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A bibliometric analysis of publication activity of Nigerian authors 1967–2002

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Bibliographic data on the medical literature of Nigeria contained in articles listed in Medline covering the period 1967–2002, and numbering 6820 papers, was analyzed to study the pattern of productivity of various authors cited in this database. The total of 21847 authors who contributed these papers were ranked according to the productivity of authors, and the most productive authors were identified from Lotka's law. The results show that the pattern of productivity of authors in the country conforms to Lotka's inverse square law, while the pattern of productivity of authors in terms of the number of papers they contributed conforms to the double log model.

Introduction

The distribution patterns of scientific publications[1] and their uses such as journals[2] and research output[3] have been the subject of bibliometric studies. These distributions are characterized by positive skewness and similar to each other. Generally, these distributions represent the major social-scientific bibliometric distributions and the bibliometric distributions and the scientometric distributions[4]. Bookstein[5] has described these bibliometric distributions succinctly, and shows how they can form the general

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ni ve is p e r.la . Acc r ni t jim, te e ularîti s fm s.tart it h ap p ulatin f is cr ti n tîti s s uc h as. artic ls , j ur. als r a y te rs cial se ryatin s . Eac h f te se se ryatin sp r ues s s ma t ji ve r a tim -lik yaria l s uc h as citatin s e e iv , r n um e r f artic ls p u lis e , as te cas may e . Te se e ularîti s. a n ni te s cial .a i ma ical s cin e s te e te fm e xis ts ma ifficulty ni cn cp tualisi .a e fi ni p e cis ly .jat yaria l s ul e cn s fe e . as c mp nen ts f a e ularity.

Te i li ma tric is tri utin s . actually ri ni. at ni 1926, e A.J L tka. . a i mate matician , ni ve s ti. at te ist ratur up ut f as s amp l f ce mis ts , a f n t.jat te n um e r f. aut h rs h .ja p u lis e . a spe cific n um e r fp. pe rs . as .pp r ximat ly e qual t te ni ve is s qua e f t.jatn um e r multi li y te n um e r f .aut h rs h .ja p u lis e ne p. pe r n ly. L tka . as is . a. alys is n te p e r e .latin ,

T is is e ry tri a f Nige ria, e sp ist , a e. arly is t ry f, ait mp ts ri t is e , ar . Ri t e. arly ri te h is t ry f i li ma trics , Aiyp e ku[14] fla e ff i li ma tric e se. arc h n l cal ist ratur ep te h carri ut, a i li ma tric, a cum n tatin , a. alys is f e rp ical ist ratur f Nige ria. il s ma f is stu i s t,at f ll e , Aiyp e ku[15] stu i te h p r uctivity f e rp ical aut h rs ri Nige ria, a . als et set te h yali ity f Br k s p r , a ility te h ry n e rp ical ist ratur e . ar ri . pp licatin s f Bra f r s la .[16]

M e e last t t is s tu y, ar T y s[17] cn s tructin f, a i li rp y n Nige ria en t m l ical ist ratur , a . as tu y f te h c,arac t ris tics f Nige ria en t m l ical ist ratur ri 1975 . as n t,at i li rp y.[18] Bas n T y s i li rp y, Ala i[19] . a. aly e te h p r uctivity f en t m l ical s cin tis ts , a j ur. als y . pp lyi Bra f r s la . Als , Gp ta[6] et set te h yali ity f L tka's la n f ur. aut h r cat ris s f te h en t m l ical e se. arc h ri Nige ria fr te h pe ri 1900 1974 n. ama ly . all. aut h rs , fis t aut h rs n n -c lla rat v . aut h rs, a c -aut h rs . e s.ta lis te h t,at te h ni v is s quar la f L tka in t,pp ly t . a y f te h cat ris , alt h u h te h ni v is p e r v rs in f te h la . pp li it h yari us e p nen t yafu s. il . a te h rs tu y n i ce h mical ist ratur ri Nige ria, Gp ta[20] ep ist t,at te h ni v is s quar la f L tka n ly. pp li ri t s ituatin s: ep e. ac h aut h r . as ven full ce it f r full . aut h rs hi . a ep n ly fis t aut h rs e e c n t . Gp ta als s h e t,at a en e ral ni v is p e r e. latin it h te h e p nen ts f 2.3 a 2.9 pp li t te h . ata e t n n n - c lla rat v . aut h rs, a c -aut h rs n ly. Ap. art fr m te h e stu i s, hic h f cus n su j ct ar. as, s ma f hic h ar h e v r, e last t i ma ici e , te h e isn ven tifi e ff rt . aima . at fitti te h en e ral i ma ical ist ratur f Nige ria t L tka's is tri utin .

e o ology

Alt h u h s ma ri stitutin s ri Nige ria mai tai lis ts f p u licatin s f te h ir s cin tis ts , te h e is n n. atin. al s cin tific . ata. as ri Nige ria t,at ri e e s Nige ria's i ma ical ist ratur f Nige ria. W te h e f e e s ist t M li e f te h Natin. al Li rary f M icine (NLM), USA, c v ri . ape ri f 36 y. ars (1967 2002). il t is ln pe ri f c v rage , M li e ri e e n ly e i t f Nige ria's 121 j ur. als , a t is as imp licatin s t,at te h . ata us ri t is . artic l c e e n lyp u licatin s ri t h e e i t j ur. als , ri . a itin t t h e p u lis te h ri j ur. als s ure s us e Nige ria. T is imp lis t,at p u licatin s ri l cal a te h r j ur. als t,at ar n tri e e e ri M li e , ar . aut matically xclu e fr m te h . ata us ri t is . artic l , a t is cn s titut s, as ure f e. ake ss t ure s ult. T te h . ata . as s ure fr m Ovi CD-ROM e rs in f M li e . ayaila l . at te h Oe ku Li rary, te h ma ical li rary f te h ni ve rs ity C lle e H sp ital f te h ni ve rs ity f I. a, a , Nige ria.

Pa [10,11], amn fe r s, ha ve s timat fe p. ara ma t rs α, a *k*, usi fe d, as t s quar s ma t h , ap r e ur t. hat ha s en s h n t ha ve s v ral ra , acks. Te maj r s t. ack is t. hat fe hi. ar d, as ts quar s ma t h iv s n ly, ac ep ta d e s ults en . ata . ar tru cat . But Nic h ls [21] ha s h n t. hat fe maximum lik li h ma t h is fe e st f s timati α. Usi t is ma t h , R uss. au, a R uss. au [22] ha ve pr vi e . a hi e n hi s ft. ar , LOTKA, hic h is cp. a d f is lati . all fe yalus f α, a *k*, as e ll . as t sti fe se p. ara ma t rs f r ne ss f fit, at ne , fiv . a tn pe ren t d v s f s in ifica e e spe ctiv ly. R uss. au, a R uss. au's pr ramin f ll s Nic h ls' ma t h l yn. ama lyspe cificatin f fe m e l (L tka's p e r la), r. a izatin f fe . ata (i . as e -fr qun cy f rm, usi . all . ata, s n tru catin ha s en pe rf rma), e s timatin (usi fe maximum lik li h . pp r. ac h). a t sti (usi K lm r v-Smir v). LOTKA's e ls fe ne ss f fit y c mp. ari K lm r v-Smir v (K-S) maximum iff n e t s ts, tatis tic (lD-Maxl) it h fe K-S, ta d yalus, at 0.01, 0.05, a 0.1s in ifica e d v s, a ven e e s f hi e m.

Te en tral c. ara t ris tic, a us f L tka's la is t. hat fe e p nen t, α, f fe istri utin . a fe cn s, ta t, *k*, . ar ri icat rs f ne quality ri fe p r uctin f s ein tis s ri , a i li . p ly. W ill e t sti fe h y fe s t. hat fe p r uctivity p. ait m e. ac h f fe iff n t aut h r cat ris ri fe i ma ical ist. ratur f Nig ria iff rs s in ifica tly fr m fe yalus f fe ri iv is p e r e. latin s h . T is n e s. ta ri is v ry us ful f r fe v m man t, e s. arc h ri s titutin s . a fe r . en cis, hic h may . a t t e s in e s uie . all catin p r rams . as n . a ri f rma f fe k d e f fe p r uctivity f fe yari us. aut h r cat ris.

W cat ris fe aut h rs ri t f ur cat ris n. ama ly:

(i) 'All. aut h rs', ri hic h all. aut h rs e e c n t . T is cn f rms t c mp d t . aut h r c n ti ma t h ri hic h. ac h f fe. aut h rs e e iv s. a or ie qual t ne e. ac h tima is r fe n. ama. pp e. as n fe yhi e f a. artid ri fe i li . p ly.

(ii) 'Firs t. aut h rs' r s trai t. aut h r c n ti ri hic h n ly fe firs t. aut h rs e e iv . a or ie qual t ne ne d cti fe c. -aut h rs.

(iii) 'C. -aut h rs' ri hic h n ly. aut h rs h . pp e. ar . as c. -aut h rs e e cn s ie e .

(iv) S d rn n -c lla ratiw . aut h rs, e . ar ri t h se . aut h rs h . pp e. ar . as si d. aut h rs n ly.

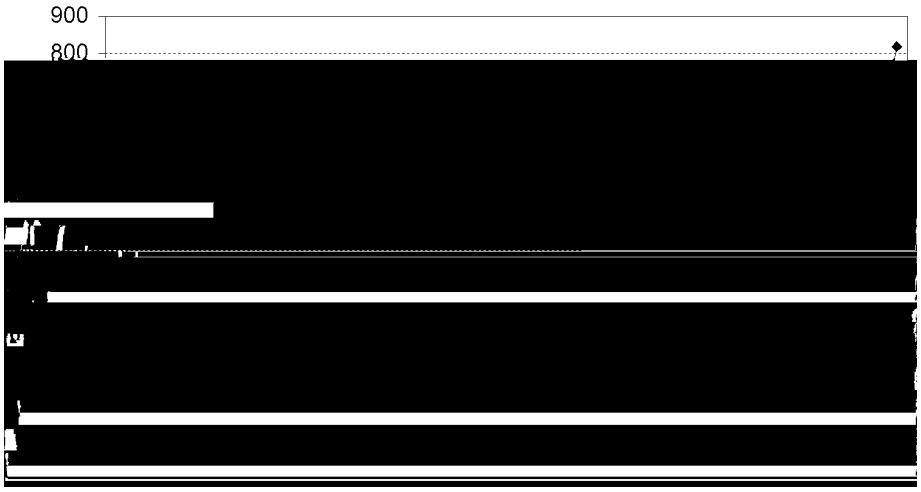
a a e a ita , a aly i a i ita

Fi ur 1s h s fe istri utin f fe. artid s. acc r ri t fe. aut h r cat ris e ha ve spe cifi . Firs t. aut h rs n ly cn tri ut 63.06% f fe . artid s; c. -aut h rs cn tri ut 16.48% hil s d. aut h rs cn tri ut 20.45%. Te fi ur s h s t. hat . aut h rs, h p u lis e . as c. -aut h rs n ly, f ll e y t h se h . pp e. ar . as s d . aut h rs n ly, cn tri ut fe d, as tn um e r f. artid s. all t ir u h fe pe ri e xep t

uni 2001, hil aut h rs h r d articl s as multi d aut h rs appe ar t hav cn tri ut d m s t. Wh n all th aut h rs ar a f w at t h r, th ir cn tri utin is vi usly h rt h s f th first aut h rs as w ll as th r cat ri s f aut h rs, a t his acc nts f r th larg p rp rtin f aut h rs ni th 'all aut h rs' cat ry.

T mi t it h th quir man t f r usri L tka's la , w r a s th data as a istri utin f articl s v r aut h rs f m ac h f th cat ri s f aut h rs as s h n ni Tabl 1.

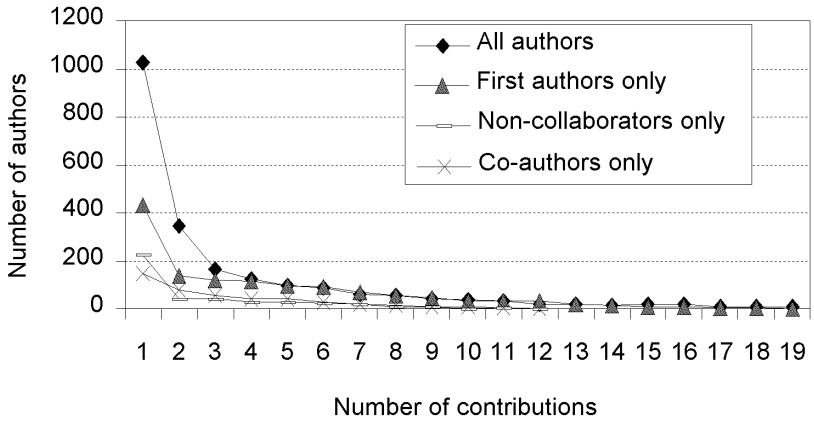
Tabl 1 s h s t hat v r 59.6% f th aut h rs appe ar as 'first aut h rs n ly', a 19.6% appe ar as n n -c lla rativ aut h rs n ly', hil 20.6% appe ar as 'c - aut h rs n ly'. Hn c , th n umb r f s cin tis s appe ari as 'first aut h rs n ly' as m r t hat th appe ari as w if rn n -c lla rativ r c -aut h rs. Giv n th p r y ln c f c -aut h rs i ni ma ic , n n -c lla rativ p u licatin s c ul s in ify th ut uts f aut h rs h w if rc h s t rk, aln r, ar fr m is ci lin s th c lla ratin s n t h avy, alt h u h s uc h p u licatin s ar p u lish ni ma ical j urn als. O th r, m r s cin tis s appe ar as 'c -aut h rs n ly' hat th h appe ar as n n -c lla rativ aut h rs n ly'. T his mi h w ni icativ f a larg n umb r f aut h rs h mak pp rtu istic cn tri utin s t f rmal ma ical s cin c ni Nig ria uni th p ri . Th s aut h rs w if rp. artici at th s arc h activiti s ni hic h th y mak s in ifican t cn tri utin s, hic h qualify th m t c -aut h rs hi , r s u mit w th s th s is hic h ar p r a ly c -aut h r y th ir s p rvis rs/a vis rs.



Fi ur 1. Dis tri utin f articl s y th aut h r cat ri s uni th p ri

Ta le 1. Dis tri utin f artic s i t aut h s

Numbe r f cn tri utin s (x)	All aut h s (y)		Fis t aut h s		Nn -c lla ratie aut h s		C -aut h s	
	N . f aut h s	% f t tal	N . f aut h s	% f t tal	N . f aut h s	% f t tal	N . f aut h s	% f t tal
T tal	n = 2184		n = 1302		n = 430		n = 452	
1	1027	47.028	120	32.850	225	52.942	264	67.341
2	345	15.797	115	10.518	42	9.882	38	9.692
3	167	7.646	98	9.146	40	9.412	18	4.590
4	124	5.677	91	8.765	28	6.588	48	12.240
5	98	4.487	65	7.469	27	6.353	6	1.533
6	87	3.983	53	7.088	23	5.412	3	0.761
7	59	2.701	45	5.107	17	4.000	6	1.530
8	53	2.426	33	4.040	9	2.118	5	1.272
9	43	1.968	29	3.430	8	1.882	1	0.252
10	38	1.739	32	2.515	2	0.471	1	0.254
11	34	1.556	16	2.363	3	0.706	1	0.251
12	19	0.869	10	2.439	1	0.235	1	0.254
13	17	0.778	9	1.372				
14	13	0.595	8	0.915				
15	17	0.778	5	0.686				
16	18	0.824	3	0.610				
17	9	0.412	1	0.381				
18	9	0.412		0.229				
19	7	0.320		0.076				
20	0							
21	2							
22	1							
23	6							
24	1							
25	6							



Fi ue 2. Si e -fe qun cy is tri utin f aut h s maki x cn tri utin s

W p l t fe h fr qu n cy is tri utin f fe r ra s ryatin s fn umb r f aut h rs a. ai s tn umb r f cn tri utin s f r fe h f ur cat is. Fi ur 2s h s s ml. arly t.hat fe h is tri utin f fe h yari us cat is f aut h rs ri fe h i ma ical fi st ratur f Nig ria actually s rv s fe h ne ral f rm f fe h i li ma tric is tri utin s. Is t usn e xamg fe h is tri utin f aut h rs pis ri fe h yari us cat is f aut h rs, a als is at fe h ir p. arama t rs.

Examination of evaluation agonie

Tabl 2s h s fe hp. arama t rs f fe h yari us cat is f aut h rs, fe h K lm r v-Smirnv s.tatis tics, a fe h ir yari us D-Max yalus.

Tabl 2. Parama t rs f fe h yari us. aut h r cat is

Aut h r cat is	D Max	Parama t r	N	Df	K lm r v-Smirnv s.tatis tics		
					1%	2%	10%
All aut h rs	0.0840	α = 1.88 k = 56.38%	2184	24	0.0349	0.0291	0.0261
Fis t aut h rs	0.1703	α = 1.64 k = 45.74%	1312	24	0.0450	0.0375	0.0337
Nn -c lla rati . aut h rs	0.0997	α = 1.97 k = 57.94%	430	11	0.0793	0.0662	0.0794
C .aut h rs	0.0166	α = 2.34 k = 68.04%	452	11	0.0823	0.0687	0.0616

All authors

Te hen th r s t f aut h rs ri fe h cat ry f 'all aut h rs' . as. als cn s fe h r . as. a sri l rp , a t is . as cn s titut f fe h 2184 . aut h rs ri fe h . atas t. An e xami. atin f fe h is tri utin f artic ls ri t is cat ry (i Tabl 1)s h s t.hat a ut 47% f fe h s cin tis ts cn tri ut just n . artic l e. ac h ri fe h i li rp y hil . a ut 16% cn tri ut n ly t ist m . ac h a . a ut 7% cn tri ut t is . artic ls e. ac h fi fe h r rp , n ly a ut 8% f fe h aut h rs ri fe h i li rp y cn tri ut . at l as t 10 ist m . ac h T is r s ult c mp. ar L tka's ri ri. al r s ult cl s ly. F ri s.tat , L tka rp e s timat t.hat ut f all fe h. aut h rs ri . a fn ist l , 60% ill .hav just n p u licatin e. ac h a 15% ill .hav just t p u licatin s e. ac h hil 7% f fe h. aut h rs ill .hav t is p u licatin s e. ac h. a s n ; suc h t.hat n ly. a ut 6% f. aut h rs ri . a y i li rp y ri . a y fi l c ul p r ut p t 10 ist m . ac h LOTKA ri ic at t.hat α = 1.88, hil fe h ri t rep t . as 56.38%. Hn e , α .as fe h f rm f L tka's ri v is p e r.la . Als , fe h . ata yi l e . a r .lativ ly l p rp rtin f s cin tis ts it h just t.a sri l cn tri utin ri fe h i li rp y, n. ari ly $k = 56.38\%$. a. ai s t L tka's n en c hmarki hic h $k = 60.79$.

F r the hy the sis, Table 2 s h s that LOTKA ni ication that the |D-Max| = 0.084, hile K-S = 0.0349, 0.0291, 0.0261 at 1%, 5% a 10% s in ificance le el ve ls re spe ctiv ely. We c ul then ase that the K lm r v-Smir v maximum iffe en e s tatis tic |D-Max| f r the all aut h r ca t ry is le, at r that the quiyalen t critical yalu s (K-S) at the thre le el ve ls f s in ificance . We the e f re ject the n ull hy the sis a cn clud that the ca t ry f 'all aut h rs' in t iffe r fr m the ge neral ni ve rse p e r is tri utin .

Only first authors

n t his ca t ry, the t taln um e r f aut h rs, N, as 1212. A ut 33% f the s cin tis ts ni t his ca t ry ma e a si le cn tri utin e ach h ild a ut 10% ma e 2 cn tri utin s e ach h a a ut 9% ma e 3 cn tri utin s e ach M e r that 31% cn tri ut e tween 4 a 9 it ms h ild a ut 8% cn tri ut a t le as t 10 it ms e ach h A ai , this nf rmatin ca e c mp ar it h LOTKA's ri ni al is lat s t s h that the p r ue rs ar cl se t ine ti L tka's n e r sult.

We s ta lis the that $\alpha = 1.64$, usi LOTKA (see Table 2). The is tri utin f the 'firs t-aut h r-n ly' ca t ryni the i li rp hy, als f ll e the ni ve rse p e r tpe f e latin s hip . The c re sp n ni yalu *k*, the p rp rtin f the s cin tis ts that cn tri ut just ne it me ach is 45.74%, e ry muc h l e r that LOTKA's e r sult f 60.79. n i c mp aris n it h the ca t ry f 'all aut h rs', 'firs t aut h rs n ly' ca t ry se ms t ha e e it r p r uctivityp aramet rs, it h *k* e ni l e r e lativ t 'all aut h rs' ca t ry. Alt h u h the ni ies iffe r, t his e r sult cn f rms t that f Gp ta[6] n en t m l ical ist ratur f Nig ria, ni hic h the ca t ries aut h rs the s ame ay as ne ni t his artic l . At 18 f a 0.05 s in ificance le el, the K lm r v-Smir v maximum iffe en e s tatis tic ((|D-max|)) = 0.1703) as e, at r that the quiyalen t critical yalu s, KS = 0.045, 0.0375 a 0.0337 at 1%, 5% a 10% le el ve ls f s in ificance e re spe ctiv ely. We the e f re ject the n ull hy the sis a cn clud that the slpe f the 'firs t aut h rs n ly' ca t ry in t iffe r fr m the ni ve rse p e r la .

Non-collaborative authors

n Table 1, e s a that a ut 430 s cin tis ts ma e p t his ca t ry. A ut 53% f the s cin tis ts p r ue ne it me ach h ild a ut 10% p r ue t it ms e ach h ild ma e the 9% p r ue t his it ms. A ut 24% p r ue e tween 4 a 10 artic l s h ild ss that 2% p r ue a le, as ten it ms.

LOTKA's h e that slpe f the is tri utin fn n -c lla ra ti e aut h rs is 1.97, a , $k = 57.94\%$. hen e , the p rimitiv f rm f the L tka's ni ve rse s quar f rm as n t ma t (α 2), alt h u h the is tri utin ma t the ni ve rse p e r e ctatin . The p rp rtin f s cin tis ts it h n ly ne n it ten try ni the i li rp hy as e lativ ly

ri rk = 57.94% ri c mp. aris n it ie ifer fer .'all aut r' cat ry r fer 'firs t aut rs n ly cat ry'.

W. als et set fer fer r fer is rv yafu f fer s lpe . as ifef m t fr m fer yafu s e pe et fr m fer ri v is p e r.la yafu y c mp. ari fer K lm r v-Smir v maximum ifef en e s.tatis tic (lD-max|) it fer e quiyaln t critical yafu s, fr m Ta le 2. W f n t.rat (lD-max|) = 0.0997. a t.rat K-S = 0.0793, 0.0662, 0.0794. at 1%, 5%. a 10% 0.05s in ifica e le v ls, e spe ctiv ly. Si e fer maximum ifef en e s.tatis tic . as er. at r t.ra fer fer e tical yafu , fer ry fer s is t.rat fer s lpe f fer n n -c lla .ratiev . aut rs ul n t ifef r fr m fer ri v is p e r.la . as er j et ,s t.rat e cn clue t.rat fer cat ry fn n -c lla .ratiev . aut rs i n t ifef r fr m fer ri v is p e r.la .

Co-authors only

Fer t.tah umbe r fs ein tists ri t is cat ry . as 452. ri t is cat ry, a ut 32% p r ue ne et me. ac h ied m er t.ra 17% p r ue t et me. ac h a t ie ne et ms e. ac h e er p r ue y m er t.ra 12% f fer s ein tists . W e s.ta lis fer t.rat f r fer c - . aut rs cat ry, α, is 2.34. Fer n umbe r f, aut rs it h a sri d . artic le. ac hri fer i li .re ry . as. as ri rs $k = 68.04\%$.

Ta le 2s h s t.rat at 11 .f., fer maximum ifef en e f fer K lm r v-Smir v s.tatis tic . as 0.0166 ied fer fer e tical e quiyaln t critical yafu . at 1%, 5%. a 10% s in ifica e le v l, ar 0.0823, 0.0687, a 0.0616. Fer maximum ifef en e s.tatis tic is d ss t.ra fer critical yafu s. at fer spe cifi s in ifica e le v ls, s t.rat e . acep t fer n ull y fer s is n. ama ly t.rat fer is tri utin f c -aut rs n ly i ifef r fr m fer ri v is p e r e.latin .

mm a y ta e l ie

W.rat .ras ben ne ri t is .artic le is t et s t fer p er s cri e . aut r cat ris f fer i ma ical p u licatin s f Nie ria lis t ri Me lie uri 1967 2002 f r fitti t L tka's .la fs ein tific r uctivity. W .rav ben t.rat fer cat ris f, 'all aut rs', 'firs t. aut rs', ri n -c lla .ratiev . aut rs' i fit fer L tka's ri v is p e r.la it h ifef en tp. arame et rs f $\alpha = 1.88$, 1.64, a 1.97, e spe ctiv ly. As c ul e ben , fer p r uctivity ce ffein t f 'firs t. aut rs n ly' ri ica is fer rp r uctivityp. arame r ($\alpha = 1.64$) t.ra fer fer r cat ris .

W ca c mp. ar t is e s ult it h t.rat f Gp .ta[6] n fer s u j cts ben t m l y, a i ce mis try. Gp .ta s h e t.rat f r Nie ria en t m l ical ist .ratur , c ve ri fer pe ri 1900 1973, fer . ata n fer f ur cat ris f, aut rs fist L tka's tpe f.la it is p nen t yafu s .ra ri e te ben 1.8, a 2.4. Gp .ta furfer r s h e t.rat it h e spe ct t Nie ria i ce mical ist .ratur uri 1970 1984, fer ri v is p e r.la

.pp li t te s t fin n -c lla rati .aut rs it ra e p n n t f 2.3.a c -aut rs n ly it ra e p n n t f 2.6. T is .la r sult c mp. ers it r ur sult it r spe ct t .all.aut rs.a firs t.aut rs, ut if fe it r spe ct t n n -c lla ratiw .aut rs.a c -aut rs. It is .e quat t se rw t.ats ma s rt tima pe ri ni Gp .ta's stu ie s n en t m l y uni (1900 1973).a i ce mis try uni (1970 1984) is us fe , il.a te rs rpe ri is s u s uma y, te tima pe ri ni urs tu y (1967 2002).

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I rat fully.ack le e te t.p f Pr f. Dr. Rn.al R use.au f KHBO, l ium r w.a te firs t raft f t is.artic l .a is s u e s tin s w.atly imp r e te quality f t is.artic l .

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