

**The Output of Input-Output Analysis:
A Bibliometric Study (1996-2010)**

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The objective of this paper is to provide quantitative evidence of the impact input-output analysis has had in academic circles. Bibliometric methods are used to identify which topics have been addressed most intensively by input-output analysis, and to identify shifts in the focus over time.

The citations data required for this study are taken from a wide-ranging bibliographic database, Scopus. The data allow for an analysis of the period 1996-2010. In the first step, the “body of input-output literature” (IO-LIT) will be identified for the subperiod 1996-2005. To this end, we first find the authors of articles that appeared in *Economic Systems Research* (the journal of the International Input-Output Association). IO-LIT consists of articles, which (i) cited at least one of the authors, and (ii) the titles and/or abstracts of which contain terms like “input-output”, “interindustry” or “intersectoral”. These articles were published in *ESR* and other journals. Since this method does not lend itself to convenient updating to more recent years (which is required for longitudinal research), we compare IO-LIT with a collection of articles obtained by means of a less labor-intensive method, and extend the database to 2010.

We analyze the extent to which input-output contributed to several fields of study, by analyzing abstracts. Other aspects of publications that we study are: the focus on theory, methodology or empirics; the units of analysis (firms, industries, regions, countries); geographical focus; etc. We also present an overview of the journals that published relatively many input-output studies. Finally, we investigate whether the nature of input-output studies shifted over time, in the period studied. The study quantitatively proves that input-output analysis has become a multidisciplinary field with a number of strong spearheads.