



## A decade of the International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology (2001-2010)

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**ABSTRACT.** The International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology was funded in 2001. It publishes three issues per year and its scope consists of promoting clinical and health psychology, focusing on the advancement of the science. The purpose of the current study consisted of conducting a bibliometric analysis of all the articles published between 2001 and 2010. Bibliometric studies are very useful to obtain information about journals' policies. They make possible gathering information on different parameters related to the articles. The analyzed data were the evolution of the articles throughout the ten years, languages of publication, percentages of articles per countries, collaboration among authors from different countries, authors, methods, topics, samples and numbers of citations. Results show that most of the documents are original articles, collaboration among authors from different countries is common and that the journal has published works of authors from 29 different countries. The highest percentages were found for *ex post facto* studies, works on test validation and adaptation and adult clinical samples. These results are in agreement with the journal's mission of promoting advancement in clinical and health psychology and show that it is a truly international journal.

**KEYWORDS.** Clinical and health psychology. Bibliometric analysis. Journals. Descriptive Study.

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**RESUMEN.** *International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology* fue fundada en 2001. La revista publica tres números al año y su misión consiste en promocionar la psicología clínica y de la salud, centrándose en los avances en dicha ciencia. El objetivo del presente estudio ha consistido en llevar a cabo un análisis bibliométrico de los artículos publicados entre 2001 y 2010. Los estudios bibliométricos son de gran utilidad para obtener información sobre la política de la revista. Éstos hacen posible recopilar información acerca de diferentes parámetros relacionados con los artículos. Los datos analizados han sido la evolución de los artículos a lo largo de los diez años, idiomas de publicación, porcentajes de artículos por país, colaboración entre autores de diferentes países, autores, métodos, temas, muestras y citas. La mayoría de los documentos son artículos originales, la colaboración entre autores de diferentes países es común y la revista ha publicado trabajos de autores de 29 nacionalidades. Los porcentajes más altos se encontraron para los estudios *ex post facto*, trabajos sobre validación y adaptación de tests, y muestras clínicas de adultos. Estos resultados están de acuerdo con el objetivo de la revista de promocionar los avances en psicología clínica y de la salud y demuestran que ésta es verdaderamente una revista internacional.

**PALABRAS CLAVE.** Psicología clínica y de la salud. Análisis bibliométrico. Revistas. Estudio descriptivo.

The International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology (IJCHP) was founded in 2001. Since then, the journal published 11 numbers including 33 issues with original articles (for example, Echeburua, Sarasua, Zubizarreta, Amor, and de Corral, 2010; Yárnoz-Yaben, 2010), review articles (for example, Amor, Echeburúa, and Loinaz, 2009; Luciano, Páez-Blarrina, and Valdivia-Salas, 2010; Santos-Iglesias and Sierra, 2010), cases reports (for example, Bornas *et al.*, 2010) and brief reports (for example, Bermúdez-Ornelas and Hernández-Guzmán, 2008). The journal's mission consists of publishing articles which contribute to the advancement of clinical and health psychology. Since its foundation, it has included articles written by the most prestigious authors in Spain and in the world. This is probably the reason why the journal was included in the Web of Science 4 years after its first issue was released. When its Impact Factor was calculated for the first time, it was situated in the first quartile of Journal Citation Reports (JCR) and in the newest JCR 2010 it is positioned in the second quartile. This is the best score among all the Ibero-American journals included in the category Psychology, Clinical.

Since 2003, the journal occupies the first position in IN-RECS Impact Index which classifies Spanish psychology journals according to their impact based on the number of citations. Altogether, it is indexed in 21 national and international databases, such as Scopus, PsycINFO, Latindex, or PSICODOC, among others. This is probably due to the fact that, as its name says, IJCHP is a truly international journal. It includes articles written by authors from many different countries, for example the USA (Martz, Livneh, Gontkovsky, and Stokic, 2010), South Korea (Chung *et al.*, 2010), Ireland (Griffin, Guerin, Sharry, and Drumm, 2010) or the Netherlands (Hagenaars, van Minnen, and de Rooij,

2010). Moreover, some articles are even written by authors from more than one country, for example, Spain and Italy (Ortega, Sánchez, Ortega-Rivera, Nocentini, and Menesini, 2010), Germany and the USA (Hardy and Thiels, 2009) or the USA and Spain (Negy, Hammons, Reig-Ferrer, and Marino Carper, 2010).

Scientific journals are the most commonly utilized channels of communication among researchers. For this reason, the evaluation of publications is crucial to guarantee their quality and the quality of science in general. Bibliometric analyses are very useful for these purposes. They allow evaluating different parameters, such as types of studies, topics or the authors' countries of origin, among others. This provides information about the state of art in a subject or details on documents published in a journal.

As already mentioned, bibliometric analyses provide valuable data on the studied topics. For this reason, the number of these kinds of studies is increasing. For example, Quevedo-Blasco, Díaz-Piedra, and Guglielmi (2010) studied documents on drug consumption included in the Web of Science. Other articles report data on publications in psychology in general (Navarrete-Cortés, Fernández-López, López-Baena, Quevedo-Blasco, and Buela-Casal, 2010; Navarrete-Cortes, Quevedo-Blasco, Chaichio-Moreno, Ríos, and Buela-Casal, 2009). There are also studies of different journals, such as psychology multidisciplinary journals recently incorporated to the Web of Science (Quevedo-Blasco and López-López, 2010), *Bordón* (Zych, 2011) or *Aula Abierta* (Granados, Ariza, Gómez-García, and Ramiro, 2011).

On the other hand, it should be taken into account that bibliometric studies are just a part of the wide range of studies focused on evaluating science, universities and performance of scientists. The increase in the number of studies has probably been caused by the fact that quality indicators are widely used in different evaluation processes (Buela-Casal, 2010). Some studies focus on scientific productivity (Buela-Casal, Olivas-Ávila, Musi-Lechuga, and Zych, 2011; Olivas-Ávila and Musi-Lechuga, 2010a, 2010b), doctoral degree programs (Bermúdez, Castro, Sierra, and Buela-Casal, 2009; Buela-Casal, Guillén-Riquelme, Guglielmi, Quevedo-Blasco, and Ramiro, 2011; Castro *et al.*, 2010; Guillén-Riquelme, Guglielmi, Ramiro, Castro, and Buela-Casal, 2010; Musi-Lechuga, Olivas-Ávila, and Buela-Casal, 2009), evaluation of universities (Buela-Casal, Vadillo *et al.*, 2009; Sierra, Buela-Casal, Bermúdez, and Santos-Iglesias, 2008, 2009a, 2009b) or journals (Buela-Casal and Zych, 2010; Buela-Casal, Zych *et al.*, 2009; Buela-Casal, Zych, Sierra, and Bermúdez, 2007; Zych and Buela-Casal, 2007, 2009, 2010).

For all the reasons mentioned above, the purpose of the current study is to conduct a bibliometric analysis of the International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology throughout the decade of its existence.

## Method

### *The unit of the analysis*

The unit of the analysis of the current study consisted of all the articles published in the International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology from 2001 to 2010. The documents are divided into original articles, reviews, brief reports and cases reports.

### Materials

The current study was conducted utilizing all the issues of the International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology (ISSN: 1697-2600 print; 2174-0852 online) released between 2001 and 2010. The journal is published by *Asociación Española de Psicología Conductual* and *Asociación Colombiana para el Avance de las Ciencias del Comportamiento* (ABA-Colombia). It publishes three issues per year and its scope consists of contributing to the advancement of clinical and health psychology. The numbers of citations were found utilizing the Web of Science.

### Design and procedure

This is a descriptive study (Montero and León, 2007) which consisted of analyzing documents. The report was prepared utilizing guidelines provided by Ramos-Álvarez, Moreno-Fernández, Valdés-Conroy, and Catena (2008).

All the articles published in the International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology between 2001 and 2010 were analyzed taking into account a series of indicators which are included in Table 1. The results were introduced in a Microsoft Excel sheet utilized also for its analyses.

**TABLE 1.** Indicators utilized in the current study.

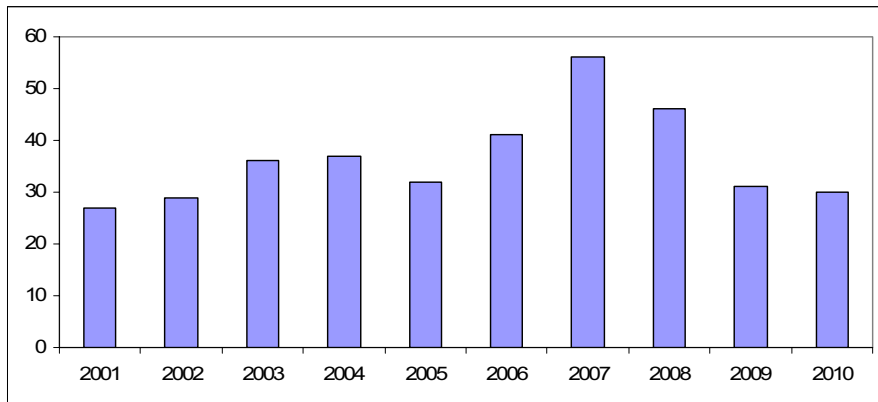
<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Significance</i>
Evolution of the publication throughout the analyzed years	Consists of analyzing the distribution of different article types throughout each analyzed year (2001-2010).
Language of publication	Analysis of the languages of publication of the articles published throughout the last 10 years (2001-2010).
% of documents per countries	Distribution of the articles according to the countries of origins of the authors who signed the works (2001-2010).
Collaboration index	% of articles published in collaboration with other countries.
Authorship index	Distribution of the articles according to the number of authors who signed works in the last 10 years.
The most cited articles	The numbers of citations of the 5 most cited articles in the Web of Science.
Methods	Consists of calculating numbers of studies which utilized each method: theoretical, descriptive, <i>ex post facto</i> , experimental, quasi experimental, instrumental, single case experiments and qualitative.
Topics	Classification of articles according to the subject: a) ADHD, b) anxiety, c) comparison of tests, d) drugs/addiction, e) education and development, f) health and physical activity, g) neurosciences, h) obesity and eating disorders, i) personality, j) physical diseases, k) schizophrenia/schizotypy, l) scientific production, internationality and reports editing, m) sleep disorders, n) stress and burnout, o) test validation/adaptation, p) therapies and psychological interventions, r) other.
Samples	Classification of the articles according to the utilized sample: a) no sample/theoretical, b) reviews, c) family/parents, d) professionals, e) infancy, adolescence and adults, with or without pathology, f) elderly people, and g) others.

The last step consisted of finding the numbers of citations of the 5 most cited articles. For this purpose, the Web of Science was searched introducing the source and the articles were sorted by the number of citations.

### Results

The analyses included a total of 365 articles published in the International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology from its foundation (2001) to the presence 2010 (see Figure 1). Table 2 shows the distribution of works taking into account the type of the study. Of all the analyzed documents, 55.34% were published in Spanish, 38.9% in English and 5.75% in Portuguese.

**FIGURE 1.** Numbers of articles published from 2001 to 2010.



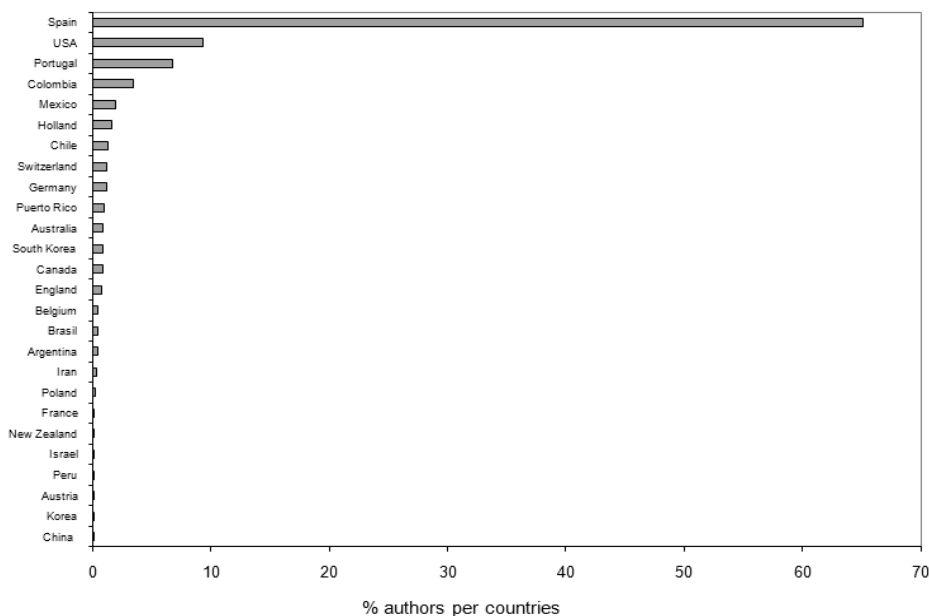
**TABLE 2.** Distribution according to the article types.

<i>Article type</i>	<i>N (%)</i>
Originals	247 (67.67)
Review	57 (15.62)
Brief reports	54 (14.79)
Cases reports	7 (1.92)

#### *Productivity by countries*

15.89% of all the published articles were signed by authors from more than one country. Moreover, 90% of the released issues include documents with authorships from more than one country. Thus, the results show high index of international collaboration.

The International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology published articles written by authors from 29 different countries. The most productive countries were Spain, (784), the USA (112) and Portugal (82) (see Figure 2).



**FIGURE 2.** Distribution (%) of the nationalities of the authors.

### *Authorship*

27.12% of all the documents published from 2001 to 2010 were written by three authors. Works signed by just one author are more common (9.32%) than those signed by six (6.03%) or more (4.11%). The total number of 62.74% of the documents are signed by three or less authors. Specifically, 2010 is the year which has the highest percentage of articles published by four authors (40%), 2009 is the year with the highest number of articles published by three authors 41.94% and 51.85% of the works published in 2001 have just one author (see Table 3).

**TABLE 3.** Percentages of publications taking into account the authorship.

<i>Years</i>	<i>Number of authors</i>						
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>More than 6</b>
	<i>%</i>						
2001	11.11	51.85	25.93	7.41	3.7	0	0
2002	13.79	27.59	27.59	13.79	10.34	6.9	0
2003	25	27.78	16.67	16.67	5.56	5.56	2.78
2004	16.22	32.43	21.62	5.41	13.51	2.7	8.11
2005	9.38	34.38	28.13	6.25	12.5	9.38	0
2006	9.76	31.71	29.27	17.07	4.88	2.44	4.88
2007	3.57	23.21	32.14	17.86	16.07	3.57	3.57
2008	2.17	19.57	32.61	23.91	10.87	8.7	2.17
2009	0	16.13	41.94	19.35	12.9	6.45	3.23
2010	6.67	3.33	10	40	6.67	16.67	16.67
<i>% Mean</i>	<i>9.32</i>	<i>26.30</i>	<i>27.12</i>	<i>16.99</i>	<i>10.14</i>	<i>6.03</i>	<i>4.11</i>

*Distribution of the articles according to the methods*

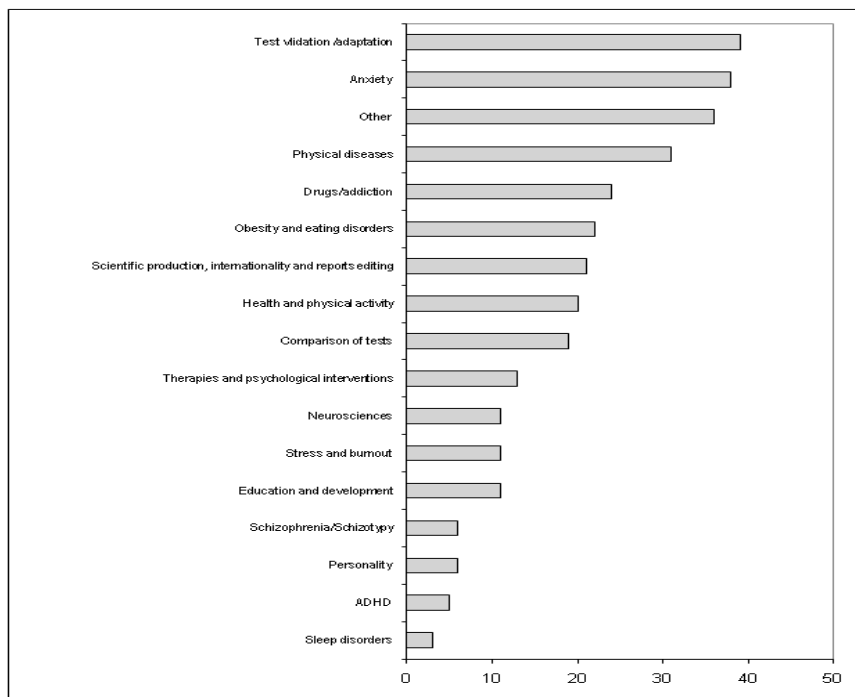
Table 4 shows percentages of different methods utilized in studies published in the International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology, according to the classification suggested by Montero and León (2007). As reflected in Table 4, 24.11% are *ex post facto* and 23.29% are theoretical studies (including classical and meta-analyses). The lowest percentages were found in case of qualitative studies (which include ethnographic studies, cases studies and investigation-action) with 1.64%.

**TABLE 4.** Distribution (%) of the articles 2001-2010 by different methods.

Years	Theoretical studies	Descriptive	Experiments	Quasi experiments	Ex post facto	Single cases experiments	Instrumental	Qualitative studies
	%							%
2001	40.74	11.11	3.7	7.41	14.81	11.11	11.11	0
2002	31.03	13.79	0	10.34	27.59	0	13.79	3.45
2003	36.11	30.56	5.56	8.33	2.78	5.56	11.11	0
2004	21.62	32.43	8.11	5.41	13.51	10.81	5.41	2.7
2005	31.25	18.75	9.38	12.5	9.38	3.13	15.63	0
2006	24.39	24.39	7.32	7.32	21.95	0	12.2	2.44
2007	21.43	19.64	5.36	8.93	32.14	3.57	8.93	0
2008	13.04	10.87	4.35	6.52	45.65	0	19.57	0
2009	9.68	16.13	19.35	6.45	32.26	0	16.13	0
2010	10	20	3.33	6.67	30	0	20	10
Total	23.29	20	6.58	7.95	24.11	3.29	13.15	1.64

*Analysis of the articles according to the topics*

As shown in Figure 3, the most common topics on which articles were published are test validation/adaptation (10.68%) and anxiety (10.41%). The lowest percentages of published studies were written on sleep disorders (.82%) and ADHD (1.37%).



**FIGURE 3.** Distribution of articles (%) according to the topics.

### *Type of the sample*

As can be seen in Table 5, the most studied sample is adults (48.96%), with 24.74% with pathology and 24.22% without pathology. Also theoretical studies without any sample are well represented with 22.66% of the total number of the analyzed documents.

**TABLE 5.** Distribution of the articles according to the sample.

<i>Sample type</i>	<i>% articles</i>
Journals	1.56
No sample/theoretical	22.66
Family/parents	1.82
Professionals	4.43
Children	5.2
Without pathology	2.86
With pathology	2.34
Adolescents	14.33
Without pathology	10.42
With pathology	3.91
Adults	48.96
Without pathology	24.22
With pathology	24.74
Elderly	.78
Other	.26



*The most cited articles*

Table 6 shows the numbers of citations of the 5 most cited articles, taking into account information found in the Web of Science. As can be seen, the most cited documents are works which establish guidelines for writing, reviewing or naming research papers.

**TABLE 6.** The numbers of citations of the 5 most cited articles.

<i>Article</i>	<i>Number of citations</i>
Montero and León (2007)	161
Montero and León (2005)	154
Ramos-Álvarez <i>et al.</i> (2008)	81
Ramos-Álvarez, Valdés-Conroy, and Catena (2006)	68
Carretero-Díos and Pérez (2007)	49

### Discussion

The current work is a bibliometric study in which all the articles published in the International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology, from 2001 to 2010 were analyzed. The analyses were conducted taking into account different indicators, such as the publication language, international collaboration between authors, nationalities of the authors, numbers of authors per article, methods, topics and samples. All these analyses provided results with detailed description of the journal, ten years after its foundation.

As can be seen in the results of the current work, the International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology is a truly international journal. Articles published by authors from more than one country are being published in almost every issue. Moreover, throughout the analyzed years, the journal published works of authors from 29 different countries. These findings are not surprising, as the journal accomplishes all the criteria of the internationality (Zych and Buéla-Casal, 2007, 2009, 2010) and is the number one publication in the Internationality Index (Buéla-Casal *et al.*, 2007).

Most of the articles published in the journal are original studies, although there are also some reviews, brief reports and cases reports. The most studied participants are adults with different kinds of pathologies. This is probably because of the journal's scope which consists of promoting research and advancement in clinical and health psychology. This high number of original studies with clinical samples shows the journal's policy agreement with this score.

The International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology is published in Spain. Thus, it is not surprising that most of the authors are Spanish. Nevertheless, there are also many articles written by scientists from other countries. The second and the third country with the highest numbers of documents are the USA and Portugal, respectively, followed by Colombia and Mexico. Most of these articles were published in Spanish, although almost 40% were written in English. There are also some articles in Portuguese.

The fact that there are three different publication languages confirms once again the international character of the journal.

The results of the current work show that the most common type, taking into account the methods, is *ex post facto*, followed by theoretical and instrumental studies. *Ex post facto* studies are common in psychology as there are many variables which cannot be manipulated.

Articles published in the journal treat on a wide variety of topics. The most common is test validation and adaptation, followed by anxiety. Psychological assessment is one of the most important fields of clinical psychology. Thus, psychological tests should have the highest quality which can only be achieved by their adaptation and validation (Muñiz and Bartram, 2007). For this reason, the most common topic among the analyzed articles is also very important. Another interesting result is that the most cited articles are those which establish guidelines for writing or naming research studies. These kinds of papers are useful for establishing journal's styles.

As already mentioned in the introduction, it is crucial to evaluate the quality and different indexes related to the scientific publications. The current study is the first bibliometric analysis conducted on the articles of the International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology.

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