

Bradford's law

Bradford's law describes the number of core [journals](#) in a given field or subject and has recently been applied to [neurosurgery](#).

The objective of the Venable et al., study was to use currently accepted formulations of Bradford's law to identify core journals of [pediatric neurosurgery](#). An additional analysis was completed to compare regional dependence on citation density among North American and European neurosurgeons.

All original research publications from 2009 to 2013 were analyzed for the 25 top publishing pediatric neurosurgeons in North America and Europe, which were sampled to construct regional citation databases of all journal references. Regional differences were compared with each database. Egghe's formulation and the verbal formulation of Bradford's law were applied to create specific citation density zones and identify the core journals.

Regional comparison demonstrated a preference for the [Journal of Neurosurgery](#) and [Child's Nervous System](#), respectively, but four of the top five journals were common to both groups. Applying the verbal formulation of Bradford's law to the North American citation database, a pattern of citation density was identified across the first three zones. Journals residing in the most highly cited first zone are presented as the core journals.

Bradford's law can be applied to identify the core journals of neurosurgical subspecialties. While regional differences exist between the most highly cited and most frequently published in journals among North American and European pediatric neurosurgeons, there is commonality between the top five core journals in both groups ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Venable GT, Shepherd BA, Roberts ML, Taylor DR, Khan NR, Klimo P Jr. An application of Bradford's law: identification of the core journals of pediatric neurosurgery and a regional comparison of citation density. Childs Nerv Syst. 2014 Aug 7. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 25098356.

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