

Knowledge dissemination in occupational therapy in Brazil: a portrait in its journals

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Abstract: Introduction: We present and discuss the results of a survey that took as an object the papers published between 1990 and 2014, in the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar (Occupational Therapy UFSCar Journal)* and in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP (Occupational Therapy Journal of USP)*. Objectives: To characterize the production according to the publication year, authors, authors' institutions, area and subarea, text category and the presence of the term "occupational therapy" or correlate in the title, abstract or keywords. A virtual database was created to systematize this production, which constitutes a considerable part of the Brazilian occupational therapists publications. Method: With the data gathering and organization regarding all the journals volumes in the period, were included in the study 881 texts, and this number has increased importantly, especially since 2006. Results: Over 60% of the texts are from the occupational therapy area, and two of its subareas were present with greater prominence: "mental health" and "fundamentals". There were 254 authors' institutions of origin enrolled, in which the Higher Education is more prevalent, notably public universities. We identified 1404 different authors, 85.8% were women, being the vast majority occupational therapists. In both journals, more than 80% of the authors published only one text, and few (between 5.3% and 3.2%) published five or more. Conclusion: Such data regarding the academic institutionalization of Brazilian occupational therapy is worrisome, since the publications is a necessary condition, but not enough, for dialogue and academic construction.

Keywords: Occupational Therapy; Periodicals; Publications for Science Diffusion; Knowledge.

A divulgação do conhecimento em terapia ocupacional no Brasil: um retrato nos seus periódicos

Resumo: Introdução: Trata-se de apresentar e discutir os resultados de uma pesquisa que tomou como objeto a produção bibliográfica publicada, entre 1990 e 2014, nos *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* e na *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*. Objetivos: Caracterizar a produção em relação a ano de publicação, autores, instituições dos autores, área e subárea, categoria do texto e presença do termo "terapia ocupacional" ou correlato no título, no resumo ou nas palavras-chave e, com isso, criar um banco de dados virtual para sistematizar essa produção, que compõe parte considerável das publicações de terapeutas ocupacionais brasileiros. Método: Com a reunião e a organização de dados referentes a todos os volumes dos periódicos no período, foram incluídos, neste estudo, 881 textos e pode-se afirmar que esse número vem aumentando de modo importante, especialmente a partir de 2006. Resultados: Mais de 60% dos textos são da área de terapia ocupacional e duas de suas subáreas se apresentaram com maior destaque: "saúde mental" e "fundamentos". Foram arroladas 254 instituições de vínculo

dos autores, sendo que as de Ensino Superior têm maior presença, notadamente as públicas. Foram identificados 1.404 diferentes autores, sendo 85,8% mulheres, e a absoluta maioria é de terapeutas ocupacionais. Em ambos os periódicos, mais de 80% dos autores publicaram apenas um texto e poucos (entre 5,3% e 3,2%) publicaram cinco ou mais trabalhos. Conclusão: Tais dados são preocupantes com relação à institucionalização acadêmica da terapia ocupacional no Brasil, pois a existência de publicações é condição necessária, mas não suficiente, para o diálogo e a construção acadêmicos.

Palavras-chave: *Terapia Ocupacional, Periódicos, Publicações de Divulgação Científica, Conhecimento.*

1 Introduction

This work was carried out together with the METUIA Laboratory team of the Department of Occupational Therapy and Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy, Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar), during the second half of 2014 and 2015.

Since 2010, with the implementation of the Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy at UFSCar (MALFITANO et al., 2013), we have faced with the proposition of studies requiring the survey of scientific production around different subjects articulated to occupational therapy, taking the collection of volumes of *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* and *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* (Both Brazilian Journals of Occupational Therapy). Only in Laboratory METUIA/UFSCar, which integrates the research line “Social Networks and vulnerability” of the graduate program, there were at least 13 dissertations that included such survey between 2010 and 2015, as well as undergraduate research, PhD thesis and undergraduate conclusion dissertation.

Indeed, these surveys, in general, are supplemented by others, in different academic databases. However, when it comes to taking the national experience, like many studies, the focus has been these journals to portray the literature produced by occupational therapy.

At the same time, the authors' experience in proposing and developing these journals in the editorial office of one of them and the tasks within research and graduate studies in one of the working groups of the National Network for Education and Research in Occupational Therapy (RENETO) and its related events also have questions about the academic and scientific commitments of occupational therapists in Brazil (LOPES; MALFITANO, 2009; LOPES et al., 2010, 2014). It is noticed such questioning by those engaged in research in the area, with the release

and circulation of the results of their studies in the context of occupational therapy, as well as the reading of these works by occupational therapists in general. That is, the need to access and discuss the “consuming” research, knowledge, reflections, theories (or epistemic contributions) and occupational therapeutic practices.

As a result of these several factors, in 2014 we established a database to systematize the entire production of the two journals indexed to the occupational therapy area in Brazil, *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* and *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*, database being used and continuously updated by students who will be integrating the area, bringing considerable number of publications made by Brazilian occupational therapists, providing data on this production, adding elements that articulate the needs and/or specific interests, enabling reflection lines about it¹.

2 Method

Initially, all volumes and numbers of *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*² e dos *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*³ were gathered in printed and electronic format.

The Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP proposed by a group of undergraduate faculty in Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Medicine, the University of São Paulo at the end of 1980, published its first issue in August 1990. The *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* also released in May 1990 resulted from the professor's initiative in Occupational Therapy field of the old DEFITO - Department of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy (since 1996, two separate departments) of Federal University of Sao Carlos (UFSCar).

Thus, the period considered included texts⁴ since the first volumes of the two journals, 1990, to the last volume in 2014. Published editorials, supplements, and abstracts of theses and dissertations were excluded from the analysis⁵.

At the same time, a data spreadsheet through Excel program® was created for each of the journals, in which the texts were enrolled sequentially by temporal order of publication, and there is information on year of publication, means of access (printed and/or online), volume/number, authors, undergraduate of the authors, title of the authors, institutions, authors, city/state linked to the institutions of the authors, title text, area, subarea and thematic production, text category, keywords, population group/age group for which turned the text, method/methodology, presence or absence of the term “occupational therapy” or correlative⁶ in the title, abstract or keywords, and the mention or not to the funding source. Such items would provide the data to be stored in a virtual database; one of them was recorded, discussed and analyzed for purposes of this article.

The team discussed the criteria to be used by the researchers to maintain internal consistency in completing the worksheet, from reading the titles, keywords, and each of the summaries, if they contain, information that required some categorization, for example, the area and sub-area.

In the item “titles of the authors,” all the titrations were listed of the authors and co-authors when they were explained, not uniform over a long period in both journals; the same occurred with the “undergraduation.”

Regarding the item “area,” after an initial survey and a discussion, there were denominations created to meet a greater number of texts in each of them: Occupational Therapy, Health, Health/Rehabilitation, Policy, Epistemology, History, Education, Social Services, in decreasing order of frequency in the results. The definition of the area of the texts was carried out by taking the title, the keywords and the abstract. It is noteworthy that, when there is the term “occupational therapy” (or some correlative) in at least one of these three items, the area was defined as occupational therapy; on the other hand, if this criterion was not met, the texts were classified in the scope of another area. It is worth mentioning that we were focused on production in occupational therapy area.

As for the item “subarea,” it was established only for the texts of occupational therapy area. The subareas were also set to gather a larger number in each, which are, in alphabetical order: Hospital Contexts, Child Development, Physical Disability, Education, Education for occupational therapists, Occupational Therapy Fundamentals,

Gerontology, Rehabilitation (except those to the Psychosocial Rehabilitation which were covered by the Mental Health subarea), Public Health, Mental Health, Occupational Health, Social Occupational Therapy and Work.

Below, the main results are shown and discussed.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Time distribution

As seen in Figure 1, the number of articles published per year in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* ranged from five (the lowest in 1999) to 39 articles, the highest in 2014, not having publications in 1993, 1994 and 1995. The same happened in the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* in 1994, 1995 and 1999, and 1997 was the lowest number of published texts, with five, and 2014 with the most articles totaling 84.

By 2011, the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* often had a greater number of published texts than the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* (except 1996 and 2001). However, there is a change in this trend in 2012, with higher growth in the number of texts published by the *Cadernos*, which had an increase of 109% between 2009 and 2010, 30.4% in 2011, 56.7% in 2012, 40.4% in 2013 and 27.3% in 2014. Since 2005, the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* has maintained an annual growth trend, except for 2013.

Both journals have undergone different reformulations during the study period (from the layout to the composition of its editorial board, for example). However, from the mid-2000s, these changes are more substantial, towards greater professionalism in its edition, which was seen earlier in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* with its indexing in LILACS - Latin-American and Caribbean System on Health Sciences, still in the 1990⁷, and in 2003, when it began to rely on the support of the Regional Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy of the Third Region (State of São Paulo), the CREFITO-3 that started to offer the journal’s content online. In 2008, in a proper website of the USP, its content was available only in electronic form (online). Regarding the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*, the same index only occurred in 2012, accompanied by major changes regarding the best academic qualifying⁸, with the composition of its editorial board, the policy of the sections, its layout

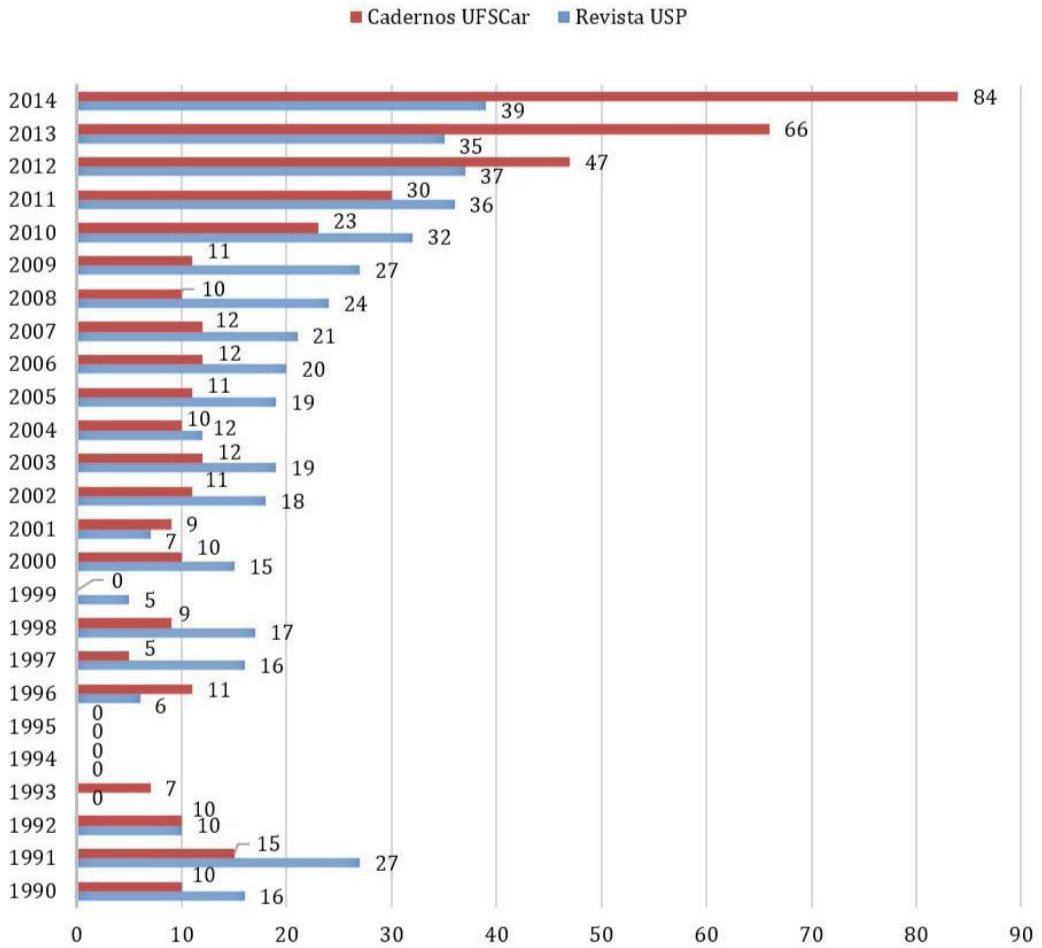


Figure 1. Number of articles published per year and journal, 1990-2014. Source: Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP (1990-2014) and Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar (1990-2014), elaborated by the authors.

and the availability online of its entire collection, among other measures.

These changes have repercussions on increasing the number of published texts, probably together with the increase of occupational therapy professors with PhD (EMMEL; LANCMAN, 1998; LOPES et al., 2010); increasing the number of higher education institutions (HEIs) in the public sector with undergraduate degree in occupational therapy (PAN; LOPES, 2016; LOPES et al., 2010), to the growth in the number of researchers focused on the area and their integration as guiding the undergraduate system in Brazil (LOPES et al., 2014), among other aspects.

3.2 Classification of texts

There were 458 texts recorded in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*, ranked as reported by the journal, shown in Table 1.

In the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*, there were 477 texts, 52 were abstracts of dissertations or thesis and theses that have not been analyzed, as well as three articles that did not have an abstract. Thus, the 425 gathered texts, were distributed as shown in Table 1 according to the journal data.

The classification of texts by the journals vary, and some of these classes were little found, for example, "Communication," "Brief Communication" or

“Free Communication.” Also, there was a variation of the word “article,” and by 2013, all texts of the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* were named as “article,” and later in 2014, there was an internal ranking of the articles of research or original, review and update, which is maintained. Since 1990, there was a differentiation between types of texts in the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* and the current classification was established in 2011.

3.3 Thematic areas

Figure 2 shows the area to each of the 458 analyzed texts in Journal of the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*, 280 of which are publications

of “Occupational Therapy” areas (62.7%); 125 of the “Health” area; 26 texts encompassed the subject of health with a focus on rehabilitation, being considered the “Health/Rehabilitation” area. Furthermore, seven texts were recorded in the area of “Social Services”; six in “Public Policy”; five in “History”; four in the “Education,” and one in “Epistemology.” Finally, five were categorized as “Other,” including one in “Psychology,” one in “Work” and two in “Transcultural Adaptation.”

In the in *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*, among the 425 gathered productions, there were 306 texts (72.3%) as the “Occupational Therapy” are; 78 of the “Health” area and other 13 also in health but with a focus on rehabilitation

Table 1. Classification of the texts published by the journals, 1990-2014.

| Classification of text | Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP | Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------|
| Articles / Original Articles | 411 | 318 | 729 |
| Project Reports / Experience Reports | 21 | 47 | 68 |
| Points of View / Discussion / Articles | 20 | 32 | 52 |
| Reflection / Essay or Update Articles | | | |
| Review Articles and / or Update Literature | 05 | 24 | 29 |
| Free Communication/Brief Communication | 01 | 4 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 458 | 425 | 883 |

Source: Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP (1990-2014) and Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar (1990-2014), elaborated by the authors.

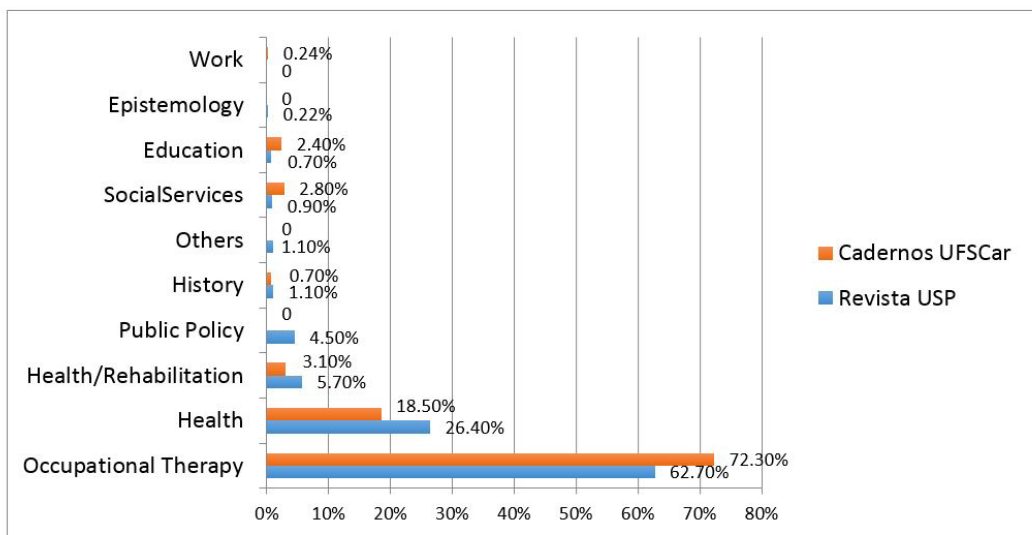


Figure 2. Thematic areas of the texts published by the journals, 1990-2014. Source: Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP (1990-2014) and Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar (1990-2014), elaborated by the authors.

issues, namely “Health/Rehabilitation.” Also, there were 12 thematic articulated texts of “Social Service,” ten of “Education,” while two were concerning the “History” and one of the “Work” (as stated earlier, three texts were not analyzed for their abstracts not being available).

A reflection that arises is the reason of the volume of texts from about 30% to 40% of national production of journals aimed to the area, do not demonstrate, in their titles, keywords, and abstracts, and they have the occupational therapy as one of their focuses. It perhaps arises from the authors have considered unnecessary this demarcation, because they are texts presented in journals. It is noted that no identification can compromise the recovery by different search engines or databases. Therefore, it is an aspect to be better worked, since many of the texts mentioning the occupational therapy, in fact, did not address this issue.

Most authors are occupational therapists, and authors with another undergraduation still need to be conquered by the journals. Demonstrating and be recognized as being in health and/or health/rehabilitation (integrating 32% of the texts in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* and 21% in the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*), would it be sufficient for the visibility of knowledge production in the area?

3.4 The sub-areas of texts in occupational therapy area

Of the 280 texts identified as the “occupational therapy” area presented in *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*, there are in descending order, the subareas of “mental health”, “foundations”, “education for occupational therapists”, “social occupational therapy”, “rehabilitation”, and later “gerontology”, “child development” and “contexts hospital” with the same number of articles. Also, there was texts in “public health”, “education” approach to “physical disability,” “health worker” and “work.”

Of 306 texts in the “occupational therapy” of *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*, there were also divided into sub-areas and, in descending order, many of them on “fundamentals”, with the same number of “education for occupational therapists” and “mental health”, followed by those on “rehabilitation” with equal numbers of those related to “contexts hospital”. Then, there are publications articulating themes of “social

occupational therapy,” the “child development,” “physical disability,” “public health,” “worker’s health,” “education” and finally, others text with subarea as the “Gerontology.”

Subsequently, the themes of each of these publications have been defined but have not created new categories for their classification, since the topics were very diverse. This information makes up a database that can be the object of other research.

Figure 3 shows the graphical representation of the distribution of texts in the subareas.

3.5 Institution linked to the authors

To understand some of the challenges and commitments around the production and dissemination of knowledge in occupational therapy in Brazil, one of the possible connections is to understand the institutional affiliation of the authors and co-authors of the texts that make up much of the science communication path between us. The authors and co-authors of the texts were professors, undergraduate and graduate students, professionals and managers of care services. It was not possible to perform a more accurate classification because the presentation of the authors was modified over the period studied by the journals.

It is known that in Brazil, though not only, research and knowledge production are closely linked to HEIs, notably to the public institutions since they have better conditions for the development of this dimension of academic work since the professor contract provides a workload for both. At the same time, hiring occupational therapists to teach in the area has always been very subordinate to the private sector of the HEIs, which have been most undergraduate courses, although we will witnessing a change in this scenario since the end of the first decade of 2000 (PAN; LOPES, 2016).

In the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*, there were 123 different institutions that have the link to the authors of the texts, and in 11 of them, the institutions could not be set. The preponderance of HEIs is remarkable, having been linked 67 different HEIs, 28 public and 32 private, a set of 60 national and seven foreign.

However, if we observe the institutions that at least appear with ten authors throughout the period, we found that they are all public higher education institutions: USP-SP (213), UFSCar (47), UFMG (39), UNIFESP (20), UFTM (19), UNICAMP (14), UFPR (11), UNESP (11) and

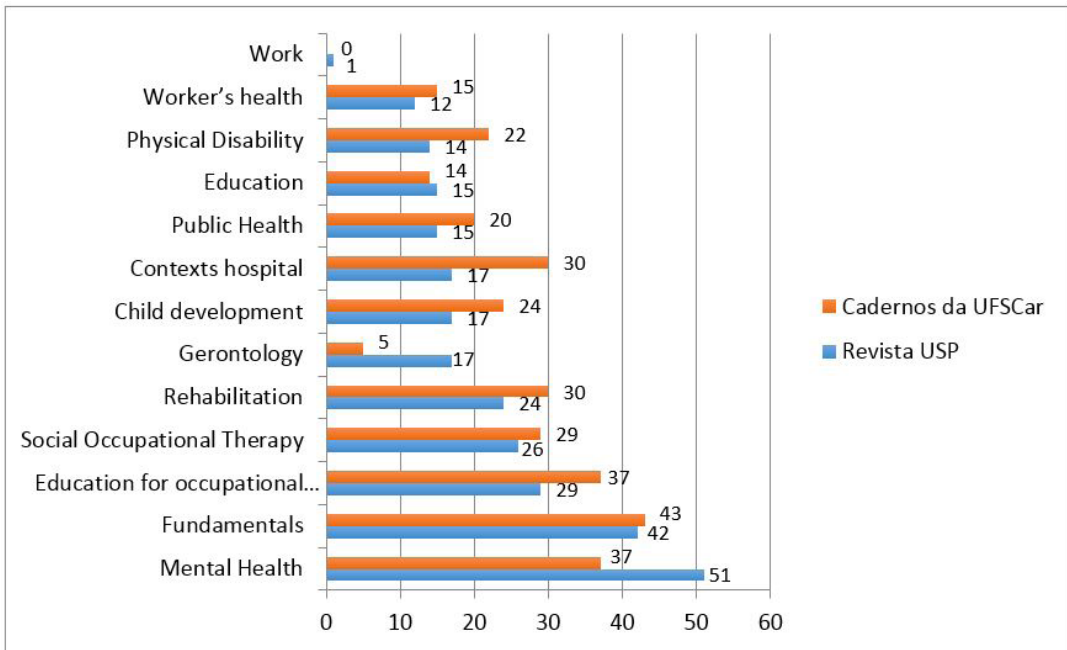


Figure 3. Subareas themes of texts published in the journals, 1990-2014. Source: Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP (1990-2014) and Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar (1990-2014), elaborated by the authors.

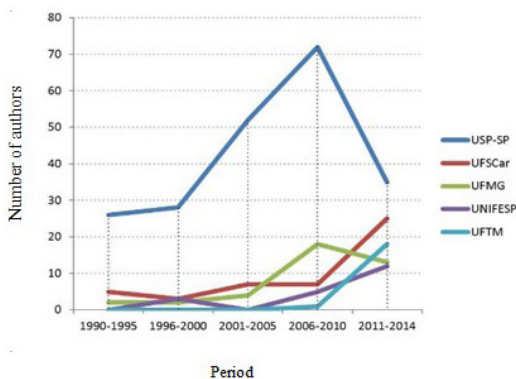


Figure 4. HEIs of the authors' publications in the Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP, 1990-2014. Source: Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP (1990-2014), elaborated by the authors.

USP-RP (10). Of them, only authors linked to the USP-SP and UFSCar were listed since the 1990s. Figure 4 shows the institution of the authors who had a greater volume of work in the listed period intervals.

We can talk about an important concentration of authors from USP-SP, which demonstrates an endogenous of authors of HEI hosting and producing the journal throughout the period.

However, a significant inflection occurs from the interval between 2006-2010, and it remains until 2014. On the other hand, in that same interval, it is observed the relatively steady growth of authors of three HEIs (UFSCar, UNIFESP, and UFTM) and a small (relatively) negative inflection authors from UFMG.

To better understand this phenomenon, we compared the production of HEIs with up to ten authors and the USP-SP, separately, shown in Figure 5.

In fact, the negative inflection of authors from USP-SP showed a phenomenon about the strong tendency of increase in other HEIs considered, which, among other possibilities, it could be a result of the journal publishers' efforts to limit this endogenous throughout the period. Between 2006-2011 and 2011-2014, the participation of authors from USP-SP lowered from 72 to 35 (down 48.6%); since the joint participation of another HEIs was from 38 to 102 (an increase of 168.4%).

Between 1990 and 2014, the authors who published in *Cadernos* were from 131 different institutions, and it was not possible to verify the origin of authors of 28 texts. It was observed the predominance of HEIs with 75 institutions, but also the presence of services, public administration

body, among others. Among the 64 national HEIs, there are 33 public and 31 private, and there are 11 foreign institutions.

It is noteworthy that the diversity of institutions has changed a lot in the period, with most of them publishing only after 2010, and with great intensification in 2011-2014, even among the authors of UFSCar as shown in Figure 6.

Institutions with ten or more authors were UFSCar (145), USP-SP (33), USP-RP (25), UFPR (22), UNIFESP (19), UFTM (15), UFMG (13), UNESP (13) and UNICAMP (10). Of them, only the first three institutions had authors who published since the first five years of the journal's existence. Figure 6 shows the distribution of the institutions of the authors in periods, giving priority to those who had a greater volume of authors.

A concentration of authors from UFSCar has seen again, also putting here the problem of the journal endogenous regarding its bond institution. In the period of 2006-2010 by 2014, all HEIs increased the number of participating authors, relatively similarly, though less for UFSCar, but with an important difference to the USP-SP, which increased from one to 24 authors, an increase of 2,300% in that period. In fact, teachers from USP-SP, before 2006-2010, had had only eight authorship of works published in the *Cadernos*. Authors of UFMG, UFPR, UNIFESP and UFTM had not published any work before the same period, highlighting the differences among these HEIs, regarding the time they have undergraduate degrees in occupational therapy and, therefore, the occupational therapy area.

Figure 7 shows grouped data on the participation of HEIs with at least ten authors and the authors of UFSCar separately.

From the period 2006-2010 and with a strong permanence of this trend until 2014, the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* have become a much more attractive vehicle for HEIs that more produced in the area. Among the explanatory hypotheses for this phenomenon, it seems relevant to major change of direction defined by the *Cadernos* publishers in the same period, mainly the positive results of the search for their best academic indexing, changes in the composition of the editorial board and policy sections and layout, as well as the online availability of all its assets, among other measures, which were held also in the proposal of 2009 by area in the UFSCar to the Higher Education Personnel Improvement

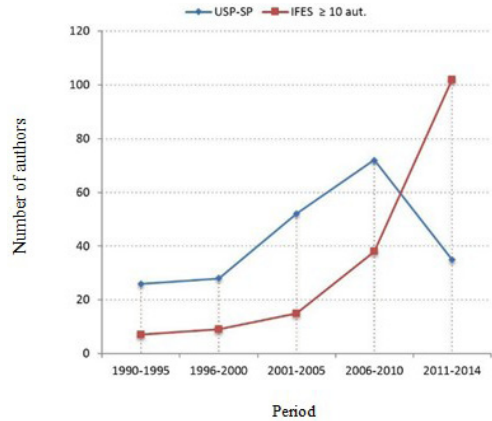


Figure 5. Comparison of the proportion of HEIs of the authors of the publications in the Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP, 1990-2014. Source: Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP (1990-2014), elaborated by the authors.

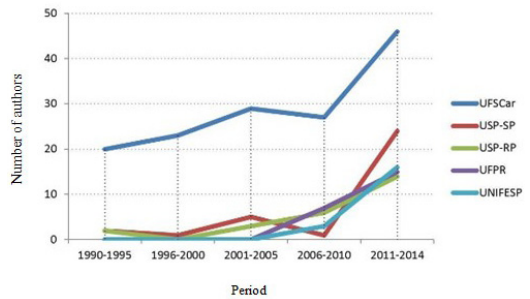


Figure 6. HEIs of the authors of the publications in the Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar, 1990-2014. Source: Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar (1990-2014), elaborated by the authors.

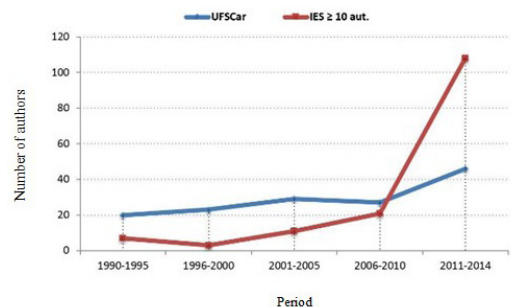


Figure 7. Comparison between the proportions of the HEIs of the authors of the publications in the Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar, 1990-2014. Source: Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar (1990-2014), elaborated by the authors.

Coordination - CAPES of a Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy, effectively implemented in the period 2010-2012.

It can be mentioned that perhaps a group of authors from most traditional research HEIs has considered relevant disclose results of their studies in the *Cadernos*, which is especially evident in the case of authors affiliated with the USP-SP.

3.6 Number of texts by author

Another key component to discuss the challenges and commitments around the production and dissemination of knowledge in occupational therapy in the country is to know who has been working in this area, that is, who are the authors of the papers published in the two journals indexed in academic databases of the area.

First, it is highlighted that there are women authors and not men authors who publish in these journals, since the 725 different authors found *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*, 631 are women (87%), and among the 679 listed in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*, 574 are women (84.5%). Among these women - as well as among men - a most of them are occupational therapists.

The author publishing average is very close between the two journals, and 2.48 texts in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* and 2.45 texts in *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*, which demonstrates the beginning of taking this task among Brazilian occupational therapists, at least about those journals.

Taking the entire period studied, if we consider authors with at least ten published works, we will have 13 authors in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* (publications with numbers ranging from 32 to 10), and only one of them is not undergraded in occupational therapy, and only one was not professor at USP-SP. In the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*, six authors (with numbers ranging from 14 to 10 publications), all with degrees in the area and only one of them not being a professor of UFSCar. Only one author presents ten or more papers published in the two journals.

When comparing the authors of the two journals, from the total of 1,404 people, 153 names appear in both; that is only 10.9% of the authors have disclosed their knowledge in the *Cadernos de*

Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar and the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*.

However, the most evident as a matter of challenges and commitments is the fact that in both journals more than 80% of the authors published only one paper and only around 5.3% in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* and 3.2% in the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*, the authors published five or more papers, as can be seen in Figures 8 and 9.

These data are extremely worrying by the effective academic institutionalization of occupational therapy in Brazil, since the existence of published works by area (research articles, experience reports, reflection papers, etc.) is necessary but not sufficient, for dialogue and the academic building.

The fact that so many authors of a single text demonstrate this lack of dialogue, discussion of academic production under more considered this

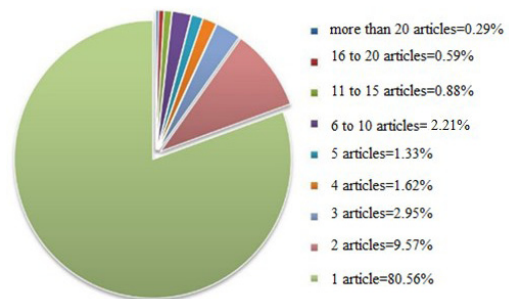


Figure 8. Number of articles published by the authors in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*, 1990-2014. Source: *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* (1990-2014), elaborated by the authors.

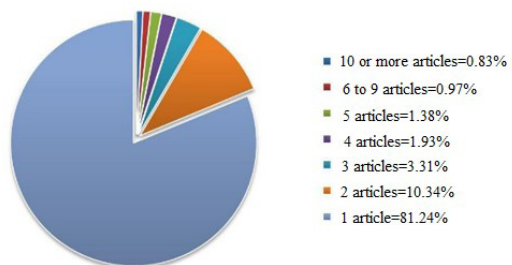


Figure 9. Number of articles published by the authors in the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*, 1990-2014. Source: *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* (1990-2014), elaborated by the authors.

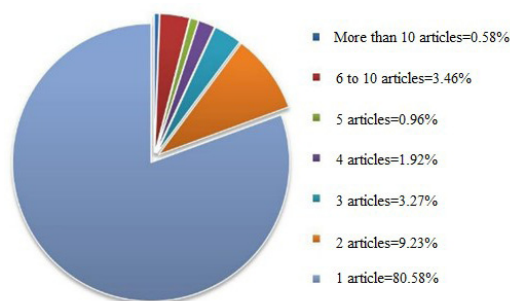


Figure 10. Number of articles published by the authors in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*, 2005-2014. Source: *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* (1990-2014), elaborated by the authors.

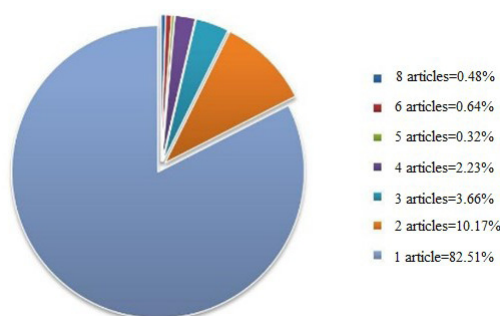


Figure 11. Number of articles published by the authors in the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*, 2005-2014. Source: *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* (1990-2014), elaborated by the authors.

to: disseminate results of the task of producing knowledge in written form.

However, as already stated, given the fact that this activity occurs notably in public HEIs and that only recently occupational therapy area could be present in these institutions in all regions of the country, though not in all states of the country (PAN; LOPES, 2016), the question which arose was whether the situation would have been different if they were considered only the last ten years, as it was from 2004 that we began to watch this change, and deepened between 2008 and 2010.

Specifically, in the period 2005-2014, the women authors (86.5%) remain and not the men authors from 629 different names found in the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* and compared to 520 listed in *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*, with 85.2% of women. Figures 10 and 11

below, allow the visualization of the distribution of text by the author in the same period.

The average of publications by authors also little changes in both journals, there were 2.8 texts in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* and 2.7 in the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*, keeping the publication incipient among occupational therapists in the main Brazilian journals.

Regarding the authors with at least ten works published, as expected, there were five authors in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* with publications ranging between 21 and 10 and only one is not a professor at USP-SP. In the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*, the largest number of publications by the author was eight in the period. The good news is that if we take five and not ten works, the situation improved relatively as it passes to 26 authors in the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*, from ten different HEIs, and nine in the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* of four different HEIs.

It also remains the fact that in both journals, more than 80% of authors published only one job and only 5% of authors in *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* and 1.4% in *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* published at least five jobs.

The academic dialogue in the Brazilian occupational therapy has been monotone.

4 Conclusion

The results found by reading the abstracts did not allow the categorization of what is called “method/methodology,” but also, by its enormous variation and dispersion, it was not possible to satisfactorily group the use of keywords in the published texts.

About the “method/methodology,” besides a slight classification of “qualitative” and/or “quantitative” approaches, the texts appear to result from little research works approaching this question, perhaps by remaining some strangeness as the suggestion that format for the abstracts in the rules of the journals. Nevertheless, in recent years, it has grown to present information about a reduced method to the right kind of classification that would be “exploratory”, “descriptive” or “cross-sectoral” studies for example, apparently solving the “fit” but little known of the methodologies used in the research subjects approach and still less of their analytical perspectives. These matters in

the context of research in occupational therapy in Brazil have to be studied, beginning most certainly the expansion of its production among scholars in the field. An interesting finding was the almost complete lack of mention of financing the studies that could have subsidized publications. This has been constant agenda of the Working Group for Research and Graduate in Occupational Therapy at RENETO and area events (LOPES; MALFITANO, 2009; LOPES et al., 2010, 2014).

As for the huge variety and dispersion of descriptors/keywords used in the publications, one possible explanation is that over the fact that the regulation present in health - internationally at PUBMED, and Latin America, the Health Sciences Descriptors – they cannot cover the whole area of occupational therapy and/or incorporate a very limited way the issues relating to occupational therapy, not sufficiently representing the interests of authors. In the social sciences, the contribution or not standardization and baselines are debated, as practiced by the base Sociological Abstract, and fixed lists are not created, as in much of health. Also, this dispersion, on the one hand, shows that occupational therapists in the history of the journals were free for the appointment of descriptors of their texts, which can be the subject of future studies on the composition of the area. On the other hand, it expresses the existence of a difference of organization/classification and greater uniformity of the themes treated by them.

It is important to mention that these were difficulties found by us and may be other researchers can lead better with these possible categorizations. In any case, a suggestion that can be placed is to do a clipping study about the most recent texts, specifically research articles, to see if there was a change in these scenarios.

On the experience of the authors in the editorship of dos *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar*, 2011, when it is indexing in LILACS base was requested and was obtained, it has had a greater collection of authors for the use of keywords and presentation of abstracts.

This is a point to be highlighted in the composition of the challenges and commitments for the area to the dissemination of the knowledge produced: make the movement of production increase and be given by recognized ways academically. An important way would be the indexing of journals in relevant databases for occupational therapy. When we are classified as “health” area, the criteria for such

bases are mostly coming from the biomedical area, making it even more difficult to confront these nuances.

It would be important to consider the interfaces of occupational therapy areas of human and social sciences, for the construction of the parameters discussed here. Our hypothesis is that, in these areas, which seem much more affection to the thematic role with a dialogue of occupational therapists, theoretically and practically, this high-quality construction would be different, and that would increase circulation and dissemination.

In summary, in the historical context, it is notable that both magazines have a limited and incipient production to set up a knowledge area.

This difficulty has been handled by the occupational therapists, especially those related to the HEIs and the editorial teams of the journals. The struggle for better indexing of journals is a face of that work, however, will only be able to effectively flourish when the access of occupational therapists to the sources of knowledge production also become more favorable than today (LOPES et al., 2014). In part, this process depends on us.

It is necessary that the practice of academic dialogue be deepened using vehicles so far built in Brazil. Also, it is necessary that this dialogue is plural and consolidated by publications that demonstrate research trajectories, knowledge built, persistent and consolidated thematic interests, not only the amplitude and, of course, the wealth of those interests.

On the one hand, the dispersion of the authors indicate a large group of those who tried successfully to speak (written) in this dialogue, and, on the other hand, a polyphony may say our difficulty in producing articles effectively identifying us and positioning to occupational therapy and let us cast with some consistency, academically.

This is more connected to what is expected of professors and, for that matter, a concern is the number of people who have come and continue traveling the teaching career without dealing with the research task, who publish little or not publishing, and they are also among us. We know the limits of a vision that see all academic production restricted to research articles published in vehicles considered more qualified and, with this, we do not agree. However, this is a challenge for us, and we need to face it the way that we think more consistent with what we have advocated for the Brazilian

occupational therapy, its condition to contribute to solving problems and needs of our society.

Our journals have been one of the instruments for it.

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Author's Contributions

All authors participated in the elaboration of the proposed research. Maria Luiza Mangino Cardoso Duarte and Beatriz Prado Pereira were responsible for the collection and initial organization of the data, which were analyzed and discussed jointly by the work team. Roseli Esquerdo Lopes was responsible for elaborating the text, which was revised by all authors. All authors approved the final version of the text.

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Notes

- ¹ It is noted that the work is not performed by the propositions of a bibliometric study (ARAÚJO, 2006), which would be out of the authors' skills scope.
- ² By 2002, under the ISSN 1415-9104, available only in printed form, and in 2008, available in electronic format (online) under the ISSN 2238-6149.
- ³ With printed volumes since 1990, under ISSN 0104-4931, and from 2011 under ISSN 2238-2860, also in electronic form (on-line), and all volumes until the end of 2014 were available in both formats.
- ⁴ Any material published in any rating category used by journals was considered as texts.
- ⁵ In the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP*, two supplements in CD-ROM, one in 2008 and another in 2011, brought the proceedings of the XI National Meeting of Occupational Therapy Professors (ENDTO) and the VI Latin American Meeting of Schools and Occupational Therapy Professors respectively. The *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* published in the period, one special supplement of their volume 17, n° 1, in 2009, available in printed and electronic format, bringing the annals of the I National Seminar of Research in Occupational Therapy (SNPTO), and three in 2010, 2012 and 2014, only in CD-ROM, with annals of the events XII ENDTO, XIII ENDTO and II SNPTO, XIV ENDTO and III SNPTO, respectively. Also, it was published a special supplement, the annals of the following professional events of the area: XII Brazilian Congress of Occupational Therapy (CBTO) and IX Latin American Congress of Occupational Therapy (CLATO), in 2011, XIII CBTO, in 2013, and X North-Northeast Occupational Therapy Congress (CONNTO), in 2014.
- ⁶ Therapeutic occupational; occupational therapy, occupational therapist(s).

- ⁷ In 2015, the *Revista de Terapia Ocupacional da USP* had as indexing sources: – Sistema Regional de Información en Línea para Revistas Científicas de América Latina, el Caribe, España y Portugal – LATINDEX; – Literatura Latino-americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde – LILACS; – Periódica; – DOAJ – Directory of Open Access; – Journals; – CAPES e – EBSCO Publishing.
- ⁸ In 2015, the *Cadernos de Terapia Ocupacional da UFSCar* had as indexing sources: Literatura Latino-americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde – LILACS; – CINAHL – EBSCO; – ProQuest-Social Services Abstracts; – ProQuest-Nursing & Allied Health Source database; – CUIDEN; Sistema Regional de Información en Línea para Revistas Científicas de América Latina, el Caribe, España y Portugal – LATINDEX; Occupational Therapy Journal Literature Search Service – OTDATABASE; Periódica; – DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals; – Portal de Periódicos da CAPES, e – Ulrich's International Periodical Directory.