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**A Green Legacy: 30 Years of Manuscript Publishing Trends in the
Electronic Green Journal**

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Abstract

This study examines the publishing and citation trends of the *Electronic Green Journal: Professional Journal on International Environmental Information* (EGJ) over the past three decades (1994–2024). This paper aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of research articles, top authors, countries, organizations, collaboration patterns, and highly cited articles. Bibliometric analysis was conducted using data extracted from the journal's metadata, Google Scholar database, and Google Scholar Profiles. A thorough search strategy was employed to ensure relevant data extraction. A total of 49 records (n=49) were selected for analysis using an Excel spreadsheet.

The findings indicate 169 research articles were published during this period, with the highest number of articles published in the year 2000 and 2001 (n=20). The year 1994 garnered the most citations, totaling 1,767. Authors from the United States and Canada were the most prolific, contributing the highest number of research studies and author collaborations. Single authorship was the most common pattern, followed by collaborations between two authors. This paper provides an opportunity to examine the evolution of open international scholarly communication published in the EGJ over the past 30 years (1994–2024) and to highlight its most impactful contributions.

Analyzing productivity and citation metrics, this study is the first to offer a detailed understanding of the environmental sustainability literature published in the EGJ.

Introduction

Human activities have had a profound impact on the environment, leading to severe consequences such as global warming, pollution, loss of biodiversity, and ecological crises (Tariq & Khalid, 2023). As a result, there is an urgent need to intensify efforts towards sustainability. A notable example of this endeavor is the *Electronic Green Journal* (e-ISSN: 1076-7975), initiated in 1994 to advance the role of academic libraries in sustainability initiatives through publication of research on the topic.

Established in 1992 by Maria Anna Jankowska of the University of Idaho Library, *The Green Library Journal: Environmental Topics in the Information World* (ISSN #1059-0838) was designed as a global platform for librarians, information consultants, civic groups, organizations, educators, and individuals to exchange ideas on environmental issues (Jankowska, 2007). Following 1993, funding for printing the journal became a significant financial challenge, although readership and submissions were increasing. To promote sustainable scholarly communication, librarians at the University of Idaho decided to transition to a peer-reviewed, online, free of charge to public and authors' journal. This transition eventually led to the journal adopting a Diamond Open Access model and being rebranded as the *Electronic Green Journal* (EGJ). In its inaugural issue, Jankowska and Griego (1994) emphasized the EGJ's commitment to leveraging electronic platforms for the dissemination of environmental knowledge and highlighted the journal's focus on promoting global environmental initiatives that are both practical and scholarly.

The primary goal of the EGJ is to facilitate international academic environmental communication by providing a high-quality, unbiased, and freely accessible forum for the exchange of environmental information, thereby promoting global collaboration and cultural pluralism. The EGJ explores sustainable scholarship through alternative models of scholarly communication, supported by digital repository platforms, open-access model, digital curation, and the retention of author rights. This professional, peer-reviewed publication covers a wide range of topics, including environmental protection, conservation, ecologically balanced regional development, and environmental sustainability. With a diverse audience that includes librarians, environmentalists, researchers, and educators, the journal fosters the sharing of international expertise by offering both practical and scholarly content that is freely accessible.

The EGJ has been a significant force in the open access movement and digital publishing for nearly thirty years (Suber, 2009; Bailey, 2008). Since 1994, the journal has contributed 169 academic articles, 29 editorials, 18 essays, 9 research reports, 11 poems, 4 conference reports, and 1 poster to literature on environmental writing. In addition, the EGJ has published 641 book reviews focused on sustainability and

environmental topics. The most prolific contributors in this area include Ryder Miller, with 65 book reviews, followed by Yves Laberge (60), Byron Anderson (54), and Elery Hamilton-Smith (51).

The EGJ is listed in 1,407 library catalogs worldwide, according to the WorldCat FirstSearch database, and is indexed by EBSCOhost, ProQuest, CAB Abstracts, and Scopus. Numerous authors' articles and book reviews have been republished in books such as *Global Environment: Problems and Policies* (2 volumes) and *From Narnia to A Space Odyssey: The War of Ideas Between Arthur C. Clarke and C.S. Lewis*, as well as on platforms like Wikipedia and Amazon book reviews.

The journal's website provides detailed information on its publication frequency and history dating back to 1994. Despite its long-standing presence and consistent contributions, no bibliometric study has been conducted on the EGJ to date. This study aims to fill that gap by performing a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of the journal. The primary objective of this study is to explore the publishing trends of the EGJ over the past three decades, from 1994 to 2024. The analysis focus on data obtained from the Google Scholar database, widely recognized as one of the largest bibliographic databases for peer-reviewed literature and freely accessible to researchers worldwide. This study seeks to answer the following key questions:

- What publishing and citation trends have been observed in the EGJ from 1994 to 2024?
- Which articles have been the most highly cited in the EGJ during this timeframe?
- What are the authorship and collaborative research patterns of EGJ authors?
- Which countries, organizations, and authors have been the most productive and highly cited in the EGJ during this period?
- Does scholarly communication related to the environment and sustainability transcend borders?

By addressing these questions, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the scholarly impact and evolution of the EGJ, thereby contributing to a better understanding of its role in the field of environmental sustainability.

Methodology

The selection of appropriate databases is critical for conducting a thorough and effective bibliometric analysis. In this study, the authors initially considered using the EGJ

metadata in eScholarship, Google Scholar, and Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA) to collect publications related to the EGJ. However, LISTA was found to lack the citations and other essential bibliographic data required for a comprehensive analysis. Consequently, Google Scholar was chosen over LISTA due to its broader record coverage.

To gather the necessary data for analysis, the authors extracted information from Google Scholar, including issue, year, title, countries, and affiliated organizations of articles. This approach allowed for a detailed examination of the bibliographic data. Consequently, the bibliometric analysis employed in this study involved extracting bibliographic data from: Google Scholar, Google Scholar Profiles, and the *EGJ* metadata.

Data extraction and filtration process

The data were organized by publication year, author(s), title, and other relevant facts. The impact metrics calculated for each manuscript, with the aim of identifying the most influential articles in each issue is presented in Table 1. It shows the total number of research articles published per issue and includes only the highest-cited article. The impact metrics, such as citation count, indicate how often each manuscript has been cited by other publications. These metrics were crucial in identifying the manuscripts with the greatest impact in the field of environmental sustainability and awareness.

In the first phase of the study, a total of 241 records were identified from the EGJ metadata. In the second phase, only 169 research studies categorized as academic articles were deemed eligible for inclusion in the bibliometric analysis. Editorials, essays, research reports, conference reports, poems and other non-peer-reviewed documents were excluded. In the second phase data was exported into Microsoft Excel files for further analysis. Each record was carefully reviewed by the authors to ensure reliability and accuracy. Ultimately, 49 documents were deemed eligible for inclusion in the study of top cited articles.

In the third phase, all records underwent another thorough verification to remove duplicates, confirm details such as author names, publication titles, journal names, publication dates, and other bibliographic information. The goal was to ensure that the data used in the analysis was reliable and accurately reflected the literature.

In the final phase, a final check was performed using Google Scholar Profiles. This additional layer of verification provided updated and corrected information about authors and their publications, ensuring alignment between the study data and widely recognized academic databases and profiles. This step enhanced the credibility and completeness of the dataset. While addressing duplicate records was a primary focus,

the process also prioritized the accuracy and completeness of bibliographic information, ensuring that the study's findings were based on high-quality, reliable data.

Results

Top cited publications

The number of research articles published in EGJ gradually increased. A total of 169 research articles were published from 1994-2024 and Table 1 presents the trend for publications and citations in the journal. The number of citations received by publications in EGJ also increased over the years.

Table 1. Impact metrics: List of articles with the highest impact based on the citation received from 1994-2024.

Issue	Year	Total No. of Articles	The top cited article	Author/s	Country	Citations received as per Google Scholar
1	1994	5	Fighting Environmental Racism: a Selected Annotated Bibliography	Weintraub, Irwin	USA	23
2	1994	3	An introduction to green marketing.	Polonsky, M. J.	Australia	1767
3	1995	4	Earth Day 1970-1995: An Information Perspective.	Stoss, F.	USA	4
4	1995	2	Internet Access to Information on Water Quality and Agriculture.	Makuch, J. R.	USA	1
5	1996	3	Newspaper Coverage of Zebra Mussels in North America: A Case of "Afghanistanism"?	Roush, D., & Fortner, R.	USA	4
6	1996	3	Fish mortality in Bangalore lakes, India.	Benjamin, R., Chakrapani, B. K., Devashish, K., Nagarathna, A. V., & Ramachandra, T. V.	USA, India	72
7	1997	2	Selenium and soils in the western United States.	Bauer, F.	USA	32
8	1998	3	The Use of the Internet as a Source for Environmental History	Sedrez, L. F.	USA	1
9	1998	14	Evaluating ecological footprints.	Palmer, A. R.	USA	19

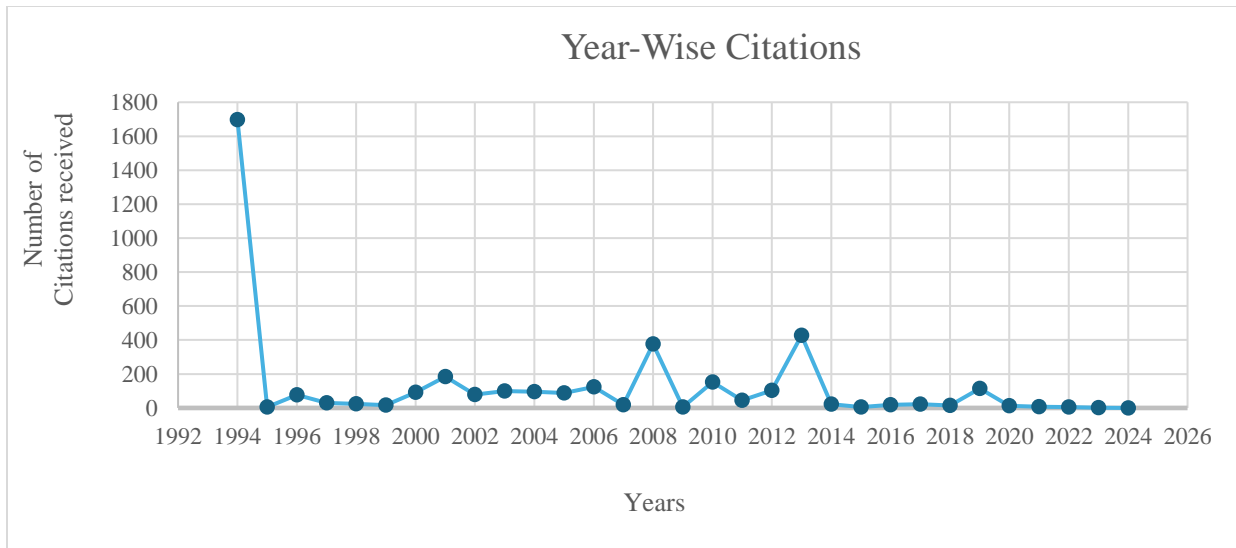
10	1999	2	Searching electronic databases for information on soil remediation: The interview and the bibliography.	Jantz, R.	USA	3
11	1999	5	A comparison of popular remedial technologies for petroleum contaminated soils from leaking underground storage tanks	Kujat, J. D.	USA	13
12	2000	5	Environmental activism and the internet.	Kutner, L. A.	USA	61
13	2000	5	No more pencils... no more books? Arguing for the use of experiential learning in post-secondary environmental studies classroom.	Wright, T. S. A.	Canada	23
14	2001	7	Integrating environmental management in small industries of India.	D'Souza, C. M.	Australia	23
15	2001	3	Buffer zones around protected areas: a brief literature review.	Martino, D.	Canada	169
16	2002	4	The sustainable use and conservation of natural resources: A case study of Pakistan	Sohali, M & Karim, M. U.	Pakistan	1
17	2002	2	The Newfoundland cod stock collapse: a review and analysis of social factors.	Mason, F.	Canada	79
18	2003	4	Arcology and Arcosanti: towards a sustainable built environment.	Grierson, D.	Scotland	37
19	2003	6	Corporate governance, the environment and the internet.	Andrew, J.	Australia	62
20	2004	3	Corporate environmental reporting media: A case for the world wide web.	Lodhia, S. K. (2004).	Australia	100
21	2005	5	Evaluation of effective microorganisms (EM) in solid waste management.	Sekaran, V., Balaji, C., & Bhagavathipushpa, T.	India	44
22	2005	5	Grey nurse shark human interactions and portrayals: a study of newspaper portrayals of the grey nurse shark from 1969-2003.	Boissonneault, M. F., Gladstone, W., Scott, P., & Cushing, N.	Australia	44
23	2006	3	Where the green is: Examining the paradox of environmentally conscious consumption.	Muldoon, A.	Canada	96

24	2006	3	The time of sands: Quartz-rich sand deposits as a renewable resource	Shaffer, N. R.	USA	24
25	2007	3	Technology and communication in the environmental movement.	Leeder, K.	USA	19
26	2008	2	Wetlands of greater Bangalore, India: automatic delineation through pattern classifiers.	Ramachandra, T. V., & Kumar, U.	India	142
27	2008	3	The green library movement: An overview and beyond.	Antonelli, M.	USA	247
28	2009	1	The political history of federal land exchanges.	Panagia, G.	USA	5
29	2010	2	Adult learners and the environment in the last century: An historical analysis of environmental adult education literature.	Haugen, C. S.	USA	42
30	2010	2	Food for thought: The social impact of community gardens in the greater Cleveland area.	Flachs, A.	USA	111
31	2011	1	How to proceed after Copenhagen.	Kunnas, J.	Italy	10
32	2011	2	Information in place: Integrating sustainability into information literacy instruction.	Stark, M. R.	USA	35
33	2012	4	Could perceived risks explain the 'green gap in green product consumption?	Durif, F., Roy, J., & Boivin, C.	Canada	72
34	2012	4	Examining the impact of religion on environmentalism 1993-2010: Has the religious environmental movement made a difference?	Hand, C. M., & Crowe, J. L.	USA	31
35	2013	3	Green libraries are more than just buildings.	Aulisio, G. J.	USA	118
36	2013	3	Green marketing: A study of consumer perception and preferences in India.	Bhatia, M., & Jain, A.	India	338
37	2014	3	Initiating sustainable behavior: Feel good for doing good.	Becker, C. M., Ayscue, E., Brockett, S. J., Scarola, G., & Kelley, T.	USA	22
38	2015	2	Unconventional pollution control politics: the reformation of the US Safe Drinking Water Act.	Zarkin, M.	USA	5

39	2016	3	Proposition of an integrative theory of socially responsible consumption behavior.	Ertz, M. (2016).	Canada	18
40	2017	2	Environmental sustainability for public libraries in Portugal: A first approach.	Dias, S. M.	Portugal	21
41	2018	2	Developing leaders through mentoring in environmental education	Erhabor, N. I.	Nigeria	15
42	2019	4	Eco-labels: A tool for green marketing or just a blind mirror for consumers.	Sharma, N. K., & Kushwaha, G. S.	India	115
43	2020	3	Do children want environmental rights? Ask the Children!	Makuch, K. E., Aczel, M. R., & Zaman, S.	UK, Canada	7
44	2020	3	A Qualitative Case Study of Green Environment: Practices, Attitudes and Future Strategies of Pakistani University Librarians.	Khalid, A., & Batool, S. H.	Pakistan	5
45	2021	4	Understanding impacts of environmental stewardship programs through community geography: Pro-environment behaviors cultivated and reinforced.	Lopez, C. W., & Weaver, R. C.	USA	6
46	2022	3	Ecosystem Management & the Evolution of Ideas at the US Forest Service.	Zarkin, M.	USA	1
47	2022	4	The antecedents of green purchase behavior of Indian households.	Sinha, R., & Annamdevula, S.	India	4
48	2023	3	Exploring the Impact of Consumers' Attitudes towards Green Advertisements on the Intention to Purchase Green Products: The Mediating Role of Environmental Responsibility.	Durmaz, Y.	Turkey	1
49	2024	4	Customer's attitude and purchasing behavior of green food: The moderating role of environmental concerns and trust			0

Source: The authors.

Figure 1. Citations received per year from 1994-2024.



Source: Google Scholar

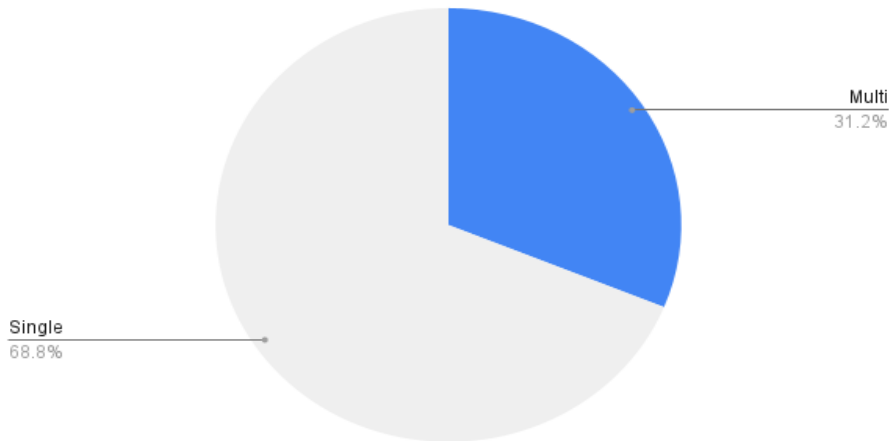
The year 1994 had the highest number of citations, totaling 1767, followed by 2013 with 457 citations, and 2008 with 389 citations (see Figure 1). Additionally, among 18 essays published in the *EGJ* Ryder Miller's essay on Astroenvironmentalism received the highest number of citations. Overall, both publications and citations in *EGJ* show a positive trend over the study period, indicating growing interest and engagement in research related to the environment.

Authorship and collaborative research patterns of top cited publications

Analysis of the authorship patterns of the top cited articles revealed the majority were authored by a single individual (see Figure 2) with two-author publications being the second most common pattern. Publications with many authors were rare. It was also observed that social science disciplines generally exhibited fewer instances of collaboration, or none, compared to scientific disciplines. This pattern continues when examining the 169 research articles, with 117 (69%) written by a single author compared to 53 (31%) with two or more authors. Interestingly, of these 53 articles, 8 contained international collaboration.

Figure 2. Percentage of single and multi-author articles.

Percentage of Single and Multi-Author Articles

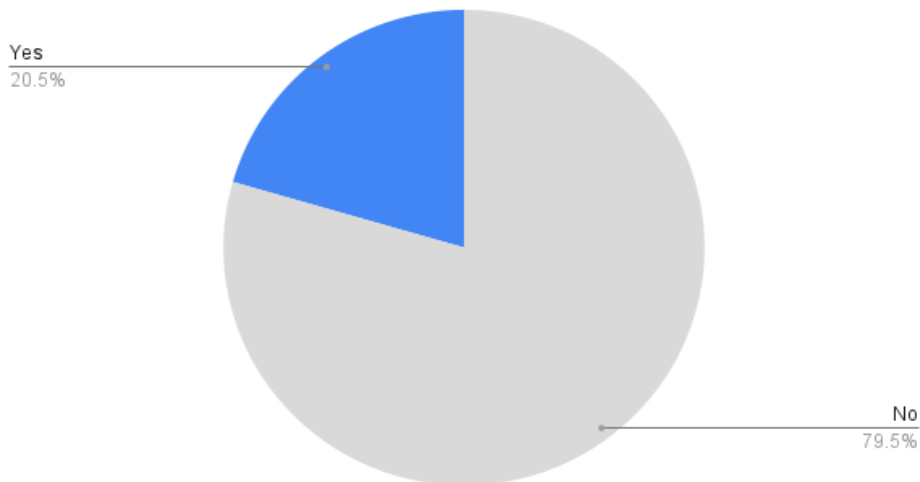


Source: The authors.

Further analysis of the top-cited articles revealed that *EGJ* was the first publisher platform for 15 authors (21%) while 79% of authors had previously published elsewhere (see Figure 3). Additionally, 17 authors chose to publish again with *EGJ*.

Figure 3. Top cited authors where *EGJ* was the first publisher platform.

Top Cited Authors Initial Publication in *EGJ*



Source: The authors.

Studying affiliation of top cited authors (Table 2) indicates that the Department of Management at the University of Newcastle, Newcastle, NSW, Australia, is ranked highest, followed by the Ahmedabad Institute of Technology and JK Lakshmipat University in India plus Minnesota State University in the United States.

Table 2. Top 10 organizations receiving a high citation rate.

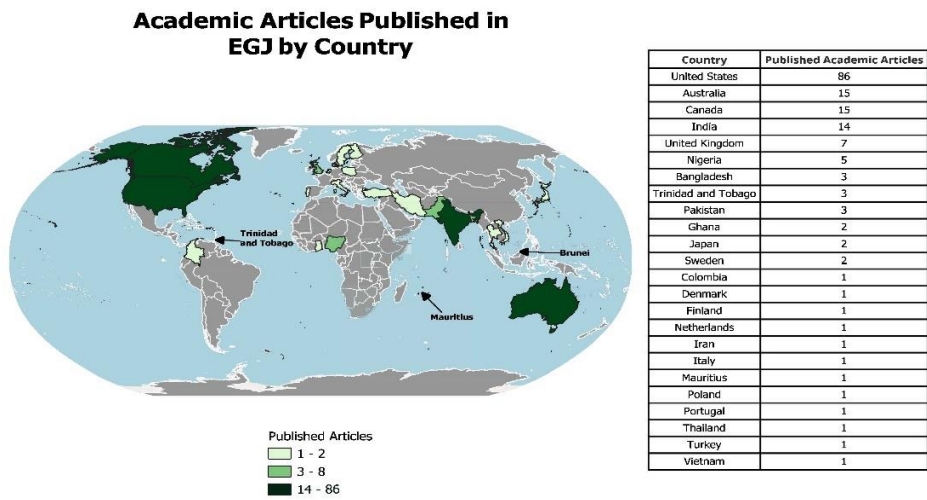
Rank	Year	Author	Affiliations	Citations received as per Google Scholar
1	1994	Polonsky, M. J.	Department of Management, University of Newcastle, Newcastle NSW, Australia	1767
2	2013	Bhatia, M., & Jain, A.	Ahmedabad Institute of Technology and JK Lakshmipat University	339
3	2008	Antonelli, M.	Minnesota State University	247
4	2001	Martino, D.	Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University	169
5	2008	Ramachandra, T. V., & Kumar, U.	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	143
6	2013	Aulisio, G. J.	The University of Scranton Library, Scranton, Pennsylvania	117
7	2019	Sharma, N. K., & Kushwaha, G. S.	Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal	114
8	2010	Flachs, A.	Oberlin College, Ohio	111
9	2004	Lodhia, S. K.	Australian National University	100
10	2006	Muldoon, A.	Carleton University, Ottawa	98

Source: Google Scholar and Google Scholar Profile.

International scholarly communication

In addition to identifying trends in EGJ top cited publications, this article reviews also all academic articles published in EGJ from 1994 to 2024. Editorials, essays, research reports, conference reports, news articles, resource lists, and professional organization updates were excluded from review. This broader scope illuminates the countries represented and discovers patterns of international collaboration. The EGJ focus on international scholarly communication and collaboration is evident in its publications.

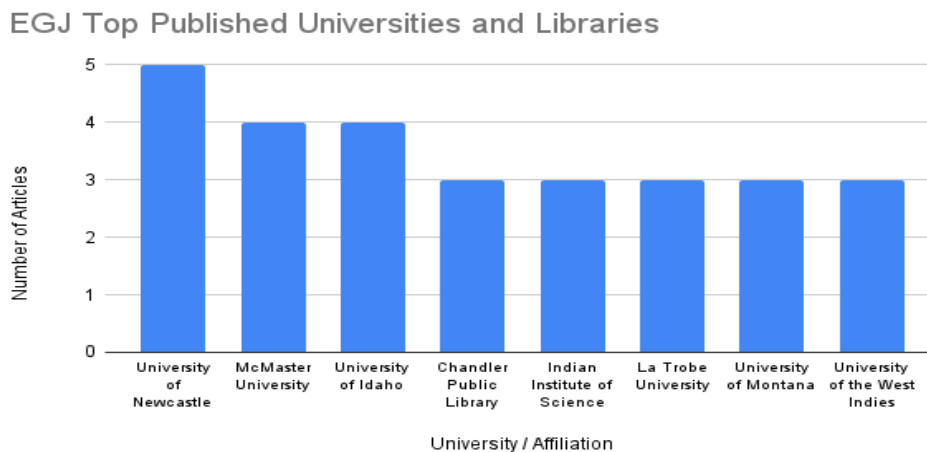
Figure 4. Academic articles published in the EGJ by country.



Autor: Hunter Deckelman.

Over the last 30 years, the EGJ has published research from 26 countries. Top six published counties are the United States (96 articles), Canada (15 articles), Australia (15 articles), India (14 articles), the United Kingdom (7 articles), and Nigeria (5) (see Figure 4). The academic articles were submitted by 157 institutions. The vast majority of which were universities, libraries, government organizations, and research centers.

Figure 5. Top Universities and Libraries Published in EGJ.



Source: The authors.

Top universities and libraries published in the EGJ are University of Newcastle (5 articles), McMaster University (4 articles), University of Idaho (4 articles), Chandler Public Library (3), Indian Institute of Science (3), La Trobe University (3), University of Montana (3), and University of the West Indies (3) (see Figure 5).

Limitations of the study and future research directions

This study has certain limitations, including its reliance solely on academic articles for data. While the findings and inferences are drawn from these articles, other valuable sources such as reviews, columns, and editorials were not included. Future studies may address this gap by incorporating a broader range of publication types to provide a more comprehensive exploration of the *EGJ's* content. It is important to note that the study focused primarily on the *EGJ* as indexed in Google Scholar, which may limit the scope of its findings. Future research could provide a more comprehensive bibliometric analysis of the sustainable scholarship by expanding the scope to include additional relevant databases and journals,

Conclusion

This study offers one of the first in-depth insights into the sustainable scholarship domain through bibliometric analysis, contributing to the growing body of research in this field. Over the last 30 years, the EGJ has grown from a local library publication into an international platform to exchange scholarly communication for environmental and sustainable. This transition is evident by the increasing number of citations. Currently, more than 4,000 literature pieces have referred to top cited authors published in the EGJ.

Furthermore, the EGJ fosters diversity in sustainability literature publishing through supporting first time authors across the world. EGJ was the first publisher platform for 15 authors (21%) of top cited articles while 79% of authors had previously published elsewhere. Over the last 30 years, the EGJ has published research from 26 countries from 157 institutions including universities, libraries, government organizations, and research centers. While most articles were authored by a single individual, there was also notable international collaboration since environment and sustainability transcend borders.

By publishing in an open access journal that is cataloged in over 1,400 libraries worldwide and indexed by numerous databases, authors who publish with the EGJ see success through high citation metrics and readership across scholarly and nonacademic

audiences. In addition to traditional avenues as databases, readers consistently access articles through social networks such as Meta (formerly known as Facebook) and X (formerly known as Twitter), and search engines like Google Search (from May to August 2024 Google referrals to EGJ were more than 13,000). Usage statistics indicates articles published in the EGJ retain their value. Older issues remain as frequently accessed as more current issues. Authors also maintain a relationship with the journal. After their initial success, 17 authors of top cited articles chose to publish again in the journal.

EGJ might be an example of shifting libraries' focus from "greening" libraries to become active partners in advancing education and research on the environment and sustainability (Jankowska, 2014). As Krautter, Lock & Scanlon (2012) stated: "The creation of the Electronic Green Journal not only demonstrates entrepreneurial librarianship, but also marks as important milestone in sustainability research and publication" (p.184). The bibliometric results provide compelling evidence that sustainable scholarship is an emerging area with substantial research potential for both practitioners and academics.

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