

Title: Use of World Health Organization publications in Russian medical and public health journals. A Citation Analysis

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To better understand dissemination of WHO materials in Russia, the WHO Documentation Center has analyzed the use of WHO publications in the Russian medical and public health journals through a citation analysis. The massive of 33847 articles published in 74 Russian scientific journals on Clinical Medicine, Public Health and Health Economics and Management for 2000-2008 has been collected with 1,827 articles identified as citing WHO materials. Selection and analysis of scientific journals was based on the following criteria: journal focus; circulation; target groups of readership; availability in the Internet (abstract/full text); in what reference databases the journal is cited, etc. A special module has been designed to implement a detail analysis of the use of WHO publications in scientific articles published in the sampled journals: by types of WHO documents (resolutions of World Health Assembly; WHO meetings proceedings; guidelines, WHO Technical Report Series, WHO monographs, etc); thematic categories of WHO publications; etc. Citation analysis helped identify Russian journals with high number of references to WHO materials. Results of the analysis helped understand what WHO materials and in what contexts Russian specialists use. Citation analysis has shown that more frequently WHO materials have been cited by articles on noncommunicable diseases, mother and child health and communicable diseases. Pharmaceuticals, health systems and health promotion rank fourth, fifth and sixth respectively. Analytical and methodological documents (WHO Technical reports series, guidelines and monographs) are cited more frequently. The average citation age of WHO materials is 1996.7. World health reports have the youngest average age of references equaling to 2000.56, followed by WHO policy papers - 2000.95. The rates show that those types of WHO materials are rather fast to reach the Russian research community. A list of most cited WHO publications by absolute number of references looks the following: 5 technical reports, 3 monographs by WHO Observatory, 2 guidelines and 1 strategy. Translations into Russian accounted for 30% of all references to WHO materials, while books by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies accounted for more than 50% of all references to WHO books. The analysis helped better understand interest area of the Russian health researchers in WHO publications.