

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Review of Journals about Environmental and Occupational Health.

Running title: Review of Environmental and Occupational Health Journals

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Abstract

Health in workforce leads to economic success and population health. It is essential that the results of research about the work environment and occupational health be published in relevant journals. The aim of this study was to review specialized journals about the work environment and occupational health field. This descriptive study was conducted in 2018. The Scimago Journal & Country Rank (SJR) portal was used to search for the journals related to occupational health. NLM catalog of the PubMed database was searched to find and characterize journals. In the initial search, 508 titles of journals were found in the SJR portal in the public health, Environmental and Occupational Health field from which 38 specific journals publish articles related to

environmental and occupational health. United States with 11 journals and the United Kingdom with 9 journals publish the maximum number of specific journals. Taylor & Francis Company publish most of these journals and only eight of them are open access. Five of these eight journals are published in Asia. *Occupational and Environmental Medicine Journal* has a higher impact factor (IF=3.965). The oldest journal began publication in 1949. Articles on environmental and occupational health are published in public health journals and specialized journals. Researchers can select the best journal related to environmental and occupational health to publish articles and the authors can publish their articles in any of the journals of this list, depending on the quality, time, place of research and the budget of the study. **Key words:** Occupations; Environment; Health; Database; Descriptive

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Introduction:

Health is one of the challenges that people have always faced. (1) Occupational health is one of the issues that has attracted great attention recently. Many people are in the work environment for long periods to earn their livelihood. (2) Health in workforce leads to economic success and population health. "Health promotion in the workplace is defined as preventing, minimizing and eliminating health hazards, and maintaining and promoting work ability. Worker health and wellness is maintaining a balance of the physical, mental and social ingredients, as well as health habits associated with good

physical condition, energy and vitality”. (3) Previous research has shown that the work environment can have an important role in the incidence and prevalence of some diseases in workers and employees. (4-6)

Journals in the health field publish the findings of new research to provide appropriate solutions for the problems in health and in cultural, social and economic issues of the community. The results of health research are published in two public health and specialized journals. (7) PubMed, PubMed Central (PMC), MEDLINE, SCOPUS and Web of Science are the most important databases of medical journal literature in the world. (8)

Due to the advances in information technology, the publication of content has been converted from traditional print to electronic format. (9) The first electronic journals were published nearly 20 years ago. Electronic journals have been developed for disseminating new knowledge and promoting science for solving the problems and limitations of traditional print. (10) Journals should consider some criteria for quality control before they accept reports for publication. (11)

Researchers have become interested in the use of various resources of scientific results of research since many years ago. Access to the results of researches in various forms such as scientific articles, books, etc. is important in all the stages of a research, including collecting the history and preparing the proposal of the research for comparing the results of different research studies. Researchers can search the favorite titles in specialized journals or global databases and access articles by subscribing in their website or purchasing the articles. The use of valid results of studies will increase the credibility and scientific reputation of that research. Researchers can increase their chances for publishing articles in specialized journals by updating information about journals, reviewing articles in recent issues of a journal, and by considering the requirements for writing articles in the journal; they should also have the necessary information on the costs of publishing articles and other useful

information. (7) Therefore, in each field it is necessary for professionals and students to recognize specialized journals. Furthermore, it is essential that the results of research about the work environment and occupational health be published in relevant journals. In addition, based on the results of these studies, institutions consider the best strategies for promoting health in the workplace. Therefore the aim of this study was to collect important data and review specialized journals about the work environment and occupational health field to help researchers and planners apply and use this information.

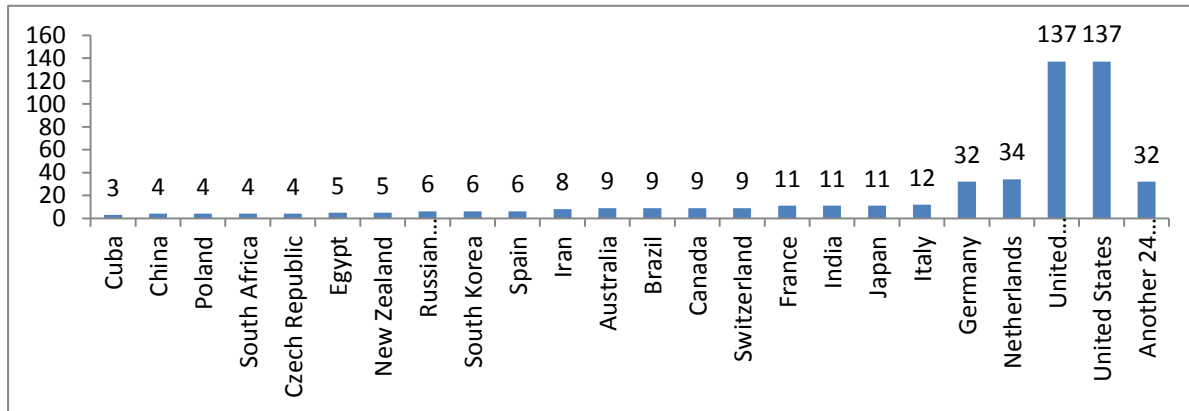
Materials and Methods:

This descriptive study was conducted in 2018. The Scimago Journal & Country Rank (SJR) portal was used to search the titles of the journals related to occupational health. All the journals in this portal are indexed in Scopus database. The terms ‘public health’ and ‘environmental and occupational health’ in the subject categories in 2017 and journal type, without country limitations, were searched in the SJR. Then information about the journals was downloaded in the Excel format. To find a special title of journals about occupational health, the title column was filtered by the words ‘occupation’ and ‘work’. Rows of information about these journals were selected and copied in a new Excel file. Finally, some important data such as title of the journal, SJR quartile, country, categories and so on were investigated. To find the websites of these journals the titles of the journals were searched in Google, too. NLM catalog of the PubMed database was searched to find the abbreviations of journal titles, publication start year and frequency of publishing in a year. Impact factor of ISI journals was extracted via the website of each journal and the resource finder site of the Ministry of Health in Iran (<http://rsf.research.ac.ir/>).

Results

In the initial search, 508 titles of journals were found in the SJR portal in the public health, Environmental and

Chart 1
Frequencies of public health journals in the world.



Occupational Health field. All these journals publish articles on public health and occupational health field, too. These journals are published in 47 countries. In addition, 23 countries publish three or more journals in the public health field. The United States and United Kingdom with 137 journals have the greatest number of journals (Chart 1). Of these, 38 journals publish articles, especially in the occupational health field. United States with 11 journals and the United Kingdom with 9 journals publish the maximum number of journals in the occupational health. All these journals, except the Iranian Occupational Health Journal, publish articles in the English language. However, the abstracts of the Iranian Occupational Health Journal articles, are published in both the English and Persian languages. Some of these journals still publish articles in the print format. Taylor & Francis Company publish most of the journals. All the journals are indexed in Scopus and some of them are indexed in PubMed and Web of Science, too. Only eight of these journals are open access. Five of these eight journals are published in Asia. The first open access journal is published since 1994 in Germany (Table 1). Four journals have Q1 score in SJR quartile. *Occupational and Environmental Medicine Journal* has a higher impact factor. (IF=3.965) In the past year, these journals published 2353 articles on occupational

health. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* has published the greatest number of articles in the past year with 247 articles. Publication start year for the oldest journal is 1949 and the newest journal began publication in 2017. Two journals publish articles only in the print format (Table 2).

Discussion

The results of this study showed that researchers have paid attention to public health and many articles have been published in this field since many years ago. One of the important topics of research in these journals is environmental and occupational health. In this field, journals are divided into two categories: public health journals and specialized journals. The majority of public health journals, which also publish the results of research into environmental and occupational health, are published in European countries and the United States. Among Asian countries, Japan, India and Iran have the highest number of these journals. A large number of journals in European and American countries indicate the importance of research into public health topics in these countries. Despite the high population density in Asian countries, the number of public health journals is very low in these countries, (12) which might be attributed to many

Table 1
Public characteristics of occupational health journals

N	Title	Language	Publication Start Year	Frequency	Index	Country	Publisher	Open access	Website
1.	Journal of Occupational Health Psychology	English	1996	Quarterly print Electronic	ISI, Scopus, PubMed,	United States	American Psychological Association	No	https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/ocp/index.aspx
2.	Occupational and Environmental Medicine	English	1994	Monthly- print Electronic	ISI, Scopus, PubMed,	United Kingdom	BMJ Publishing Group	No	https://oem.bmj.com/
3.	International Archives of Occupational and Environmental Health	English	1975	Eight no. a year print Electronic	ISI, Scopus, PubMed	Germany	Springer Verlag	No	https://link.springer.com/journal/420
4.	Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine	English	1995	Monthly- print Electronic	ISI, Scopus, PubMed,	United States	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins Ltd.	No	https://journals.lww.com/joem/pages/default.aspx
5.	Occupational Medicine	English	1992	Eight no. a year, print Electronic	ISI, Scopus, PubMed	United Kingdom	Oxford University Press	No	https://academic.oup.com/ocmed
6.	Journal of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology	English	2006	Irregular Electronic	ISI, Scopus,	United Kingdom	BioMed Central	Yes	https://occup-med.biomedcentral.com/
7.	Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy	English	1994	Four no. a year print Electronic	ISI, Scopus, PubMed	United Kingdom	Taylor & Francis	No	https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ioc20/current
8.	Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene	English	2004	Monthly print Electronic	ISI, Scopus, PubMed	United Kingdom	Taylor & Francis	No	https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/uoh20
9.	International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine	English	2010	Quarterly print Electronic	ISI (ESCI), Scopus, PubMed,	Iran	NIOC Health Organization	Yes	http://www.thejoem.com/ijoem/index.php/ijoem
10.	Archives of Environmental and Occupational Health	English	2005	Four no. a year, 2007- Print	ISI, Scopus, PubMed,	United States	Taylor & Francis Heldref Publications	No	https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/vaeh20/current
11.	Journal of Occupational Health	English-Japanese	1996	Quarterly- print Electronic	ISI, Scopus, PubMed	Japan	Japan Society for Occupational Health	Yes	https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/joh/
12.	International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health	English	1995	Quarterly- print Electronic	ISI, Scopus, PubMed	United Kingdom	Maney Publishing Taylor & Francis	No	https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/yjoh20/current

13.	International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health	English	1994	Bimonthly print Electronic	ISI, Scopus, PubMed,	Germany	Walter de Gruyter GmbH	Yes	http://ijomeh.eu/
14.	Annals of Occupational and Environmental Medicine	English German y	2013	Annually Electronic	ISI (ESCI), Scopus, PubMed,	United Kingdom	BioMed Central	Yes	https://link.springer.com/journal/40557
15.	Occupational Therapy in Mental Health	English	1980	Quarterly print Electronic	ISI (ESCI), Scopus	United States	Haworth Press Inc.	No	https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/womh20/current
16.	Indian Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine	English	1997	Quarterly- print Electronic	ISI (ESCI), Scopus, PubMed,	India	Medknow Publications	Yes	http://www.ijoem.com/
17.	Iran Occupational Health Journal	Farsi	2005	Bimonthly print Electronic	Scopus	Iran	Tehran University of Medical Sciences	Yes	http://ioh.iums.ac.ir/index.php?slc_lang=en&sid=1
18.	International Journal of Occupational Safety and Ergonomics	English	1995	Quarterly- print Electronic	ISI, Scopus, PubMed	United Kingdom	Taylor & Francis	No	https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tose20/current
19.	Journal of Occupational Health and Safety - Australia and New Zealand	English	1985	Quarterly print Electronic	Scopus	Australia	CCH Australia Limited	No	http://www.wolterskluwer.cch.com.au/employment-whs/journalhse
20.	Sangyo eiseigakuzasshi = Journal of occupational health	English Japanese	1995	Bimonthly print Electronic	Scopus, PubMed	Japan	Nihon Sangyo Eisei Gakkai	No	https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/sangyo-eisei/-char/en
21.	Occupational Ergonomics	English	1997	Quarterly- print Electronic	Scopus	Netherlands	IOS Press	No	https://www.iospress.nl/journal/occupational-ergonomics/
22.	Occupational Health	English	1949	Monthly	Scopus	United Kingdom	Royal College of Nursing	No	https://www.personneltoday.com/occupational-health-and-wellbeing/
23.	Occupational health & safety (Waco, Tex.)	English	1976	Thirteen no. a year print	Scopus, PubMed	United States	1105 Media Inc.	No	https://ohsonline.com/research/list/occupational-health-safety-magazine-digital-edition.aspx
24.	Journal of Ecophysiology and Occupational Health	English	2010	Quarterly. print & Electronic	Scopus	India	Academy of Environment Biology	No	http://www.informaticsjournals.com/index.php/JEOH
25.	Occupational Therapy Now	English	1979	Bimonthly Print	Scopus	Canada	Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists	No	https://www.caot.ca/index.html

26.	Annals of Work Exposures and Health	English	2017	9 issues a year	ISI, Scopus, PubMed	United Kingdom	Oxford University Press	No	https://academic.oup.com/annweh
27.	Clinical Social Work Journal	English	1973	Quarterly	ISI, Scopus	United States	Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers	No	https://link.springer.com/journal/10615
28.	Groupwork	English	1988	Three times a year		United Kingdom	Whiting & Birch Ltd.	No	https://journals.whitingbirch.net/index.php/GPWK/index
29.	International Journal of Workplace Health Management	English	2008	Quarterly	ISI(ESCI), Scopus	United Kingdom	Emerald Group Publishing Ltd.	No	https://www.emeraldinsight.com/loi/ijwhm
30.	Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work	English	2004	Quarterly	ISI(ESCI), Scopus	United States	Haworth Press Inc.	No	https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wrsp20
31.	Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health	English	2005	Quarterly	ISI (ESCI), Scopus	United States	Haworth Press Inc.	No	https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wjwb20
32.	Nordic Journal of Working Life Studies	English	2011	Quarterly	ISI (ESCI)	Denmark	Roskilde University	No	https://tidsskrift.dk/njwls/index
33.	Safety and Health at Work	English	2010	Quarterly	ISI(ESCI), Scopus,	South Korea	Elsevier BV	Yes	https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/safety-and-health-at-work
34.	Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment and Health	English	1975	Bimonthly	ISI, Scopus, PubMed	Finland	Nordic Association of Occupational Safety and Health (NOROSH)	No	www.sjweh.fi/index.php
35.	Social Work in Mental Health	English	2002	Bimonthly	ISI (ESCI), Scopus	United States	Haworth Social Work Practice Press	No	https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wsmh20#.VWc3HGfJDGg
36.	Social Work in Public Health	English-	2007	Bimonthly	ISI, Scopus, PubMed	United States	Haworth Press Inc.	No	https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/whsp20
37.	Work	English	1990	Monthly	ISI, Scopus, PubMed	Netherlands	IOS Press	No	https://content.iospress.com/journals/work/Pre-press/Pre-press
38.	Workplace health & safety	English	2012	Monthly	ISI, Scopus, PubMed	United States	SAGE Publications Inc.	No	https://journals.sagepub.com/home/whs

Table 2
Numerical characteristics of occupational health journals

	Abbreviation	SJR Quartile	H index	Impact factor	Total Docs. (2017)	Total Docs. (3years)	Total Refs.	Total Cites (3years)	Citable Docs. (3years)	Cites / Doc. (2years)	Ref. / Doc.
1.	J Occup Health Psychol	Q1	99	3.766	62	123	3515	544	115	4,08	56,69
2.	Occup Environ Med	Q1	123	3.965	156	485	4654	1413	333	4,09	29,83
3.	Int Arch Occup Environ Health	Q1	76	2.148	82	315	3373	680	301	2,06	41,13
4.	J OCCUP ENVIRON MED	Q2	94	1.355	247	774	8932	1105	664	1,30	36,16
5.	Occup Med	Q2	69	1.482	145	519	2364	548	385	1,25	16,30
6.	J Occup Med Toxicol	Q2	31	1.859	32	138	1134	272	137	1,94	35,44
7.	Scand J Occup Ther	Q2	32	1.162	89	184	2087	209	163	1,06	23,45
8.	J Occup Environ Hyg	Q2	46	1.462	110	377	2511	515	363	1,36	22,83
9.	Int J Occup Environ Med	Q2	13	-	36	97	859	122	76	1,36	23,86
10.	Arch Environ Occup Health	Q2	57	1.386	84	138	1662	140	119	1,14	19,79
11.	J Occup Health	Q2	50	1.285	69	224	1914	256	216	1,05	27,74
12.	Int J Occup Environ Health	Q3	44	1.195	10	135	414	168	123	1,02	41,40
13.	Int J Occup Med Environ Health	Q3	38	1.367	62	289	2009	366	274	1,32	32,40
14.	Ann Occup Environ Med	Q3	7	-	56	152	1969	169	147	1,11	35,16
15.	Occup Ther Ment Health	Q3	16	-	34	67	1022	38	65	0,55	30,06
16.	Indian J Occup Environ Med	Q3	18	-	28	108	562	61	87	0,40	20,07
17.	Iran Occup Health J	Q4	5	-	69	179	2110	56	179	0,27	30,58
18.	Int J Occup Saf Ergon	Q4	26	0.648	134	212	2463	163	195	0,74	18,38

19.	Journal of health, safety and environment	Q4	16	-	23	67	729	14	59	0,13	31,70
20.	Sangyo Eiseigaku Zasshi	Q4	11	-	13	57	0	10	57	0,13	0,00
21.	Occup Ergon	Q4	16	-	0	32	0	11	29	0,38	0,00
22.	Occupational Health	Q4	5	-	0	121	0	5	121	0,03	0,00
23.	Occup Health Saf	Q4	9	-	13	484	15	5	472	0,01	1,15
24.	J. ecophysiol. occup. hlth.	Q4	7	-	0	61	0	1	61	0,00	0,00
25.	Occupational therapy now	Q4	7	-	46	139	321	7	73	0,17	6,98
26.	Annals of Work Exposures and Health	Q2	66	0	79	306	1866	475	276	1,52	23,62
27.	Clinical Social Work Journal	Q2	26	0.807	49	135	1775	123	126	0,68	36,22
28.	Groupwork	Q4	7	-	0	13	0	1	11	0,00	0,00
29.	International Journal of Workplace Health Management	Q3	13	-	32	58	1666	61	58	0,43	52,06
30.	Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work	Q4	16	-	24	70	1338	27	65	0,48	55,75
31.	Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health	Q4	13	-	17	56	709	20	55	0,33	41,71
32.	Nordic Journal of Working Life Studies	-	1	-	36	0	1743	0	0	0,00	48,42
33.	Safety and Health at Work	Q3	15	-	84	155	2037	241	146	1,39	24,25
34.	Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment and Health	Q1	93	2.792	72	211	2636	567	168	2,72	36,61
35.	Social Work in Mental Health	Q3	14	-	44	108	1964	63	105	0,55	44,64
36.	Social Work in Public Health	Q3	23	0.504	48	174	2185	135	172	0,55	45,52
37.	Work	Q3	40	0.902	190	762	7046	688	708	0,90	37,08
38.	Workplace health & safety	Q3	32	0.831	78	238	1787	158	222	0,70	22,91

challenges in some countries, such as India, where research on public health is not a priority.

Among countries that publish specialized journals in the field of environmental and occupational health, the United Kingdom and the United States have the largest number of journals and India, Iran, Japan and Germany are in the next rank. If we review the proportion of journals on public health and those specialized in environmental and occupational health, it seems that environmental and occupational health topic is more important in countries such as India, Iran and Japan. Developing countries such as India and Iran have a large workforce, but these countries lack high standards for health in workplace compared to developed countries. Therefore, studies on the efficacy of factors in health in the work environment are especially important. Japan is one of the developed countries that is growing very fast in technology. Considering the country's reputation for good human resource management, it seems that environmental and occupational health is especially important to increase the work efficiency and maintain the health of the staff in this country.

Of all the journals evaluated, the oldest journal dedicated to occupational health has been published since 1949 in the UK. This journal has been published for more than 69 years, and despite being indexed in Scopus, the *h*-index of this journal is 5 and it does not have an Impact Factor yet. The second rank belongs to the *International Archives of Occupational and Environmental Health* journal, which is about 43 years old, with an *h*-index of 79 and an Impact Factor of about 2. One of the newest journals in this group is the *Journal of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology* that is published in the UK. Although it has been published for about 12 years, it has an Impact Factor above 1 and an *h*-index of 31. Comparison between the quality and history of the publication of these journals indicates that the history of a journal cannot be a reason for the high quality and superiority of journals. New journals can also get high-quality scientific indexes if they

can publish high-quality articles. Authors must pay attention to this matter when they want to select a journal to publish their articles.

Almost all the relevant journals publish articles in the English language. English is an international language and journals can get scores of scientific indexes faster if they publish articles in the English language. Also to have easier access to the journal articles all over the world at least the abstract of the articles must be published in English. Probably important and high-quality articles are published in the journals in the local language in different countries, but due to lack of easy access to these articles for researchers in other countries, the results of these studies are ignored in systematic reviews. (13).

Five of the 12 journals published since 2005 are open access. It seems that open-access policies for journals have been considered more than before in the past decade. (14) Access to the scientific research is not only a sufficient condition for citation, but also it is a necessary one. The results of a study by Bernius showed that if the same-quality articles are published, open access articles are downloaded, read and cited at a higher rate compared to non-open access articles published in traditional journals. (15) The *International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health* is an open access journal with an impact factor of 1.367 and is published in Germany, the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* is not open access and is published in the United Kingdom with an impact factor of 3.965. Both these journals have been published since 1994 but although the *Occupational and Environmental Medicine* journal is not open access, it has a higher impact factor than the *International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health*, which contradicts the results of the mentioned study. (15)

The results of a study by Evans and Reimer showed that open access articles are mostly cited in poor countries. (16) In this study, 4 journals of 8 open access journal are

published in developing countries. Due to economic problems in developing countries, open access journals can contribute to production of science in these countries.

The results of this study showed that these journals published 1,600 articles with 44,619 citations in 2017. The *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* in the United States published the largest number of articles with the most citations. It is noteworthy that the *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*, with about a quarter of articles compared to the previous journal, has 3515 citations with the highest impact factor. As a result, the number of articles published in a journal cannot guarantee more citation for the articles in that journal.

Conclusion

Articles on environmental and occupational health are published in public health journals and specialized journals. The first specific journal in this field has published articles for almost 70 years. Most of these journals are published in the Americas and Europe. Few of these are open access journals, but in recent years, open access policies have been considered more than before..

Researchers can select the best journal related to environmental and occupational health to publish articles and the authors can publish their articles in any of the journals of this list, depending on the quality, time, place of research and the budget of the study

Key points: Due to the advancement in technology, need for classified information is required. In spite of valuable research, some scholars have little opportunity to search and select the appropriate journal for publishing their research results. Therefore, this type of articles can help researchers in specialized fields to select appropriate journal.

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