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

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The aim of our study is to analyze the use of WHO materials by the Russian medical and health research community

Objectives

- to compile a representative array of medical and health articles from the national journals for the last 9 years (2000-2008);
- to design a special form to implement citation analysis;
- to analyze the selected representative array of journal articles by this form;
- to conduct statistical processing of the results and identify most cited WHO sources as well as the Russian journals that cite WHO materials most frequently and subject areas that show highest demand for WHO materials.

Specific objective factors pertaining to the Russian information environment

- Russian scientific journals are mainly "isolated" from the global information databases
- Full texts are mainly unavailable on the web
- Russian market of medical journals is highly dynamic. This situation accounts for uneven distribution of issues of different journals over time.

The list of journals for citation analysis consists of 74 journals including 64 leading medical journals on different clinical disciplines register and 10 leading journals on health system strengthening and public health.

The keywords for searching articles included:

- World Health Organization / WHO
- WHO Regional office for Europe / WHO EURO
- World health report
- International classification of diseases / ICD-10
- International classification of functioning, disability and health / ICF
- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
- Health for all

Form for citation analysis

1. Peculiar features of articles

- bibliographical description
 of the article that cited WHO
 materials;
- output data of the journal that published this article;
- topical headings and keywords that describe the article contents; one article can be simultaneously attributed to one to three headings if it focuses on interdisciplinary research.

2. Peculiar features of the citation source:

- bibliographical description
 of the cited source including
 year of publication;
- type of the cited source;
- publication language;
- focus of the cited source according to its attribution to one to three topical headings similar to the article indexing.

- A total of 2'081 issues of 74 journals have been analyzed including 33'847 articles
- 1'827 articles with 2'801 references to WHO materials have been identified out of 33'847 articles.

Journals which articles most frequently cited WHO materials

- «Профилактика заболеваний и укрепление здоровья» (Health Promotion & Disease Prevention)
- «Вопросы питания» (Issues of Nutrition)
- «Кардиоваскулярная терапия и профилактика» (Cardiovascular therapy and CVD Prevention)
- «Вопросы вирусологии» (Issues of Virology)
- «Терапевтический архив» (Therapeutic archives)
- «Вопросы современной педиатрии» (Issues of Modern Pediatrics)
- «Общественное здоровье и профилактика заболеваний» (Public Health and Health Promotion)
- «Проблемы управления здравоохранением» (Issues of health care management)
- «Журнал микробиологии, эпидемиологии и иммунобиологии» (Journal of microbiology, epidemiology & immunology)
- «Медицинская паразитология и паразитарные болезни» (Medical parasitology)
- «Клиническая фармакология и терапия» (Clinical pharmacology and therapy)
- «Вестник дерматологии и венерологии» (Dermatology and CTD Herald)

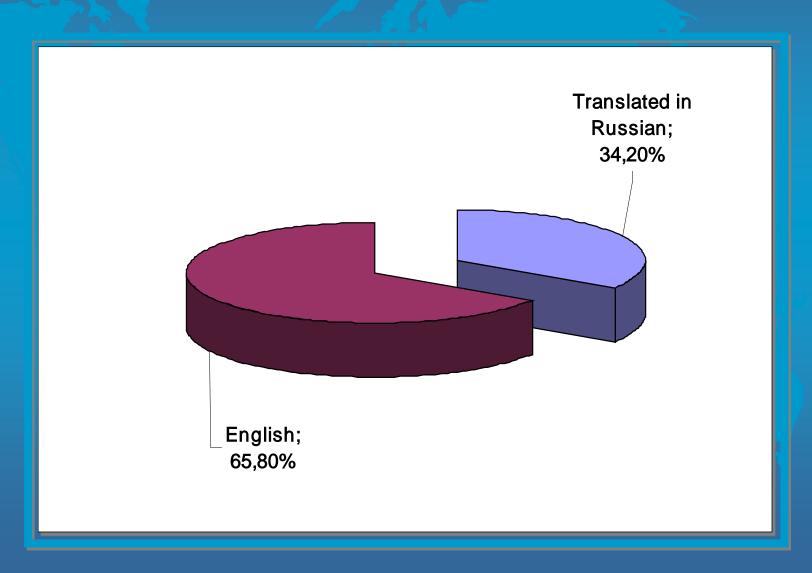
Topics of Articles with Highest Citation Rates of WHO Materials

- Noncommunicable diseases control 746 references
- Maternal and Child Health 396
- Communicable diseases 367
- Pharmaceuticals 348
- Health systems 253
- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention - 210

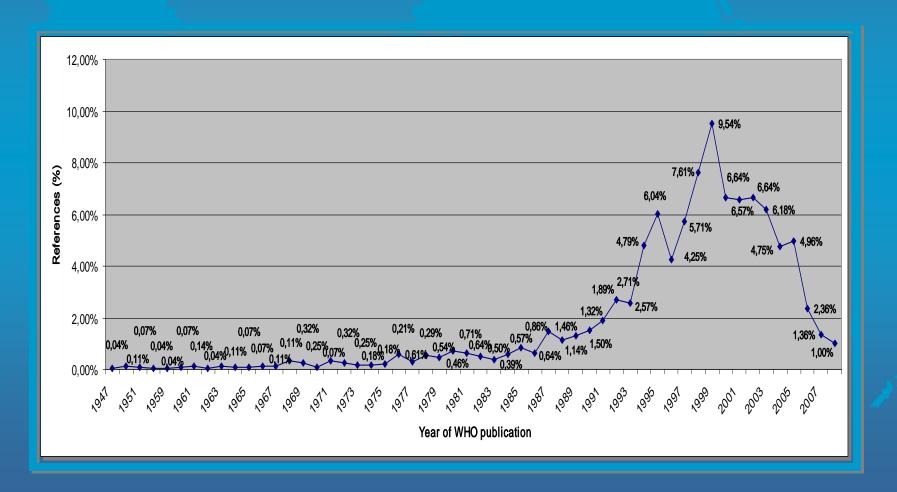
Noncommunicable diseases control - 746 references

- Cardiovascular diseases 275
- Mental Health 132
- Cancer 116
- Respiratory diseases 58
- Noncommunicable diseases control (general questions) 52
- Musculoskeletal diseases 39
- Diabetes Mellitus 32
- Neurology 29
- Other 13

Distribution of reference sources by language



Distribution of references by the year of citation sources for the entire number of articles for 2000-2008



Distribution of references of the same year of citation

• 2000 – 2

• 2005 - 1

• 2001 - 1

• 2006 - 2

• 2003 – 2

• 2007 – **7**

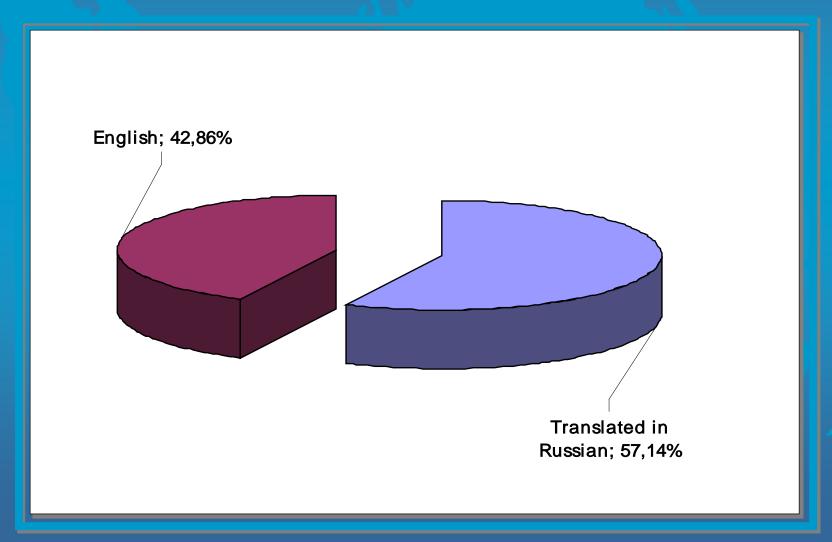
• 2004 - 2

• 2008 - **14**

Most Cited Types of WHO Materials

- WHO Technical report series 387 references
- Guidelines 379
- Monographs/Books 348
- Policy papers 177
- **Statistics 131**
- World Health Reports 126

Ration between references to Russian and English language books by the Observatory



List of most cited WHO publications by absolute number of references

- WHO/ISH guidelines for the management of hypertension. (1999). 54 references.
- WHO strategy for prevention and control of chronic respiratory diseases.(2002).—29
- Arterial Hypertension Control Report of the Expert Committee #862 (1997) 26
- World Health Report 2002. Reducing Risk, Promoting Healthy Life) – 24
- World Health Report 2000. Health Systems: Improving Performance 22

The study has the following major findings:

- Analytical documents on noncommunicable and infectious diseases, children's health and health systems turn out to be most cited among WHO publications.
- Translation of materials into Russian increases citation by 30-50%.
- Availability of full texts on-line facilitates use of the WHO materials within the year of their publication.

Citation analysis can be applied to evaluate using of information materials by the research community

Thank you for your attention