Evolution of the Intellectual and Conceptual Structure of Annals of Tourism Research

Abstract

This paper conducts co-word analysis and topic modeling on the Annals of Tourism Research (ATR) to identify the key themes and analyze the evolution of topics from 1973 to 2019. The co-word analysis clusters the relevant research keywords based on their co-occurrences. At the same time, a structural topic model discovers the latent topics, visualize the deviations in topics' interest over the years, and predict potential future themes and topics from a probabilistic perspective. The results of the co-word analysis reveal six clusters of research keywords, while the STM extracts a total of sixteen latent topics from ATR research papers published from 1973 to 2019. Further, a prospective analysis based on structural topic model on the tourism research published in ATR highlights the transference in research community interest in various themes and topics over time. Hence, the results indicate that the attention of researchers in topics like 'Resident Perception and Attitude', 'Social, Women, and Gender' issues, 'Tourism Planning and Destination Management', and 'Tourist Authenticity and Experience' are upstretched over the years. However, the empirical insights show that topics like 'Tourism and Economic Development', 'International Tourism', and 'Travel Information and Tourist Data' are having a declining trend of research interest. The major contributions of this paper are offering a critical retrospective of the evolution of knowledge in ATR, visualizing the dynamics related to key research themes, and identifying future research hotspots for potential researchers.

Keywords: Intellectual structure, conceptual structure, structural topic modeling, topic proportion, future trends, co-word analysis