.1111/chso.12619>
- Garcia-Rodriguez, A., & Gomez-Diaz, R. (2018). Children's and youth literature in scientific journals: analysis and characterization using WoS and Scopus databases (1985-2017). *History of Education & Children's Literature*, 13(2), 405-419. <https://doi.org/10.1400/266708>
- Haba-osca, J., Ambròs, A., & Osca-lluch, J. (2018). Scientific Production in Children's Literature Through the Web of Science. *Language Teaching and Educational Research*, 1(1), 78-93. <https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/latr/issue/37194/378965>
- Mohammadi, M., Azadeh, F., & Babalhavaeji, F. (2010). Content analysis-based studies of Iranian literature for children and young adults, 1974-2007: A review. *IFLA journal*, 36(2), 166-175. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0340035210370101>
- Olawumi, T. O., & Chan, D. W. (2018). A scientometric review of global research on sustainability and sustainable development. *Journal of cleaner production*, 183, 231-250. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2018.02.162>



- Sen, E. (2021). Children's Literature as a Pedagogical Tool: A Narrative Inquiry. *International Online Journal of Education and Teaching*, 8(3), 2028-2048. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1308046.pdf>
- Shi, C., Qu, L., Zhang, Q., & Li, X. (2021). A systematic review on comprehensive sloping farmland utilization based on a perspective of scientometrics analysis. *Agricultural Water Management*, 244, 106564. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agwat.2020.106564>
- Wang, H. (2024). Children's book illustrations from China and Ukraine: Comparison of different formats. *Children & Society*, 38(2), 505-523. <https://doi.org/10.1111/chso.12720>
- Wu, J. F. (2019). Research on picture books: A comparative study of Asia and the World. *Malaysian Journal of Library & Information Science*, 24(2), 73-95. <https://doi.org/10.22452/mjlis.vol24no2.5>
- Zeb, A., Liu, W., Wu, J., Lian, J., & Lian, Y. (2021). Knowledge domain and emerging trends in nanoparticles and plants interaction research: A scientometric analysis. *NanoImpact*, 21, 100278. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.impact.2020.100278>
- Zhu, K., & Guo, G. (2024). A Bibliometric Analysis of Translation Studies of Children's Literature and Its Implications. *Journal of Scientometric Research*, 13(1), 260–271. <https://doi.org/10.5530/jscires.13.1.22>
- Tamimi, G., & Ghiyasvand, P. (2016, October 7). *Children's and adolescents' literature and its reflection in mass media*. Mashhad. <https://civilica.com/doc/581734> [In Persian]



**Journal of  
Knowledge-Research  
Studies (JKRS)**

**Vol 4**

**Issue 4**

**Serial Number 14**