

*INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATION TRENDS OF
JABA AUTHORSHIP*

SIMON DYMOND

ANGLIA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE

AND

SHELLEY CLARKE, GLEN DUNLAP, AND MIRIAM STEINER

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

The present study addressed international publication trends in *JABA* authorship between 1970 and 1999. First, we analyzed authorship patterns to identify trends in the appearance of new first authors, unfamiliar authors, and frequent contributors. Second, articles were assigned to either a North American or an international category. The data show a decline in the number of articles by new authors and an increase in the publications of frequent contributors from North America. Trends are shown in comparison to those from the *American Journal on Mental Retardation*.

DESCRIPTORS: *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, publication trends, geographical origin, authorship

The publication of articles addressing various trends in behavior analysis generally, and the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* (*JABA*) specifically, has increased over recent years. For instance, Dunlap, Clarke, and Reyes (1998) found declining trends in the percentage of papers by new authors and an increase in the publications of frequent contributors to *JABA*. One factor that may influence and explain such authorship trends is the geographical origin of authors. This is supported by the findings of Dymond (1997), who identified geographical dispar-

ities in the origin of publications in three of the main behavior-analytic journals, including *JABA*. The present paper therefore sought to determine the geographical origin of articles published in *JABA* by new and frequent authors.

METHOD

All articles from *JABA* (with the exception of published abstracts and book reviews) published between 1970 and 1999 were examined, and descriptive features were entered in a database that included the article's title, year of publication, the name of each author, and the geographical origin. The database permitted calculations of the total number of articles authored or coauthored by an individual over a specified period of time and the corresponding geographical origin. Each issue of the journal was reviewed independently by two data recorders, and interrater agreement was 100% for the selection and recording of each article.

The data were analyzed to answer a number of questions related to authorship and

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Address correspondence to either Simon Dymond, Department of Psychology, Anglia Polytechnic University, East Road, Cambridge, CB1 1PT, United Kingdom (E-mail: s.dymond@anglia.ac.uk) or Glen Dunlap, Division of Applied Research and Educational Support, Department of Child and Family Studies, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, 13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33612 (E-mail: dunlap@hal.fmhi.usf.edu).

international publication trends. The analyses were conducted in two major phases. First, we analyzed authorship patterns to identify trends in the appearance of unfamiliar authors and frequent contributors. These analyses used the same procedures as described in Dunlap *et al.* (1998). The second phase involved sorting the articles by geographical origin, adapted from Dymond (1997).

Phase 1

To assess the extent to which new authorship groups were more or less represented in *JABA*'s contents, we counted the number of articles in a given volume (e.g., 1981) by first authors with no previous publications in the previous five *JABA* volumes (e.g., 1976–1980). Next, we calculated the number of articles that included authors who had not been listed as an author on a *JABA* article in the previous 5 years.

The analysis also examined the proportion of a volume's contents that were produced by frequent contributors. Specifically, authorship trends were assessed by counting the number of articles in a given volume of *JABA* (e.g., 1981) that had at least one author with five or more publications in the previous five *JABA* volumes (e.g., 1976–1980). Similarly, we recorded the number of articles in a given volume of *JABA* that had at least one author with 10 or more publications in the previous 5 years.

Phase 2

The analysis was then extended to address geographical origin of the identified publications as related to trends. The identified articles were recorded as belonging to one of two geographical categories (adapted from Dymond, 1997): North America (Canada and the United States), and international (e.g., Australasia, Europe, and Latin America). All articles were assigned to either category by determining the geographical origin of the authors' affiliation given on the first page. Articles that listed affiliations

across categories were coded as international articles.

For comparison purposes, the procedures of the study were replicated with a second journal, the *American Journal on Mental Retardation (AJMR)*. *AJMR* was selected because it was published consistently over the same years of analysis, is highly regarded, and focuses on research in developmental disabilities, the most common population studied in *JABA* (Northup, Vollmer, & Serret, 1993). Reliability was 100% for the selection and coding of *AJMR* articles.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1 shows the number of articles per *JABA* and *AJMR* volume authored by new and frequent authors from the North American and international categories. Between 1970 and 1999, *JABA* published a total of 699 articles ($M = 28$ per year) by new first authors, the majority of whom came from North America (657 articles; 94%). New first authors from North America published a mean of 26 articles per year, whereas international authors published a mean of two articles. New authors published a total of 348 *JABA* articles ($M = 14$ per year), 316 of whom came from North America (91%). New international authors published a total of 32 articles, with a mean of 1.2 articles per year.

The analysis of publication trends by authors with at least five publications in the previous 5 years highlights the dominance of North American authors. Authors from this category published 361 of 367 articles during the review period ($M = 14$ articles per year). A total of six articles from international authors with at least five previous publications were recorded during the review period. Authors with at least 10 publications in the previous 10 years from North America published 165 of 168 articles ($M = 7$), whereas international authors published one

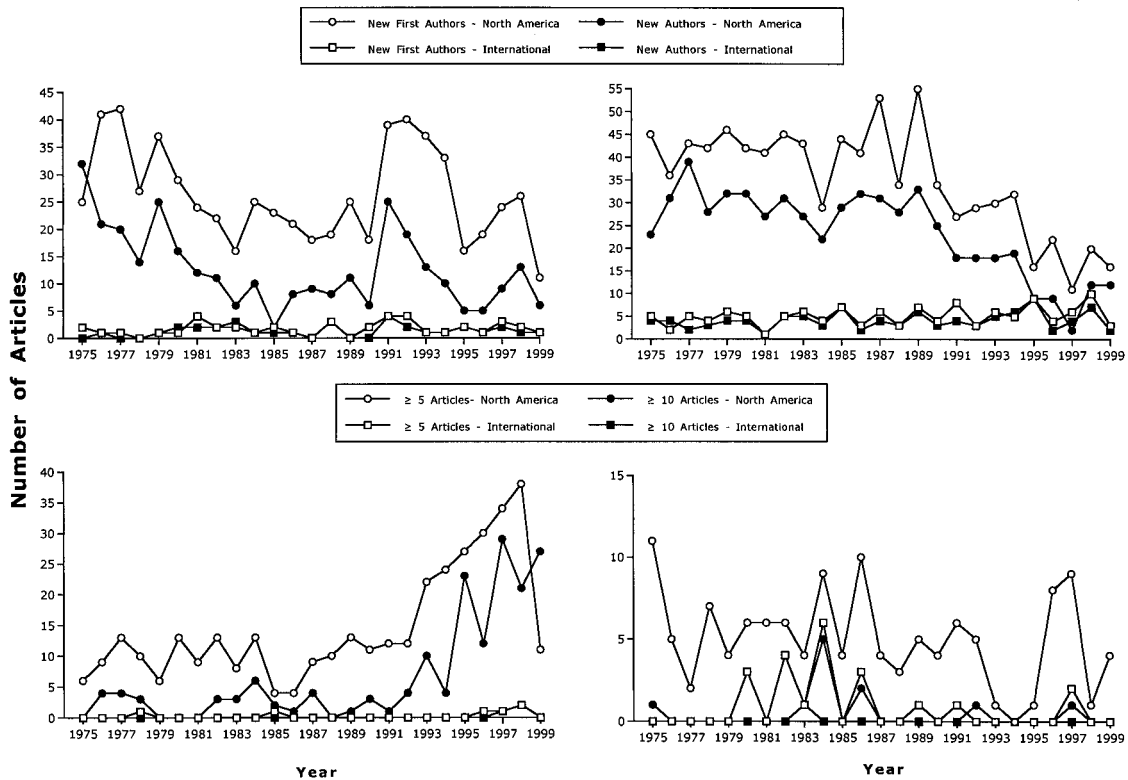


Figure 1. The number of articles published in *JABA* and *AJMR* by new first authors and new authors (upper panels) and authors with at least 5 and 10 previous publications (lower panels) from the North American and international categories.

and two articles in 1997 and 1998, respectively. Figure 1 shows that over the last decade the number of publications by frequent contributors from North America has increased substantially.

In general, trends in *AJMR* were similar to those observed in *JABA*. That is, the numbers of articles from the international category were consistently higher across our four measures, and the number of publications by frequent contributors from North America in *AJMR* was approximately one third of the level seen in *JABA* (Figure 1). Overall, a number of issues are apparent. First, publication trends in *JABA* and *AJMR* are predominated by authors from North America. Second, international authors account for just over 5% (*JABA*) or 14% (*AJMR*) of total publications for each journal. Third, the publications of frequent con-

tributors from North America has increased over the last 10 years. Fourth, trends seen in *JABA* are less pronounced in *AJMR*.

The present findings show an increase in the number of articles by "*JABA* veterans" from North America, which may come as little surprise to many readers. After all, behavior analysis was founded, and *JABA* is published in, North America, and clearly the highest proportion of practicing behavior analysts in the world reside there. Assuming that behavior analysts are interested in furthering international involvement in their science, however, the present trends should be of concern. Recent international appointments to the *JABA* Board of Editors may indicate increased international attention, but only future analyses can determine whether such changes will result in an increasing diversity of authorship patterns and

highlight concomitant changes in subject populations and target behaviors (see Northup *et al.*, 1993) studied in *JABA*.

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