Editorial

Since 2004 the International Journal of Indigenous Health has published Indigenous open access research. An objective of the journal is to improve visibility and share knowledge on Indigenous health research by removing systemic and structural barriers in access and dissemination of knowledges. This output is delivered at no-cost to readers and authors; since 2018 it has supported by financial, technical, logistic, and administrative resources of by the Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health at the University of Toronto; prior to that by the University of Victoria's Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-led Engagement. Currently, the Editorial Team is interested in exploring new directions for the IJH, based on the creative academic interests of the research community it serves. It is time to explore the impacts of the IJH. An investigation of gaps and strengths of the journal is under preparation and will be made using a retrospective evaluative analysis. The Editorial Team will identify and analyzed facets associated with the areas of scholarship, the readership, contributors, and how communities are involved and supported by the research published by the IJH. This self-evaluation approach will take considerable time and effort and will be an on-going task for the Editorial Team.

As a preamble to the release of this forthcoming data, the Editorial Team has, with an aim to create an indicator for international impact by regions, designed a descriptive analysis to report on the distribution of the nationality of authors published in the journal. Geographic location of academic contributors and their communities is a key indicator in understanding local, national and international forces of the IJH. As a result of this descriptive analysis, an unbalanced representation of geographic regions emerges. The majority of articles published in IJH were from Canada followed by United States, New Zealand, and Australia (see Table 1).

Between 2004 and 2019, 170 articles were published by the IJH. These include 113 articles written by authors working in Canada (66.5%), 18 articles written by researchers working in United States (10.6%), 12 articles made by authors in New Zealand (7.1%) and 8 articles from Australian communities (4.7%). Topics involving other nationalities were also found in a small percentage, including Guatemala (2 authors, 1.2%) and Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, Greenland and United Kingdom (1 author, 0.6% each).

This analysis of the nationality and location of topics and communities involved was based on the cultural and geographic communities involved in each article that was published as a preliminary

indicator of the involvement of the authors. The significance the IJIH places on the relationship of communities to authors and researchers identifies gaps and strengths of the journal and future directions required to promote participation from underrepresented regions. It is important to recognize that the journal is based on Canadian research networks and this strength allows to support the inclusion of international scholars' work by ensuring the journal's free access. As the journal rapidly advances to be one of the main sources for international Indigenous academic knowledge on health, this gap reminds us of the need to plan how to improve involvement and collaborations of international communities in research, to build academic capacity throughout all communities, and to support Indigenous health perspectives worldwide.

Articles and Author's Nationality		
Author's Country	<i>f</i>	%
Canada	113	66.5
United States	18	10.6
New Zealand	12	7.1
Lit Review	12	7.1
Australia	8	4.7
Guatemala	2	1.2
Bangladesh	1	0.6
Chile	1	0.6
Colombia	1	0.6
Greenland	1	0.6
United Kingdom	1	0.6
Total	170	100.0

A second analysis is currently underway to identify the readership of the journal. After a recent update of the journal's online system, a tracking capability was installed to allow gathering of information related to viewings and downloads of articles and abstracts. The Editorial Team acknowledges that a numeric analysis of readers alone cannot be considered as impact indicator, but it can give insight to more information. An important evaluation will include the transformative force of the knowledge and research results created by shared research. A future analysis of this topic will seek to include community perspectives on Indigenous peoples involvement in the journal's published research, what transformative community impacts are closely related to each research project, and the level of input from communities on the research and future needs. The IJIH's Editorial Team is committed to ongoing evaluation of the journal's impact and on what directions are signaled by the international Indigenous communities, including those involved in the research, the authors, and readers. The current issue, Volume 14 Issue N2, is

an invitation for international Indigenous scholars to share their research in the spirit of evaluating impacts and community-driven next steps for research. There are fourteen articles on topics of Indigenous knowledges, aiming to spurn readers to make think about and continue to participating in a process to support the IJIH a transformative tool for health change for Indigenous worldwide communities.

Miigwetch/Mahsi cho/Thank you,
Dr. Suzanne Stewart & Dr. Angela Mashford-Pringle
Co-Editors

Reference

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