Bibliometric Analysis of Studies on Gastronomy Tourism in Turkey

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EXTENSIVE SUMMARY

The concept of gastronomy has recently become a very popular subject in both cultural and scientific fields. Gastronomy can be expressed conceptually as a scientific approach to the process from the preparation of food and beverage to its presentation. While the concept was one of the present attraction factors in tourism travels, the presence of tourists traveling to that region for the gastronomic values of a region or province has become frequently talked about today. One of the most important reasons for this is that gastronomy has not only eating and drinking activities but also a cultural feature. Therefore, gastronomy emerges as a tourism and cultural activity that can be considered as an activity and has the attraction alone. Today, gastronomy is an important building block in the branding of tourist attractions. While the concept of gastronomy was previously mentioned as an activity within tourism, it has taken its place in the literature as a tourism type with the name of gastronomy tourism over time. It is possible to define gastronomy tourism as visits made to taste a special type of food or to see the production stages of a food. Academicians, who carry out various academic and scientific studies in addition to teaching activities in universities, contribute to both the science literature in which they operate and the development of applied studies in the relevant sector(s). These works that emerge as a result of the desire of academics to carry out and publish scientific studies are indicators of performance of individuals in academia.

The aim of this study is to analyse and demonstrate the development and orientations of the scientific studies which have been carried out in the field of gastronomy tourism in Turkey. In the study, the general trends in the studies on gastronomic tourism are revealed and the studies in the field of gastronomic tourism are; the type of scientific study (thesis, project, article, paper), the field of science in which it is carried out, its contents, etc. It has been examined in terms of features. Bibliometry is a method that reveals useful information in terms of subjecting the general trends in the specified study area and the studies examined to a detailed examination according to the determined criteria. The findings obtained as a result of the analyses are presented in tables in detail for all groups. As a result of the literature review, no study
addressing the development of the gastronomic tourism literature has been found at the national level. Therefore, it can be said that this research prepared is original and will contribute to the related literature. The study population made up of scientific studies of academics teaching at graduate (faculty or college) and undergraduate (vocational high schools) level departments of universities in Turkey. In this context, a literature review was carried out under the title of “gastronomy tourism” in the academic database of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) for studies conducted between years 1990-2019 and data on the studies related to the subject were obtained. Scientific studies within this scope are examined according to criteria such as research areas, number of publications by year, types of publications, publication languages, databases, the magazine it is published in and the country it is published. With respect to the bibliometric analysis, in Turkey "gastronomic tourism" under the heading drafted by the researchers by the end of 2019, 17 projects, 268 proceedings, 161 articles, 18 books, 47 dissertations and 1 art activities have been identified. Additionally, the scope of scientific studies performed in the field of Gastronomy Tourism in Turkey has been found to be mainly of articles and congress proceedings. It can be suggested to the researchers that bibliometric studies to be carried out in the field of gastronomy tourism in the future are prepared in the light of more comprehensive and different parameters than in this study. It can be said that the suggestions listed will contribute to the reliability of the subsequent studies and the development of the related literature. The concept of gastronomy, which is defined as the conversion of food and beverage to science and art, has become an important role in the promotion of destinations by integrating with tourism in recent years. Gastronomy tourism emerges as a type of tourism that has the potential to contribute to economic and social development of food and beverage. In this context, the scientific handling of increasingly important gastronomic tourism in all aspects will positively contribute to regional development by increasing the benefit to be made from local food and beverages as a tourist product, obtaining competitive advantage of destinations, and therefore increasing the benefits to be gained from this area. In conclusion, given that the number of tourists participating in gastronomy tourism is increasing day by day, it can be said that especially the studies to be prepared with interdisciplinary approaches will contribute to the scientific background in the field of gastronomy tourism and the development of the qualifications of the studies. Bibliometric analyses to be carried out in other disciplines related to gastronomy and tourism can contribute to the literature by providing a comprehensive perspective on different aspects of tourism.