

# Thematic Mapping of Policy Documents Citing on Library and Information Science and Health Research

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## Notes

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## ABSTRACT

Research in Library and Information Science (LIS) and Health has substantial applicability, including its use as a reference in the development of policy documents. This study aims to conduct a thematic mapping of policy documents that draw upon LIS and Health research. Using the Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) method and Python-based machine learning, the research followed stages of data collection, filtering, processing, and analysis. The findings show that the *Journal of Health Communication* is the most frequently cited journal, with 1,756 citations. The United States emerges as the country that most extensively incorporates LIS and Health research into policy documents, accounting for 1,181 citations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is identified as the institution producing the highest number of policy documents referencing LIS and Health research, with 840 publications. The peak year for such publications was 2019, with a total of 384 documents. Thematic mapping reveals five dominant topics in these policy documents: Health Prevention, Youth Health, Science Dissemination, Risk Evaluation, and Development Strategies. The study highlights that LIS and Health research plays not only an academic role but also serves as a normative and strategic foundation for national policy formulation. Future research may apply similar methods to other disciplinary domains or conduct longitudinal analyses to identify thematic developments in policy documents over time.

**Keywords:** Bibliometric; Library and information science research; Health science research; Thematic mapping; Policy documents

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Library and Information Science (LIS) & Health is an interdisciplinary science that combines two disciplines, namely Library and Information Science and Health (Tian & Wang, 2023). The

journals of LIS & Health have a focus on health topics that are quite in-depth (Gillum et al., 2023). One of them is the Journal of Health Communication which focuses on the topics of Public Health (Schuh et al., 2025), Health Communication (Chapman et al., 2025), and Mental Wellness (Medero et al., n.d.). Then Medical Reference Services Quarterly which raises the topics of Health Literacy (Epstein, 2025), Medical Informatics (Afraz et al., 2025), and Reproductive Health (Vardell, 2025). Meanwhile, the Journal of the Medical Library Association focuses on topics such as Health Science Library (Cyrus et al., 2025), Bibliotherapy (Morin & LaVertu, 2025), and Medical School (Jiao, 2024). And there is the Journal of Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries which focuses on the topics of Bibliometric Analysis (Tran Long, 2025), Medical Libraries (Muellenbach et al., 2024), Healthcare Information (Becker, 2025) and Clinical Studies (Uttamawetin & and Rungpragayphan, 2024).

The results of research from the discipline of LIS & Health have many benefits (Allweiss et al., 2021; Dewan & Sachdev, 2021; Mani et al., 2020), one of the research results can be applied by collaborating with technology so that it can be used in daily life such as virtual and augmented reality, research data management, and innovation and entrepreneurship (Koos & Saragossi, 2025). In addition, the results of LIS & Health's research can also be used as a support for educational activities. Since COVID-19, a massive transition has occurred, especially in the world of education, where originally many teaching and learning activities were carried out offline, many have become online. In this case, LIS & Health can be used as an online source of knowledge to learn (S. Pauwels et al., 2021). LIS & Health journal research can also be used as a reference in making news (Nabavi, 2023), for example in the news entitled "*Eating habits and the desire to eat healthier among patients with chronic pain: a registry-based study*" which quotes from an article entitled "*Into the Metaverse ð Perspectives on a New Reality*" (Rahaman, 2022). The news discusses analyzing eating habits in specialized rehabilitation centers using data from the Swedish Quality Registry from the period 2016-2021.

However, the results of LIS & Health journal research can also be used as a reference in making policy documents (Huang et al., 2022; Ray & Bennett, 2022). One example is a policy document made by the World Health Organization (WHO) entitled "*WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation*" which was successfully quoted from an article entitled "Visual Attention to the Use of #ad versus #sponsored on e-Cigarette Influencer Posts on Social Media: A Randomized Experiment" (Klein et al., 2020). The policy document discusses the scientific basis for regulating tobacco and non-medical nicotine products, including the dangers, regulatory strategies, and policy recommendations that can be taken by each country. The main focus of this policy document is on new products such as synthetic nickel, nicotine pouches, and marketing through social media that have become increasingly prevalent recently. In addition, there is a policy document entitled "*Applying Lessons From Home Flood Protection to Enhance Residential Earthquake Preparedness: A Canadian Perspective*" which quotes from the LIS & Health article entitled "*Defining Moments in Risk Communication Research: 1996–2005*" (McComas, 2007). The policy document was created to improve earthquake preparedness in Canada, drawing lessons from flood protection programs. The focus is more on motivation for residents to be aware of the risk of earthquakes and take preventive actions, such as installing safety equipment at home and looking for earthquake insurance.

Previous research on the topic "*Digital news on public libraries: Media mapping and thematic and consumption analysis based on Facebook interactions*" (Lázaro-Rodríguez, 2021). This study analyzed digital news about public libraries on Facebook social media and

conducted thematic mapping to find out what categories are often discussed by the public related to public libraries using likes, comments, and shares as indicators. Then the second article is entitled "*The utilisation of health research in policy-making: concepts, examples and methods of assessment*" (Hanney et al., 2003). This article discusses how health research can be used as public policy making, starting from the basic concepts, existing models, to methods to measure how far the research is used by policymakers. This article emphasizes that if the creation of policy documents has started, it must use the evidence-based policy method. In both studies, no one has conducted thematic policy documents based on the use of LIS & Health journal research which is used as a reference. However, in the second study, there is a statement that if the document policy has started, it must use research, especially research in the field of LIS & Health. This states that over time, many LIS & Health research results are used as a reference in the preparation of policy documents. This research can help global reader to see what country is the most productive to produces a policy document that utilize LIS & Health research so, they can adopt that country's regulation properly about utilizing research result for making a policy document. Therefore, this study will conduct thematic mapping of topics from policy documents that utilize the research results of LIS & Health as a reference. And the aim of this study is to analyze what does the thematic mapping policy document for using LIS & Health research as reference look like and, the top 10 of the most outlet that produces policy document and the most productive countries.

## 2. METHODS

The research method used in this study was divided into two steps. The first involved data collection and filterin, followed by data processing and analysis. The study began by categorizing journals in the Library and Information Science (LIS) subject area within the Scopus database using subject-areas filters applied to each collected journal. On April 23, 2025, initial data were obtained, identifying 373 journals classified under LIS. Afterward, manual filtering was conducted, during which 91 journals were identified as discontinued, 273 were excluded for not falling within the LIS & Health category, and 9 journals were retained for having dual subject classifications in LIS and Medicine.

A total of 9 Scopus-indexed journals that passed this stage were analyzed using the LIS & Health research reference algorithm and Altmetric software to identify policy document categories. Alternative metrics, or altmetrics, represent a group of indicators that propose non-traditional ways of measuring scientific impact, complementing citation-based metrics at the journal level (Aleixandre-Benavent, 2019). After retrieving data from Altmetric, only 8 journals were detected in the system. The altmetric analysis yielded 2,048 policy documents, which were subsequently filtered, resulting in a final dataset of 2,046 policy documents.

In the next stage, the researcher processed the data to identify thematic patterns in policy documents that cited LIS & Health research using the Python programming language. To conduct thematic analysis, the study applied the Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) method (García-Méndez et al., 2023). LDA is a text mining technique used for automatic extraction of topics addressed in document collections (Tekin, 2024). Using the LDA method, this method can automatically group document policies based on the similarity of the content or topics discussed (George & Sumathy, 2023).

The final stage involved descriptive analysis. At this stage, the researcher queried journal ISSNs in Scopus to examine the nine LIS & Health journals with the highest publication counts and the nine journals with the highest citation totals. Descriptive analysis

was then conducted to calculate the number of policy documents by publication outlet and country of origin. This stage identified the ten countries producing the highest number of policy documents and the ten outlets most frequently generating policy documents citing LIS & Health research. Through these combined analytical procedures, the study produced a comprehensive overview of thematic patterns and trends in policy document production relevant to LIS & Health research (see Figure 1).

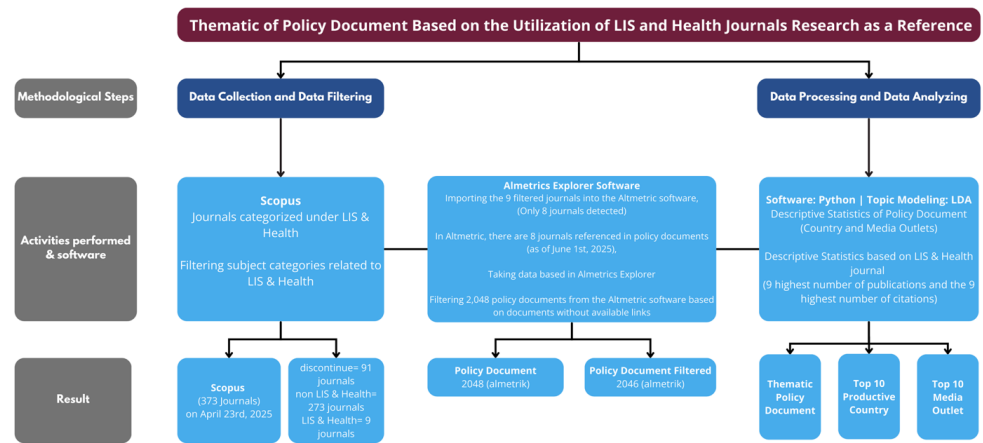


Figure 1. Flow chart of research method steps

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Top Journals

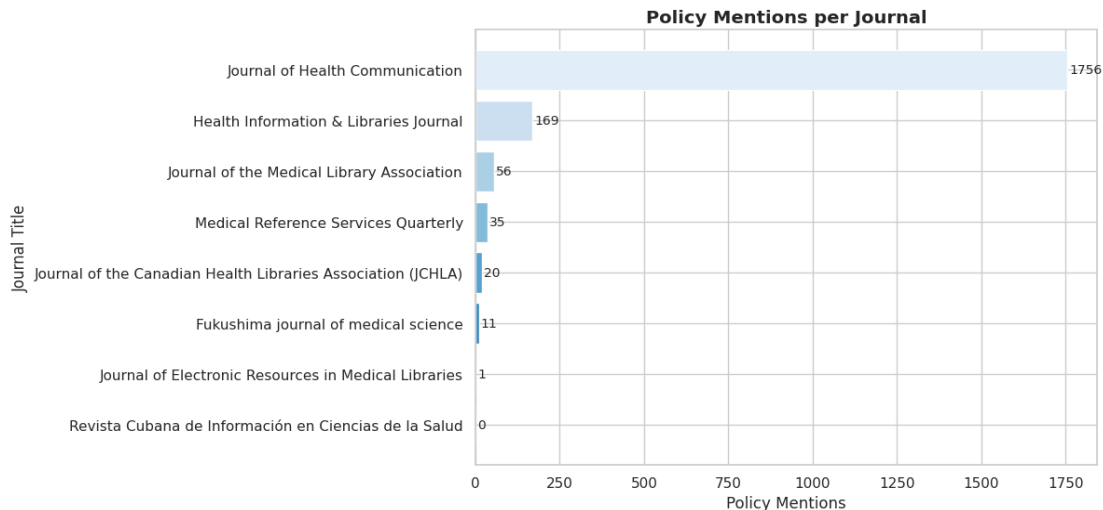
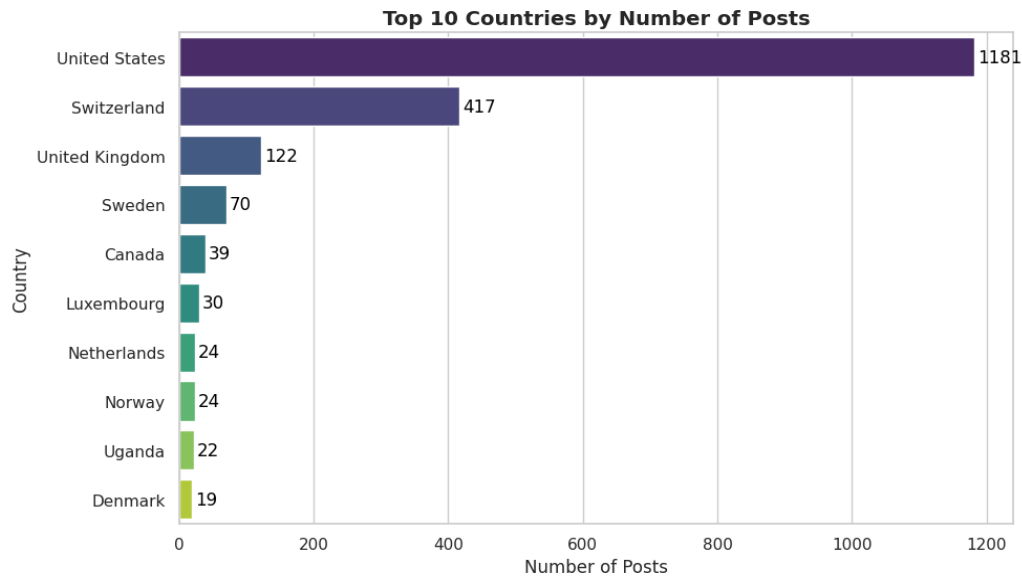


Figure 2. Top journals cited in LIS & Health research (based on citation count)

The top journal that is most cited as a reference for making a Policy Document is the Journal of Health Communication as much. See figure 2, Journal of Health Communication cited in the preparation of policy documents 1756 times. Then the second most cited journal is the Health Information & Libraries Journal.

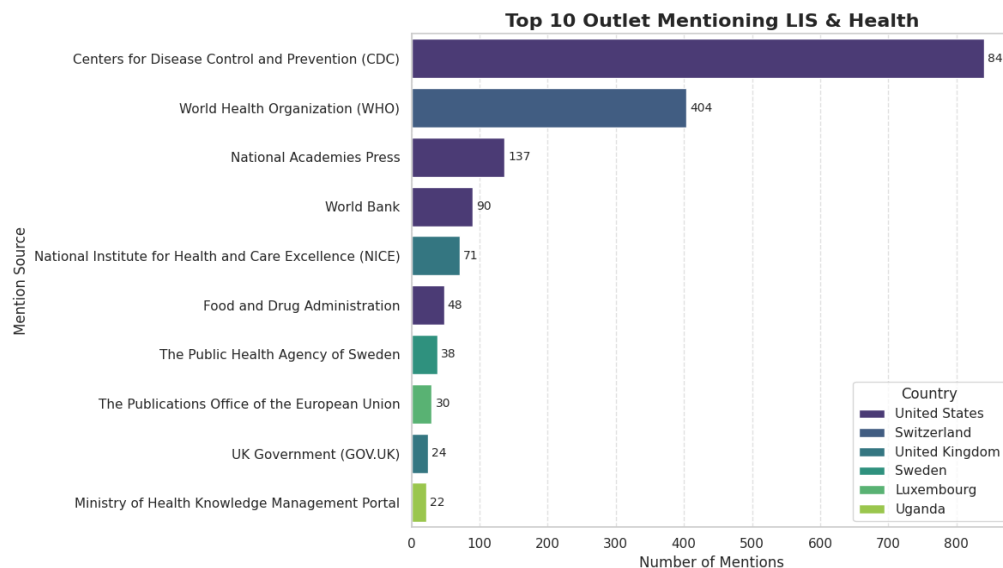
## Top 10 Countries



**Figure 3.** Top 10 countries by number of posts

Figure 3 shows that the United States is the country producing the highest number of policy documents citing LIS & Health research, with 1,181 citations. Switzerland follows in second place with 417 policy documents, and the United Kingdom ranks third with 122. Other countries demonstrate considerably lower levels of engagement with LIS & Health scholarship in policy development, including Sweden (70), Canada (39), and Luxembourg (30). These findings indicate that policy documents citing LIS & Health research are predominantly generated in English-dominant countries, with the United States serving as the most influential contributor.

## Top 10 Outlets



**Figure 4.** Top 10 outlets using LIS & Health research

Figure 4 shows that the outlet producing the highest number of policy documents citing LIS & Health research is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with 840 publications referencing this body of work. The World Health Organization (WHO) ranks

second, citing LIS & Health research in 404 publications. The National Academies Press follows with 137 publications. These findings indicate that major global health and science policy bodies are key users of LIS & Health research in policy development.

Most Years

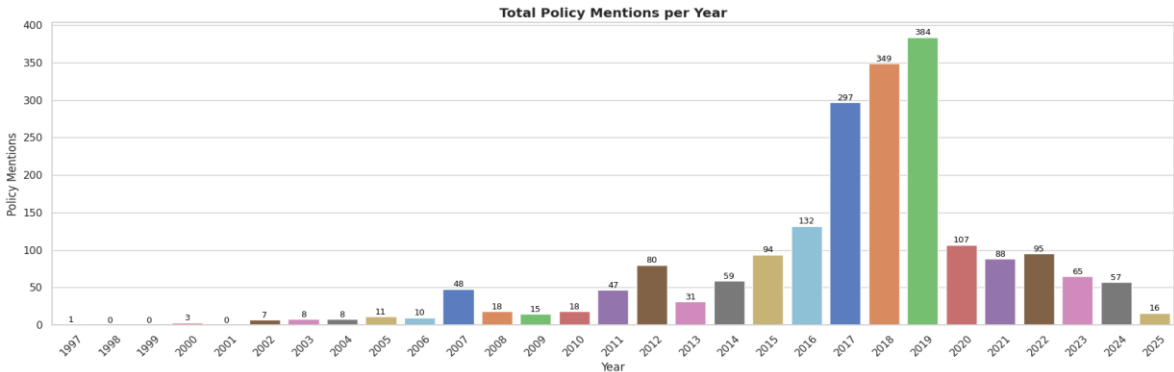


Figure 5. Policy document mentions based on years

Figure 5 illustrates that 2019 marked the peak in the use of LIS & Health journals as references for the creation of policy documents, with 384 citations. A notable upward trend began in 2012, when the number of policy documents citing LIS & Health research increased to 80. This was followed by a decline in 2013 and 2014, with 31 and 59 citations, respectively. In subsequent years, however, the numbers rose substantially. For instance, in 2016, citations increased to 132, and in 2017, they more than doubled, reaching 297. These fluctuations indicate a growing recognition of LIS & Health research within policy-making contexts, particularly after 2016.

Thematic Mapping Policy Document use LIS & Health Research as Reference

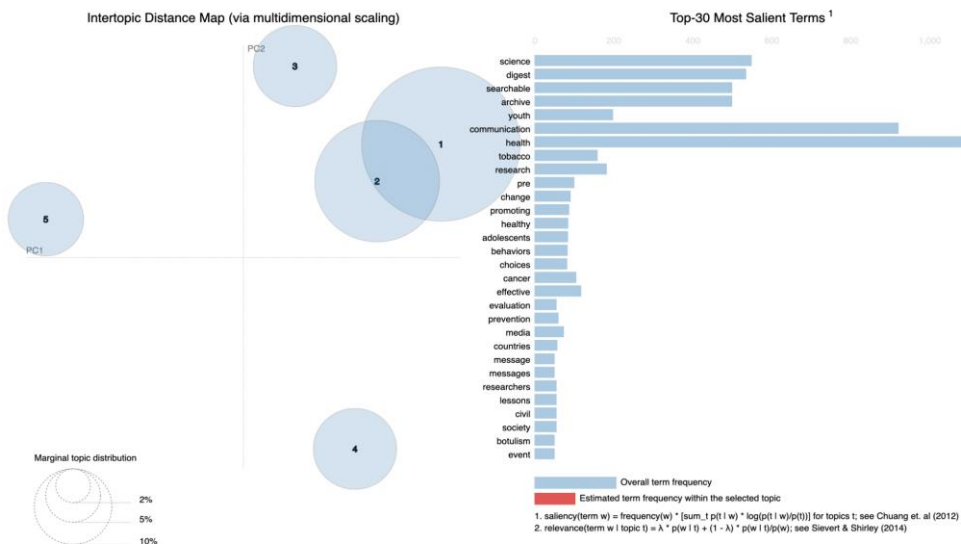


Figure 6. Topics and keywords visualization by title

**Table 1.** Thematic mapping policy document

Topic	Keywords	Title of Policy Document
<b>Topic 1: Health Prevention</b>	tobacco, health, research, prevention, and media	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assessment of compliance to packaging laws in Pakistan by local and international tobacco manufacturing companies</li> <li>2. Infection prevention and control guideline for Ebola and Marburg disease</li> <li>3. Country health systems and services profiles Nigeria</li> </ol>
<b>Topic 2: Youth Health</b>	youth, change, promoting, healthy, and adolescents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Charting a youth vision for a just and sustainable future</li> <li>2. TOD #55 Communication and Social Change in Africa: Selected Case Studies</li> <li>3. Helping adolescents thrive toolkit: strategies to promote and protect adolescent mental health and reduce self-harm and other risk behaviours</li> </ol>
<b>Topic 3: Science Dissemination</b>	communication, science, digest, archive, and searchable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Effectiveness of Different Approaches to Disseminating Traveler Information on Travel Time Reliability</li> <li>2. Better letters: evidence and considerations from the behavioural sciences</li> <li>3. Research trends on digital school leadership over time: Science mapping and content analysis</li> </ol>
<b>Topic 4: Risk Evaluation</b>	evaluation, research, cancer, message, and event	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Handbook for cancer research in Africa</li> <li>2. Typologies for Partnerships for Sustainable Development and for Social and Environmental Enterprises</li> <li>3. Critical Success Factors and Performance Measures for Start-up Social and Environmental Enterprises</li> </ol>
<b>Topic 5: Development Strategies</b>	effective, public, development, strategies, and national	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research with relevance to district challenges and regional development</li> <li>2. Effective Media Communication during Public Health Emergencies A WHO Handbook</li> <li>3. Improving the use of research evidence in guideline development</li> </ol>

The author themed a policy document that uses LIS & Health research as a reference and divides it into 5 major topics see Table 1 and figure 6, each topic has 100 keywords with a high probability. The first topic is Health Prevention with the keywords tobacco, health, research, prevention, and media. One example of its policy document is titled "*Assessment of compliance to packaging laws in Pakistan by local and international tobacco manufacturing companies*" published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2024. Then the second topic is Youth Health, with the keywords youth, change, promoting, healthy, and adolescents. An example of a policy document from this topic is "*Charting a youth vision for a just and sustainable future*" published by the Stockholm Environment Institute in 2022. Furthermore, the third topic is Science Dissemination with keyword communication, science, digest, archive, and searchable. An example of a policy document is "*Effectiveness of Different Approaches to Disseminating Traveler Information on Travel Time Reliability*" published by the National Academies Press in 2013. Then the fourth topic is Risk Evaluation, with keyword evaluation, research, cancer, message, and event. An example of the policy document is titled



"*Handbook for cancer research in Africa*" published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2014. And the last topic is Development Strategies, with the keywords effective, public, development, strategies, and national. One example of its policy document is "*Collaborating in the development of an elearning strategy for the Northern Territory Dept. of Health and Families*" published by the Northern Territory Department of Health in 2009.

The journal that is most used as a reference in document policy making is the Journal of Health Communication (JOHC). The journal has been used as a reference 1756 times. JOHC is the first journal to be indexed on PubMed in the category of health communication journals, JOHC has published 2,600 journal articles from 2,300 global authors, and occupies the first position in its field, besides that it also has a citation impact of 4.1 (Ratzan et al., 2025). The Journal of Health Communication has a very broad topic area ranging from health (Hong & Wang, 2023), health-related technologies (Li et al., 2025), and health literacy (Weber & Backer, 2024). Although the Journal of Health Communication has many authors in the field of communication science, it also has many collaborations with other interdisciplinary sciences (McCulloch et al., 2021). These things make the reason for JOHC's eligibility to rank first in the journals that are most used as a reference in making document policies. In the future, if researchers want to conduct research that will be used as a reference in making document policies, the Journal of Health Communication can be used as a place for publication.

The United States ranks first at 1181 in policymaking documents that use LIS & Health as a reference. The United States policy research center has a policy that if you want to make a policy, it must be evidence-based (Burkhauser & Burkhauser, 2024). Therefore, it is not surprising that the United States ranks first in policymaking documents that use LIS & Health research as a reference. Because LIS & Health research involves national and international collaboration, this is why the United States cites the results of LIS & Health's research, because the United States values collaborative research (Huang et al., 2022). In addition, the US is also the country that contributes the most to publishing open access journals and the most cited countries, this shows that the US upholds the principle of open science by disseminating knowledge well without any restrictions (Thangavel & Balasubramani, n.d.). These things show the dominance of the US as a country with high intellect.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ranks among the top outlets in issuing policy documents that use LIS & Health's research as a reference. CDC is a federal agency under the auspices of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (Putnam, 2012). In its duties, CDC is responsible for monitoring and preventing the spread of communicable diseases, and also oversees the federal quarantine status network through the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) to prevent the entry and transmission of diseases into the United States (Mitchell et al., 2019; Pryce, 2020). In addition, the CDC is also responsible as an emergency agency with a semi-military management, handling various public health emergencies such as infectious disease outbreaks, poisoning, and natural disasters (Wang et al., 2021).

2019 was the year with the most policy document that used LIS & Health research results as a reference, which was at 384 published policy documents. The most widely used topic in making policy documents is Tobacco Control. Examples of policy documents that discuss tobacco control and use LIS & Health's research results are "*Tobacco Products; Required Warnings for Cigarette Packages and Advertisements*". This policy document cites 3 articles from LIS & Health's research entitled "*The Influence of Graphic Format on Breast Cancer Risk Communication*" (Schapira et al., 2006), "*Do Cigarette Warnings Warn?*"



*Understanding What It Will Take to Develop More Effective Warnings"* (Krugman et al., 2010), and *"The Efficacy of Cigarette Warning Labels on Health Beliefs in the United States and Mexico"* (MUTTI et al., 2013). This policy document discusses how the United States Food and Drug Administration requires the inclusion of 11 new health warnings in the form of text with realistic color graphics on cigarette packaging and advertising as a form of implementation of the *Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act*. The purpose of the establishment of this rule is to increase public understanding of the negative impacts resulting from smoking, by displaying these negative effects through a color graph that is quite striking compared to the Surgeon General's Warning which is considered ineffective and obsolete. In addition, in 2019 the *"Tobacco 21"* regulation was also formed where this regulation contains increasing the minimum age to be able to buy cigarettes from the age of 18 to 21, and this regulation has been passed by Donald Trump as US President which aims to reduce the rate of cigarette use among teenagers and to ensure that US citizens, especially in California, can live, work, and play in a smoke-free environment (Kim et al., 2021).

Thematic Mapping of policy documents that use the results of LIS & Health Journal research as a reference using LDA Modelling produces 5 major topics that contain the most keywords. The first topic is "Health Prevention" with the keywords tobacco, health, research, and others. One of the policy documents that the author encountered related to this topic was entitled *"Cessation in tobacco prevention and control"* from the United States by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This policy document discusses state-level tobacco control programs in the U.S. in designing and implementing evidence-based smoking cessation strategies. This document policy cites the results of LIS & Health's research titled *"Results From a Pilot Test of a Personalized, Interactive Mobile Health Smoking Cessation Program"* (Abroms et al., 2012). The second topic is "Youth Health" with the keywords youth, change, promoting, and others. An example of a policy document related to this topic is *"Youth: choices and change: promoting healthy behaviors in adolescents"* from Switzerland by WHO. This policy document discusses a conceptual and practical framework to assist adolescents in building the capacity to make healthy decisions through interventions at the individual, interpersonal, community, and policy levels. This policy document cites the results of LIS & Health's research entitled *"A Five-Stage Model for Sustaining a Community Campaign"* (Rima E. Rudd, 1999). The third topic is "Science Dissemination" with the keywords communication, science, digest, and others. One example of the policy document is *"Communication efficace sur les risques pour l'environnement et la santé: rapport stratégique sur les tendances actuelles, les théories et les concepts"* from Switzerland by the WHO Regional Office for Europe. This policy document discusses how to effectively communicate health and environmental risks to the public. This document cites the results of the LIS & Health journal entitled *"Best Practices in Public Health Risk and Crisis Communication"* (Vincent T., 2010). For the fourth topic, namely "Risk Evaluation" with the keywords evaluation, research, cancer, and others. A policy document related to this topic is titled *"Evaluation of International Development Interventions"* from the United States by the World Bank. This document discusses an approach and an evaluation method for international development interventions. This document cites the results of LIS & Health's research entitled *"Literature searching for social science systematic reviews: consideration of a range of search techniques"* (Papaioannou et al., 2010). And the last topic is "Development Strategies" with effective keywords, public, development, and others. The policy document related to this topic is *"Health literacy development for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases"* from Switzerland by WHO. This policy document discusses the development of health literacy in the context of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). This

policy document was created based on the results of LIS & Health research entitled (Parker & Ratzan, 2010).

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The Journal of Health Communication emerged as the most frequently cited outlet within the LIS & Health domain for the development of policy documents, underscoring its significant influence and relevance to evidence-based policymaking. The United States produced the highest number of policy documents referencing LIS & Health research, a pattern likely attributable to federal requirements mandating that policy development be grounded in empirical evidence. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was identified as one of the leading policy-generating bodies drawing on LIS & Health scholarship. The year 2019 recorded the highest volume of policy documents citing LIS & Health research, marking it as the peak year for research uptake in policymaking. Among the thematic areas represented, Health Development and Tobacco Control appeared most frequently. Furthermore, an in-depth thematic analysis of the policy documents using Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) revealed five distinct topic clusters characterized by different sets of keywords: Health Prevention, Youth Health, Science Dissemination, Risk Evaluation, and Development Strategies.

This study contributes to a deeper understanding of the thematic landscape of policy documents informed by LIS & Health research. Future studies may employ similar analytical approaches across different disciplinary domains to examine broader patterns of research dissemination within policy development. Additionally, further research could explore year-by-year topic distributions to identify emerging or dominant policy themes over time.

#### AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

**Susilo Teguh Handoyono:** Writing original draft preparation. Ideas; formulation or evolution of overarching research goals and aims. **Cecep Ibrahim:** Ideas; formulation or evolution of overarching research goals and aims. **Danang Dwijo Kangko:** Ideas; formulation or evolution of overarching research goals and aims. **Indah Kurnianingsih:** Ideas; formulation or evolution of overarching research goals and aims.

#### CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

We state that there are no known conflicts of interest linked with this publication, and that there has been no significant financial assistance for this work that could have influenced its outcome.

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