

The Rising Tide of Ocean Literacy: A Bibliometric Study of Global Research Trends (2003-2023)

The concept of “ocean literacy” has gained increasing recognition in academic research since its initial indexing by Scopus in 2004. This paper presents a comprehensive bibliometric review of ocean literacy literature published over the past two decades, from 2004 to 2023, to assess the development, impact, and evolving trends within this field. The review identified 266 documents from 114 distinct sources, encompassing a diverse range of publication types, including journal articles, book chapters, conference papers, and reviews. The analysis revealed a significant annual growth rate of 20.76% in scholarly output, with key thematic areas such as “climate change,” “oceanography,” and “education” emerging as central to the discourse on ocean literacy. The findings underscore the interconnectedness of ocean literacy with broader themes of marine conservation, ecosystem services, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the integration of science, policy, and practice. Furthermore, the bibliometric analysis highlights the prominence of international collaborations, particularly among leading countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom, which dominate both document production and citation counts. The study also explores the evolution of keyword usage, identifying shifts in research focus toward more integrated and holistic approaches to understanding and promoting ocean literacy. This paper concludes that a bibliometric review is essential for mapping the development and trends in ocean literacy research, providing valuable insights for guiding future studies and informing policy initiatives. By enhancing our understanding of how ocean literacy has been studied, applied, and integrated across various contexts, this review contributes to the broader goal of fostering sustainable ocean management and increasing public awareness and education on marine environments.

Primary authors: Dr AHMAD TAJUDDIN, Azza Jauhar (Universiti Malaysia Terengganu); Dr TENGKU MOHD KAMIL, Tengku Fara Kamalia (Universiti Malaysia Terengganu)

Presenter: Dr AHMAD TAJUDDIN, Azza Jauhar (Universiti Malaysia Terengganu)

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