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INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
REGIONAL STUDIES:
A SURVEY BY ACADEMIC JOURNALS*

by

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1. Introduction

The objective of this note is to investigate the academic achievement by country in regional science and economic development. Particular attention is directed to Japan.

Table 1 shows the summary statistics of the surveyed journals. We examined two types of international journals: the regional science journals and the economic development journals. Exactly following Kau and Johnson (1983), we selected eleven regional science journals. On the other side, we chose five economic development journals that appeared in the Tables by Liebowitz and Palmer (1984).

Observing Columns 2 and 3 Table 1, we find the unambiguous dominance of the United States that approximately two-thirds of the journals are published and edited exclusively by the United States, implying the polarization phenomenon in these researches.

Column 4 was obtained directly from the Social Science Citation Index which is data-based in the UTOPIA retrieval system of the University of Tsukuba. The research period in this note is from January 1980 to November 1987. To investigate the frequency of foreign and domestic regional

studies, we selected *the papers whose titles include country names*. Thus, the sample size in our analysis is reduced from 8,736 to 1,430, whose distribution is given in the last column (there are 557 papers on regional science, and 873 on economic development).

Following calculations are based upon the number of pages of these 1,430 sampled papers. In case of multiple authors whose affiliations are different, we divided the number of pages, and shared equally between them. Rankings and shares by country are computed in the next section, and the two-dimensional distribution of the amount of these studies is calculated in Section 3. Section 4 concludes the note.

2. Ranking of Countries

Figure 1 is drawn according to the number of pages by author's affiliated country (left side) and the number of pages by country appeared in titles (right side). We observe first that the United States is outstanding. In fact, U.S. authors wrote 55% of the total pages, and 14% of the total pages are used on the United States. The United Kingdom stands second: the U.K authors wrote 18%; and 8.5% are on the United Kingdom.

We also find that the high ranking countries are large countries in general. Among them, Japan's rank is very low: 15th in terms of author's affiliation (0.7% of the total pages); and 13th in terms of title's affiliation (1.7% of the total pages).

To see Japanese performance minutely in terms of the amount written by authors whose affiliation is Japan, it would be worthwhile to compare with other fields of studies. To simplify the calculation by UTOPIA, a case that affiliation of one of multiple authors is Japan is regarded here as a paper solely written by Japanese. Following this rule, 0.95% of the 1,430 papers

are considered to be written by Japanese. It should be noted that the value of the Social Science Citation Index as a whole is 0.85%, and that the value of the entire Science Citation Index is 5.93%. *This evidently represents less Japanese contributions in social science studies relative to those in natural science studies.*

Let us next report our computation results by two journal groups. For regional science journals, the author's affiliation rank of Japan is 8th (1.2%) whereas it is 15th (0.5%) for economic development journals. This would indicate that Japanese scholars have been studying little on developing countries.

3. Two-Dimensional Table

By observing 11 by 11 matrix of Table 2 we find, first of all, that the diagonal elements are generally greater than the other elements. Such diagonal dominance implies that the number of researches of its own country is relatively large. Next, we recognize that the developing countries such as Africa, Asia and South America are analyzed by the developed countries, especially by the United States and the United Kingdom. These results would be fairly understandable.

Japan, however, is an exception because foreign regional studies by Japanese are very little (50 pages) although not a few countries analyze Japan (242 pages). To examine the degree of foreign regional studies, we computed the ratio of t_1/t_2 for each region. $t_1/t_2 > 1$ means that the region analyzes foreign regions more than it is analyzed, and the reverse is true for $t_1/t_2 < 1$. The ratio of the United States is quite high (4.22), that of the United Kingdom (2.18) is the second highest, and that of Japan is the sixth (0.44). Considering the rapid Japanese economic growth in recent

years, it is very obvious that Japan must conduct much more researches on international studies.

4. Conclusion

Major statistical results are summarized in Figure 1 and Table 2. We found the U.S. dominance and then U.K. in terms of the amount of studies in regional science and economic development. Japan's rank is extremely low albeit its recent high economic growth. We also found that this low standard is in common with other social science studies by Japanese, but in a striking contrast to natural science studies by Japanese.

In any event, it is strongly hoped that Japan would contribute to international and regional development studies much further.

References

- Kau, J.B. and L.L. Johnson (1983) "Regional Science Programs - A Ranking Based on Publication Performance," *Journal of Regional Science* 23(2), 177-186.
- Liebowitz and Palmer (1984) "Assessing the Relative Impacts of Economic Journals," *Journal of Economic Literature* 22(1), 77-88.

Footnote

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Table 1 Summary statistics of the journals surveyed

Name of Journal	Publisher's Country	Editor's Country	Number of Papers	Number of Papers with Country Name in Title
REGIONAL SCIENCE JOURNALS				
Journal of Regional Science	US	US	461	28
Regional Science and Urban Economics	NL	US GR	262	23
Annals of Regional Science	US	US	1054	40
Regional Studies	UK	UK	944	160
Growth and Change	US	US	504	57
Journal of Urban Economics	US	US	367	28
Urban Studies	UK	UK	692	97
Land Economics	US	US	407	54
Geographical Analysis	US	US	285	9
Economic Geography	US	US	356	47
International Regional Science Review	US	US	48	14
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT JOURNALS				
Journal of Development Economics	NL	US	568	159
Journal of Developing Areas	US	US	710	133
Economic Development and Cultural Change	US	US	509	170
World Development	UK	US	756	303
Journal of Development Studies	UK	UK NL	813	108
Total			8736	1430

Figure 1 Ranking of countries according to the number of pages by author's country, and the number of pages by country appeared in titles

(US:United States, UK:United Kingdom, CN:Canada, AU:Australia, ID:India, IS:Israel, BR:Brazil, CI:Chile, MX:Mexico, GR:Germany, SI:Switzerland, KR:Korea, PP:Philippines, SW:Sweden, JP:Japan, NZ:New Zealand, HK:Hong Kong, NL:Netherlands, AR:Argentina, NG:Nigeria)

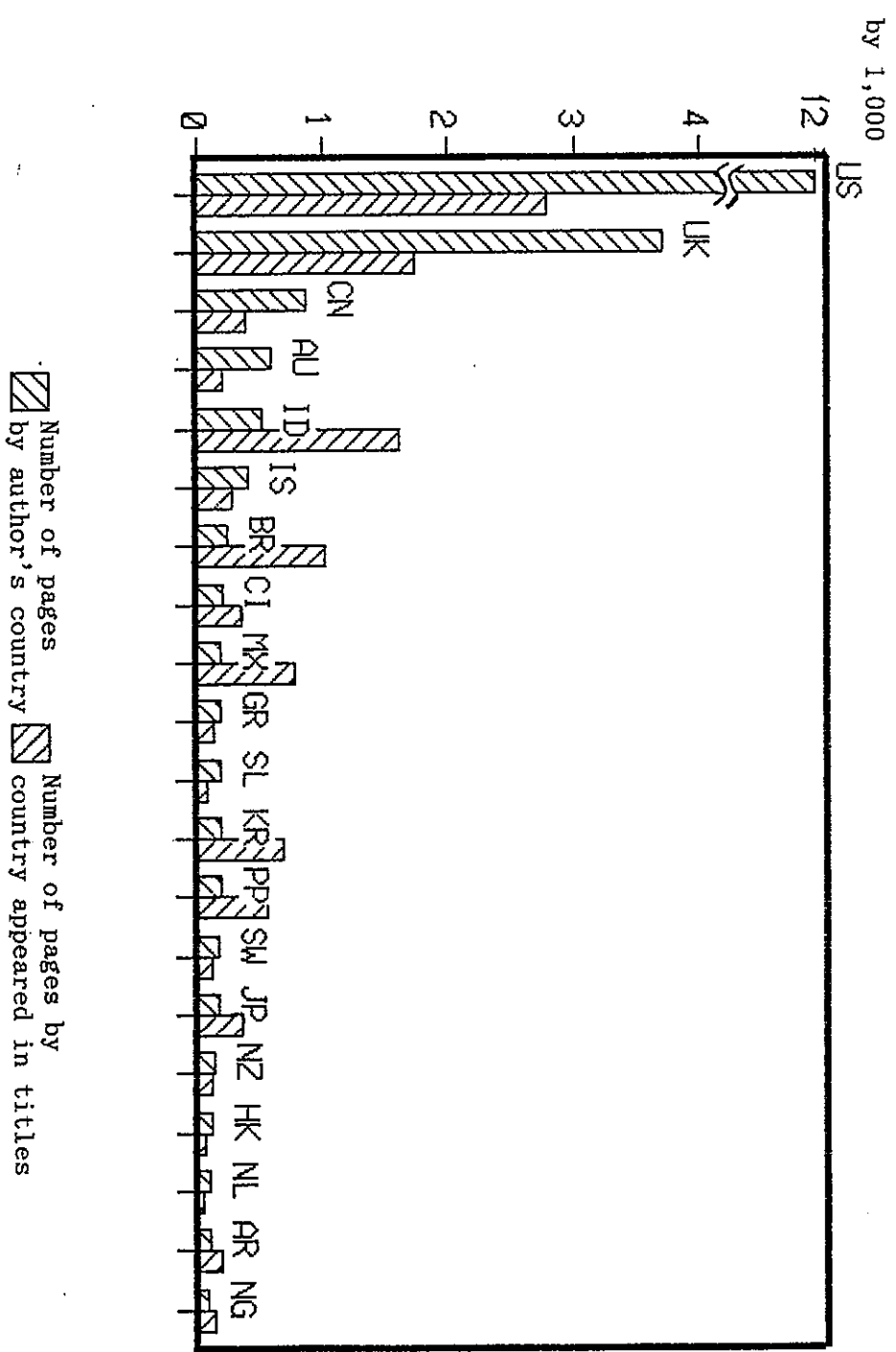


Table 2 The number of pages by title's region and
the number of pages by author's region

title author	AF	US	NA	SA	JP	EA	SA/ME	UK	WE	EE	OC	sub total (T ₁)
Africa	379	0	0	0	0	52	16	0	11	0	0	458
USA	1813	2627	1330	2002	124	2009	1443	51	197	187	20	11803
N.America	146	41	691	89	0	71	93	33	26	9	0	1199
S.America	1	1	19	542	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	563
Japan	0	0	0	0	100	50	0	0	0	0	0	150
E.Asia	53	11	0	1	43	569	21	27	0	0	0	725
S.Asia/M.East	132	33	44	24	13	38	892	20	0	0	0	1196
U.K.	392	61	116	415	38	293	497	1527	251	65	36	3691
W.Europe	169	5	71	147	19	51	49	14	435	56	33	1049
E.Europe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	43
Oceania	45	17	0	0	5	168	106	24	7	0	384	756
sub total (T ₂)	3130	2796	2271	3220	342	3301	3117	1696	927	360	473	21633
T ₁ /T ₂	0.15	4.22	0.53	0.17	0.44	0.22	0.38	2.18	1.13	0.12	1.60	