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Making Connections: Using Citation Analysis to Map the Literature of Migration & Ethnic Relations

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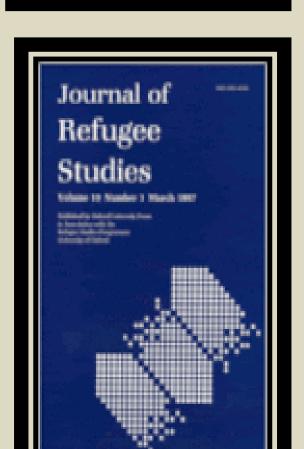*The University of Western Ontario*

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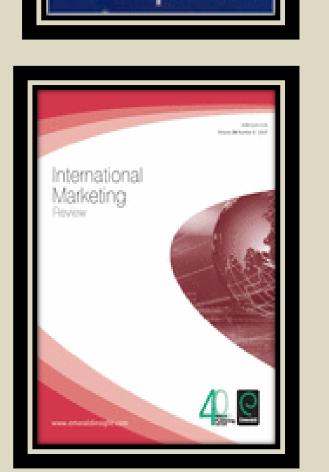http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/wlpres/23

Making Connections: Using Citation Analysis to Map the Literature of Migration & Ethnic Relations

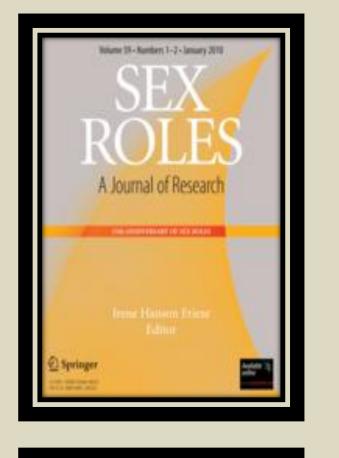## Bruce Fyfe, Marni Harrington, Courtney Waugh, Stacey Wilson
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RESEARCH QUESTION

How well are the collections at Western Libraries meeting the needs of researchers in emerging inter-disciplinary programs such as the Collaborative Graduate Program in Migration & Ethnic Relations (MER)?

WHY CITATION ANALYSIS?

Analyzing citation characteristics from a body of scholarly literature can answer key questions about the types of resources researchers use, and can be a useful tool for uncovering patterns and themes in the "literature of" an inter-disciplinary field.
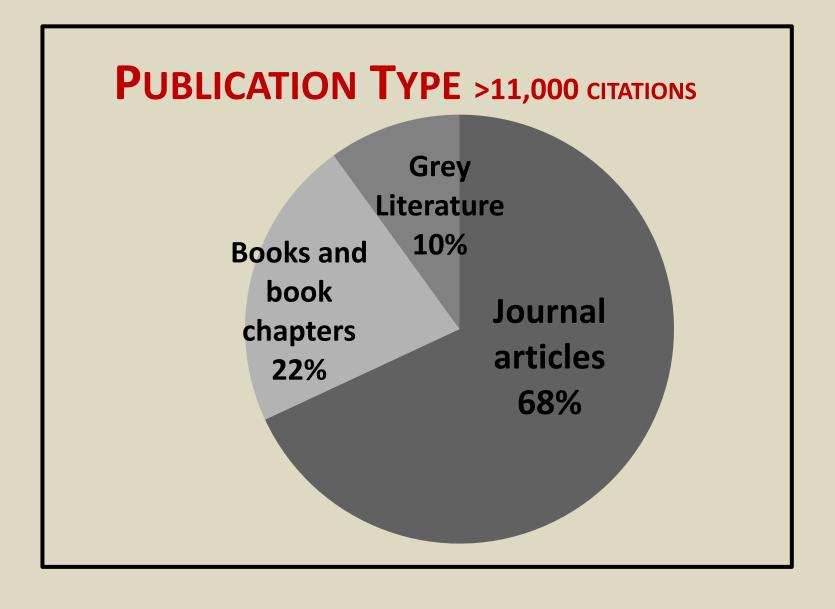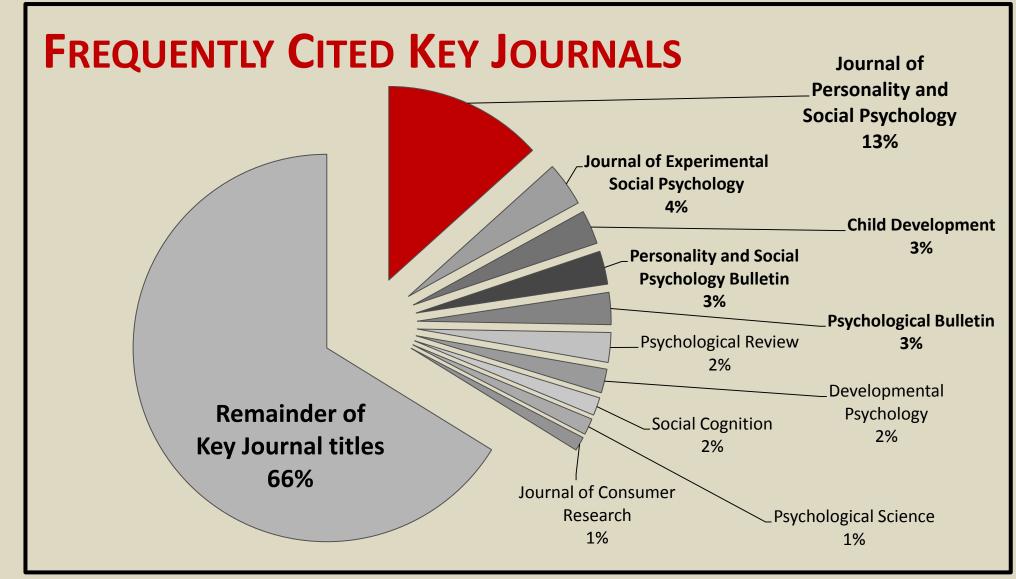
METHODOLOGY

1. Identify researchers affiliated with the MER Program: *32 from 12 departments (July 2009)*
2. Collect publication data using a combination of SCOPUS, SSCI, and Google Scholar (limits: author/2003-)
3. Use RefWorks and Excel to manage and analyze citation data
4. Isolate Journal and Non-Journal reference types
5. Determine *key journals* as those cited 5 or more times – Also: identify contributing disciplines / subject areas (Ulrich's); assign subject categories based on relevant Journal Citation Report (JCR) definitions
6. Categorize non-journal references as monographs or grey literature
7. Check key journals and monographs against Western Libraries holdings

OBJECTIVE #1
To identify the "literature of" MER.

RESULTS

PUBLICATION TYPE >11,000 CITATIONS

- Journal articles 68%
- Books and book chapters 22%
- Grey Literature 10%

FREQUENTLY CITED KEY JOURNALS

- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology 13%
- Journal of Experimental Social Psychology 4%
- Child Development 3%
- Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin 3%
- Psychological Bulletin 3%
- Psychological Review 2%
- Developmental Psychology 2%
- Social Cognition 2%
- Journal of Consumer Research 1%
- Psychological Science 1%
- Remainder of Key Journal titles 66%

MONOGRAPHS
✓ Remain an important source of information for MER researchers

GREY LITERATURE: WIDE RANGE OF FORMATS AND TYPES

Most frequently cited	
Government publications (Canada/US/INT/UK)	467
News Resources	145
Think Tank / Policy Institute Research Report	120
Conference proceedings	114
Dissertation or thesis	56

OBJECTIVE #2
To gain an understanding of patterns or themes in the literature of MER to guide collections.
Key Questions:
1. What disciplines does the literature draw upon?
2. What does it tell us about the age of the literature cited?

RESULTS

KEY JOURNAL SUBJECTS ACCORDING TO ULRICH'S

- Public health and safety
- Environmental studies
- Social sciences comprehensive
- Children and youth
- Geography
- Political science
- Population studies
- Sociology
- **Business and economics
- **Medical sciences
- **Psychology
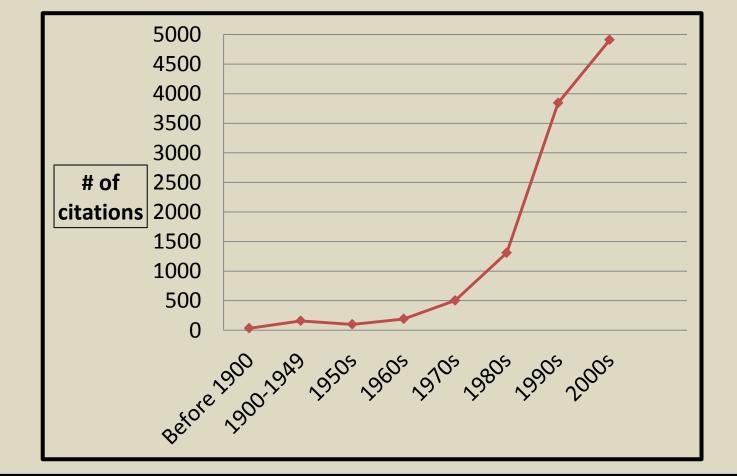
SUBJECT CATEGORIES IDENTIFIED THROUGH JCR

- **Demography** – 23 titles, 8 cited >5
- **Ethnic Studies** – 10 titles, 2 cited >5
- **Planning and Development** – 45 titles, 1 cited >5

Only 14% of core titles consistently cited

AGE OF COLLECTION USED BY MER RESEARCHERS

Rely on more recent vs. retrospective works

- >80% cited after 1980
- Parallels formal emergence of literature in Refugee Studies, formally established in 1982 (Skran, 2007)

# of citations — (chart: Before 1900, 1900-1949, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s)

OBJECTIVE #3
To identify gaps in holdings to make informed recommendations regarding collections and research support.

RESULTS

Western Libraries holdings
✓ 99% of key journals
✓ 83% of monographs

OBJECTIVE #4
To apply this methodology to assess and inform collections and research support for other interdisciplinary programs

IN PROGRESS
Environment & Sustainability
- data collected
- analysis pending

CONCLUSIONS

✓ Confirmed strength of collection support
✓ Demonstrated scope of MER literature used
✓ Support MER through colleague collaboration

Increase strength of liaison: Confidently make connections with faculty knowing we successfully support their research.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

DISCUSSIONS WITH FACULTY:
- What are publication patterns in journals outside own discipline?

RESEARCH SUPPORT:
- Due to broad scope of subjects, when is collaboration necessary?

FURTHER INVESTIGATION INTO GREY LITERATURE:
- To what extent is it discoverable?
- How is it accessed?

METHODOLOGY:
- Refine and streamline