WHAT RESEARCH MATTERS? FACTORS THAT DRIVE THE IMPACT OF ARTICLES IN JOURNAL OF BUSINESS VENTURING (SUMMARY)

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SUMMARY

WHAT RESEARCH MATTERS? FACTORS THAT DRIVE THE IMPACT OF ARTICLES IN JOURNAL OF BUSINESS VENTURING

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Principal Topic

We seek to explain why some entrepreneurship articles get more cites. We replicate the Judge et al (2007) research model to investigate whether the same key factors drive the development of citations within the entrepreneurship field. In the process, we also test out a new metric for readability. As is perhaps widely assumed, it may be that the “subfield” of entrepreneurship studies will follow the same patterns revealed in the broader field of management. Certainly scholars within the field of entrepreneurship have observed distinctions between entrepreneurship and general management studies. This fact suggests that there may be differences, but it remains to be empirically tested. In this study we test this assumption.

Method

We examine the relationships between constructivist and positivist predictors of citations to articles. We have selected articles from Journal of Business Venturing, from the years 1989, 1993, 1997, 2001 and 2005. In total 175 articles were selected. Out of this sample, 29 were eliminated because they were acknowledgements, editorial letters or book reviews and were therefore excluded from the dataset, limiting the remaining sample to research articles alone. The total number of articles included in our analysis is 146.

Results and implications

The question we started with is what factors serve as the basis for citations rates? In this paper we test a framework of factors that helps to clarify the assumptions and assessment criteria that underlie citation counts within the field of entrepreneurship studies within the context of a developmental perspective on field evolution. Of particular interest to us is the development of a better understanding of the factors that predict research impact over time. The framework we have presented is based on a research model developed in a study of citation patterns within the field of management (Judge et al 2006).

Our preliminary results indicate general trends towards longer articles with more cited references, more theoretical rigor, and a higher incidence of longitudinal analysis and the use of independent data sources. Controlling for all other factors, the regression results showed significant effects for year of publication and reliability.

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