

Discovering Australian LIS Research in Literature Reference Databases

An important feature of research is the accumulation of new knowledge. While all disciplines conduct research, Library and Information Science (LIS) constitutes an interesting case. Not only is LIS involved in structuring and making accessible knowledge from all disciplines, but LIS is also engaged in creating its own disciplinary knowledge through research. While traditionally classification and cataloguing provided access to the richness of available knowledge, a dominant contemporary means for discovering primary material is through publisher and aggregator literature databases.

This presentation examines the visibility of LIS research undertaken by Australian LIS academics in eight databases. It uses a list of 382 LIS academics from Australia who worked as academics for more than 2 years over the last 50 years. The eight databases are: two Australian-specific databases, AEI+ and ALISA; three international LIS-focused databases, LISTA, LISA and LLIS; and the three multidisciplinary citation databases of ISI Thomson Scientific, SSCI, SCI and A&HCI. Records of publications obtained through searching these databases were unified, resulting in a list of 2,235 unique journal articles published by the 382 academics.

This extensive list of journal articles is then analyzed. This enables (1) tracking of the number of articles published year by year and comparison of publication output over time vis-a-vis the number of academics working in the field. (2) It provides insight into changes in authorship patterns, such as the number of publications and collaborations. Moreover, (3) journals Australians frequently publish in are identified. Finally, (4) the varying degrees of coverage of Australian publications by different databases are examined.

Results indicate, for example, the importance of journals with a national focus for LIS in Australia. While Academics published in 233 different journals, national journals seem to fulfill an important role for the local community. Forty-four percent of all publications appear in national journals. Moreover, results question how representative 'productivity' studies are when they rely solely on Thomson Reuters databases.

In conclusion, this presentation provides an overview of the visibility of publications by Australian LIS academics through different databases. It discusses the discovered publications from different angles: over time, examining authorship patterns, journals, and the visibility of Australian LIS research in different databases.

Discovering Australian LIS research in literature reference databases

Concepción S. Wilson, Sebastian K. Boell,
Mary Anne Kennan, Patricia Willard



Method

- 382 Academics working more than 2 years in LIS
- Searched in 8 databases:
 - Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA)
 - Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts (LISTA)
 - Library Literature and Information Science (LLIS)
 - Australian Library and Information Science Abstracts (ALISA)
 - Australian Education Index (AEI)
 - Social Science Citation Index (SSCI)
 - Science Citation Index (SCI)
 - Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)
- Only research type articles



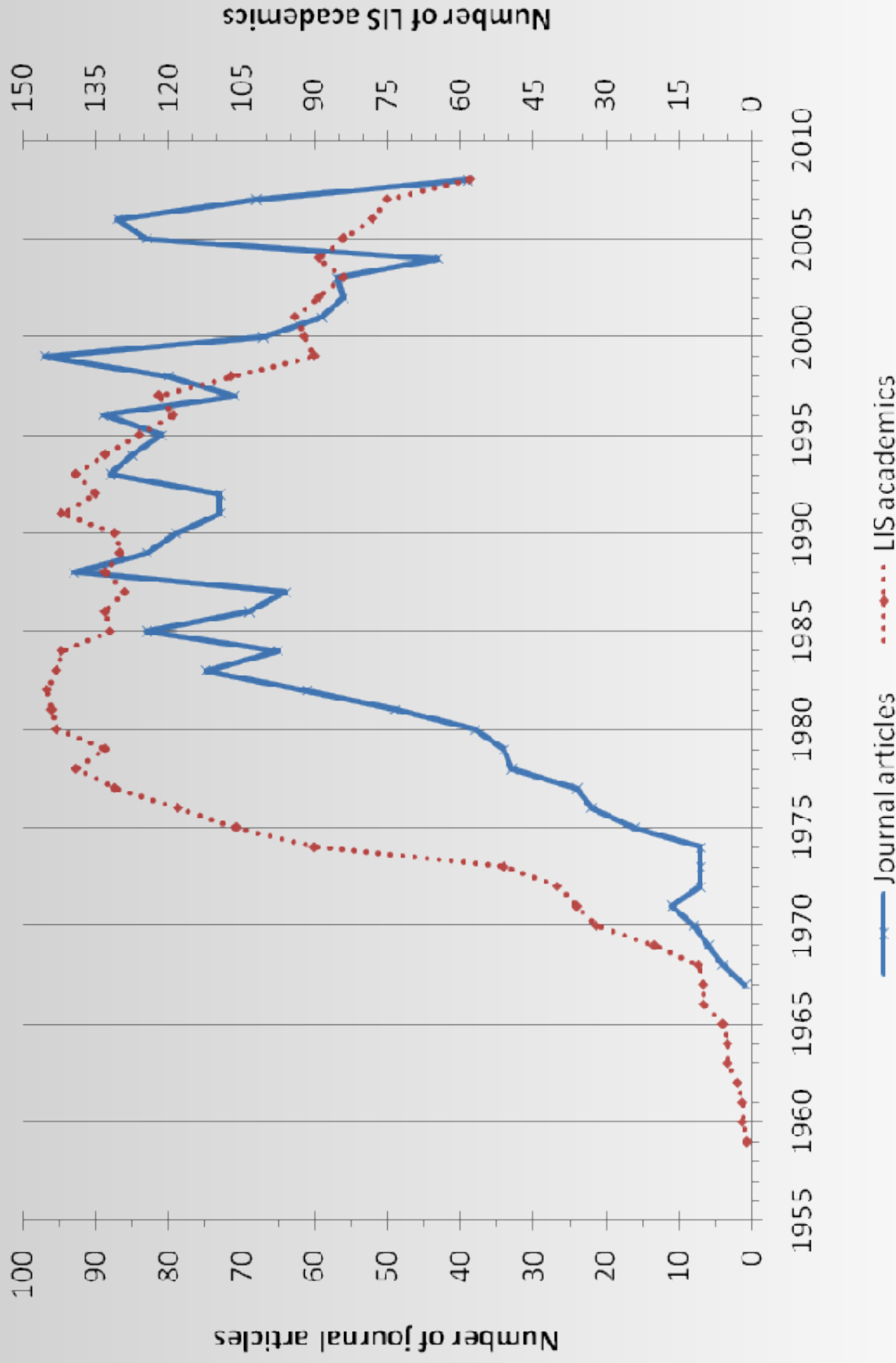
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Journal articles over time



Coverage of articles over time

Years	1967- 1969	1970- 1979	1980- 1989	1990- 1999	2000- 2008	Total all years
ALISA	0	0	380	293	19	692
LISA	8	128	305	386	261	1088
LISTA	3	27	96	213	297	636
AEI+	0	22	434	271	178	905
SSCI	0	10	57	94	84	245
SCI	0	1	6	30	50	87
AHCI	0	0	7	10	4	21
LLIS	0	0	106	275	223	604
Total unique publications per decade in all databases	11	169	677	816	559	2232

Only found in one database

	% unique
ALISA	17.8
LISA	32.9
LISTA	26.4
AEI+	32.4
SSCI	13.9
SCI	16.1
AHCI	57.1
LLIS	17.9
Total	49.7

Overview of data

	share of all 2232 records	total
Containing keywords	97.8%	2,184
Containing Abstracts	87.2%	1,946
Start and end page (length)	93.2%	2,081
Published in Australian journals	62.3%	1,391
Published in international journals	37.7%	841
Information on schools	98.6%	2,200
Coverage period	1967-2008	
Number of different Australian LIS authors		264



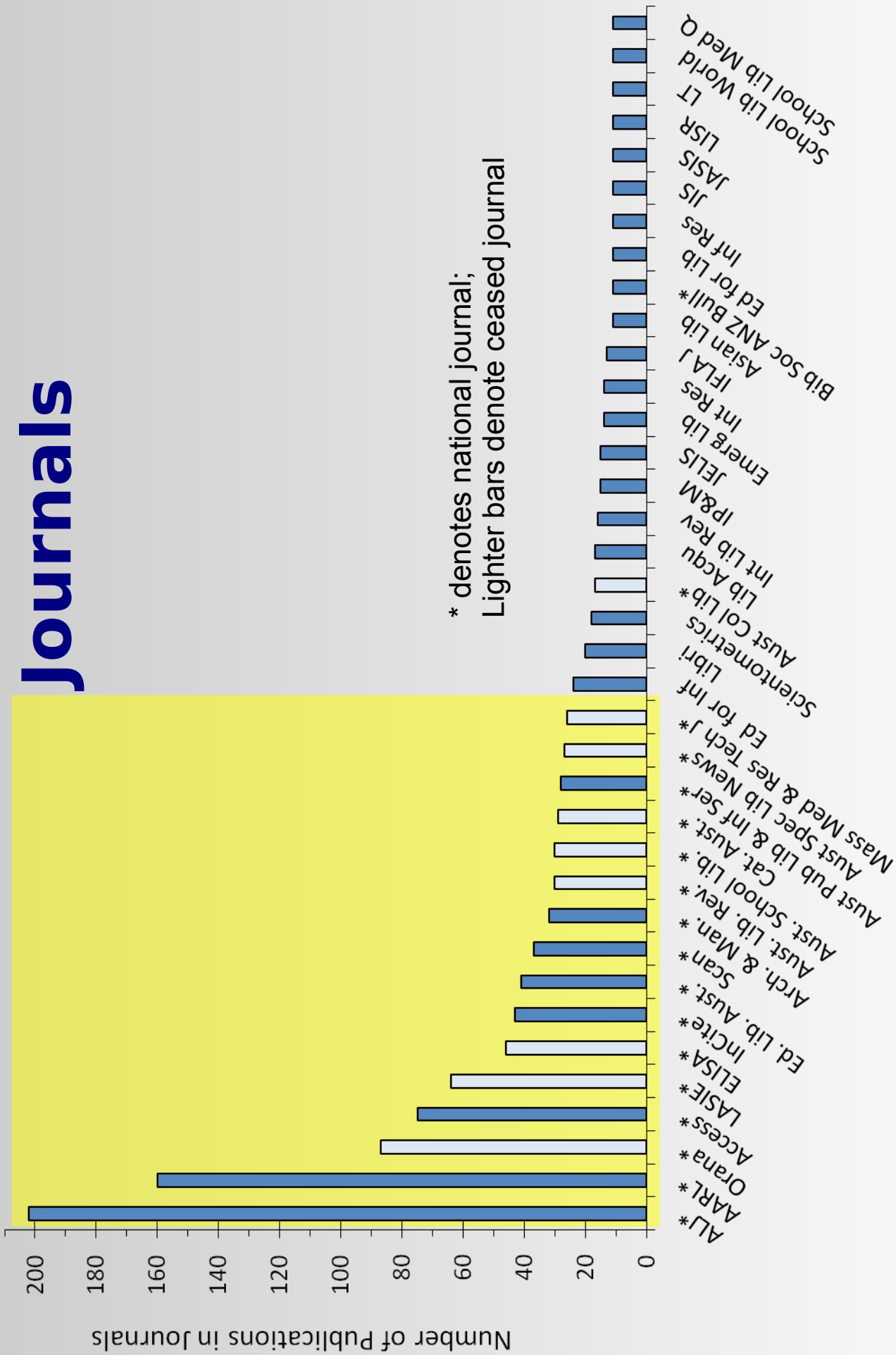
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Journals



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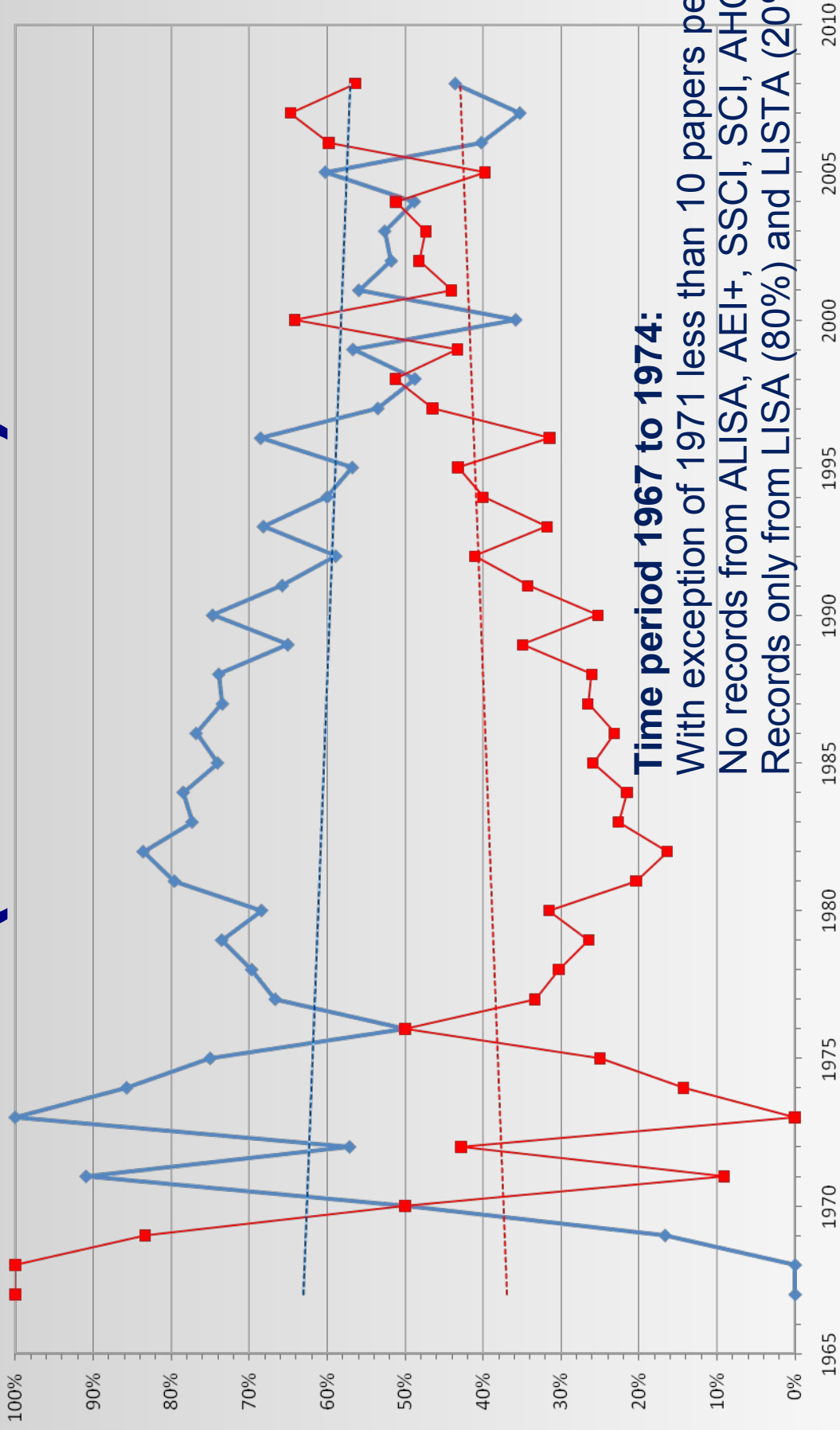


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INFORMETRIC
RESEARCH
GROUP

Publications in national VS international journals over time (1967-2008)



Time period 1967 to 1974:

With exception of 1971 less than 10 papers per year!

No records from ALISA, AEI+, SSCI, SCI, AHCI, LLIS!

Records only from LISA (80%) and LISTA (20%).



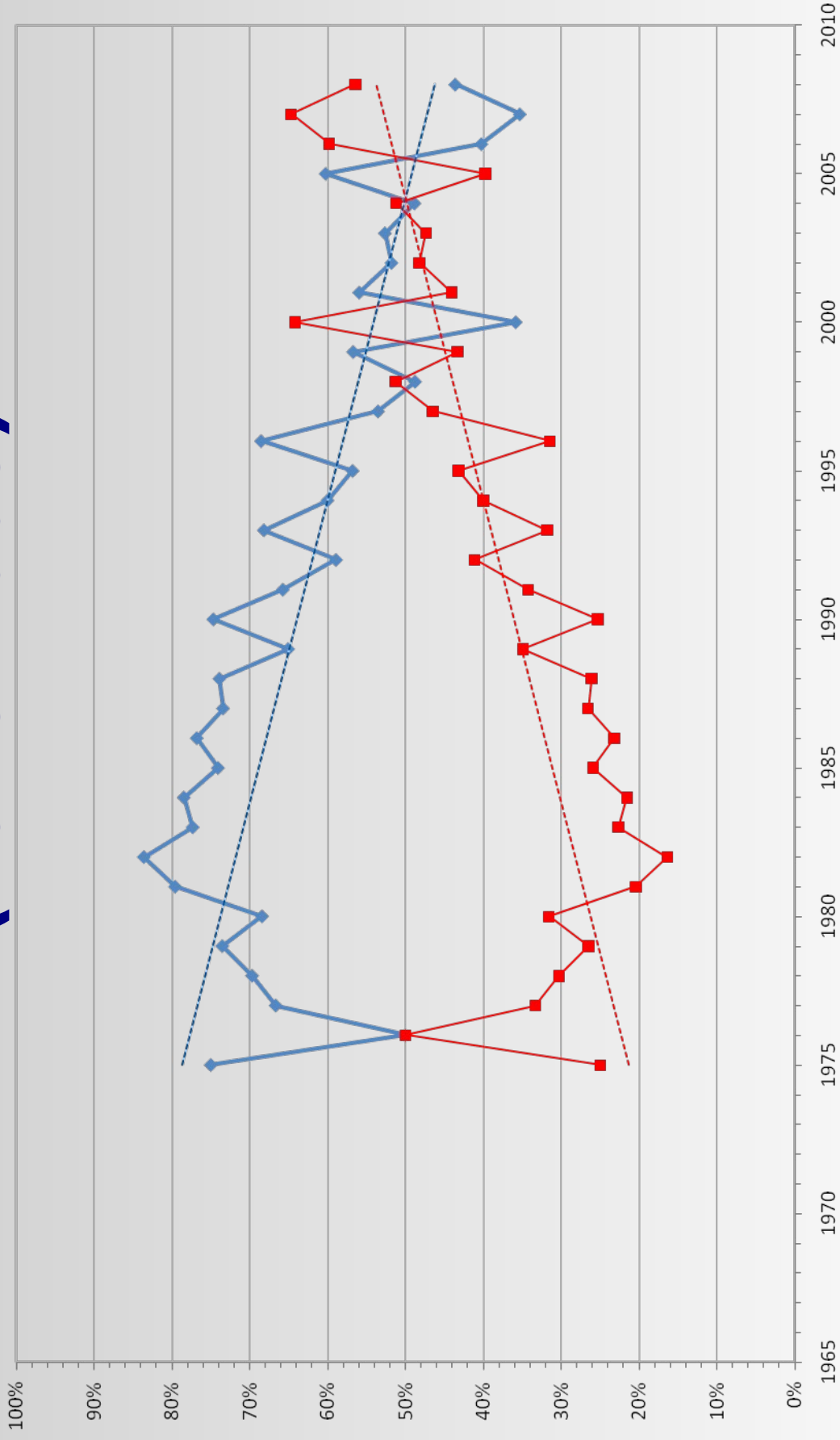
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Publications in national VS international journals over time (1975-2008)



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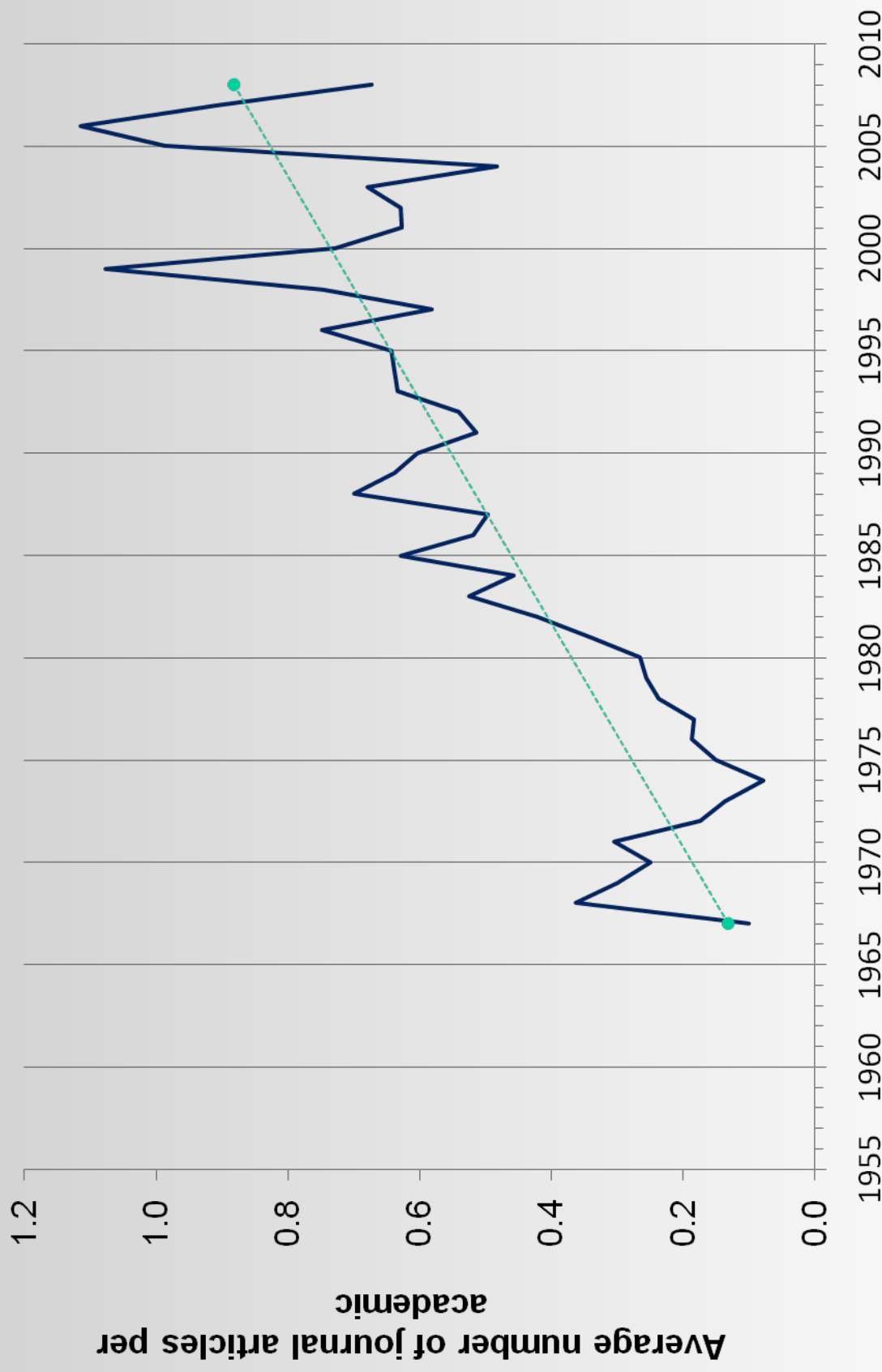


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Average number of publications per academic over time



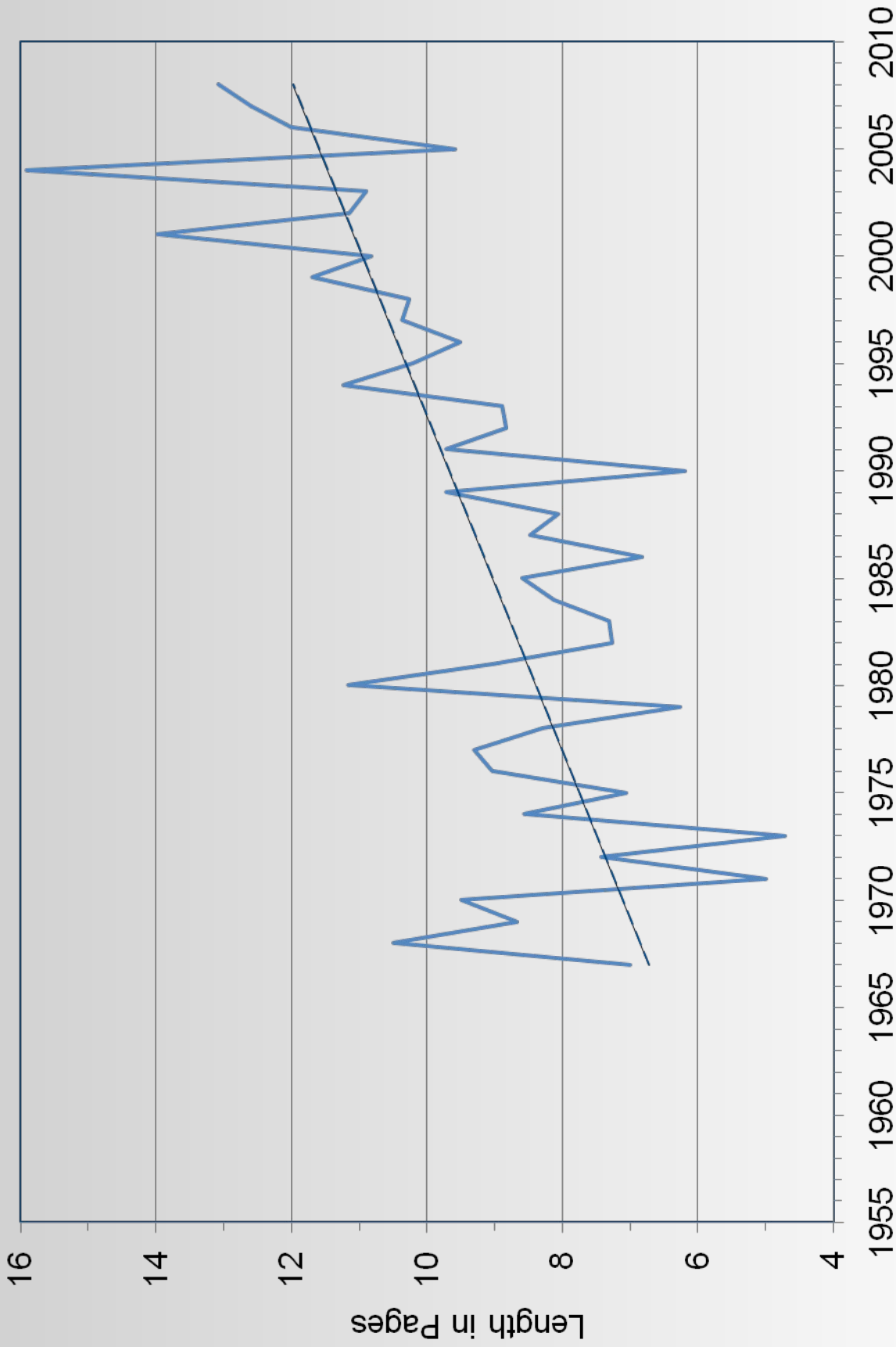
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Article length over time



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Research over time - Method

- Words used in titles as indicator of content of articles
- Using NVivo 9
 - Word frequency analysis excluding stopwords
 - Stemming filter to combine similar words
E.g.: ,library‘ and ,libraries‘
- Visualise 50 most frequently used words within time period
 - The bigger the more often used
 - Proximity of words has no meaning



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Research over time: 1967-1979



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Research over time: 1980-1989



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Research over time: 1990-1999



Research over time: 2000-2008



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