

Bibliometric Analysis of Maritime Tourism Research

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Abstract

Maritime tourism is a niche market that provides maritime nations with an additional source of foreign exchange and employments. However, due to a lack of awareness of the significance of the maritime tourism sector, a very few studies have investigated the problems faced by this sub sector. Therefore, this paper aimed to identify the problems faced by the maritime tourism industry and propose solutions with which to overcome these obstacles. A bibliometric analysis technique was used to scour databases, such as Scopus and Web of Science (WoS); with VOS Viewer. The content analysis was carried out and then coded using QSR International's NVivo 12. The paper found that the maritime tourism industry is currently plagued by six major problem clusters. These were classified as a) governmental and political supports, b) environmental issues, c) cooperation among stakeholders, d) maritime tourism law and policies, e) technological matters, and f) maritime tourism knowledge. Therefore, this present study proposes the development of a new market; the smart maritime tourism market; which is the most effective and efficient approach of overcoming the current issues. It is believed that smart maritime tourism will not only benefit maritime nations but also adjacent landlocked nations.

37 Keywords: Maritime Tourism, Smart Tourism, Smart Maritime Tourism, Virtual Reality,
38 Bibliometric Analysis

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41

42 **1.0 Introduction**

43 The fact that global container throughput accounted for nearly 802 million twenty-foot
44 equivalent units (TEUs) in 2019, a 2.3% increase from 2018, is a testament to the notion that
45 the maritime industry is a booming sector of oceanic trade in most coastal countries.
46 Furthermore, full, and empty containers accounted for 80% and 20% of maritime traffic in
47 2021, respectively (World Container Throughput, 2021). The TEU is an imprecise measure of
48 cargo capacity that is frequently used on container ships and at container ports (Jeevan *et al.*,
49 2020; Jeevan *et al.*, 2021). Maritime players mistakenly believe that the maritime industry
50 solely focuses on transportation and servicing centres. According Kwak *et al.* (2005) and
51 Menhat *et al.* (2021), there are only four sectors in the maritime industry: 1) marine
52 transportation, 2) harbours, 3) fisheries and marine products, and 4) shipbuilding. This clearly
53 indicates that maritime players perceiving and interpret the industry as a trade market or a
54 service industry that uses many modes of transportation. The performance of the cruising
55 industry being the main mobile maritime tourism operation showed tremendous growth over
56 the last decade. Li, Wang, and Ducruet (2020) showed that network formation of the global
57 cruise shipping is both globally and regionally determined. Thus, cruising resulted in a network
58 of cruise hub formation along the international shipping network globally and regionally
59 (Kanrak, Nguyen, 2021, 2022). The main reasons for the formation of cruise shipping
60 operational trajectory is the change in demand with respect to change in temperature, season,
61 climate zone on a global scale (Li, Wang & Ducruet, 2021). Nevertheless, under COVID 19
62 hit economic environment, industries are striving to establish resilience operational models
63 and, as King, Iba & Clifton (2021) emphasised, rethinking of the operational design and the
64 business potential of tourism is required to face unforeseen and spontaneous challenges in
65 future.

66

67 **2.0 Maritime Tourism**

68 The maritime industry only stands to benefit if the maritime tourism sector develops.
69 As the maritime tourism industry is one of the fastest developing markets around the globe, it
70 has served as an economic catalyst in coastal countries and carries great future potential
71 (Diakomihalis, 2007b; Lam-González *et al.*, 2019). According Lekakou and Tzannatos (2001)
72 as well as Diakomihalis (2007b), the term “maritime tourism” denotes a type of tourism
73 wherein tourists engage in activities in the ocean and the coastal areas. Maritime tourism takes
74 place in a marine space that a country has designated for recreational and leisure activities
75 (Diakomihalis, 2007b). For example, cruises, beach activities, scuba diving, snorkelling, and

76 sport fishing that take place in a marine environment are considered maritime tourism
77 (Kizielewicz, 2012, Menhat *et al.*, 2021).

78 *Martínez et al.* (2021) characterised maritime tourism according to several different
79 types: nautical tourism for those who enjoy boating activities; boating tourism, which includes
80 recreational boating as well as to the use of pleasure boats and cruises and includes a wide
81 range of activities, such as water skiing, windsurfing, underwater fishing, swimming, and tours
82 of marine parks (Diakomihalis, 2007b); and marine tourism which encompasses “*recreational*
83 *activities that involve traveling away from one’s place of residence and whose focus is the*
84 *marine environment*”. This is also supported by Orams (1999). Coastal tourism refers to the
85 activities that include sea-based transportation; such as cruises, coastal activities, sport fishing,
86 and other recreational activities that occur in a marine environment (Kizielewicz, 2012; Menhat
87 *et al.*, 2021). Lastly, the cruise tourism sector has boomed in many of countries. For example,
88 in Malaysia, cruise tourism is one of the National Key Economic Area (NKEA) and aims to
89 increase the number of tourists to Malaysia (Jeevan *et al.*, 2019).

90 These terms for “maritime tourism” share conceptual similarities and features that
91 overlap, such as recreational activities that are related to coastal zones and sea-based activities.
92 According to Hall (2011) and *Martínez et al.* (2021), maritime tourism closely relates to all
93 activities related to the sea as well as all sea-related tourism activities, such as deep-sea fishing
94 and cruises. In summary, maritime tourism encompasses all activities that involve water and
95 exposure to a marine environment. However, according to Jeevan *et al.* (2019), seaport tourism
96 is not restricted to sea-based activities but extends to the hinterlands. Based on the preceding
97 literature, maritime tourism can be categorised into three groups: 1) foreland, 2) seaport, and
98 3) hinterland. Figure 1 shows the segments of the maritime tourism industry.

99

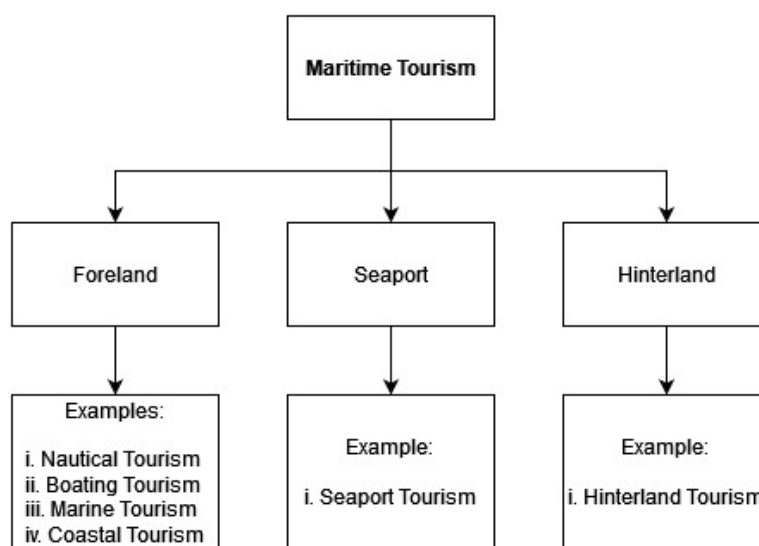


Figure 1. Segments of the maritime tourism industry

Source: Author

Figure 1 depicts the three segments; foreland, seaport, and hinterland; that fall under the maritime tourism industry. Nautical, boating, marine, and coastal tourism are examples of water-based activities that can take place on the surface of the sea, seaport tours could be a new type of tourism in the port limit, and exploring nature in the inland terminal could be a new type of activity in maritime tourism. Although maritime tourism sector has not been performing well, it has continued to compete in the same market. Furthermore, the industry has predicted that it will significantly contribute to the national gross domestic product (GDP) as a global market (Diakomihalis, 2007a). Apart from that, the growth of tourism activities has been initiated to understand and attempt to decrease significant impact from the catastrophic demand of human life (Berno & Ward, 2005). However, at present, many countries are still struggling to cope with the higher number of COVID-19 cases reported daily (Menhat *et al.*, 2021). According to the literature review, COVID-19 posed a major problem for the maritime tourism industry, but maritime stakeholders were completely unaware of it. This was because most of these stakeholders were not aware and did not fully understand what they could gain from the maritime tourism industry. As these stakeholders lacked knowledge of the maritime tourism industry, they were not confident of facing these new challenges. Tourism players made significant efforts to sustain the tourism market after a movement control order (MCOs) was imposed on most of the country. For instance, the tourism industry shifted and advertised tourist attractions by encouraging people to travel via virtual tourism (Rahim *et al.*, 2021). Virtual tourism is fundamentally a hybrid concept that combines virtual reality (VR) and tourism.

2.1 Smart Tourism

In English, “smart” is synonymous with wisdom (Wang, 2012). However, as tourism cannot be simply started as a combination of wisdom (people) and travel (industry), Li *et al.* (2017) proposed the term “smart tourism” instead of “wisdom tourism”. The Organisation for Smart Tourism in the United Kingdom provided a different type of smart tourism in 2011 when it used technology in the tourism sector, which was considered digital or “smart” tourism (www.smarttourism.org, 2012). Smart tourism is a typical example of integrated development as it merges the tourism industry with technological novelties (Ma & Liu, 2011, Jeevan *et al.*, 2021; Salleh *et al.*, 2021). Bringing “smartness” into the tourism industry means that the tourism industry is integral to connecting multiple stakeholders through a dynamic platform mediate by advance information and communications technology (ICT) to support prompt information exchange regarding tourism activities through components of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 (Buhalis & Amaranggana, 2014). Virtual tourism is fundamentally a hybrid concept that combines VR and tourism. It allows people to have a tourism experience without having to be mobile. Virtual tourism comes in various forms and varying degrees of technological competence (Skard *et al.*, 2021; Merckx & Nawijn, 2021). The benefits of smart

142 tourism also apply to the maritime tourism industry and is known as "smart maritime tourism"
143 (SMT). For the sake of brevity, the term SMT will be used in the rest of this study.

144 To date, the exact number of tourist operations that are genuinely interested in maritime
145 tourism remains unknown (Diakomihalis, 2007a). This was corroborated by Martínez *et al.*
146 (2021). Furthermore, the fact that maritime tourism lacks a precise definition may be a source
147 of concern that causes most maritime players to be unsure of its benefits. Categorising the
148 maritime tourism sector to statistically record and estimate its actual size has proven difficult
149 (Diakomihalis, 2007b). This clearly indicates a lack of research in this field. The few studies
150 that have investigated the maritime tourism industry only evaluated seaport effectiveness, port
151 competitiveness, liner operations, and seaport supply chains (Jeevan *et al.*, 2019, Salleh *et al.*,
152 2019). Another study solely measured and explored the causes and effects of tourist satisfaction
153 (Li *et al.*, 2016). A handful of studies have examined the determinants of maritime tourist
154 satisfaction at nautical destinations and measured the efficacy of subjectively evaluating past
155 experiences at other competing destinations (Lam-González *et al.*, 2019). As such, there is
156 evidently a dearth of research into identifying the problems and dilemmas that the maritime
157 tourism industry could face, apart from the COVID-19 pandemic, and proposing effective
158 solutions with which to overcome these issues and sustain the maritime tourism market.
159 Therefore, this present study aimed to identify the problems faced, suggest an operative
160 solution, and an efficient future direction for the maritime tourism industry. To that end, a
161 bibliometric analysis of articles from Scopus and Web of Science (WoS) databases was
162 conducted.

163

164 **3.0 Methodology**

165 A bibliometric analysis was conducted using VOS Viewer as the main data mining tool
166 followed by QSR International NVivo 12 qualitative research data analysis software to code
167 the results. To achieve the objective of this study, the automatic coding function of NVivo 12
168 was used based on text search, word frequency count, word tree, and word cloud.

169

170 **3.1 Bibliometric Analysis**

171 Bibliometric analysis has been used in many fields, such as library and information science
172 (Liang & Liu 2018; Munim *et al.*, 2020). This type of analysis is also applicable in the field of
173 maritime studies. One of the main strengths of a bibliometric analysis is that it uses statistical
174 tools to analyse published academic studies. According to Broadus (1987), a bibliometric
175 analysis is a literature review methodology that can be conducted by statistically and
176 quantitatively analysing published studies. Several types of analysis, such as citation and
177 network analysis, descriptive analysis on the authors, journals, universities, countries, and
178 keywords; can be conducted. This present study adopted a bibliometric analysis approach as it
179 is more reliable and consistence than other literature review techniques (Aria & Cuccurullo,
180 2017).

181

182 **Step 1: Define Field of Study {Maritime Tourism}**

183 The maritime tourism industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the world and serves
184 as an economic catalyst in coastal countries. It also has the potential to be accomplished in the
185 future. As such, further research should be conducted.

186

187 **Step 2: Define Search Platform {Scopus & WoS}**

188 Scopus is a scientific research platform with robust databases and reasonable availability of
189 search filters (De Oliveira *et al.*, 2019). It is also one of the largest databases of abstracts and
190 citations of peer-reviewed literature with N22,800 journals from 5000 publishers worldwide.
191 Scopus contains diverse subject areas; such as environmental sciences, social science and
192 agriculture, and biological sciences (Shaffril *et al.*, 2018). As it is one of the largest databases
193 of peer-reviewed literature with a holistic coverage of academic articles, it is frequently used
194 as a database for literature searches (Elsevier.com., 2019; Jia *et al.*, 2020). As Scopus is the
195 largest scientific database in the world, it is sufficient for any study as it is the most complete,
196 accurate, and most widely used database for bibliometric studies (Lancho-Barrantes & Cantú-
197 Ortiz, 2019). However, according to De Oliveira *et al.* (2019), extracting scientific data from a
198 combination of platforms can lead to more consistency when conducting a bibliometric
199 analysis. Therefore, the scientific platforms Scopus and WoS were used extensively throughout
200 this present study to integrate the bibliometric data from these two platforms. The primary
201 reasons behind integrating WoS with Scopus were because they are frequently used in
202 multidisciplinary studies, they both contain a comprehensive collection of relevant scientific

203 publications, and they both have various tools for scientific data mining purposes (Zupic &
 204 Cater, 2015; De Oliveira *et al.* 2019; Lancho-Barrantes & Cantú-Ortiz, 2019; Kabil *et al.*,
 205 2021).

206

207 **Step 3: Search Criteria**

208 As established in the literature review (Section 2.0 Maritime Tourism), the term “Maritime
 209 Tourism” is sufficient to cover all types of sea-related activities as well as all tourist activities
 210 derived from the sea, water, and the marine environment. As such, the term “Maritime
 211 Tourism” does not require any synonyms. However, according to the world's largest and most
 212 trusted free online thesaurus, the words “dilemma,” “issue,” “obstacle,” “trouble”, and
 213 “dispute” are synonyms for the word “problem” while the addition of the keyword “challenge”
 214 changes the original meaning of the word “problem” (thesaurus.com, 2022). To enhance the
 215 statement from thesaurus.com, the Cambridge dictionary was used to clarify the meaning of
 216 the word “challenge”. According to the Cambridge dictionary (2022), the term “challenge” is
 217 *(the situation of being faced with) something that needs great mental or physical effort to be*
 218 *done successfully)*. Therefore, it differs slightly with the term “problem” as “challenge” denotes
 219 a demanding situation to achieve something. For this reason, the term “challenge” was omitted
 220 from this present study. Table 1 below shows the search string strategies that were used on the
 221 Scopus and WoS databases.

222

223 Table 1: Search string strategies used on the Scopus and WoS databases

No.	Keyword Search on Scopus	No. of Articles
1.	“Maritime Tourism” and “Problem”	10
2.	“Maritime Tourism” and “Dilemma”	0
3.	“Maritime Tourism” and “Dispute”	0
4.	“Maritime Tourism” and “Issue”	6
5.	“Maritime Tourism” and “Obstacle”	1
6.	“Maritime Tourism” and “Trouble”	0
	<i>Total</i>	17
	<i>After removal of duplicate files</i>	15
No.	Keyword Search on WoS	No. of Articles
1.	“Maritime Tourism” and “Problem”	10
2.	“Maritime Tourism” and “Dilemma”	0
3.	“Maritime Tourism” and “Dispute”	0
4.	“Maritime Tourism” and “Issue”	5
5.	“Maritime Tourism” and “Obstacle	0

6.	“Maritime Tourism” and “Trouble”	0
	<i>Total</i>	15
	<i>After removal of duplicate files</i>	13

Source: Author

224

225

226 Step 4: Define, Review, & Save

227 As it is almost impossible for researchers to review all existing published articles, researchers
 228 should identify a period that can be reviewed (Okoli, 2015). According Shaffril *et al.* (2018),
 229 12 years is an adequate period with which to observe the evolution of a research and related
 230 publications. To maintain the quality of the data, only article journals with analytical evidence
 231 and published at the final stage should be selected for inclusion, therefore, book series, book,
 232 chapters, conference papers should be excluded (Chen & Liu, 2020; Shaffril *et al.*, 2018). These
 233 two sources were selected to maintain the quality of the results but also because they were
 234 suitable for transferability and generalised the outcome (Shaffril *et al.* 2018). To prevent
 235 confusion and avoid the complexity of translation, the search only included articles that had
 236 been published in English (Jia *et al.*, 2020). Table 2 provides a summary of the inclusion criteria
 237 that was used in this present study.

238

239

Table 2: Summary of inclusion criteria

No	Inclusion Criteria	
i.	Access Type:	All
ii.	Years of Publication:	12 years
iii.	Subject area:	Social science, business, and management
iv.	Document type	Article
v.	Publication stage	Final
vi.	Source type	Journals from Scopus & WoS
vii.	Language:	English

Source: Author

240

241

242 Step 5: Export Data {Comma-separated values (CSV) format - Scopus & WoS}

243 Scientific platforms provide a variety of file format options for export. The best file formats
 244 for export are ".csv" as it makes it possible to analyse bibliometric data in spreadsheets and/or
 245 bibliometric software (De Oliveira *et al.*, 2019).

246

247 Step 6: Import Data {VoS Viewer}

248 The use of the open source software, such as VOS Viewer; is recommended to make
249 bibliometric analysis more accessible to the scientific community (VOS, 2018; De Oliveira *et*
250 *al.* 2019)

251

252 Step 7: Bibliometric Data Analysis

253 The most researched areas are quantified using the bibliometric data of the studied areas. This
254 bibliometric data analysis parameter provides information that can be used to determine where
255 researchers have focused their efforts and which areas remain unexplored (De Oliveira *et al.*,
256 2019; Kabil *et al.*, 2021). Bibliometrics encompasses a few distinct types of data analysis
257 methods, such as the evolution of publication, keywords, countries, authors, articles, and
258 institutions. Table 3 provides a description of the bibliometric data analysis method that was
259 used in this present study.

260

261 Table 3: Description of the bibliometric data analysis approach of the study

No	Type of Bibliometric Data Analysis	Description
i.	Evolution of publication	A timeline allows researchers to better visualise the contribution of each group to the development of the state-of-the-art over time and years. A timeline is an analysis tool that can illustrate, from a temporal point of view, the general evolution of each group over the years. (Zupic & Cater, 2015; De Oliveira <i>et al.</i> , 2019; Kabil <i>et al.</i> , 2021)
ii.	Keywords	Keywords are regarded as one of the most important components of any research paper as it aims to identify the core research topics of various scientific research fields. They provide a succinct representation of a text that enable readers to predict its content. Bibliometric data on keywords can be used to create frequency charts of the most frequently used keywords as well as elaborate "word clouds." (Kabil <i>et al.</i> , 2021; De Oliveira <i>et al.</i> , 2019; Gao <i>et al.</i> , 2019; De Oliveira <i>et al.</i> , 2019)
iii.	Countries	Country analysis is one of the most visible bibliometric analysis units. It implies research collaboration and illustrates the flow of scientific knowledge between various entities (Zupic & Cater, 2015; Gao <i>et al.</i> , 2019)

iv.	Authors	Author analysis identifies the structure of a scientific community in each field by locating significant analysis features related to the authors in the collected research articles. The most relevant author analysis technique is a component of citation bibliometric analysis that seeks to answer, "Who is the best expert in the field?" (Jeevan <i>et al.</i> , 2021)
v.	Articles	Here, the present study focused on answering the main question of the published documents, "Which studies are the most frequently cited for Maritime Tourism and Problem in the two selected scientific databases?" (Kabil <i>et al.</i> , 2021)
vi.	Institutions	Institution analysis is one of the most well-known bibliometric analysis units as implies research collaboration and the flow of scientific knowledge between different entities (Kabil <i>et al.</i> , 2021)

Source: Author

262

263

264 **Step 8:** Analyse and Review the Selected Articles to Achieve the Objective, Which Was to
 265 Identify the Problems Faced in the Maritime Tourism Industry (NVivo 12 was used for coding)

266 The final method of analysing and reviewing the selected articles is to identify the problems
 267 faced by the maritime tourism industry in the literature by reading the text. These gaps are
 268 harder to identify because they are not highlighted in an explicit manner in the text. Hence, to
 269 identify these implicit gaps, it is important to consider the experience and familiarity of the
 270 reader with the topic. This is because researchers with more experience in each topic are more
 271 likely to identify relevant gaps than less experienced researchers. The use of NVivo 12 helped
 272 organise and code the data to present a clearer outcome.

273

274 **Step 9:** Conclusion

275 Finally, it is noteworthy that the results and new comprehensive framework obtained using the
 276 bibliometric analysis method may vary depending on the experience and familiarity of the
 277 researcher with the scientific field under investigation. Figure 2 shows the methodology of the
 278 bibliometric analysis.

279

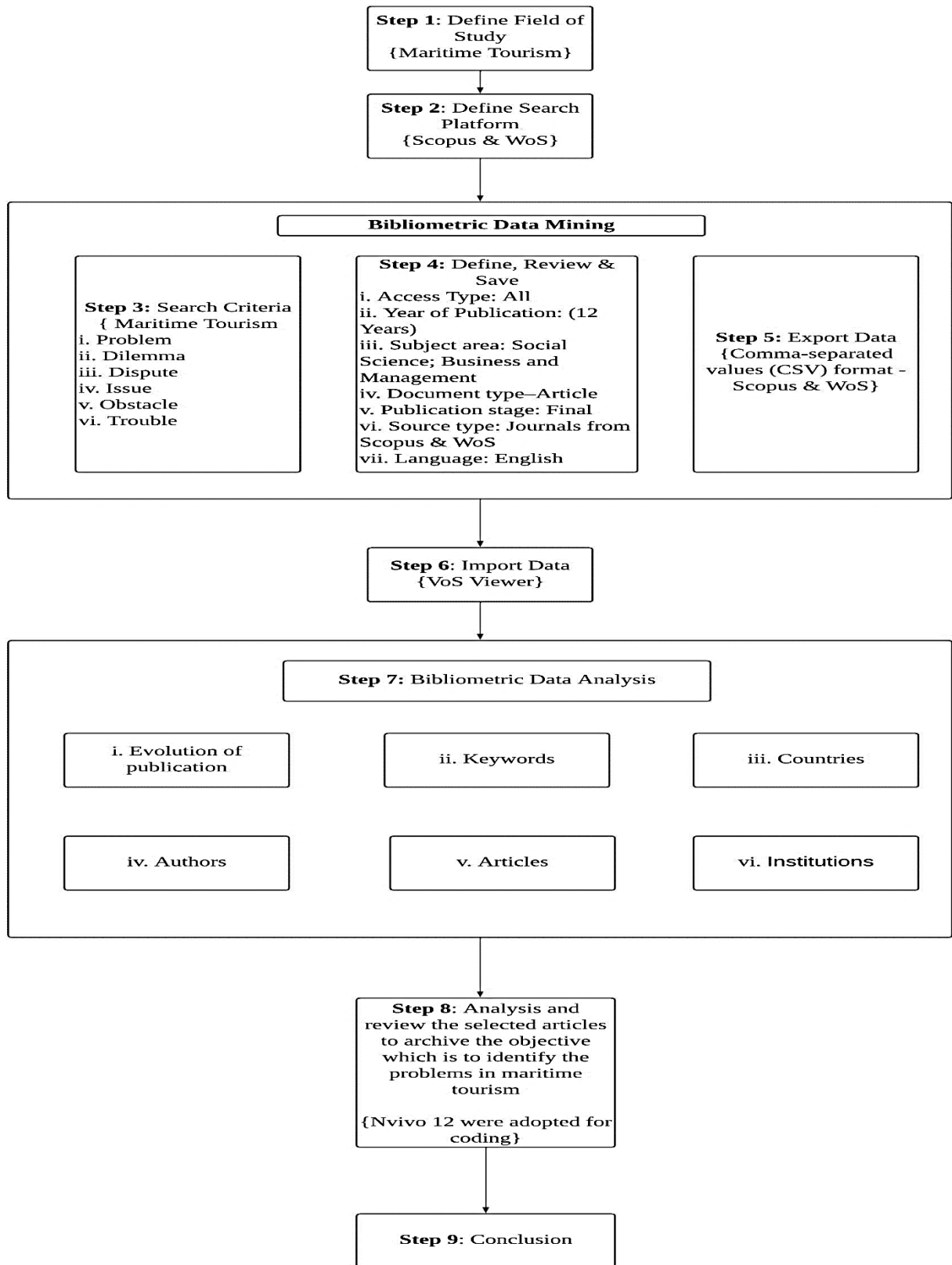
280 **3.2 Content Analysis**

281 As an analysis tool, NVivo 12 aided in the structural and sequential organisation of the study
 282 data. NVivo 12 is a computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software (CAQDAS) tool. Prior
 283 to data analysis, the results of the two databases were coded using NVivo 12. The data was

284 analysed using a content analysis method while keeping the context of the study in mind
285 (Ritchie *et al.*, 2013).

286

287



288

289

Figure 2: Methodology of the bibliometric analysis

290

Source: Author

291

4.0 Results

Sub-sections 4.1 to 4.7 will discuss the outcome of the bibliometric data analysis, which consisted of an evolution of the publications, keywords, countries, authors, articles, institutions, and results of the analysis and review of the selected articles from the Scopus and WoS databases.

4.1 Evolution of Publications

As seen in Figures 3 and 4, the publication timeline evolution of the maritime tourism is still lacking compared to that of maritime transportation. According Menhat *et al.* (2021), articles on the maritime sector solely focused on the operations or transportation sector. However, Jeevan *et al.* (2019) posited that the maritime sector can be further investigated as it extends to the hinterlands. The results clearly shows that there is a huge gap to be closed by exploring maritime tourism as an important industry in the maritime sector.

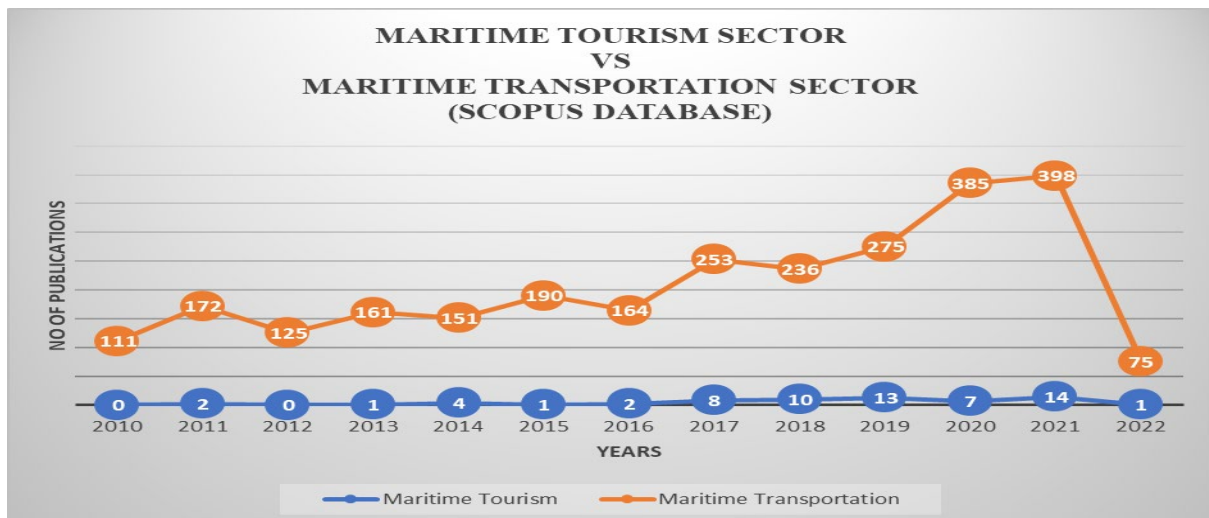


Figure 3: Evolution of publications on the Scopus database

Source: Author

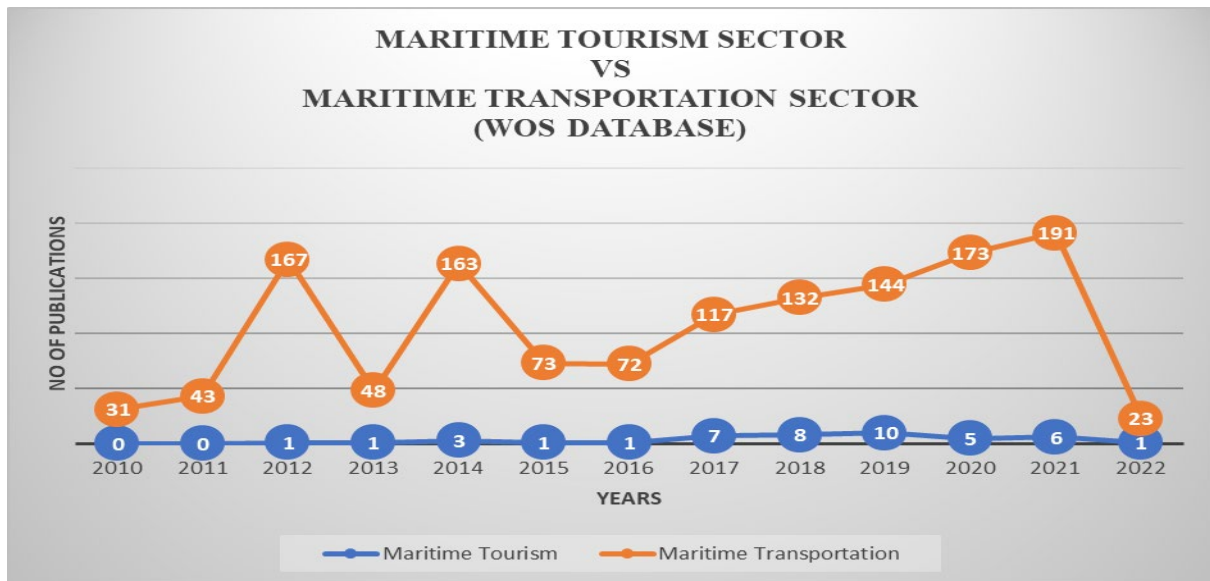


Figure 4: Evolution of publications on the WoS database

Source: Author

4.2 Keywords on the Scopus and WoS databases

As seen in Figures 5 and 6, "maritime tourism", "tourism" and "eco-tourism" were the most frequently used keywords. This is because the tourism industry continues to contribute as a national and international source of income. Maritime tourism; a sub sector of the tourism industry; has the potential flourish in the future. Figures 5 and 6 clearly shows that researchers are beginning to explore the maritime tourism industry. As such, it has the potential to burgeon into a new maritime market in the future. This proves that further research is needed to enhance and identify more studies. Apart from that, the results indicate that researchers are However, slowly beginning to adopt the keyword "technology". As the world moves towards digitalisation, the maritime tourism industry is not left behind to adopt the technology of the future.

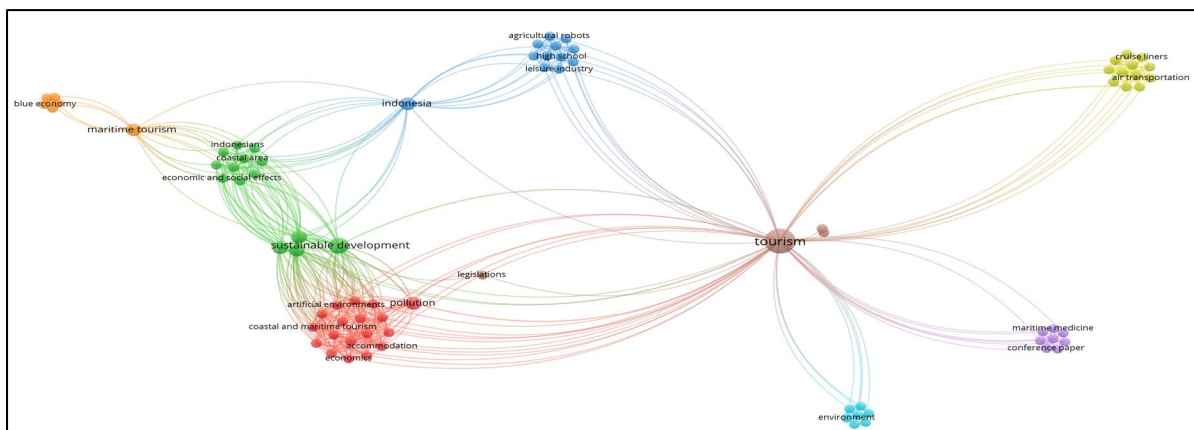


Figure 5: Keywords on the Scopus database

Source: Author

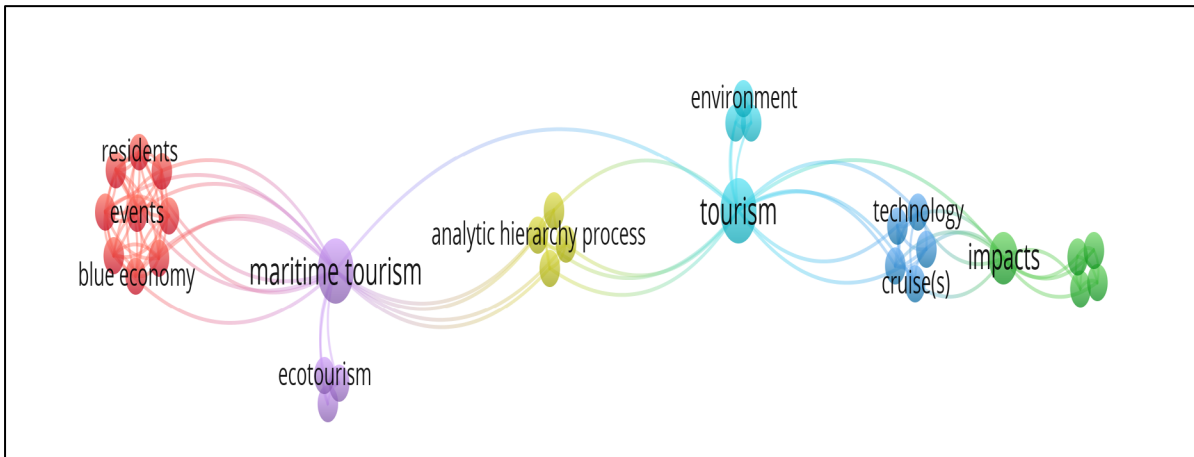


Figure 6: Keywords on the WoS database

Source: Author

4.3 Countries on the Scopus and WoS databases

As shown in Figures 7 and 8, Greece is the most interested in developing the maritime tourism industry of their country. Some other countries also conducted an equal amount of research exploring the maritime tourism market for the future benefit of their nation. As presented in the results, not one landlocked country took the initiative to explore maritime tourism as most of these countries believe that maritime tourism, which is sea-based activities, can only occur in the foreland. As stated by Jeevan *et al.* (2019), maritime tourism is not limited to the forelands but can be extended to the hinterlands as well.

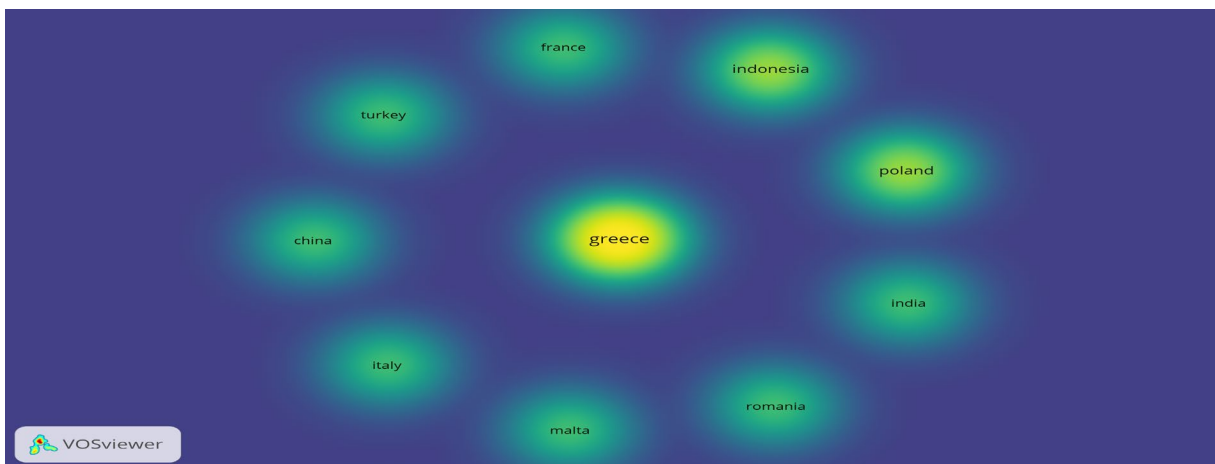


Figure 7: Countries that support the creation of a maritime tourism industry on the Scopus database

Source: Author

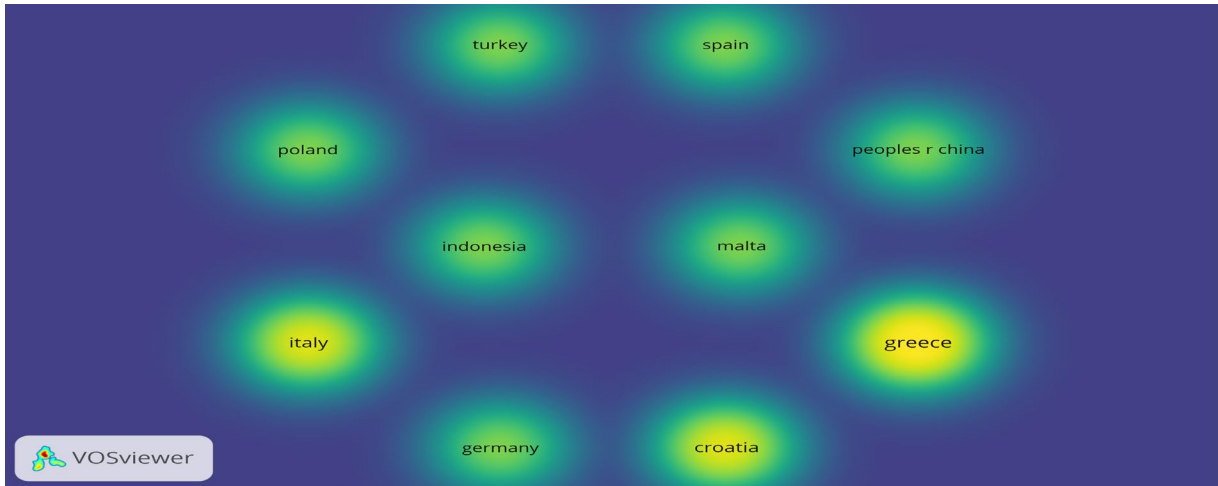


Figure 8: Countries that support the creation of a maritime tourism industry on the WoS database

Source: Author

4.4 Author Collaboration on the Scopus and WoS databases

As shown in Figures 9 and 10, many authors have collaborated with each other to research the maritime tourism industry as having good international connections will improve the maritime tourism market. This collaboration indicates that existing authors have begun investigating the maritime tourism industry. In this present study, the most active authors in the maritime tourism field and their most recent articles on the subject serve as a guide for developing a maritime tourism sector as well as identifying and analysing gaps and trends.

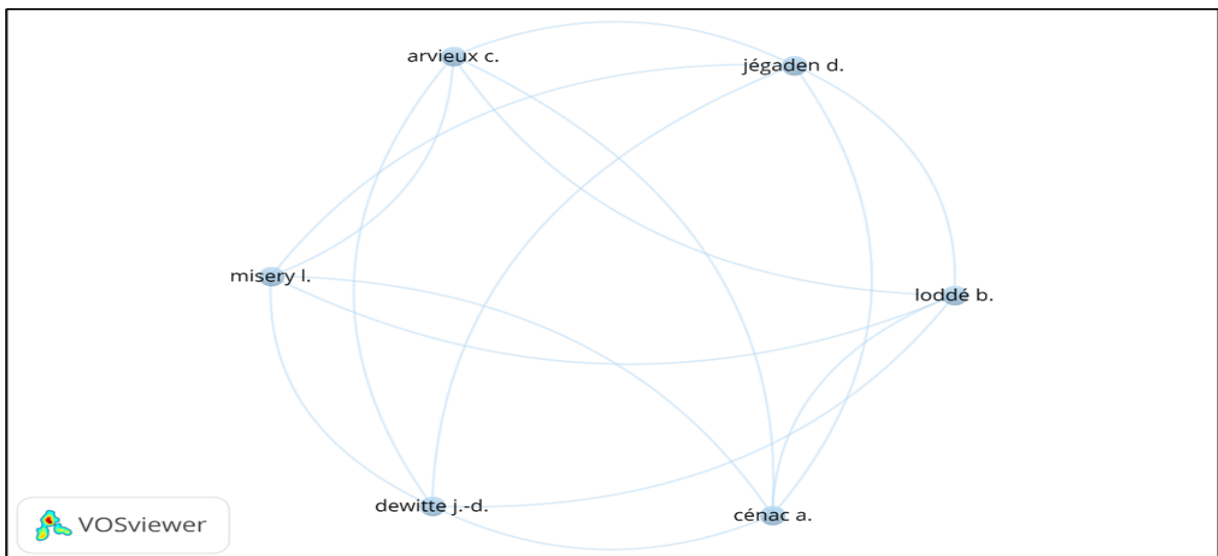


Figure 9: Collaboration between authors on the Scopus database

Source: Author

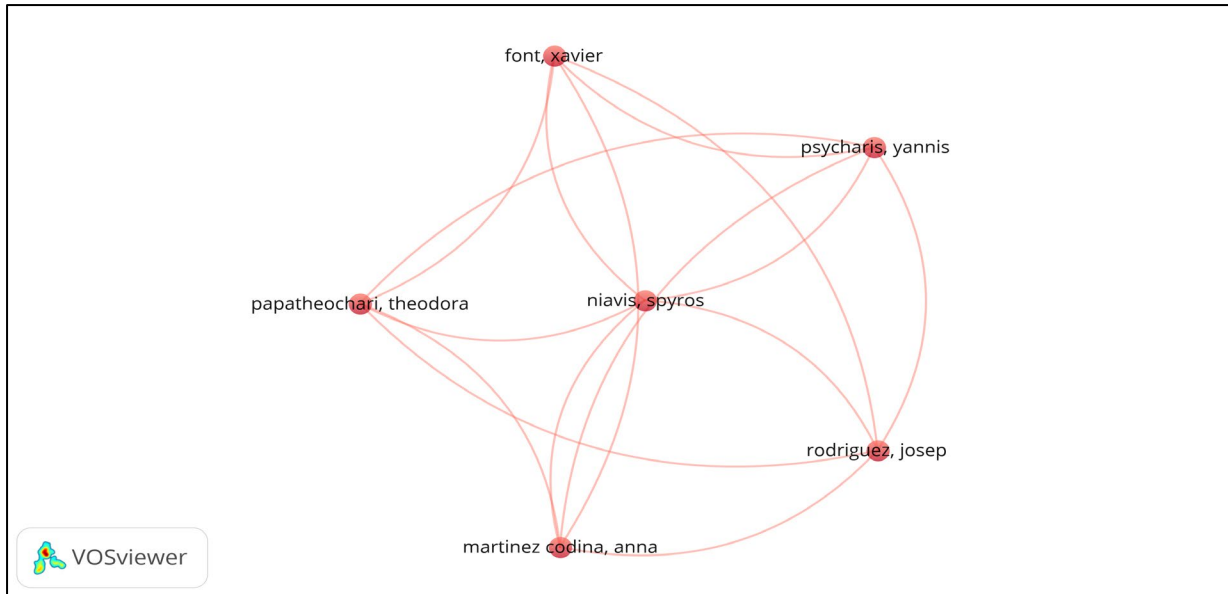


Figure 10: Collaboration between authors on the WoS database

Source: Author

4.5 Articles Published on the Scopus and WoS databases

As shown in Figures 11 and 12, the connection between publications over a 12-years period was more productive, which may indicate that more attention may be given to the maritime tourism industry in the future. Therefore, a rigorous cycle of maritime tourism-based publications is needed to remain competent in the maritime industry.

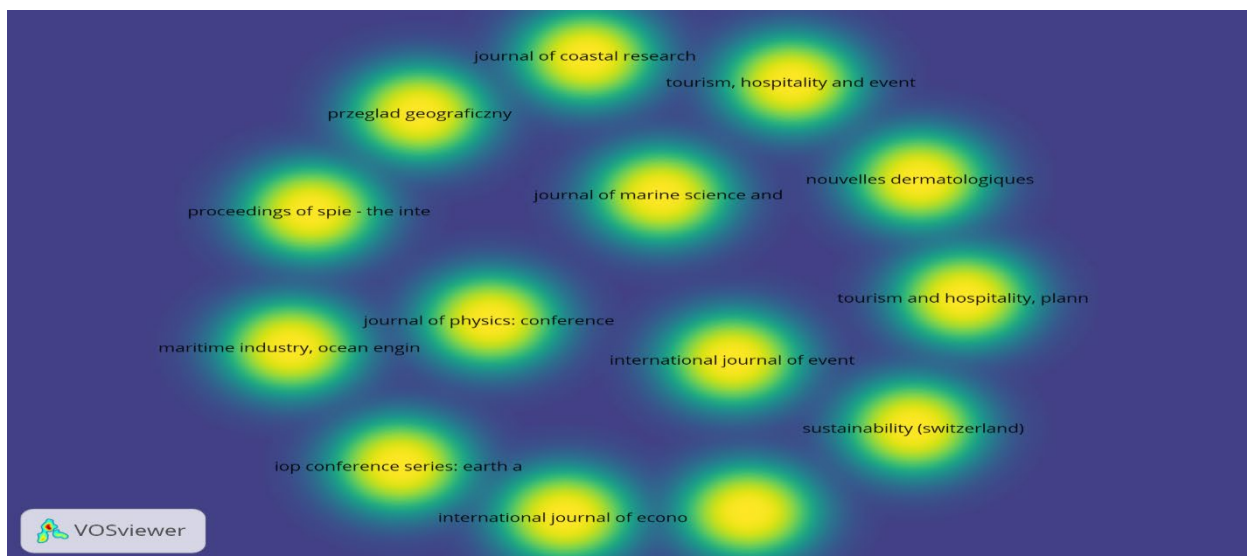


Figure 11: Collaboration between Articles Published on the Scopus database

Source: Author

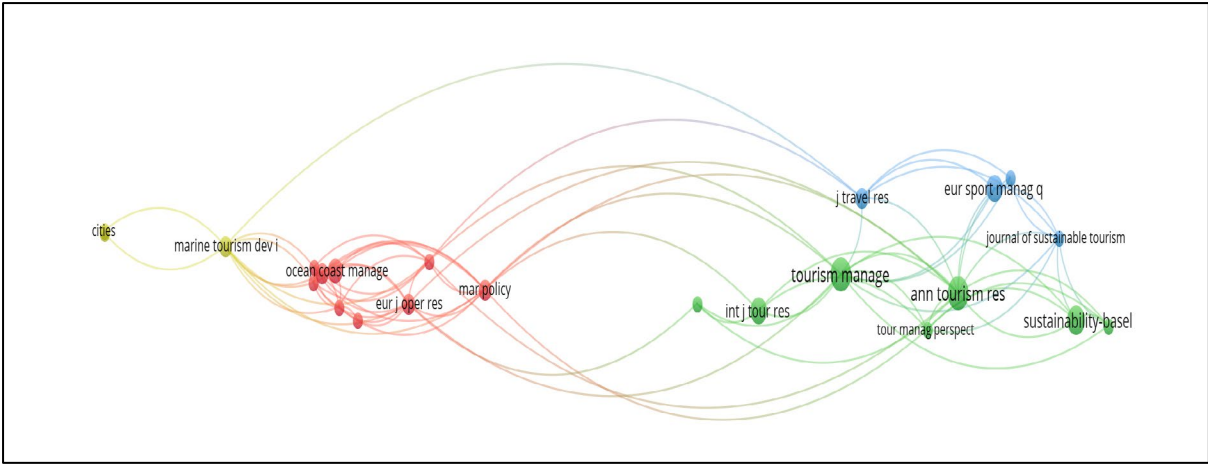


Figure 12: Collaboration between Articles Published on the WoS database

Source: Author

4.6 Productive institutions on the Scopus and WoS databases

As shown in Figures 13 and 14, the respective institute have an interest in furthering their research on maritime tourism as the tourism market will contribute just as much as to the national GDP as the other sectors. Governments could also provide institutions who are exploring new maritime market segments with incentives. Lastly, researchers who have begun examining the maritime tourism industry could seek advice or consult with experts from the institution as the view and details that they will receive from the institution is much more significant and reliable.

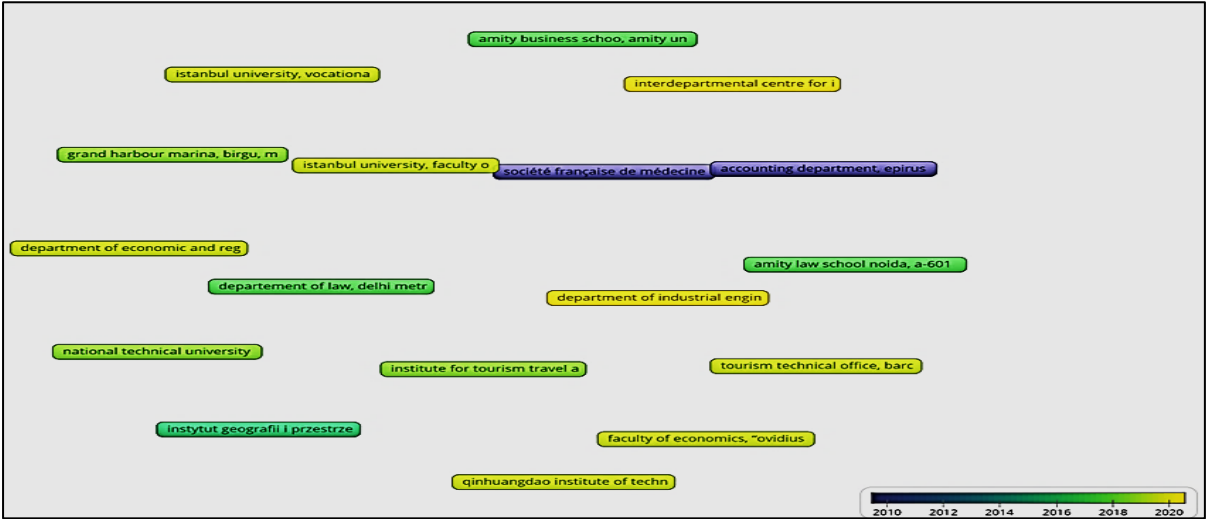


Figure 13: Productive institutions on the Scopus database

Source: Author

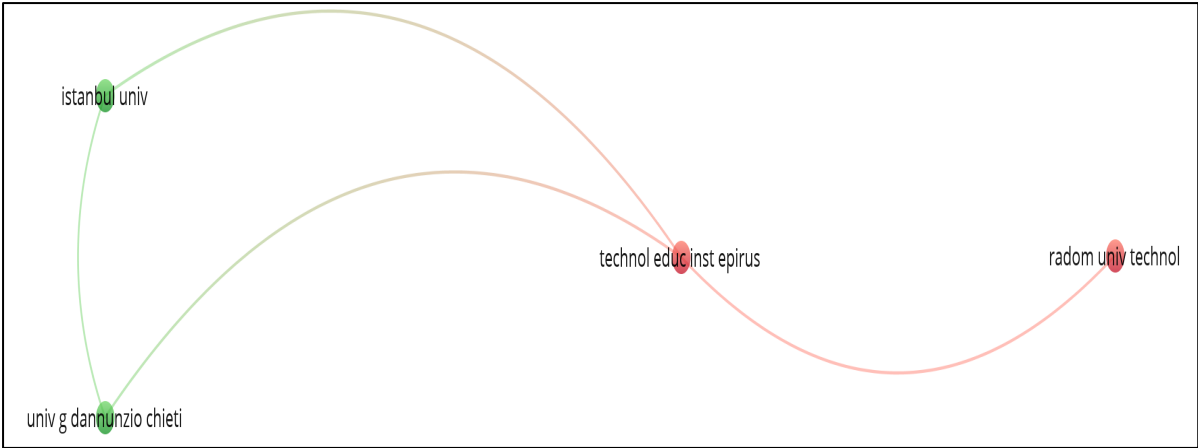


Figure 14: Productive institutions on the Scopus database

Source: Author

4.7 Results of the analysis and review of the selected articles

With the assistance of content analysis and NVivo 12, this present study coded concepts that had been extracted from the original data and developed them in terms of their properties and dimensions (Corbin, 2008). The results below were obtained after using NVivo 12 as a coding tool to analyse 28 journals from both the Scopus and WoS databases. According to De Oliveira *et al.* (2019), integrating two different scientific data sources allows generation of more robust results in a bibliometric analysis. The outcomes of the NVivo 12 coding are shown below. Figures 15a and 15b shows the text search query for the problem and cluster areas of maritime tourism, respectively, while Figure 15c depicts the word frequency query search results for the code “problem”. As seen in Figures 15a and 15b, maritime tourism has faced several problems, such as environmental issues, issues in biodiversity, poor waste management, lack of coordination, and uncontrolled development. Additionally, maritime stakeholders were found to be unaware of environmental concerns as maritime tourism involves nature. The results shown in Figure 15c confirm that natural pollution is the most severe problem that maritime tourism has encountered.

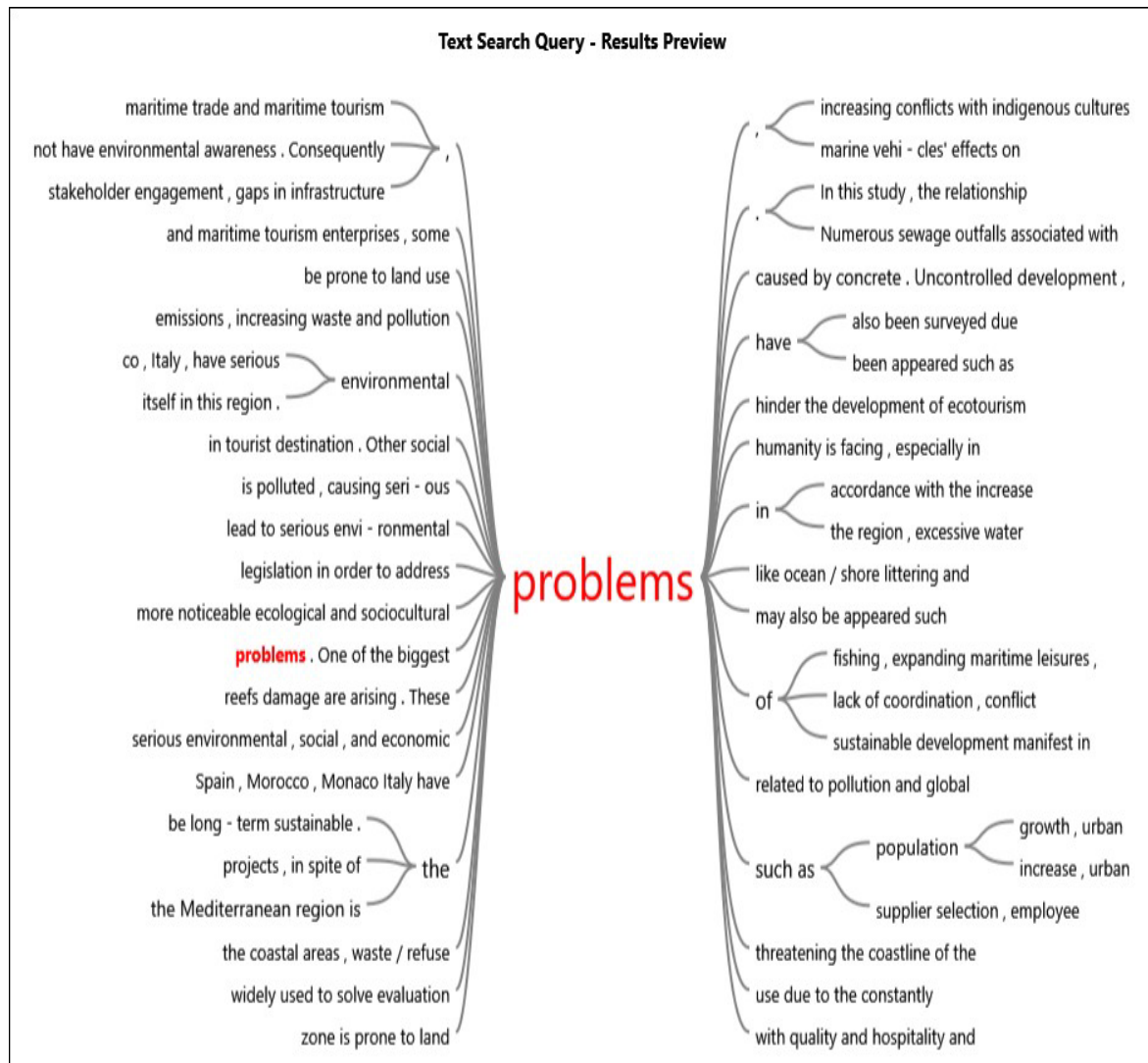


Figure 15a: Text search query for the problem cluster for maritime tourism

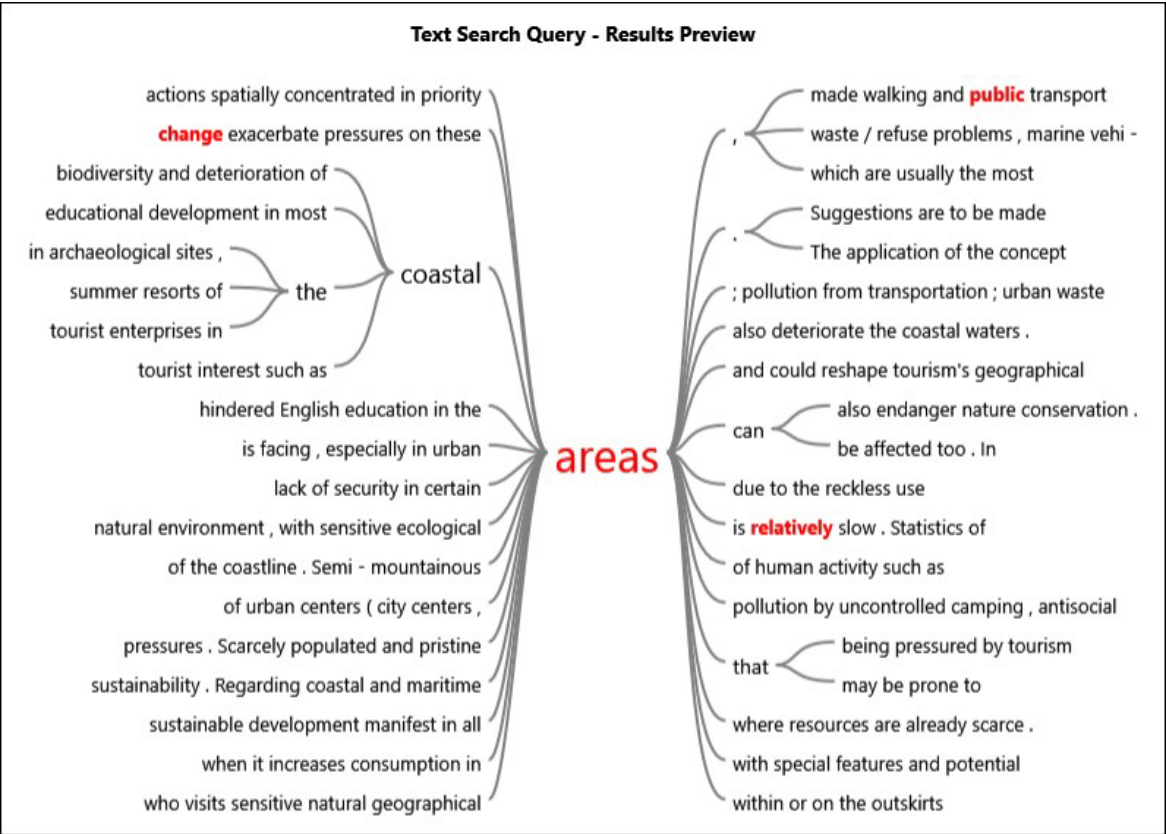


Figure 15b: Text search query for the cluster area in maritime tourism



Figure 15c: Word frequency query search for the code “problem”

Figure 16a shows the text search query for the solution cluster in maritime tourism while Figure 16b depicts the text search query for the policy and management clusters in maritime tourism. Lastly, Figure 16c illustrates the result from the word frequency query search for the code “solution”. As seen in Figures 16a and 16b, the maritime tourism industry has developed a few solutions, strategy concepts, and technological approaches with which to solve the problem above. As most stakeholders and players in the maritime industry are believed to have good cooperation with management, formulating policies could solve these problems. However, although many innovative solutions have been developed and implemented in organisations, the maritime industry has yet to develop an effective and efficient solution to address all these issues. This is evident in Figure 16c, which shows that maritime tourism requires sustainable maritime activities to thrive in the future.

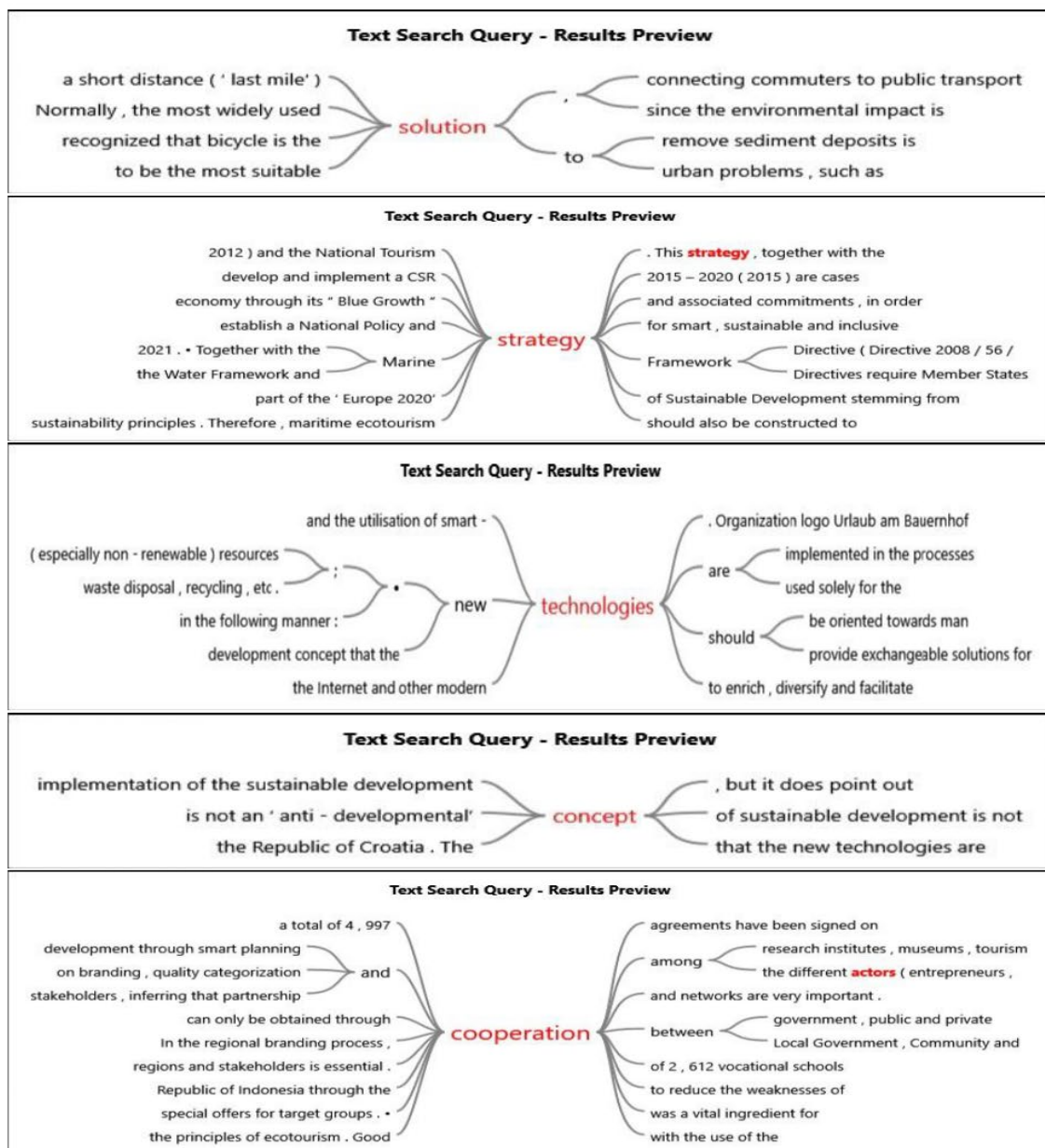


Figure 16a: Text search query for the solution cluster in maritime tourism

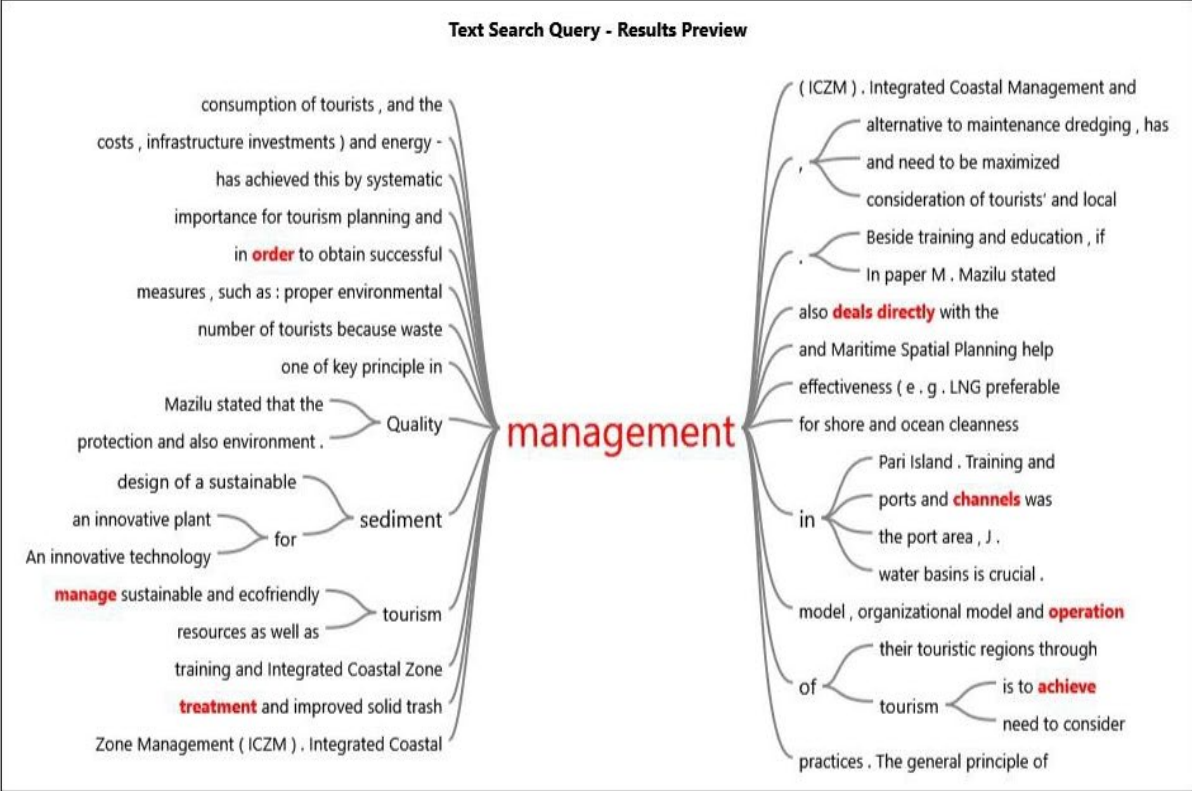
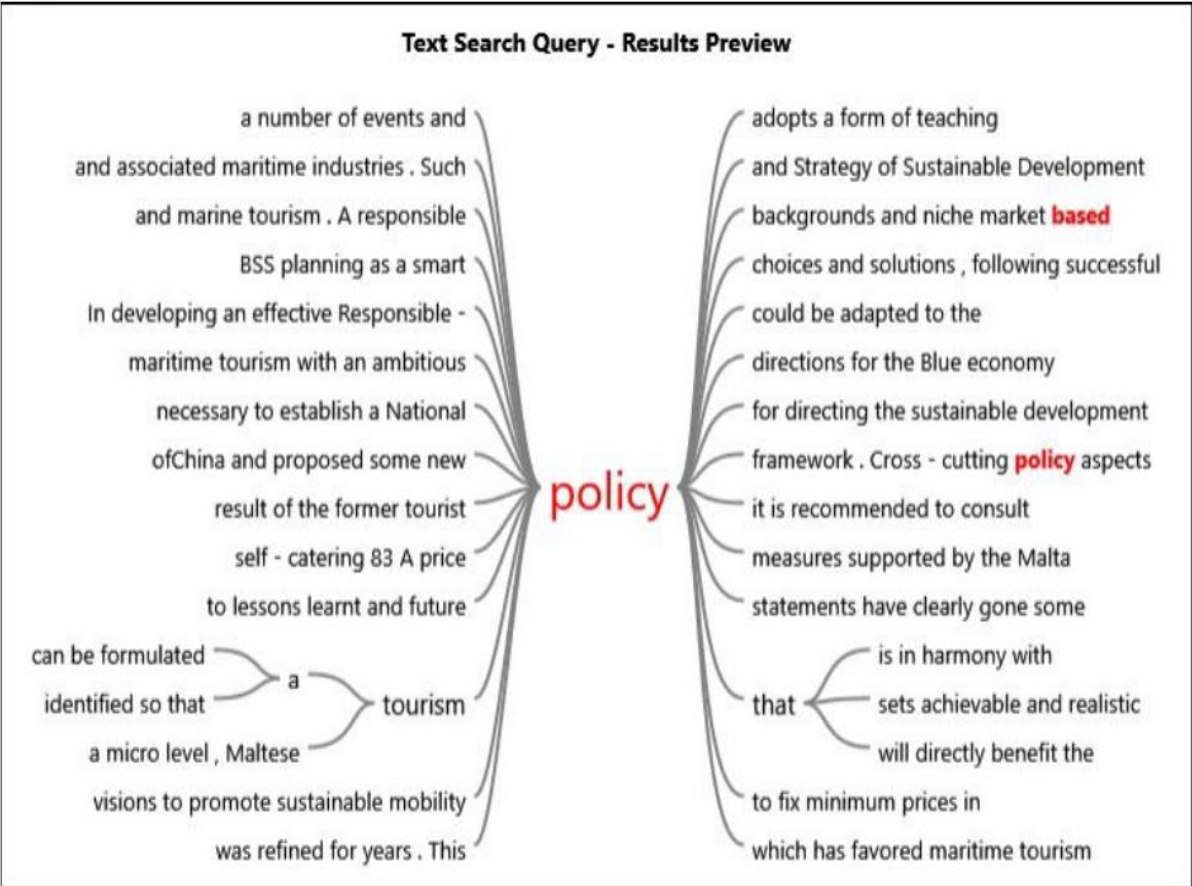


Figure 16b: Text search query for the policy and management clusters in maritime tourism

5.0 Discussion

Based on the results discussed in Section 4.0, the problem clusters could be classified into six major categories: a) governmental and political support, b) environmental issues, c) cooperation among stakeholders, d) maritime tourism law and policies, e) technological matters, and f) maritime tourism knowledge. Furthermore, 18 sub-clusters were also categorised: i) lack of government support, ii) lack of experienced maritime tourism organisations, iii) lack of maritime tourism laws and policies, iv) lack of maritime tourist data, v) lack of environmental awareness, vi) unnecessary infrastructure development, vii) lack of maritime tourism knowledge in terms of activities and language, viii) over utilisation of maritime resources, ix) unclear benefits of maritime tourism, x) unclear classification of maritime tourism segments, xi) political instability, xii) large population, xiii) exchange rate, xiv) natural disasters, xv) climate change, xvi) lack of sustainable maritime activities, xvii) maritime tourism fraud, and xviii) lack of cooperation among maritime stakeholders.

Firstly, due to a lack of government initiative to support and train more tour guides in vocational schools, many tour guides lack maritime tourism knowledge, and are unable to communicate effectively. According [Ariyani \(2021\)](#), governments hesitate to support or establish more marine and tourism vocational schools as they do not realise the importance of the maritime tourism market and the human resource requirement to run it. This is because governments still view the maritime industry simply as a medium with which to trade business via transportation and supply chains. Apart from that, although there are many education institutes, universities and colleges established across the globe, their primary focus is on specific sectors, such as medicine, engineering, information and communications technology, and supply chains. This may be one of the reasons why the maritime tourism industry trails behind the other industries. This was corroborated by [Ariyani \(2021\)](#) that governments only focus on industrial and technology vocational education in universities and schools. Furthermore, a lack of specialised maritime tourism schools and institutes will cause a lack of English proficiency in non-English speaking countries ([Sofiana et al., 2018](#); [Drosos, 2020](#); [Jeevan et al., 2022](#)). As the main approach of maritime tourism is to attract more international tourist, if command of the English language remains a barrier, it is difficult to produce good tourist guides for the maritime tourism sector. Furthermore, maritime tourism is a leisure activity in which people want to spend time engaging in maritime sports. Lack of proper training of individuals from inexperienced maritime tourism training organisation result in tourist guides who are ill-equipped to handle tourists which will, in turn, negatively affect the maritime tourism market.

Secondly, maritime coastal zones are subjected to the highest pressure and pollution due to the presence of ports and natural anchors ([Drosos, 2020](#)). Unnecessary infrastructure development along shorelines as well as concrete pollution, degradation, and sedimentation caused by construction also damages the marine ecosystem. Apart from that, the continuous development of tourist accommodations along the coastline ([Gedik & Mugan, 2019](#); [Pellegrini et al., 2020](#), [Drosos, 2020](#)) continues to adversely affect environmental health. It is evident that most property developers prioritise profit over environmental protection. According to [Gao \(2019\)](#), there is a lack of sustainable maritime tourism approaches as most maritime players are unaware of the maritime tourism segments. According to [Jeevan et al. \(2019\)](#), maritime tourism can be extended from the seaport to the hinterlands. It shows that maritime tourism areas can be segregated into three distinct parts: foreland, seaport, and hinterland tourism.

Therefore, indecorous expansion towards these areas will damage the environment. Furthermore, extending maritime tourism areas and spatial activities to semi-mountainous regions may increase the occurrence of landslides (Drosos, 2020) as improper development and planning will lead to natural disasters. One of the main causes of natural disasters may be that the environment cannot cope with the pressures caused by humankind. Therefore, proper research on maritime tourism and good cooperation among the maritime stakeholders are required prior to the execution of maritime tourism activities. Many agencies should also play a role before a maritime tourist spot is examined. For instance, the Ministry of Health and a disaster management team could investigate if the proposed area is suitable for maritime tourism and development. The Meteorological Department could forecast when the next natural disaster may occur while the Ministry of Environment could determine if the development is necessary or if it will harm animal or people. This is because alternative approaches are always available if proper research and planning is conducted.

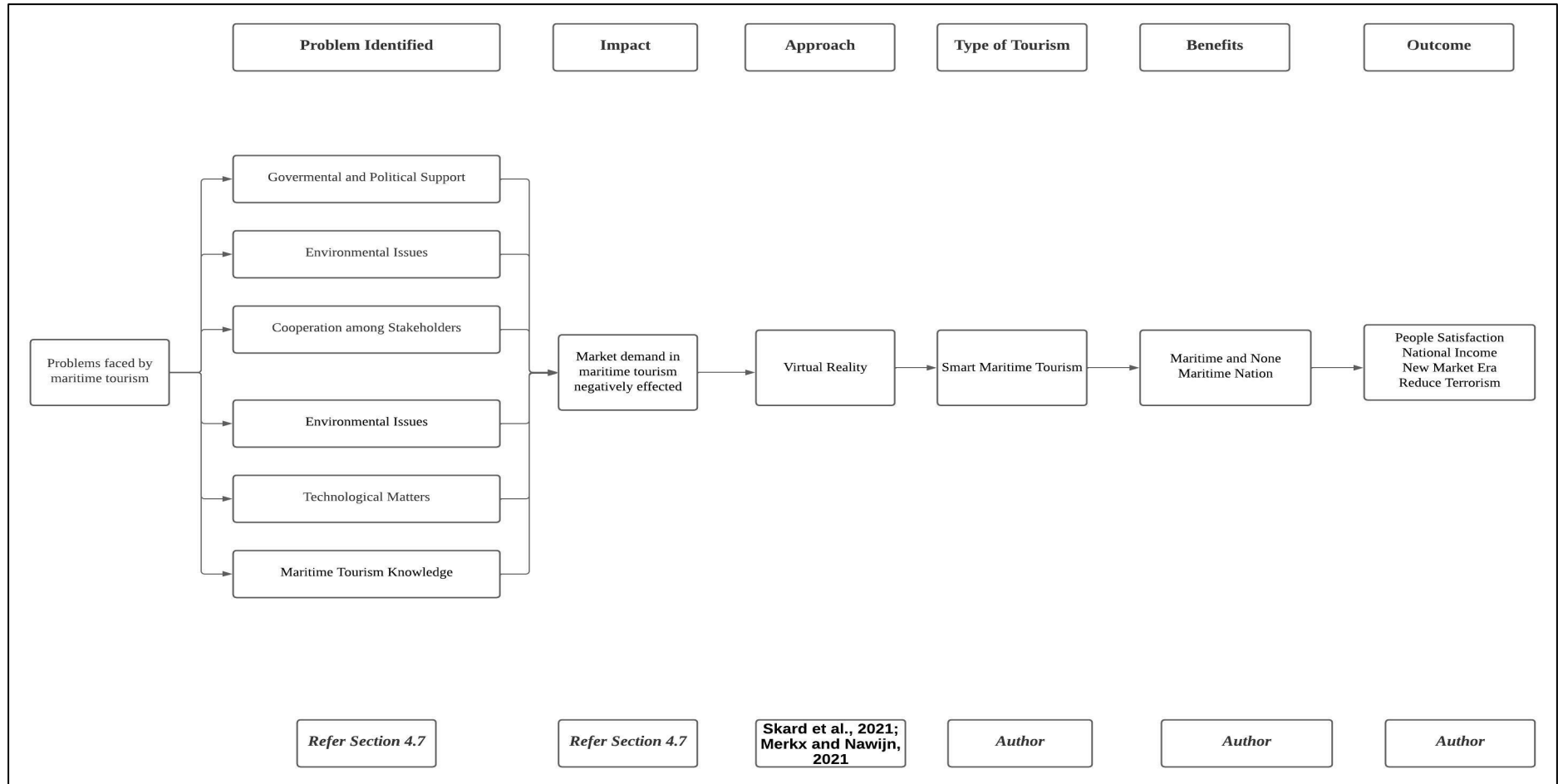
A lack of proper research planning could contribute to climate change as climate change pressures on maritime tourism areas could reshape the geographical and seasonal circulation of tourist activities. Apart from that, unstable weather conditions: such as storm (Pajak, 2007); may not inspire tourists to visit the maritime areas of a country. This will, in turn, negatively affect the income and GDP of a nation. According to Gedik and Mugan (2019), many accommodations are generating and discharging untreated wastewater into the sea. Such irresponsible practices could lead to the formation of exotic species and marine mammals that are more dangerous to marine life. As such, political parties play a significant role in managing the sewage outfall of companies and industries as they can impose a tax or take immediate legal action against companies that have no regard for the environment. Apart from wastewater, maritime transportation negatively affects the marine ecosystem as well. According to Gedik and Mugan (2019), a continuous flow of marine vehicles will affect the ecosystem and could lead to serious environmental problems. For example, the propeller of a boat and the hull of a vessel affects marine life below the sea. Most maritime nations may not be able to prevent this as it is one of the economic sectors of the nation. Maritime stakeholders who lack proper research and only focus on the maritime transportation industry may be faced with issues of unstable currency in a nation. This is because as maritime tourism attracts more international tourists, there will be a great direct exchange rate between foreign countries.

Apart from that, countries with a larger population put a tremendous amount of pressure on natural resources while the continuous and extreme consumption of natural resources will lead to scarcity (Gedik & Mugan, 2019; Gao, 2019). Countries with larger populations are also struggling to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This is because poor management of government causes ageing and younger people to develop many health problems. A lack of awareness of health conditions also severely affects the maritime tourism industry. Apart from the COVID-19 virus, water pollution causes body, nose, and throat infections when engaging in maritime tourism activities. Furthermore, as differently abled persons cannot engage in maritime tourism activities, it may cause them mental stress. Therefore, integrating maritime tourism with the current latest technologies as well as VR could form a new emerging market known as SMT. The SMT approach is an effective and efficient solution with which to solve many of the problems faced by people. For example, people with financial issues, medical problems that prevent them from travelling, or full-time commitments can explore maritime tourist spots virtually. Even though virtually engaging in maritime activities using VR headsets

is different from experiencing it in real-life, at least they can plan or have the same feelings. Virtually visiting many tourists spot could also boost the national economy. Moreover, SMT not only benefits maritime nation but also landlock countries as properly exploring maritime hinterlands could lead them towards SMT. This type of SMT could be a new market for non-maritime nations and could serve as an opportunity for them to explore the new maritime tourism market. Landlock countries should take the initiative to compete with maritime nations as the current tourist behaviour and leisure market fluctuates. Therefore, SMT is an operational approach that could solve most of the problems and challenges that the maritime tourism industry faces.

The legislation of a nation is particularly important to make tourists feel safe during their visit. According to [Gao \(2019\)](#) and [Jaswal *et al.* \(2017\)](#), social crimes and tourism fraud, such as providing a service for an unreasonable price could adversely affect the reputation of a nation. This is because the misbehaviour of locals towards international tourists reflects the culture of the country, governments should enact a tourism policy for local people that outlines how to take care of international tourists during their visit. Furthermore, maritime tourism fraud has been a major source of concern for most maritime players in this digital age. Based on the result discussed in Section 4.7 above, innovative strategies, such as “Blue Growth;” are an effective framework for sustainable maritime tourism development, advance technological tactics, effective cooperation with many parties, and systematic policy management were adopted but maritime tourism was still adversely affected. [Although many solutions have been implemented to address the issues that the maritime tourism faces, most of the issues remain unsolved, which could have a negative impact. The only way to solve the problems is to take the right approach.](#) Even though this present study proposed the development of SMT, policy makers should play a significant role in deciding policies on visiting restricted areas at seaport or other specific areas. Apart from that, exploring maritime archaeology in forelands requires the enactment of strict laws that protect the identity of historical artifacts and prevent people or countries from claiming that the artifacts belong to them. Moreover, the National Security, port authorities, employee union and Defence Department should play a significant role during international tourist visits as extra precautions should be taken by the government to mitigate negative occurrences during maritime tourism activities. This is because, in the future, seaport tourism will be an emerging tourist area and currently seaports are one of the nodes that significantly contribute to the income of a nation. However, implementing SMT can reduce the likelihood of terrorist activities in the maritime tourism sector. Figure 17 provides a summary of the results and the novel approach with which to overcome the issues.

1



2

3

4

Figure 17 Summary of the results and the novel approach to overcome the issues

6.0 Conclusion

The maritime tourism sector contributes just as much or even more to the national gross domestic product (GDP) of a nation as other sectors. Therefore, maritime tourism is an important economic activity in many maritime nations. Smart Maritime Tourism, is a new type of tourism encompassing and altering the segments of maritime tourism industry which are foreland, seaport, and hinterland by utilising the features of virtual reality (VR). These SMT strategies respond as the novel approach resulted from the new wave of digitalization. SMT is an effective and efficient solution with which to solve the problems faced by the maritime tourism market of the day. From bibliometric approach, this paper uncovered 6 major problem clusters in maritime tourism namely governmental and political support, environmental issues, cooperation among stakeholders, maritime tourism law and policies, technological matters, and maritime tourism knowledge with several other sub issues pertinent to each cluster. Future studies can identify the criteria required to transform the maritime tourism industry to an SMT industry. Although numerous previous studies have examined a variety of sectors in the maritime industry, this present study took the first step towards creating a completely new body of knowledge by focusing on the problems faced by the maritime tourism industry and identifying existing approaches that can be used to solve these issues. The motivation for this research extends beyond marine tourism, coastal tourism, and nautical tourism as most of the study focused on the forelands and its related activities. Future studies may conduct an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) to validate and solve the problems by utilising virtual reality (VR) as the main solution. Future studies may also examine the exact maritime tourism segments, such as the clear distance, definition, and activities that can be carried out; as well as the transition from foreland, seaport, and hinterland tourism and the area covered.

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