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Should Academia Thrive for Research Citation in Policy? A Case Study on Five Universities in Illinois

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INTRODUCTION

- Academics and policymakers are seen as operating separately, which limits the potential impact of research on society [1].
- Although universities are conducting cutting-edge research in multiple fields, the impact of their research on policy documents is often underrepresented [2].
- Therefore, it is imperative to unveil the contribution of academic research for evidence-based policymaking that is encouraged in all public service areas.

RESEARCH GOAL

- The research aims to conduct an in-depth exploratory data analysis and statistical summarization to comprehend the extent of academic research within policy documents.

DATA COLLECTION

- Universities
  - Northern Illinois University (NIU)
  - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
  - University of Illinois Chicago (UC)
  - Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIU)
  - Illinois State University (ISU)
- Source: Overton
- Timeline: 2011 and 2022 (12 years).
- Data Collection Criteria: Relevance, Published date, and Citation counts

METHODS

- Data Preprocessing
- Data Analysis
- Data Visualization

RESULTS

- Overall, the number of articles cited in policy has increased with some fluctuation for NIU, SIU, and ISU.
- The citation count in policy documents has also increased for all universities over the years.
- The average minimum citation lag is around 2 to 3.5 years for all universities.

CONCLUSIONS

- Universities have more "Not Funded" articles than "Funded" articles.
- Government organizations are citing more articles than any other sources for all universities.
- Universities with a higher number of funded articles are receiving more citations in policy documents, resulting in an increased overall citation count.
- A lower average minimum citation lag may indicate that the research is highly important and has an immediate impact on the field.

FUTURE WORK

- Our future plans involve expanding the scope of our analysis to include a greater number of universities and extending the time frame under examination.
- Furthermore, we will explore the influence of both government and non-governmental funding on the citation of articles in policy documents.

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