



Review of Futures Studies Papers in Iranian Scientific Journals from 2008 to 2022

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Abstract

Purpose: The present study aims to show the similarities and differences of the 18 sub-fields related to each of the six concepts of futures studies, foresight, futurology, future thinking, futurism and future mining by studying and comparing the topics investigated in the scientific productions of futures studies (in its general sense).

Method: The method of collecting information and the method of analysis are scientific and specialized library research. Data analysis was done using Excel software. The research is descriptive-exploratory in terms of practical purpose and in terms of nature and method, was carried out using scientometric techniques and qualitative approach in order to collect data to conceptualize and provide prescriptive analysis. The basis of analyzes is scientific research and scientific promotion articles indexed in the database of Iranian scientific publications (Magiran).

Findings: The results show that the highest frequency of articles in the field of futures studies is urban and regional 205 articles, religious and religious 128 articles, and defense and military 102 articles. In addition, the highest rate of growth of articles in the studied fields is in 2022.

Conclusion: The results of this research are in line with the comparison of the frequency of scientific articles published in the six studied concepts related to the future in the fifteen-year period of 2008 to 2022, and the results of the analysis show that the highest frequency of articles is related to the concept of futures studies with 822 and foresight with 279 respectively .The research title is dedicated. In addition, the highest growth of articles in these fifteen years is for the concept of futures studies.

Keywords: Futures Studies, Foresight, Futurology, Future thinking, Futurism, Future Mining, Scientometrics.

Cite this article: Shirvani Naghani, Moslem. Koulivand, Khalil .Ejabi, Ebrahim. Mohammadbeigi, fatemeh (2023), Review of Futures Studies Papers in Iranian Scientific Journals from 2008 to 2022 Research Article, Volume.8, NO.2 fall & winter 2023, 1-30

DOI: 10.30479/JFS.2023.18178.1452

Received on: 19 December2022, **Accepted on:** 23 April, 2023

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Publisher: Imam Khomeini International University

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Introduction

The rise of Futures Studies Transdisciplinary after the Second World War caused the abandonment of occultism and prophetic prophecies. Despite various ups and downs during recent decades, this super-discipline has always tried to provide scientific propositions about the future (Kuosa, 2011: 327-336). In the meantime, various approaches and concepts have been produced in the field of future research (Sardar, 2010: 177-184) and various areas have been studied (Fergnani, 2019). In Iran, futures studies activities entered the field of scientific studies since the 1970s, although studies focused on the future have been carried out sporadically. Futures Studies is based on scientific foundations and according to its characteristics, it can be very helpful and effective in various fields of long-term planning in the country at micro and macro levels (Shirvani Naghani et al., 2016).

Examining the various fields studied in the field of futures studies and checking their suitability with the requirements and needs of the country will lead to better decisions and save money and time. Therefore, this research seeks to examine the trend of futures studies scientific productions in various fields and various topics and to analyze their commonalities and differences. But before this investigation, it is necessary to identify various concepts that are applied to futures studies in general. According to research of Geraei and Heydari (2016), the most words and concepts used to name the field of futures studies in a general way are futures studies, Foresight, futurology, future thinking, futurism and future Mining, which are also in this article, the same category has been used to examine futures studies (in its general sense). In this research, to examine the various fields studied in futures studies (in its general sense and including all the six mentioned concepts), based on the opinion of experts from an 18 categories including political fields; economy and business; cultural and social; Science and Technology; environment and climate; religious (Islamic); Conceptology, epistemology and methodology; Education; defense and military; urban and regional; Energy; Sanitation and Health; Tourism; Sport; Transportation; Media; Human resources and human capital and the last field of agriculture have been used.

With regard to the above explanations, this research will examine the diversity and dispersion of scientifically produced topics in the field of futures studies (in its general sense) and will try to answer the following questions:

1. What is the status of the publication of futures studies articles (in its general sense) in Iranian scientific journals in 18 fields?
2. What is the growth rate of futures studies (in its general sense) in each of the 18 fields compared to each other?
3. How is the overlap of the 18 fields studied in futures studies (in its general sense)?
4. How is the overlap of the 6 studied concepts in futures studies (in its general sense)?

Methodology

Since the field of futures studies does not have a specific and independent subject category in the country's publications database (Magiran), in order to retrieve articles related to this field, it is necessary to use a different method other than selecting a subject category for this task. In this regard, according to the questions raised in the introduction section and in the form of a specialized and thematic search in the raised areas, the research was investigated in the period from 2008 to 2022, i.e. a period of fifteen years. In extracting the statistics presented in this research, this feature of the Magiran site, which has an advanced search, was used, and the statistics of the subjects in question were extracted in 18 fields, and statistical analysis and graphing were done with Excel software. In the advanced search section, Magiran site provides the possibility to search for any desired term in the search field as "contains the same term". When searching, it should be kept in mind that two-word expressions should not be separated from each other by half a space, but the sign "-" should be used, for example, when we want to search for the word futures studies, we should search in the form of "futures-studies" to do considering the above feature, between the years 2008 and 2022, all articles in the field of futures studies (taking into account its general meaning) registered in the "Scientific Journals" section in the "Magiran" database were retrieved. Based on this, bibliographic information and other related information and data were extracted and stored from this database on August 31, 2022. These data were the basis of further analyzes and their connections with other fields of study.

Results and Conclusion

The results of the studies showed that based on the articles published on the Magiran website, the researches related to futures studies (in its general sense) have enjoyed a significant growth in these fifteen years, from the number of 16 titles in 2008 in six concepts related to the growth 11/18 has reached 179 titles in 2021 and 81 titles in the first five months of 2022.

The highest growth of articles in these fifteen years is dedicated to the concept of future studies, which increased from 6 titles in 2008 to 136 titles in 2022 with a growth of 22.66 times, and also in the first five months of 2022, there were 67 research titles.

From the results of this research, it appears that the two concepts of futures studies and foresight among these six concepts have the highest percentage of research interest among researchers, and the urban and regional field also has the highest percentage of articles published in these two concepts, so that Zero research titles in 2008 reached 9 titles in 2022, which indicates a 9-fold growth in 2022.

According to the findings of the research, it is suggested to the active researchers of the country in the field of futures studies and foresight to pay more attention to the two subject areas of "Economy and Business" and "Culture and Society". Because economy and business are the main necessity of the country now and in the future, and it has not been in the focus of attention enough in the previous futures studies and foresight. On the other hand, in order to improve business and economic development, it is necessary to pay attention to the cultural and social context of the

country, which unfortunately has been neglected in the previous futures studies and foresight.

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