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BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF SPANISH PSYCHOLOGY JOURNALS INDEXED IN THE EMERGING SOURCE CITATION INDEX (2018-2020)

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El objetivo de este trabajo fue analizar las publicaciones y las revistas españolas de Psicología indexadas en el Emerging Source Citation Index (ESCI) durante los tres últimos años, con el fin de proporcionar información relevante como el indicador de citas de revistas (JCI), el número de documentos publicados, temáticas más estudiadas, análisis de indicadores, colaboraciones, etc. Utilizando el rango temporal de 2018-2020, se filtraron 17 revistas obteniendo un total de 1.247 documentos (1.071 artículos) con 43.697 referencias. Sin contabilizar a España, los países más productivos son México, Brasil y Chile. En cuanto al número de autores, destacan los mismos países en el siguiente orden: Brasil, México y Chile. Las revistas con un mayor JCI y número de citas por documento son la Revista Iberoamericana de Psicología y Salud (1,08 y 5,17 respectivamente) y la International Journal of Educational Psychology (0,70 y 2,14 respectivamente), siendo la primera de estas la única situada en primer cuartil. Las que tienen el índice h y g más elevado son la Revista Iberoamericana de Psicología y Salud (7 y 10) y Papeles del Psicólogo (6 y 9). Las tres "palabras clave" más utilizadas fueron psicoterapia, adolescentes y ansiedad.
Palabras clave: *Estudio bibliométrico, Psicología, España, Emerging Source Citation Index.*

The aim of this work was to analyze the Spanish psychology publications and journals indexed in the Emerging Source Citation Index (ESCI) during the last three years, to provide relevant information such as the journal citation indicator (JCI), the number of published documents, the most studied topics, analysis of indicators, collaborations, etc. Using the time range 2018-2020, 17 journals were screened, and a total of 1,247 documents (1,071 articles) with 43,697 references were obtained. Excluding Spain, the most productive countries were Mexico, Brazil, and Chile. In terms of the number of authors, the same countries predominate, in the following order: Brazil, Mexico, and Chile. The journals with the highest JCI and number of citations per paper were the Revista Iberoamericana de Psicología y Salud (1.08 and 5.17 respectively) and the International Journal of Educational Psychology (0.70 and 2.14 respectively), the former being the only one in the first quartile. Those with the highest h and g indexes were the Revista Iberoamericana de Psicología y Salud (7 and 10 respectively) and Papeles del Psicólogo (6 and 9 respectively). The three most used "keywords" were psychotherapy, adolescents, and anxiety.
Key words: *Bibliometric study, Psychology, Spain, Emerging Source Citation Index.*

Analyzing scientific production is important to understand the current state of various areas of knowledge (e.g., Buela-Casal et al., 2019; Carneiro-Barrera et al., 2019). Through carrying out bibliometric analyses, it is possible to obtain a detailed perspective of the research trends in the existing literature, as well as understanding which are the most cited papers and authors (e.g., Ho & Hartley, 2016; Ioannidis et al., 2019), which are the topics of recent interest (e.g., Ertz & Leblanc-Proulx, 2018), or the level of internationalization of a discipline (e.g., Begeny et al., 2018; Tortosa-Pérez et al., 2020a, 2020b). Carrying out these studies is therefore fundamental, not only in the academic and research context but also for the scientific journals themselves, as they show the necessary characteristics to be placed in the best positions within the *Web of Science* (WoS) and Scopus databases (e.g., Corrales-Reyes et al., 2018; Salas et al., 2017). The interest in the analysis of impact journals has increased internationally and has spread to numerous areas of knowledge, thus allowing us to know not only the ranking and development of journals but also how a particular area of knowledge is doing (e.g., González-Sala et al., 2017; Osca-Lluch &

González-Sala, 2017; Quevedo-Blasco et al., 2019; Sanmarco et al., 2019; Tortosa et al., 2019; Tortosa-Pérez et al., 2021; Tur-Porcar et al., 2018).

Due to the magnitude and impact of mental disorders in society (see Taquet et al., 2021; Tortella-Feliu et al., 2016) and the increase in cases related to mental health since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic (e.g., Cénat et al., 2021; Rodríguez-Rey et al., 2020), research in clinical psychology reflects one of the basic pillars on which the development of the discipline is based. In this regard, different contributions have been made in which the production has been analyzed through various bibliometric indicators (e.g., Franco-Suárez & Quevedo-Blasco, 2017; Viseu et al., 2015).

The *Emerging Source Citation Index* (ESCI) is a citation index of the WoS Core Collection created in 2015, with retrospective records going back to 2005. It has indexed journals of quality, but without Impact Factor in the *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR). That is why its impact does not seem to have reached the same levels as other databases have, although the ESCI does improve the coverage of Social Sciences and Humanities journals within WoS (De Filippo & Gorraiz, 2020). While there are currently studies in various areas using information from the ESCI (e.g., Butt et al., 2021; Repiso et al., 2017), the works carried out in Spanish psychology journals are very scarce (e.g., Ruiz-Pérez & Jiménez-Contreras, 2019).

Therefore, the aim of this paper was to analyze the publications of Spanish psychology journals indexed in the ESCI during the last three

years (2018-2020). Specifically, the aim was not only to provide information on the best-ranked journals across different criteria but also to describe the characteristics of the publications of these journals and to analyze the thematic areas of the documents included, through the analysis of keywords. This work aims to provide relevant information for researchers in different areas of psychology and health when making decisions regarding the publication of their research results.

METHOD
Procedure

First, we identified the journals published in Spain, included in any category of psychology, and indexed in 2021 in the ESCI (information obtained through the Master Journal List-MJL) uninterruptedly in the period from 2018 to 2020. This period was selected based on two criteria: a) it is a range similar to that used for the calculation of impact indices in scientific journals, and b) it includes all indexed journals under analysis during the entire period (and is able to compare them). Although the *European Journal of Education and Psychology* continued to appear as a Spanish journal in the MJL (on June 2021), it is not included because since 2021 it has been published by the Universidad Autónoma de Chile (and is, therefore, a Chilean journal, not a Spanish one). Papers from 2021 are not included to avoid possible biases, since depending on when each journal is published, it would affect the analyzed indexes and results. After that, a search was performed using the WoS Core Collection where the name of each journal was included in quotation marks, separating each of them by the operator "OR". The search was carried out from April 25 to May 3 and was updated in June 2021. The result was exported to several files in *BibTex* format, taking into account the export limitations of the search engine. For all of them the complete record was exported, as well as the citations and references of each document. Subsequently, the documents obtained were manually unified in a single file with all of the information. A total of 17 journals were analyzed.

Data analysis

The results were not filtered by year. All types of documents were analyzed, from which both the descriptive characteristics of the documents and a network of co-occurrence of key terms were extracted. In addition, the *Journal Citation Indicator* (JCI), an impact index normalized by the average of the reference category of the journal, was recorded. A three-year period was used for its calculation. The average JCI for a category is 1. Journals with a JCI of 1.5 have 50% more citation impact than the average for that category. It can be used in conjunction with other metrics to help you evaluate journals. Analyses were performed using the *bibliometrix* package (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017) of the *R 4.0.5* statistical program (R Core Team, 2021).

RESULTS

A total of 1,247 papers published between 2018 and 2020 were obtained from 17 Spanish scientific journals. Regarding the authorship of the documents, it was observed that they came from a total of 3,004 authors, with 276 articles being single-authored papers (9.19% of the total). Of the total number of documents, 26.14% were signed by a single author. In the publications with multiple authorship, the average was 2.41 authors/document. The publications analyzed included a total of 43,697 references. Regarding the type of research, 64 documents were review papers (5.15% of the total), the vast majority being empirical articles (85.89%), the rest being other types of documents (book and film reviews, editorials, biographies, etc.). The average number of citations for each document was 0.948, with an average of 0.293 citations per document per year.

Of the 3,004 authors (with a total of 3,443 occurrences) the country of origin was Spain in 57% of the cases (see Table 1). Furthermore, this is the country with the highest proportion of publications (0.590), but, at the same time, it is the country with the lowest proportion of documents signed by authors of different nationalities (0.078; see Table 2). In this Table, it can also be seen that the country with the highest proportion of papers with authors from at least two different countries was Belgium (0.75). Figure 4 shows the map of networks of collaborations in joint publications between countries.

When analyzing the content of the publications, the first thing to note is the frequency of occurrence of the "keywords" used by the authors. Figure 1 shows the most frequently used terms, including "psychotherapy" and "psychology" (45 and 29 occurrences), "adolescents" and "adolescence" (42 and 30 occurrences respectively), "anxiety" (40 occurrences), "motivation" (31 occurrences), "higher education" (30 occurrences), "depression" (27 occurrences), and "intervention" (27 occurrences). In addition, in Figure 2, the evolution of the occurrence of these keywords is presented, in which generally a gradual increase of occurrence can be observed in most cases.

Based on the use of keywords, a co-occurrence analysis was carried out, i.e., based on the frequency in which several terms appear in the same document. A visual summary is shown in Figure 3, where the keywords are grouped into five main thematic areas. Firstly,

TABLE 1
TEN COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF AUTHORSHIPS IN SPANISH PSYCHOLOGY JOURNALS INDEXED IN THE ESCI (2018-2020)

Countries	No. of authorships	Percentage (%)*
Spain	1,963	57.01
Brazil	203	5.90
Mexico	202	5.87
Chile	147	4.27
Argentina	142	4.12
Colombia	105	3.05
Portugal	105	3.05
USA	73	2.12
Peru	51	1.48
Italy	50	1.45

Note: USA = United States of America. The % was calculated based on the total number of authorships (3,443)

concepts linked to "students and performance" are collected (in green; e.g., Gutiérrez-Ruiz et al., 2020; López-Larrosa et al., 2019; Moreira et al., 2020); in blue all those related to "children/adolescents and behavior" (e.g., Aparisi et al., 2019; Espada Largo & Parra Delgado, 2019); in orange those related to "health, stress, anxiety", in purple those related to gender (e.g., Cova Solar et al., 2019; Urbiola et al., 2017); and in red aspects related to "validation and instruments" (e.g., Fariña et al., 2020; Pérez-Sánchez et al., 2020; Ruiz et al., 2017; Sánchez-Fuentes et al., 2019). For cross-country collaborations, see Figure 4.

We also analyzed the *h-index* of the journals, as well as other indicators (e.g., the number of citations in total or citations per paper) during the period 2018-2020. Table 3 provides a summary of all the journals analyzed, to determine the journals whose publications have a greater impact. It can be seen that the journal with the highest *h-index (7)*, *g-index (10)*, number of citations (155), and average number of citations per document (5.17) is the *Revista Iberoamericana de Psicología y Salud*. It is striking that this journal stands out in all the indicators despite having the lowest number of articles (30 in total). *Papeles del Psicólogo* is the second journal to stand out in the *h* and *g* indexes (6 and 9 respectively), and in the total number of citations (140), being the fourth according to the average

TABLE 2
MOST PRODUCTIVE COUNTRIES WITH PUBLICATIONS IN SPANISH PSYCHOLOGY JOURNALS INDEXED IN THE ESCI (2018-2020)

Countries	No. of documents*	%	SCP	MCP	MCP Prop.
Spain	714	59.0083	658	56	0.0784
Mexico	77	6.3636	65	12	0.1558
Brazil	56	4.6281	46	10	0.1786
Chile	50	4.1322	35	15	0.3
Argentina	47	3.8843	40	7	0.1489
Portugal	34	2.8099	26	8	0.2353
Colombia	33	2.7273	23	10	0.303
Canada	20	1.6529	12	8	0.4
USA	18	1.4876	16	2	0.1111
Peru	16	1.3223	14	2	0.125
Italy	15	1.2397	11	4	0.2667
United Kingdom	15	1.2397	12	3	0.2
Belgium	8	0.6612	2	6	0.75
Ecuador	8	0.6612	7	1	0.125
Finland	8	0.6612	6	2	0.25
Germany	6	0.4959	6	0	0
Turkey	6	0.4959	6	0	0
Indonesia	4	0.3306	4	0	0
Nigeria	4	0.3306	4	0	0
Netherlands	4	0.3306	4	0	0

Note: SCP (single-country publications) = number of documents where there was only one author, or all authors belonged to the same country; MCP (multi-country publications) = number of publications whose authors were from at least two different countries; MCP Prop. = of the total number of documents from a country, the proportion that have international collaborations. USA = United States of America.
*Data arranged by number of documents (and in case of having the same record, alphabetically by country).
% = percentage

FIGURE 1
KEYWORDS MOST USED BY AUTHORS IN PUBLICATIONS IN SPANISH PSYCHOLOGY JOURNALS INDEXED IN THE ESCI (2018-2020)
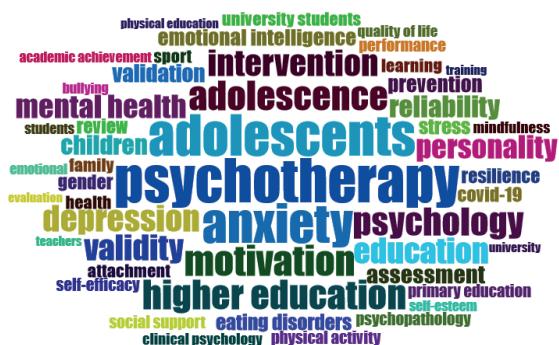
FIGURE 2
EVOLUTION IN THE FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE OF THE MOST USED KEYWORDS IN PUBLICATIONS IN SPANISH PSYCHOLOGY JOURNALS INDEXED IN THE ESCI (2018-2020)
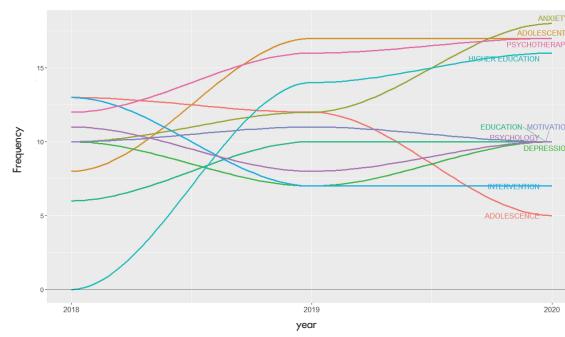

FIGURE 3
LIST OF KEYWORDS OF PUBLICATIONS IN SPANISH PSYCHOLOGY JOURNALS INDEXED IN THE ESCI (2018-2020)
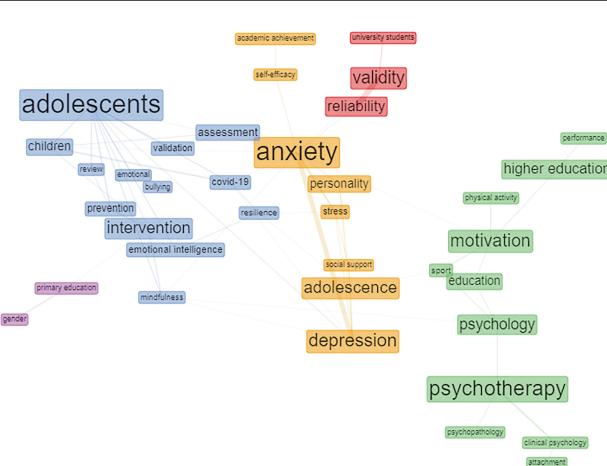
number of citations per document (1.47). Although the period analyzed was three years for all journals (2018-2020), those most recently indexed in ESCI, specifically since 2017, are the *International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy* and the *Revista de Psicoterapia (*see Table 3). Table 4 shows the ranking of the journals under study, according to the recent JCI indicator of Clarivate Analytics in the *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR) for all journals, including those indexed in the ESCI. The *Revista Iberoamericana de Psicología y Salud* is the only one in the first quartile, followed by the *International Journal of Educational Psychology* with 0.38 tenths of a point difference and by *Papeles del Psicólogo* with a third of the score with respect to the first.

Finally, regarding the possible influence of the language of publication, it has been observed that in Spanish there were 814 documents, which received 781 citations (i.e., they had 0.96 citations per article); in English, there were 375 articles with 412 citations (1.10 citations/document); in Portuguese, there were 54 articles with 14 citations (0.26 citations/document), and in Catalan, there were 4 articles with no citations.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The aim of this paper was to analyze the publications of Spanish journals of any category of psychology currently indexed in the ESCI from 2018 to 2020. We obtained data on authorship, type of publication, origin of the document by country of origin of the authors, keywords, and *h-index*, among others.

A total of 17 journals were analyzed, a similar number to other areas (e.g., Quevedo-Blasco et al., 2019). Although the issue of disproportionate multi-authorship, for the evaluation of research activity, is a topic of recent interest in Spain (Arce et al., 2019), we analyzed the results concerning authorship, observing that approximately 26.14% were signed by a single author and the average was 2.41 authors/paper. This is indicative that most of the papers were not signed by an atypically high number of authors. Regarding the categories of the journals, the one with the highest percentage (approximately 52%) is Multidisciplinary Psychology. This percentage is very similar to that found in previous related studies (Franco-Suárez & Quevedo-Blasco, 2017; García-Pereira & Quevedo-Blasco, 2015).

Despite the importance of conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses in psychology (Boyle et al., 2016) and the ability of these works to generate an increase in citations received in journals, only approximately 5% of the articles in these journals were reviews. It is clear that, in psychology research, the production of empirical studies is more important than reviews.

FIGURE 4
**MAP OF JOINT PUBLICATION NETWORKS BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN SPANISH PSYCHOLOGY JOURNALS IN THE ESCI (2018-2020)**
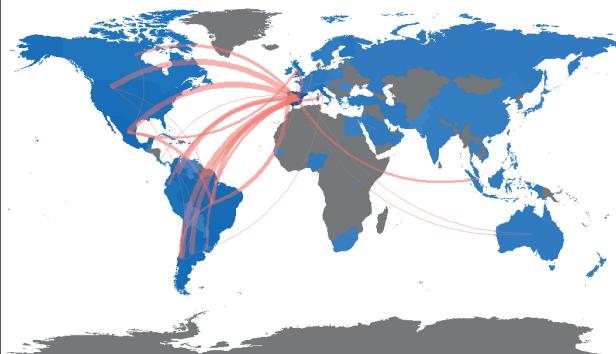
TABLE 3
RANKING OF SPANISH PSYCHOLOGY JOURNALS INDEXED IN THE ESCI, ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT INDICATORS DURING THE PERIOD 2018-2020

Journals	h index	g index	Nº citations	Nº documents	Cit/doc*	Entry in ESCI
Revista Iberoamericana de Psicología y Salud	7	10	155	30	5.17	2011
International Journal of Educational Psychology	5	8	90	42	2.14	2012
Ansiedad y Estrés-Anxiety And Stress	6	8	109	70	1.56	2016
Papeles del Psicólogo	6	9	140	95	1.47	2005
Psychology, Society & Education	4	6	96	78	1.23	2009
Revista Iberoamericana de Psicología del Ejercicio y el Deporte	6	7	113	95	1.19	2006
Revista de Psicología Clínica con Niños y Adolescentes	5	5	91	78	1.17	2014
ALOMA-Revista de Psicología Ciencies de L'Educacio i delEsport	4	5	46	48	0.96	2010
International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy	4	5	72	80	0.90	2017
Anuario de Psicología	3	5	41	47	0.87	2005
Revista Española de Orientación y Psicopedagogía	3	4	52	82	0.63	2005
Electronic Journal of Research in Educational Psychology	4	5	56	91	0.62	2005
Acción Psicológica	3	3	18	50	0.36	2006
Revista de Psicoterapia	3	3	49	139	0.35	2017
Revista de Historia de la Psicología	2	2	18	59	0.31	2005
Quadernos de Psicología	2	2	24	100	0.24	2010
Revista Clínica Contemporánea	2	2	12	63	0.19	2010

Note. Cit/doc = citations per document; ESCI = Emerging Source Citation Index.
*Data ordered according to citations per document (Cit/doc) for each journal.

The most productive countries were Spain, followed by Mexico and Brazil, with Spain being the country of affiliation of 57.01% of the authors. Excluding this country, the highest percentages of authors came from Brazil, Mexico, and Chile (contributing a total of 16.03% together). In terms of the proportion of publications with other countries, in addition to Belgium, Canada and Colombia also stand out. At the other extreme, countries such as Germany and Turkey (among others) had no collaborations in their publications. It was observed that the language of publication influenced the number of citations, with English being the most cited per document, only slightly more than Spanish, and the other languages— which also had a smaller number of documents—a greater distance behind.

In terms of content, it was observed that the keywords most frequently used by the authors included *adolescents/adolescents*, *psychology, anxiety, depression,* and aspects related to education and academic performance. From these results, it should be noted that the youth sample is the main focus of the study. Likewise, aspects related to mental health are the priority objective of professionals dedicated to psychology, and it is a term that is used in different contexts and connotations (see Pilgrim, 2020). Despite commenting on the most used concepts, in general, it has been observed that there is a breadth of topics of interest in psychology research (see Figures 1 and 3), which perhaps reflects the firm nature of this area.

One limitation of the analyses carried out is that it was not possible to identify *outliers*, which could have provided relevant information on publication in different countries and years. Another issue to consider is that it was not relevant to analyze a larger number of years, in order to be able to compare journals and for all of them to be present in the complete period of the analysis. In addition, 2021 was not included to avoid possible biases in the indicators analyzed, since the year had not ended at the time this study was carried out.

In conclusion, this study presents information on the Spanish psychology journals indexed in the ESCI, on the most productive universities, and the countries that publish the most. It also provides information on the number of authors of the publications and the specific topics of recent interest, noting that original studies concentrate most of the publications in the area. The results of this study make it easier for researchers in the field of psychology to choose the journals indexed in the ESCI to publish their work (taking into account both indicators [such as JCI] and indexes [such as *h*], as well as the main topics of publication). It also highlights the scarcity of review studies in this context.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest.

TABLE 4
RANKING OF SPANISH PSYCHOLOGY JOURNALS INDEXED IN THE ESCI, ACCORDING TO THE JOURNAL CITATION INDICATOR (JCI) OF 2020

Journals	JCI (2020)*	Quartile (Q)	Category
Revista Iberoamericana de Psicología y Salud	1.08	Q1	Multidisciplinary
International Journal of Educational Psychology	0.70	Q3	Educational
Papeles del Psicólogo	0.43	Q3	Multidisciplinary
Ansiedad y Estrés-Anxiety And Stress	0.34	Q4	Clinical
Psychology, Society & Education	0.33	Q3	Multidisciplinary
ALOMA-Revista de Psicología Ciencies de L'Educacio i delEsport	0.32	Q3	Multidisciplinary
International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy	0.31	Q3	Multidisciplinary
Revista de Psicología Clínica con Niños y Adolescentes	0.22	Q4	Development
Revista Iberoamericana de Psicología del Ejercicio y el Deporte	0.21	Q4	Applied
Anuario de Psicología	0.19	Q4	Multidisciplinary
Electronic Journal of Research in Educational Psychology	0.19	Q4	Educational
Revista Española de Orientación y Psicopedagogía	0.18	Q4	Applied
Acción Psicológica	0.16	Q4	Multidisciplinary
Revista de Historia de la Psicología	0.09	Q4	Multidisciplinary
Revista de Psicoterapia	0.06	Q4	Clinical
Quadernos de Psicología	0.05	Q4	Multidisciplinary
Revista Clínica Contemporánea	0.05	Q4	Clinical

Note. JCI = Journal Citation Indicator.
*Data ordered according to the JCI (2020) of each journal (and in the case of having the same record, alphabetically by journal title).

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