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# Progressive Trends and Impact of the Journal of Career Development: A Citation Analysis

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# Progressive Trends and Impact of the Journal of Career Development: A Citation Analysis

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## Abstract

As one of the four premier journals in vocational psychology, the *Journal of Career Development (JCD)* has published over 830 articles over the past three decades. This study examined the performance of *JCD* through a citation analysis and provided evaluative data for scholars publishing in the field of vocation psychology. Articles published by *JCD* between 1986 and 2007 were analyzed. Additional data pertaining *JCD*'s performance were also collected through the *Journal Citation Reports*. The analyses revealed a strong and growing impact of articles published by *JCD* on researchers and professionals. Specifically, results provided (a) the frequency and trends of *JCD*'s citations overtime, (b) the journals where *JCD*'s articles were most often cited, (c) the most frequently cited *JCD*'s articles, (d) *JCD*'s impact data in applied psychology, and (e) *JCD*'s citation information among the other three vocational psychology journals. Implications of the results for the journal are discussed.

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**Keywords**

citation analysis, trend analysis, career development, *Journal of Career Development*, journal impact

For over three decades, the *Journal of Career Development (JCD)* has produced over 830 articles and maintained its aim and scope to “provide the professionals, the public, and policymakers with the latest in career development theory, research and practice, focusing on the impact that theory and research have on practice” (*Journal of Career Development*, n.d.). The journal has changed its name (i.e., formerly known as the *Journal of Career Education*), reflecting attempts to broaden its focus to respond to the needs of scholars in the field of vocational psychology (Heppner & Wagner, 2010). The purpose of this study was to examine the performance of *JCD* articles published between 1986 and 2007 through a citation analysis and to provide evaluative data to scholars working and publishing in the field of vocational psychology.

According to Cook and Hulett (2004), scholarly journals serve as “the depository of the collective knowledge associated with a profession and as the face presented to the academy and interested others” (p. 51). Evaluating and maintaining journal quality is an important task for editors and editorial boards, and one way in which this evaluation can be accomplished is through a citation analysis. Citation analysis is a useful method to examine the history of scientific development (Garfield, 1979) and project future trends within a particular field or across disciplines (Smith, 1981). Although other approaches are available (e.g., Koulack & Keselman, 1975; Mace & Warner, 1973), citation analysis is considered to be less influenced by individual biases than other approaches or techniques because it objectively measures the frequency in which professionals cited published articles (Flores, Rooney, Heppner, Browne, & Wei, 1999; White & White, 1977).

Based on a review of literature, several citation analyses have been performed on various journals. For example, Leong (1989) conducted a citation analysis to identify attributes of most cited articles in the *Journal of Consumer Research*. Similarly, Satcher, Litton, Waterbor, and Brooks (2009) performed an analysis of the nature of reference sources cited by authors of articles published in the *Journal of Cancer Education*. Specifically to journals in psychology, Aylward, Roberts, Colombo, and Steele (2008) used citation analysis to identify the top 100 most highly cited “classic” articles in the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*. Cotton and Anderson (1973) studied citations from the *Journal of Counseling Psychology* to determine how the cited sources and authors changed over the years. Flores and colleagues (1999) analyzed trends in the professional citations of the major contribution articles from *The Counseling Psychologist*. In addition, a number of citation analyses were conducted across journals in a particular field. Some of the examples include the following fields: (a) rehabilitation counseling (Cook & Hulett, 2004), (b) applied and clinical psychology (Everett & Pecotich, 1993),

(c) organizational science (Blackburn & Mitchell, 1981), and (d) psychology in general (White & White, 1977). Overall, the results from these studies provided vital information that guides quality improvement plans for journals and reflect scientific trends in each field.

To date, a citation analysis has not been performed on *JCD*'s publications, yet findings from such a study can uncover trends within this journal and identify popular topics that are being used by other scholars. As one of the four main journals in the field of vocational psychology including *Career Development Quarterly (CDQ)*, *Journal of Career Assessment (JCA)*, and *Journal of Vocational Behavior (JVB)*, *JCD* has produced over 830 articles since its inception in 1972. Although the quality of *JCD* is reflected in its productivity and longevity, the purpose of this study was to examine publication trends in *JCD*. More specifically, we were interested in (a) investigating how often the articles published by *JCD* were cited overall, (b) reporting the journals where *JCD*'s articles were most often cited, (c) identifying the most frequently cited articles published by *JCD*, (d) examining *JCD*'s impact in applied psychology, and (e) reviewing citation information across the four main vocational psychology journals.

## Method

### Sample and Retrieval Mechanism

The sample consisted of articles ( $n = 513$ ), excluding editorials, notes, and introductions to special issues, published in the *JCD* from 1986 to 2007. Data on citations of these 513 articles were collected in December 2009 using Scopus, the largest electronic abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature that offers nearly 18,000 titles from more than 5,000 international publishers (Scopus, n.d.). The articles published prior to 1986 were not included in this study because the citation information for those articles was not available through Scopus. To examine the standing of *JCD* in the field of vocational psychology, citation data of publications in *CDQ*, *JCA*, and *JVB* were collected from Scopus between 1996 and 2007. This time frame was chosen because it was the most updated and complete data at the time of data collection.

In addition, to examine the standing of *JCD* in comparison to other journals, additional data were collected through the Social Science Edition of *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)*. *JCR* is the only journal evaluation resource that provides quantifiable, statistical information based on citation data that includes more than 1,800 journals in its Social Science Edition (*Journal Citation Reports*, 2010). The time period between 1996 and 2008 was chosen based on the availability of data that *JCR* offers. Scopus, *JCR*, and Google Scholar are considered to be the three major databases for citation information (Bakkalbasi, Bauer, Glover, & Wang, 2006). In addition to the advantages previously mentioned, Scopus and *JCR* were chosen for this study due to their availability to the authors and complementary to the purpose of this study.

## Data Collection and Coding

By entering “Journal of Career Development” in Scopus and limiting the search up to the year 2007, 539 articles were shown. After excluding introductions and editorials, 513 articles were retained. The citation information for each article was then recorded by the research team on the coding sheet. The categories on the coding sheet included (a) name of the first author, (b) year in which the article was published, and (c) overall number of citations by other authors. The latter category was further broken down into (a) the number of citations in each of the 11 premier peer-reviewed journals in counseling and counseling psychology (i.e., *JCD*, *JVB*, *CDQ*, *JCA*, *The Counseling Psychologist*, *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, *Journal of Counseling and Development*, *Journal of College Student Development*, *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, *Psychotherapy*, *Journal of Employment Counseling*, *Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development*), and (b) the number of citations in other journals. The list of 11 journals was suggested by an expert who has extensive knowledge about the publication outlets in counseling and counseling psychology.

Additional data were collected from the *JCR* on the four vocational psychology journals. Another coding sheet was developed for this part of data collection, and it contained the following categories for each year included: (a) name of a journal, (b) total citations, (c) impact factor, (d) immediacy index, (e) cited half-life, and (f) ranking in relation to other journals in applied psychology. The impact factor is a measure of the frequency that the average article in a journal has been cited in a particular year or period (Blackburn, 1990). Impact factor is available as one of the evaluative tools provided by *JCR* and is calculated by “dividing the number of current year citations to the source items published in that journal during the previous two years” (*Journal Citation Reports*, n.d.). Immediacy index refers to the average number of times articles published in a specific journal were cited during the year they were in print. Cited half-life is related to the length of time a journal’s article remains in active citation. Thus, a journal with a higher cited half-life would contain older articles that are currently being cited. A copy of the coding sheets is available from the first author. Coding was checked at a different time throughout data collection process by one of the members of research team to ensure its accuracy. Through this procedure, no errors were found.

## Results

### Overall Frequency

Descriptive statistics were obtained on the citation information for the articles published in *JCD* between 1986 and 2007. The results revealed that by 2009, 390 (76%) of 513 articles received at least 1 citation. The tallies and percentages of *JCD*’s articles that were cited by other articles and the total number of citations by year are shown in Table 1. Visual inspection of Table 1 revealed an increase in the percentage of *JCD*’s articles being cited over time. The total number of citations for *JCD*’s articles was 1796 ( $M = 3.5$ ;  $SD = 4.22$ ).

**Table 1.** Summary of Citations for *JCD*'s Publications Between 1986 and 2007

Year	Number of Articles Published	Number of Articles Published Each Year That Have Been Cited	Percentage of Articles Published Each Year That Have Been Cited	Total Number of Citations Received
1986	13	4	30.77	9
1987	29	15	51.72	49
1988	23	11	47.83	28
1989	29	15	51.72	57
1990	28	15	51.72	36
1991	25	18	72.00	112
1992	28	14	53.57	70
1993	29	24	82.76	149
1994	34	24	70.59	117
1995	23	15	65.22	102
1996	24	19	79.17	116
1997	20	17	85.00	67
1998	21	20	95.24	107
1999	21	17	80.95	90
2000	20	18	90.00	124
2001	22	22	100.00	105
2002	19	17	89.47	72
2003	23	23	100.00	144
2004	18	18	100.00	67
2005	23	23	100.00	67
2006	22	22	100.00	74
2007	19	18	94.74	34
Total	513	390		1796

Note. *JCD* = *Journal of Career Development*.

Table 1 also provides information about the number of articles *JCD* produced in relation to the number of times the articles were used by other scholars in their published writing across each year. The frequencies revealed that the number of total citations of *JCD*'s articles was generally high between 1991 and 2003, while 1993 and 2003 accounted for the highest citations. In addition, Table 1 revealed that there was an overall increase in the frequency with which *JCD*'s articles were cited by other scholars over time, while the number of articles appearing in the journal each year has remained relatively stable. The nonsignificant correlation ( $p > .05$ ) between the number of articles produced and the total number of citations of *JCD* each year confirmed this observation.

### *Journals Citing Articles From JCD*

Based on the suggestion of an expert in the field, we identified 11 premier journals in counseling and counseling psychology. We then analyzed the number

**Table 2.** Summary of Citations Received From the Top 11 Premier Journals in Counseling and Counseling Psychology

Journal	n	%
<i>Career Development Quarterly</i>	341	34.00
<i>Journal of Career Development</i>	184	18.34
<i>Journal of Career Assessment</i>	141	14.06
<i>Journal of Vocational Behavior</i>	140	13.96
<i>Journal of Counseling Psychology</i>	49	4.89
<i>Journal of Employment Counseling</i>	41	4.09
<i>Journal of Counseling and Development</i>	38	3.79
<i>The Counseling Psychologist</i>	33	3.29
<i>Journal of College Student Development</i>	19	1.89
<i>Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development</i>	10	1.00
<i>Professional Psychology: Research and Practice</i>	7	0.70
Total	1003	100.00

of citations *JCD* received by these journals in order to examine its impact on the field of counseling and counseling psychology (see Table 2). The results indicated that these journals accounted for 55.85% ( $n = 1003$ ) of the total citations ( $n = 1796$ ). Among them, *JCD* received citations from the following journals most often: *CDQ* (34.00%,  $n = 341$ ), *JCD* (18.34%,  $n = 184$ ), *JCA* (14.06%,  $n = 141$ ), *JVB* ( $n = 140$ ), and *Journal of Counseling Psychology* (4.89%,  $n = 49$ ). It should be noted that these five journals comprised almost half (47.61%;  $n = 855$ ) of all citations across the 11 journals. In addition, three of the four premier journals in vocational psychology (i.e., *JVB*, *CDQ*, and *JCA*) cited articles from *JCD* 622 times and accounted for 34.63% of the total citations.

Table 3 provides a summary of the remaining 44.15% of total citations ( $n = 793$ ) from various journals beyond the 11 journals in counseling and counseling psychology. Among these journals, *Psychological Reports* cited articles from *JCD* 22 times (2.77%), followed by *International Journal for the Advancement of Counseling* ( $n = 19$ ; 2.40%), *Career Development International* ( $n = 17$ ; 2.14%), *Sex Roles* ( $n = 14$ ; 1.77%), and *International Journal for Educational and Vocational Guidance* ( $n = 13$ ; 1.64%). Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that among these journals, 91 (11.13%) were international journals (e.g., *International Journal for Educational and Vocational Guidance*, *International Journal of Human Resource Management*, *Asia Pacific Education Review*, *Australian Journal of Psychology*, *British Journal of Guidance and Counseling*, *Career Development International*, *European Journal of Social Sciences*, *Japanese Journal of Educational Psychology*, *South African Journal of Psychology*, and *Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research*) with a total of 208 citations, which is about 11.58% of the entire citations *JCD* articles received.

**Table 3.** Summary of Citations Received From Other Journals

Journal	<i>n</i>	%
<i>Psychological Reports</i>	22	2.77
<i>International Journal for the Advancement of Counseling</i>	19	2.40
<i>Career Development International</i>	17	2.14
<i>Sex Roles</i>	14	1.77
<i>International Journal for Educational and Vocational Guidance</i>	13	1.64
<i>British Journal of Guidance and Counseling</i>	12	1.51
<i>Journal of Technology in Counseling</i>	9	1.13
<i>Journal of Occupational and Organization Psychology</i>	9	1.13
<i>Work</i>	9	1.13
<i>International Journal of Human Resource Management</i>	8	1.01
<i>Japanese Journal of Educational Psychology</i>	8	1.01
<i>Journal of Applied Psychology</i>	8	1.01
<i>Journal of Organizational Behavior</i>	8	1.01
<i>Remedial and Special Education</i>	8	1.01
<i>Sport Psychologist</i>	7	0.88
<i>Journal of Adolescent Research</i>	7	0.88
<i>Human Resource Management</i>	7	0.88
<i>Annual Review of Psychology</i>	5	0.63
<i>Psychotherapy</i>	3	0.38

Note. Journals that cited articles from *JCD* less frequently were excluded.

### Most Frequently Cited Articles

To identify the top 10 ranked of most frequently cited articles published by *JCD*, the articles that received the highest numbers of citations were identified. This procedure resulted in a total of 26 articles due to some articles receiving the same number of citations (see Table 4). These articles accounted for 24.11% ( $n = 433$ ) of the total number of citations ( $n = 1,796$ ) received by articles published in *JCD* between 1986 and 2007. Of the 26 articles, 8 were published after 2000 and 18 were published after 1990. Although none of the top 10 most frequently cited articles were published prior to 1990, articles by Roper and Berry (1986), Sommerstein (1986), Herr (1989), and Niles and Pate (1989) each received more than 10 citations. It is also noteworthy that D. A. Luzzo, R. T. Lapan, and A. A. Helwig published 2 articles in the top 10 most frequently cited articles published in *JCD* as first authors.

Since older articles have more opportunities to be cited than more recent articles, a calculation of the number of citations per year since publication was also computed by subtracting the published year from 2009, and then dividing the total number of citations by that number. The top 10 ranked of articles with the highest citations per year based on this calculation are presented in Table 5. Due to some articles having the same number of citations per year, a total of 12 articles were included. These articles were reviewed to assess for (a) type of scholarly contribution, (b) major

**Table 4.** Top 10 Most Frequently Cited Articles

Rank	Author	Article Title	Year	Total Citations	Citations/Year (Rank)
1	Rønnestad, M. H.	The journey of the counselor and therapist: research findings and perspectives on professional development	2003	24	4.00 (1st)
t-2	Luzzo, D. A.	Exploring the relationship between the perception of occupational barriers and career development	1996	22	1.69 (6th)
	Burlew, L. D.	Multiple mentor model: a conceptual framework	1991	22	1.22 (12th)
3	Phipps, B. J.	Career dreams of preadolescent students	1995	21	1.50 (10th)
t-4	Otto, L. B.	Youth perspectives on parental career influence	2000	20	2.22 (4th)
	Lapan, R. T.	Understanding rural adolescents' interests, values, and efficacy expectations	1999	20	2.00 (t-5th)
t-5	Creed, P. A.	Predicting two components of career maturity in school based adolescents	2003	18	3.00 (3rd)
	Donaldson, S. I.	Longitudinal examination of mentoring relationships on organizational commitment and citizenship behavior	2000	18	2.00 (t-5th)
	Gaskill, L. R.	A conceptual framework for the development, implementation, and evaluation of formal mentoring programs	1993	18	1.13 (15th)
t-6	Helwig, A. A.	Occupational aspirations of a longitudinal sample from 2nd to 6th grade	1998	17	1.55 (9th)
	King, M. M.	The effects of television role models on the career aspirations of African American junior high school students	1996	17	1.31 (11th)
	Luzzo, D. A.	The relative contributions of self-efficacy and locus of control to the prediction of vocational congruence	1995	17	1.21 (13th)
7	Kablaoui, B. N.	The effects of part-time work experience on high school students	1991	16	0.89 (18th)

(continued)

**Table 4 (continued)**

Rank	Author	Article Title	Year	Total Citations	Citations/Year (Rank)
t-8	Allen, T. D.	The role of interpersonal comfort in mentoring relationships	2005	15	3.75 (2nd)
	Hong, E.	Leisure activities in adolescents as a predictor of occupational choice in young adults: a longitudinal study	1993	15	0.94 (t-17th)
	Mathieu, P. S.	Differences in career self-efficacy among women	1993	15	0.94 (t-17th)
	Evelo, L. S.	Sex-typing of occupational preferences and liberality	1991	15	0.83 (21st)
t-9	Chung, Y. B.	Career decision-making self-efficacy and career commitment: gender and ethnic differences among college students	2002	14	2.00 (t-5th)
	Lapan, R. T.	Seventh graders' vocational interest and efficacy expectation patterns	2000	14	1.56 (8th)
	Whiston, S. C.	The relationship among family interaction patterns and career indecision and career decision-making self-efficacy	1996	14	1.08 (16th)
	Holland, J. L.	Validating and using the career beliefs inventory	1993	14	0.88 (t-19th)
	Middleton, E. B.	Parental influence on career development: an integrative framework for adolescent career counseling	1993	14	0.88 (t-19th)
	Peavy, R. V.	A constructivist model of training for career counselors	1992	14	0.82 (22nd)
t-10	Helwig, A. A.	A test of Gottfredson's theory using a ten-year longitudinal study	2001	13	1.63 (7th)
	Stevens, D. T.	The emergence of the Internet: enhancing career counseling education and services	1998	13	1.18 (14th)
	Solberg, V. S.	Career search self-efficacy: ripe for applications and intervention programming	1994	13	0.87 (20th)

Note. t = tied rank.

**Table 5.** Articles With the Most Citations Per Year

Rank	First Author	Article Title	Year	Citations/Year
1	Rønnestad, M. H.	The journey of the counselor and therapist: research findings and perspectives on professional development	2003	4.00
2	Allen, T. D.	The role of interpersonal comfort in mentoring relationships	2005	3.75
3	Creed, P. A.	Predicting two components of career maturity in school based adolescents	2003	3.00
4	Otto, L. B.	Youth perspectives on parental career influence	2000	2.22
t-5	Lapan, R. T.	Understanding rural adolescents' interests, values, and efficacy expectations	1999	2.00
	Donaldson, S. I.	Longitudinal examination of mentoring relationships on organizational commitment and citizenship behavior	2000	2.00
	Chung, Y. B.	Career decision-making self-efficacy and career commitment: gender and ethnic differences among college students	2002	2.00
6	Luzzo, D. A.	Exploring the relationship between the perception of occupational barriers and career development	1996	1.69
7	Helwig, A. A.	A test of Gottfredson's theory using a ten-year longitudinal study	2001	1.63
8	Lapan, R. T.	Seventh Graders' vocational interest and efficacy expectation patterns	2000	1.56
9	Helwig, A. A.	Occupational aspirations of a longitudinal Sample from 2nd to 6th grade	1998	1.55
10	Phipps, B. J.	Career dreams of preadolescent students	1995	1.50

Note. t = tied rank.

constructs/variables, (c) use of career theory in conceptualization, (e) research methodology for empirical study, and (f) sample characteristics. The results indicated that all of the 12 articles were empirical, including 8 (66.67%) quantitative, 3 (25%) qualitative, and 1 (8.3%) mixed-methods research. The major constructs/variables that were studied in these articles vary from career maturity, career aspirations, career decision making, to mentorship. In addition, 9 (75%) articles significantly incorporated career theories (e.g., Gottfredson's, Social Learning, Super's Life-Span) into their conceptualizations. With regard to methodology, 8 (66.67%) articles employed advanced approaches (e.g., longitudinal, cluster analysis, multiple regression, path analysis). Lastly, with regard to sample characteristic, 11 (91.67%) articles utilized samples, such as K-12 students, racial/ethnic minorities, parents, and

adult employees, which deviated from the traditional predominantly European American undergraduate students samples that researchers in applied psychology primarily utilize (Buboltz, Miller, & Williams, 1999).

Furthermore, the top 2 most frequently cited articles published each year between 1986 and 2007 were tallied (see Table 6). The following first authors each published articles in two different years that received top 2 highest citations: A. A. Helwig (1998, 2001), T. D. Allen (2005, 2006), D. A. Luzzo (1995, 1996), and P.A. Creed (2003, 2004). It is not surprising that almost all (i.e., 22 out of 26) of the articles from Table 4 are also ranked in the top 2 of the most frequently cited articles per year. Moreover, in reviewing articles listed in Table 6, it was observed that articles related to multicultural issues, particularly gender, sexual orientation, and racial/ethnic minorities, did not emerge in this list of top-cited articles until 1993.

### JCD's Impact in Applied Psychology

To illustrate where *JCD* is having an impact on applied psychology, we identified the top 10 journals based on the 2007 *JCR* data and examined how frequently these journals cited *JCD* (see Table 7). It should be noted that the ranking of journals is different each year. We chose the year of 2007 because it was most updated and complete during our data collection. The top 10 journals include (a) *The Counseling Psychologist*, (b) *Journal of Applied Psychology*, (c) *Journal of Personality Psychology*, (d) *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, (e) *Journal of Organizational Research Methods*, (f) *JVB*, (g) *Work Stress*, (h) *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, (i) *Human Performance*, and (j) *Journal of Organizational Behavior and Human Decision*. The results indicated that 7 of the top 10 journals cited *JCD* articles published between 1986 and 2007. Among the seven journals, *JVB* had the most citations, followed by the *Journal of Counseling Psychology* and the *Counseling Psychologist*.

Additional data (i.e., ranking, cited half-life, impact factor, and immediate index) from the Social Science Edition of *JCR* between 1996 and 2008 was collected to determine *JCD*'s standing among other journals in applied psychology (see Table 8). The mean ranking, cited half-life, impact factor, and immediate index across the 13-year span were 31.61, 6.07, 0.686, and 0.086, respectively. Visual inspection of Table 8 revealed that *JCD* received the highest overall ranking (i.e., 16 of 50) and impact factor (1.167) in 2002. In addition, *JCD* received the highest number of cited half-life (i.e., 7.7) in 2001 and immediate index (i.e., 0.400) in 2008. Overall, *JCD*'s impact factor has increased over the 13-year period.

### Citation Information Among the Four Premier Vocational Psychology Journals

As one of the four premier peer-reviewed journals in vocational psychology, we examined the impact of *JCD* in relation to *CDQ*, *JCA*, and *JVB*. It should be stated that given the differences in the history, mission, scope, and aims among the four

**Table 6.** Top 2 Most Frequently Cited Articles by Year

Rank	Article	Number of Citation	Year
t-1	Olson, S. K., & Robbins, S. B. (1986). Guidelines for the development and evaluation of career services for the older adult	3	1986
	Roper, C. J., & Berry, K. (1986). College career centers: reaching out to the gifted and talented	3	1986
2	Sommerstein, J. C. (1986). Assessing the older worker: the career counselor's dilemma	2	1986
t-1	Borders, L. D., & Archadel, K. A. (1987). Self-beliefs and career counseling	12	1987
	Sepich, R. T. (1987). A review of the correlates and measurements of career indecision	12	1987
t-2	Berkell, D. E. (1987). Career development for youth with autism	4	1987
	Walsh, D. J. (1987). Individual variations within the vocational decision making process: a review and integration	4	1987
1	Charner, I. (1988). Employability credentials: a key to successful youth transition to work	6	1988
t-2	Brooks, L. (1988). Encouraging worrien's motivation for nontraditional career and lifestyle options: a model for assessment and intervention	5	1988
	Bhaerman, R., & Spill, R. (1988). A dialogue on employability skills: how can they be taught?	5	1988
t-1	Herr, E. L. (1989). Career development and mental health	12	1989
	Niles, S. G., & Pate, R. H. Jr (1989). Competency and training issues related to the integration of career counseling and mental health counseling	12	1989
2	Spokane, A. R. (1989). Are there psychological and mental health consequences of difficult career decisions?	8	1989
1	Mathews, B., & Halbrook, M. (1990). Adult children of alcoholics: implications for career development	8	1990
2	Sampson, J. P. Jr., Reardon, R. C., Humphreys, J. K., Peterson, G. W., Evans, M. A., & Domkowski, D. (1990). A differential feature-cost analysis of nine computer-assisted career guidance systems	5	1990
1	Burlew, L. D. (1991). Multiple mentor model: a conceptual framework	22	1991
2	Kablaoui, B. N., & Pautler, A. J. (1991). The effects of part-time work experience on high school students	16	1991

(continued)

**Table 6 (continued)**

Rank	Article	Number of Citation	Year
1	Peavy, R. V. (1992). A constructivist model of training for career counselors	14	1992
2	McDonald, J. L., & Jessell, J. C. (1992). Influence of selected variables on occupational attitudes and perceived occupational abilities of young adolescents	10	1992
1	Gaskill, L. R. (1993). A conceptual framework for the development, implementation, and evaluation of formal mentoring programs	18	1993
t-2	Hong, E., Milgram, R. M., & Whiston, S. C. (1993). Leisure activities in adolescents as a predictor of occupational choice in young adults: a longitudinal study	15	1993
	Mathieu, P. S., Sowa, C. J., & Niles, S. G. (1993). Differences in career self-efficacy among women	15	1993
1	Solberg, V. S., Good, G. E., & Nord, D. (1994). Career search self-efficacy: ripe for applications and intervention programming	13	1994
2	Chojnacki, J. T., & Gelberg, S. (1994). Toward a conceptualization of career counseling with gay/lesbian/bisexual persons	11	1994
1	Phipps, B. J. (1995). Career dreams of preadolescent students	21	1995
2	Luzzo, D. A., & Ward, B. E. (1995). The relative contributions of self-efficacy and locus of control to the prediction of vocational congruence	17	1995
1	Luzzo, D. A. (1996). Exploring the relationship between the perception of occupational barriers and career development	22	1996
2	King, M. M., & Multon, K. D. (1996). The effects of television role models on the career aspirations of African American junior high school students	17	1996
t-1	Kulik, L. (1997). Sex-typing of occupations in the Israeli education system: students versus teachers	8	1997
	Lundberg, D. J., Osborne, W. L., & Miner, C. U. (1997). Career maturity and personality preferences of Mexican-American and Anglo-American adolescents	8	1997
	Trusty, J., Watts, R. E., & Erdman, P. (1997). Predictors of parents' involvement in their teens' career development	8	1997
	Stroh, L. K., & Reilly, A. H. (1997). Rekindling organizational loyalty: the role of career mobility	8	1997
2	Brown, C. (1997). Sex differences in the career development of urban African American adolescents	7	1997

*(continued)*

**Table 6 (continued)**

Rank	Article	Number of Citation	Year
1	Helwig, A. A. (1998). Occupational aspirations of a longitudinal sample from 2nd to 6th grade	17	1998
2	Stevens, D. T., & Lundberg, D. J. (1998). The emergence of the internet: enhancing career counseling education and services	13	1998
1	Lapan, R. T., Hinkelman, J. M., Adams, A., & Turner, S. (1999). Understanding rural adolescents' interests, values, and efficacy expectations	20	1999
2	Blake-Beard, S. D. (1999). The costs of living as an outsider within: an analysis of the mentoring relationships and career success of black and white women in the corporate sector	10	1999
1	Otto, L. B. (2000). Youth perspectives on parental career influence	20	2000
2	Donaldson, S. I., Ensher, E. A., & Grant-Vallone, E. J. (2000). Longitudinal examination of mentoring relationships on organizational commitment and citizenship behavior	18	2000
1	Helwig, A. A. (2001). A test of Gottfredson's theory using a ten-year longitudinal study	13	2001
2	Murphy, S. E., & Ensher, E. A. (2001). The role of mentoring support and self-management strategies on reports career outcomes	10	2001
1	Chung, Y. B. (2002). Career decision-making self-efficacy and career commitment: gender and ethnic differences among college students	14	2002
2	Garg, R., Kauppi, C., Lewko, J., A., & Urajnik, D. (2002). Structural model of educational aspirations	11	2002
1	Rønnestad, M. H., & Skovholt, T. M. (2003). The journey of the counselor and therapist: research findings and perspectives on professional development	24	2003
2	Creed, P. A. (2003). Predicting two components of career maturity in school based adolescents	18	2003
1	Creed, P. A., Patton, W., & Bartrum, D. (2004). Internal and external barriers, cognitive style, and the career development variables of focus and indecision	10	2004
t-2	Schyns, B. (2004). The influence of occupational self-efficacy on the relationship of leadership behavior and preparedness for occupational change	8	2004
	Gibson, S. K. (2004). Being mentored: the experience of women faculty	8	2004

(continued)

**Table 6 (continued)**

Rank	Article	Number of Citation	Year
1	Allen, T. D., Day, R., & Lentz, E. (2005). The role of interpersonal comfort in mentoring relationships	15	2005
2	Perrone, K. M., Webb, L. K., & Blalock, R. H. (2005). The effects of role congruence and role conflict on work, marital, and life satisfaction	5	2005
1	Allen, T. D., Lentz, E., & Day, R. (2006). Career success outcomes associated with mentoring others: a comparison of mentors and nonmentors	10	2006
t-2	Mau, W. J., & Mau, W. (2006). Factors influencing high school students to persist in aspirations of teaching careers	6	2006
	Kuijpers, M. A. C. T., & Scheerens, J. (2006). Career competencies for the modern career	6	2006
t-1	Cinamon, R. G., Weisel, A., & Tzuk, K. (2007). Work family conflict within the family: crossover effects, perceived parent child interaction quality, parental self-efficacy, and life role attributions	4	2007
	Shinnar, R. S. (2007). A qualitative examination of Mexican immigrants' career development: perceived barriers and motivators	4	2007
t-2	Logue, C. T., Lounsbury, J. W., Gupta, A., & Leong, F. T. L. (2007). Vocational interest themes and personality traits in relation to college major satisfaction of business students	3	2007
	Carless, S. A., & Bernath, L. (2007). Antecedents of intent to change careers among psychologists	3	2007

Note. t = tied rank.

journals, the results of direct comparison might not be conclusive. First, we collected citation data of articles published in *CDQ*, *JCA*, and *JVB* between 1996 and 2007 since the earliest year of *JCA*'s citation data found in Scopus is 1996. Because the journals published varying numbers of articles, we examined the average citations per article. The results indicated that during these 12 years, articles published in *JCD* were cited an average of 4.23 times, whereas articles published in *JCA*, *CDQ*, and *JVB* were cited an average of 8.46, 6.10, and 22.89 times, respectively.

The ranking, cited half-life, impact factor, and immediacy index of the four journals were also collected (see Table 8). The results indicated that in 1999 and 2002, all four journals received high ranking among applied psychology journals. In addition, the cited half-life statistics indicated that all four journals have been consistently active over the 13-year period, which suggested that vocational psychology remains influential across disciplines. Furthermore, it was observed that *JCD*'s

**Table 7.** Summary of Citations *JCD* Received in 2007 Among the Top 10 Journals in Applied Psychology

Ranking	Journal	Number of Citations <i>JCD</i> Received
1	<i>The Counseling Psychologist</i>	33
2	<i>Journal of Applied Psychology</i>	8
3	<i>Journal of Personality Psychology</i>	0
4	<i>Journal of Counseling Psychology</i>	49
5	<i>Organizational Research Methods</i>	1
6	<i>Journal of Vocational Behavior</i>	140
7	<i>Work Stress</i>	0
8	<i>Journal of Organizational Behavior</i>	9
9	<i>Human Performance</i>	3
10	<i>Journal of Organizational Behavior and Human Decision</i>	0

Note. *JCD* = *Journal of Career Development*.

impact factor has been increasing over time and was approximated closely to *CDQ* and *JCA* in 2008. Overall, the results revealed that *JVB* has continuously obtained greater impact factor, cited half-life, and immediacy index than other vocational psychology journals.

## Discussion

The purpose of this study was to examine the publication trends in *JCD*. Overall, the findings indicate that *JCD* has contributed to the scholarly advancement in the field of vocational psychology as well as applied psychology in general. Support for this claim is evident in the fact that scholars have cited over 75% of *JCD*'s articles at least once. Additionally, between 1986 and 2007 alone, the articles from *JCD* have received a total of 1796 citations with an average of 3.5 citations per article.

The citation analysis indicated that the impact of *JCD*'s articles, as noted by the number of citations, increased between 1986 and 2007, while the number of produced articles had remained relatively steady. This finding appears related to the improvement in quality of published articles as well as the growing use of *JCD* over time. However, additional factors may have influenced this finding. For example, it makes intuitive sense that the longer an article has been published, the more likely it would be cited. Other possible explanations include (a) changes in editorship and editorial policy (Everett & Pecotich, 1993; Rushton & Roediger, 1978), (b) an increase in availability and accessibility, and (c) an overall increase in research productivity in the field (Flores et al., 1999). Given the complex nature of these issues, the underlying influences for the increase in citations of *JCD*'s articles over time is inconclusive. To further evaluate *JCD*'s performance, additional data (e.g., ranking, impact factor, cited half-life, and immediacy index) were also collected and

**Table 8.** Summary of JCR Citation Information for JCD, CDQ, JCA, and JVB by Year

Year	JCD			CDQ			JCA			JVB				
	Ranking	Cited Half-Life	Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	Ranking	Cited Half-Life	Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	Ranking	Cited Half-Life	Impact Factor	Immediacy Index		
1996	25/34	—	0.368	0.042	7/34	3.5	1.219	0.800	—	—	2/34	9.4	1.726	1.293
1997	21/49	4.8	0.745	0.000	8/49	4.1	1.113	0.750	13/49	2.5	0.965	9.1	1.544	0.870
1998	34/50	—	0.432	0.000	10/50	5.3	1.172	0.375	13/50	3.5	1.017	>10	1.230	0.098
1999	19/49	6.0	0.905	0.048	3/49	4.4	1.702	1.111	7/49	3.4	1.426	9.8	2.041	0.140
2000	43/49	—	0.233	0.048	10/49	6.4	1.298	0.207	9/49	3.9	1.320	9.6	1.356	0.550
2001	42/48	7.7	0.333	0.048	30/48	6.5	0.604	0.095	19/48	4.5	0.842	9.4	1.700	0.661
2002	16/50	5.9	1.167	0.000	8/50	6.4	1.655	0.438	6/50	4.6	1.737	9.4	1.990	0.422
2003	33/49	6.4	0.641	0.190	12/49	7.2	1.345	0.344	29/49	5.4	0.700	9.6	1.615	0.211
2004	35/50	6.4	0.718	0.000	33/50	7.8	0.734	0.208	14/50	6.0	1.188	8.6	1.794	0.158
2005	33/49	6.2	0.692	0.000	27/49	8.3	0.839	0.286	30/49	6.6	0.731	9.2	1.518	0.316
2006	36/54	6.1	0.854	0.136	27/54	8.7	1.000	0.077	22/54	6.7	1.211	9.3	2.263	0.155
2007	38/57	5.1	0.778	0.211	17/57	7.9	1.593	0.103	20/57	6.0	1.446	8.8	2.148	0.100
2008	36/61	6.1	1.049	0.400	34/61	7.0	1.127	0.500	27/61	5.8	1.049	9.0	2.214	0.215
M	31/50	6.07	0.686	0.086	17/50	6.42	1.185	0.407	17/51	4.91	1.136	9.32	1.780	0.399

Note. JCD = Journal of Career Development, CDQ = Career Development Quarterly, JCA = Journal of Career Assessment, JVB = Journal of Vocational Behavior. JCR = Journal Citation Reports, half-life = the age of the article that accounts for the median citation during a given year, impact factor = the ratio between the number of JCD's articles citations received in a year and the number of articles published in the preceding 2 years, immediacy index = the average number of times current articles in a specific journal were cited during the year they were published. Dashes indicate years in which no such data was available.

analyzed. According to the *JCR*, *JCD*'s average impact factor is 0.686, with a rank of 31 among journals in applied psychology between 1996 and 2008. In comparing *JCD* to the other three vocational psychology journals (i.e., *JVB*, *JCA*, and *CDQ*), it was observed that *JCD* has published fewer articles, received fewer citations, and generally received lower indices and rankings from *JCR*. One possible explanation for this finding is that *JCD* publishes fewer articles each year than the other journals. We also speculate that the differences in history, mission, audiences, and advertisement of the four journals have influenced this finding. For instance, *JVB* has the longest history of publication, starting in 1971, and covers a variety of topics that reach audiences in colleges and universities, business and industry, government, and military (*Journal of Vocational Behavior*, n.d.). Additionally, the unique focus on assessment and testing of *JCA* may have differentiated itself from the other three vocational psychology journals and resulted in higher citations. For *CDQ*, as the official journal of the National Career Development Association (NCDA), its popularity may have come from career counselors and other practitioners in the organization. Thus, it may be important for *JCD* to consider publishing more articles, advertise itself to wider range of audiences, and associate itself with professional organizations in order to increase its citations and indices from the *JCR*.

Moreover, the results indicated that the articles published by *JCD* have been widely cited across a variety of domestic and international journals in psychology, management, business, education, and sociology. With regard to counseling and counseling psychology, the results revealed that the majority of most commonly known journals in counseling and counseling psychology have cited articles published by *JCD* and that over half of the total citations *JCD* received were from these journals. In addition, over 30% of the total citations *JCD* received were from the premier journals in vocational psychology. These findings were expected given that *JCD* is one of the four major peer-reviewed journals devoted solely to vocation psychology, which is deeply rooted in counseling and counseling psychology in general. It should be noted that *JCD* did not receive any citations from 3 of the top 10 journals in applied psychology in 2007 based on the *JCR* data: *Journal of Personality Psychology*, *Work Stress*, and *Journal of Organization Behavior and Human Decision*. Although this finding may be influenced by the differences in focus, *JCD* may be able to increase its impact in the field of applied psychology by publishing articles that are appealing to consumers and researchers of those journals, given their popularity among practitioners.

Furthermore, the results revealed that almost half of the total citations *JCD* received were from other journals beyond the journals in counseling and counseling psychology. This finding suggests that articles published by *JCD* are being used and have had a significant impact not only on counselors and vocational psychologists but also on other psychologists, educators, and professionals in human resources and business management. Overall, the findings suggested that *JCD* has been achieving its mission statement, which states, "*JCD* provides professionals in counseling,

psychology, education, and student personnel, human resources, and business management with the most up-to-date concepts, ideas, and methodology in career development theory, research, and practice” (*Journal of Career Development*, n.d.).

Another finding that seems important to mention is that *JCD*'s articles were overwhelmingly cited by international journals, which is an indicator of the degree of exposure and impact *JCD* has had on international scholars. One possible explanation for this finding is that *JCD* has published over 40 empirical studies that employed international samples (Chaichanasakul et al., 2010). Nevertheless, an internationally known journal that communicates scientific information across countries can play a significant role in the advancements of its field (Arnett, 2008). For this reason, we recommend *JCD* to continue publishing cross-cultural studies and serve career professionals worldwide by becoming an internationally known publication outlet.

In our review, the most frequently cited articles tended to have the following characteristics: (a) utilized underrepresented groups in the study samples such as preadolescent students, rural adolescents, African American junior high school students, and racial/ethnic minorities (e.g., Chung, 2002; Otto, 2000; Phipps, 1995); (b) integrated career theories such as Social Learning and Cognitive, and Life-Span/Development theories in their conceptual framework (e.g., Creed, 2003; Helwig, 1998; Luzzo, 1991); and (c) employed advanced methodology such as longitudinal, cluster analysis, and path analysis (e.g., Donaldson, 2000; Lapan, 2000; Rønnestad, 2003). These findings underscore the importance for *JCD* maintaining its current focus on publishing articles with underrepresented populations (e.g., adolescents, racial/ethnic minorities, sexual minorities) and theory-driven research with advanced statistical techniques, as they are most likely to make an impact within counseling psychology and among other professionals. Moreover, *JCD* may be able to benefit from continuing its recent efforts in publishing special issues on innovative areas (e.g., the issue on innovative advancements in career development research published in 2008, the issue on cultural formation approach to career psychology published in 2010) and articles reflecting the front edge of emerging trends.

Additionally, it was observed that after 1990, publications related to multicultural issues began to emerge among the top-cited articles. For example, these articles were related to career self-efficacy among women (i.e., Mathieu, Sowa, & Niles, 1993), career counseling with gay/lesbian/bisexual persons (i.e., Chojnacki & Gelbeg, 1994), career aspirations of African American junior high school students (i.e., King & Multon, 1996), and career maturity of Mexican Americans (i.e., Lundberg, Osborne, & Miner, 1997). This finding appears consistent with the increased focus on the role of diversity in the 1990s within psychology in general and vocational psychology specifically. The attention to diversity variables appears to have been precipitated by social events such as the women's rights movement, the civil rights movement, and the gay rights movement (Farmer, 2005). In sum, the articles that

received a high number of citations demonstrated their scholarship and were responsive to changes in societal demands over time.

The results, discussion, and implications that are offered should be evaluated with caution due to some limitations of this study. First, although efforts were made to ensure the accuracy in the data collection and coding, it is possible that some citations were missed due to errors in some of the citation entries such as incomplete author information or improperly cited references. In addition, the citation information, which was collected from Scopus and *JCR*, might not represent the entire impact of *JCD*. Although these two sources provide the most relevant and comprehensive database for the purpose of this study, some journals that cited articles published by *JCD* may not have been included. Moreover, it should be noted that due to the limited coverage of the Scopus and *JCR*, the articles published in the earlier years of *JCD* were not analyzed. Lastly, the findings from this study are restricted to citations in professional periodicals. Thus, the utility of *JCD*'s articles to practicing psychologists, career counselors, textbook authors, educators, and business managers was not investigated.

In summary, despite the limitations, the citation analyses of the *JCD* articles and its performance have shed light on the activity and productivity of the journal. The analyses revealed a strong and growing impact of articles published by *JCD* on researchers and professionals within the United States and other countries worldwide. In addition, the findings related to the most frequently cited articles published by *JCD* indicate that the journal has published high-quality articles that are responsive to societal changes and demands. Overall, since Norm Gysberg's inception of the journal in 1972, *JCD* continues to fulfill its mission and provide professionals in various fields with useful information on career development theory, research, and practice.

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## Bios

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**Taleb S. Khairallah** is a doctoral student in counseling psychology at the University of Missouri. He is a licensed professional counselor who has provided services to diverse populations in various clinical settings. He has been involved in community organization, advocacy and lobbying, and training on multicultural issues. His primary teaching and research interests are in the areas of multicultural competencies and counseling, gender, substance abuse treatment and prevention, and diversity in higher education. He is currently an NRSA fellow of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. In his leisure time, he enjoys taking pictures, watching movies, and spending time with his family.

**Karina Ramos** is a doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology Program at the University of Oregon. She received her MEd from the University of Missouri in 2009. Her research interests include studying resiliency, academic self-efficacy, and the career development of Mexican American students. She is particularly interested in resiliency and the educational and career aspirations of the undocumented immigrant student population.