# International Scientific Conference Empowering Change: Fostering Social Entrepreneurship for a Sustainable Future

SUSTAINABLE DISTANCE EDUCATION
A LITERATURE REVIEW OF THE LAST DECADES AND A CORRESPONDING
BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS















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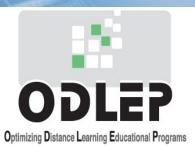
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#### **Definition of Distance Education**

of education in which the main elements include physical separation of teachers and students during instruction and the use of various technologies to facilitate student-teacher and student-student communication.

#### Introduction

- Today's colleges and universities face a wide range of challenges, including:
  - Disengaged students
  - ✓ High dropout rates
  - ✓ Ineffectiveness of a traditional "one-size-fits-all" approach to education
- COVID pandemic has highlighted the need for an innovation in training and education
- Distance Education will provide sustainable and robust approach in the face of uncertainty

#### Introduction

- Distance education must be sustainable and flexible to accommodate the needs and timetable of the students and educators without compromises to its quality and at the same time taking into account unforeseen situations.
- Distance education should include the ability to reach remote areas without extreme
  costs for new infrastructure, exploit the advantages of the digital realm and provide
  immersive learning experiences.

## **Distance Education Background**

- In a distance education class, electronic communication systems serve as the delivery method which replaces the face-to-face classroom.
- Distance education offers the potential to build better interactive classrooms which foster learning communities.
- Personalized interaction with students can be successful in a transparent and efficient manner based on the Web.
- The digital environments (for video conferencing, shared writing, chat, forums and more), which characterized Distance Teaching (DAD) during the pandemic have been widely used, due to the fact that they have been established tools for several years.
- Immersive environments exploit the ability of media to make us feel present and with agency in a place different from the one where you are physically.

## **Attributes of Distance Learning**

- The limits and potentialities linked to the design of online classes in addition to or in substitution to traditional ones are mainly detectable in the ability to favor the participation of students
- It is critical to take into account the preferences of students and educators so that education can move from its traditional style and be rendered to one of personalized learning.
- Distance learning has gained a lot of momentum in the current years and is able to respond to the challenges that have arisen.

## **Distance Education Objectives**

- ✓ Assist students in achieving their academic goals
- ✓ Instructors able to adapt their lectures to maximize the knowledge they wish to convey

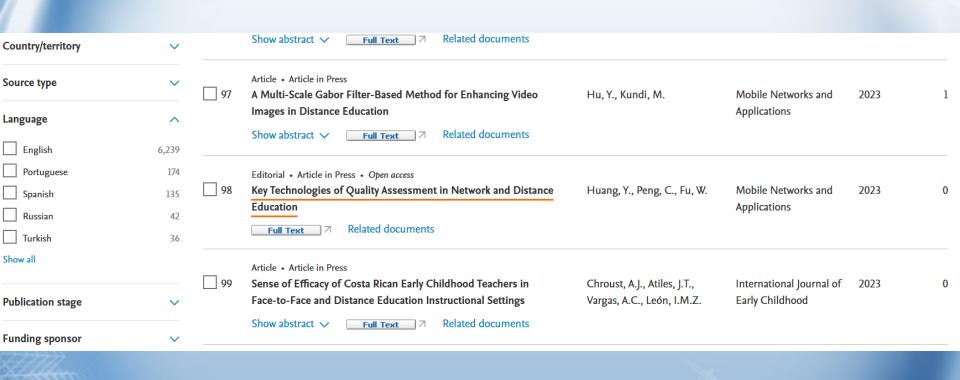
## **Aim and Scope**

- The current paper provides an extensive literature review focusing on distance learning, initiating from 2000.
- Furthermore, a bibliometric analysis has taken place, through the combined use of Mendeley and VOS-viewer, and identified fundamentals concepts that are associated with the development and evolution of distance learning.

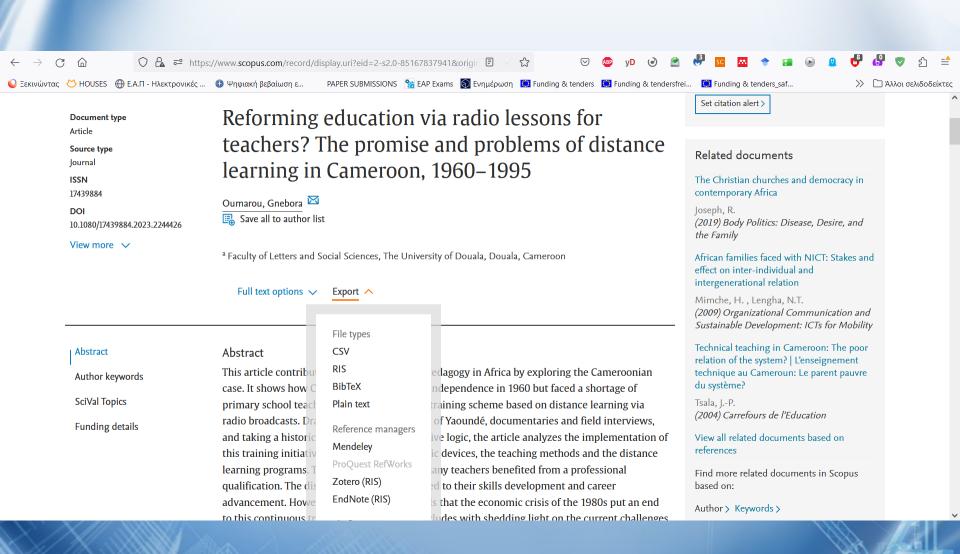
#### **Methodological Approach**

- Inquiry for scientific papers
- The database used was Scopus
- Keywords used: "Distance Education"
- Research Period: beyond 2000
- Documents that were identified and examined equal to: 480
- Documents were imported in the reference manager: Mendeley
- A database for analysis regarding "Distance Education" was created
- The citations were exported in a RIS file
- Vos Viewer was used to create the bibliometric maps
- The RIS database was imported in Vos Viewer Application
- Three types of maps were created which included:
  - ✓ Network visualization
  - ✓ Overlay visualization
  - Density visualization

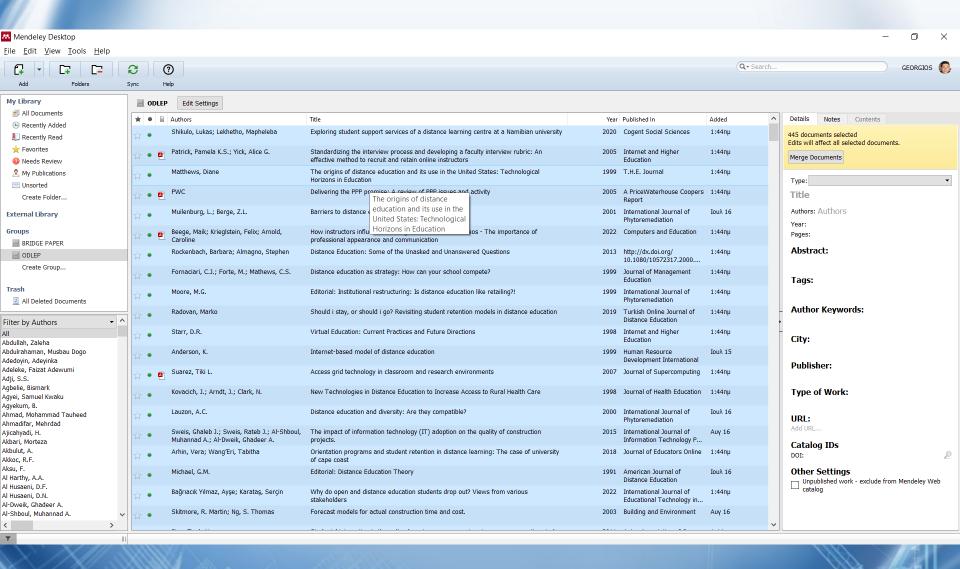
#### **Scopus Database**



#### **Exporting from Scopus to Mendeley**



#### **Creating the Mendeley Database**



## **Options for Vos Viewer**

The analysis was applied in three basic pillars

- The first analysis was run for five occurrences of keywords
- The second analysis was run for four occurrences of keywords
- The third analysis was a text based for nine occurrences of keywords

#### **Vos Viewer – Creating a Map**

Create Map



## Choose type of data

Create a map based on network data

Choose this option to create a map based on network data.

© Create a map based on bibliographic data

Choose this option to create a co-authorship, keyword co-occurrence, citation, bibliographic coupling, or co-citation map based on bibliographic data.

O Create a map based on text data

Choose this option to create a term co-occurrence map based on text data.

< Back

Next >

Finish

Cancel

#### **Data Source**

Create Map



#### Choose data source

Read data from bibliographic database files

Supported file types: Web of Science, Scopus, Dimensions, Lens, and PubMed.

Read data from reference manager files

Supported file types: RIS, EndNote, and RefWorks.

Download data through API

Supported APIs: Microsoft Academic, Crossref, Europe PMC, Semantic Scholar, OCC, COCI, and Wikidata.

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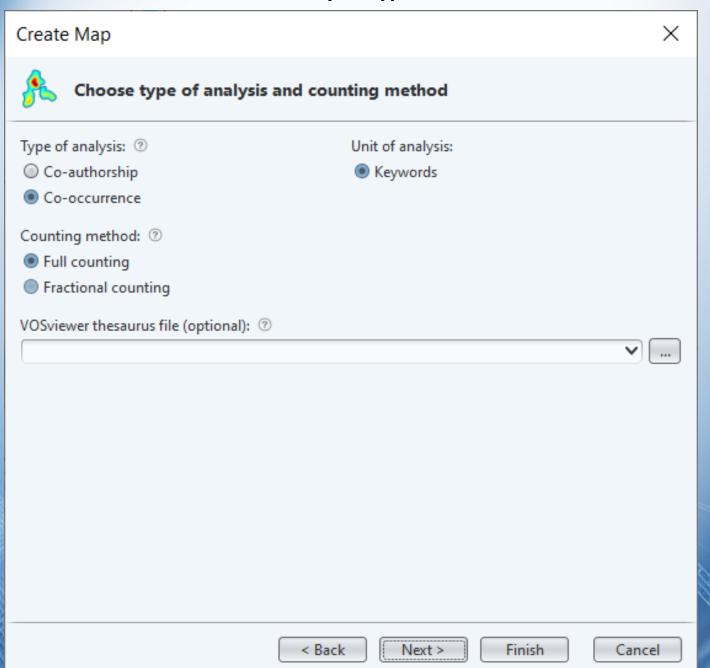
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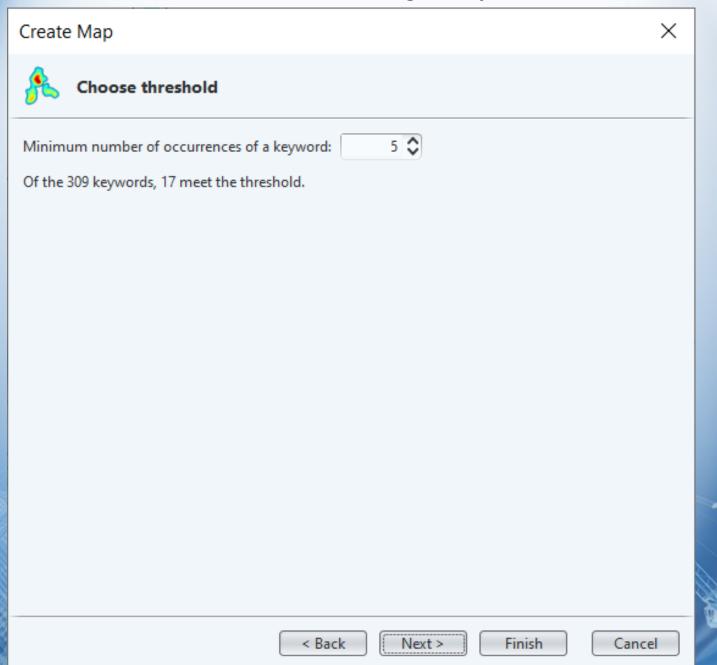
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**Uploading of RIS file** Create Map X Select files RefWorks RIS <u>E</u>ndNote RIS files: ② DULIS\OneDrive\Desktop\DISTANCE\_EDUCATION\DISTANCE\_EDUCATION\_DATABASE.ris ▼ ... < Back Cancel Next > Finish

## **Analysis Type**



# **Threshold Selection Focusing on Keywords**



## **Number of Keywords**

Create Map



# Choose number of keywords

For each of the 17 keywords, the total strength of the co-occurrence links with other keywords will be calculated. The keywords with the greatest total link strength will be selected.

Number of keywords to be selected: 1



# **Selected Keywords**

Create Map



# Verify selected keywords

Selected	Keyword	Occurrences	Total link  strength
<b>√</b>	distance education	32	4
<b>√</b>	e-learning	20	2
$\checkmark$	online learning	11	1
$\checkmark$	confirmatory factor model	5	1
⋖	higher education	10	•
<b>√</b>	structured equation modeling	5	•
⋖	dropout	10	•
<b>√</b>	distance learning	18	
⋖	retention	10	
<b>√</b>	student retention	8	•
⋖	technology	8	
<b>√</b>	adult learning	6	
⋖	open and distance learning	6	
<b>√</b>	computer-mediated communication	5	
⋖	education	7	
<b>√</b>	access grid	5	
<b>√</b>	academic performance	6	

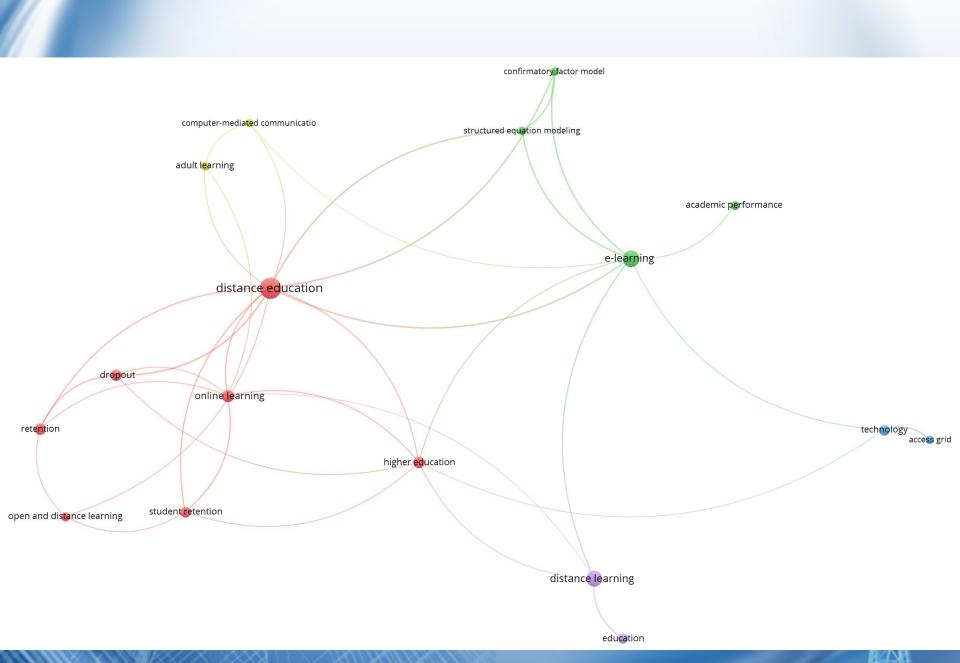
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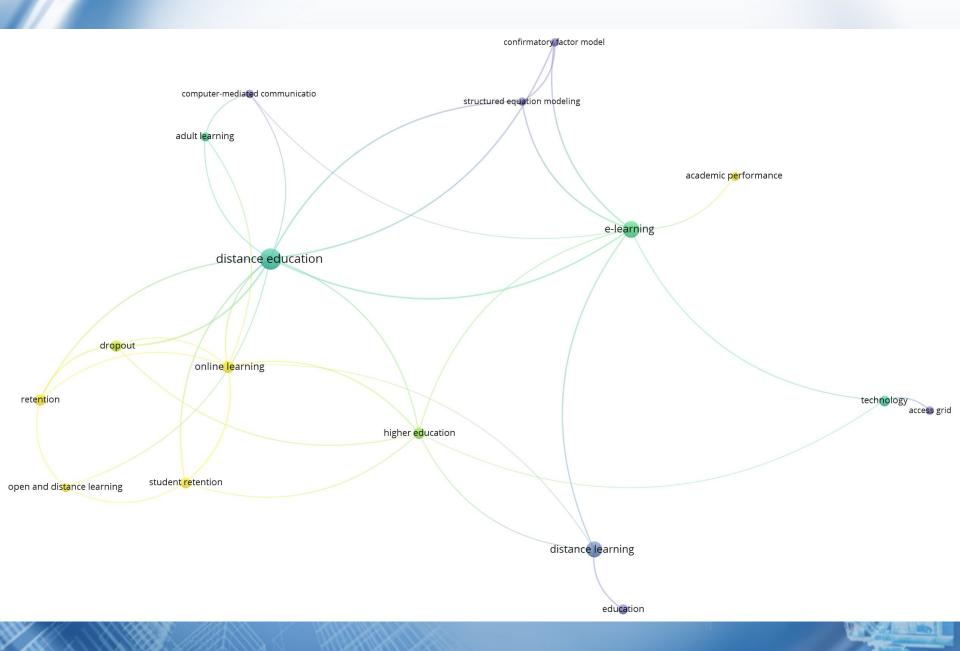
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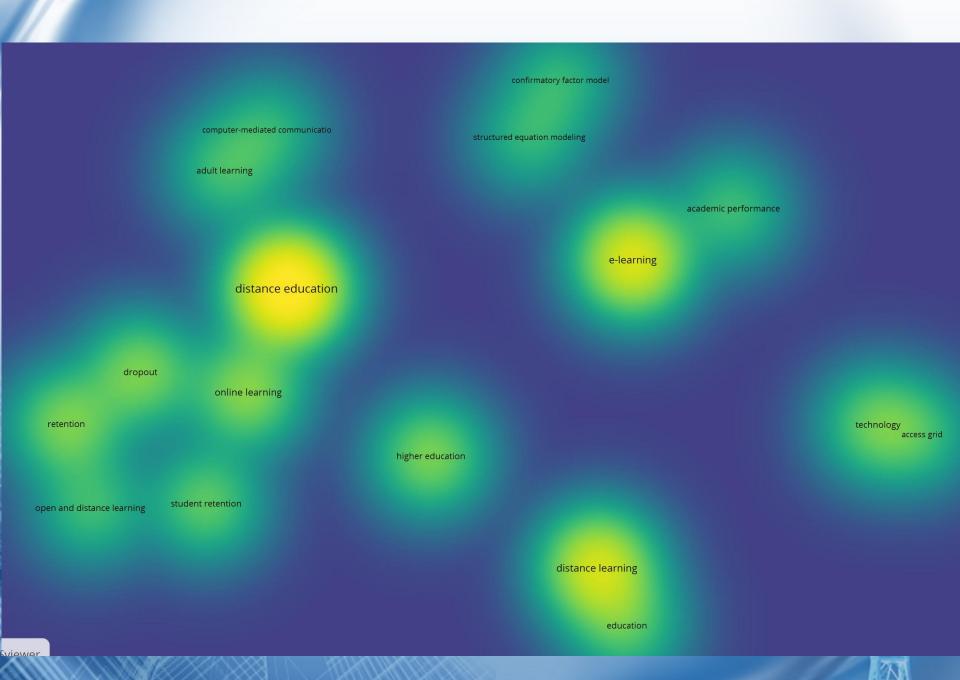
## **Network map designed for five occurrences of keywords**



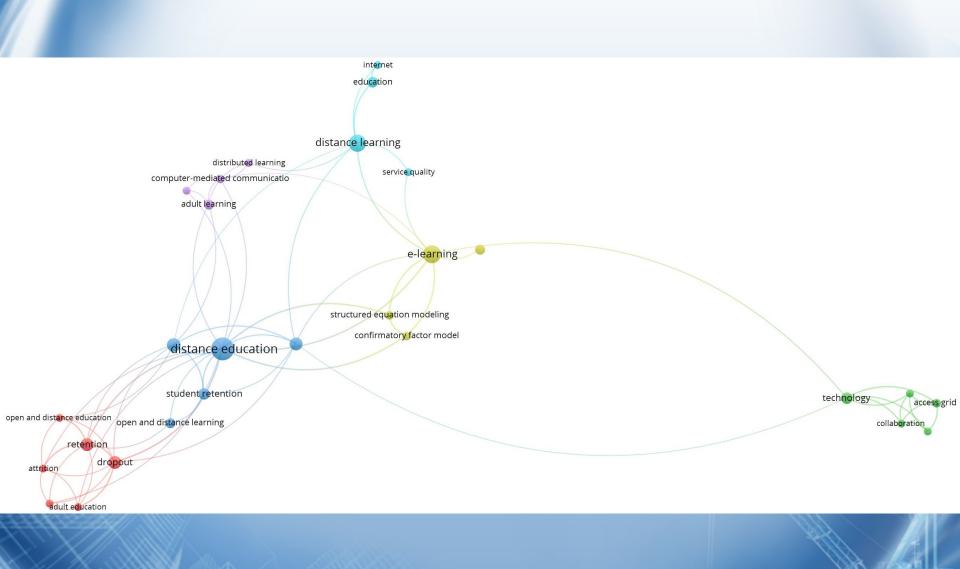
## Visualization map designed for five occurrences of keywords



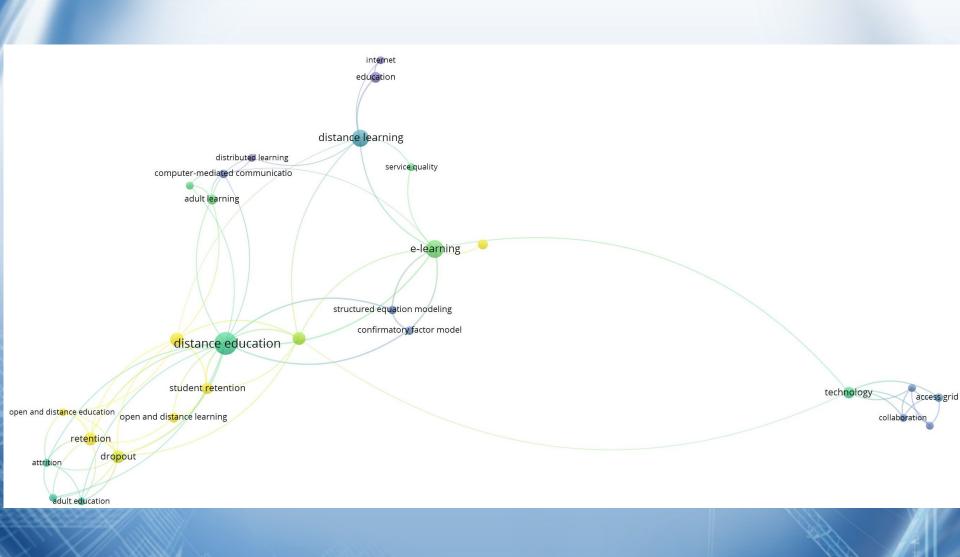
# Density map designed for five occurrences of keywords



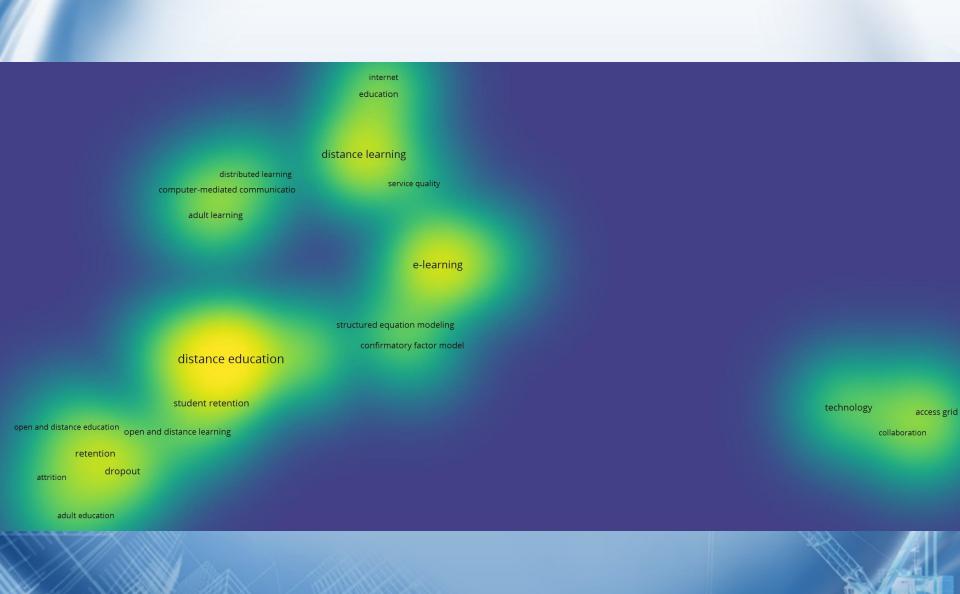
# Network map designed for four occurrences of keywords



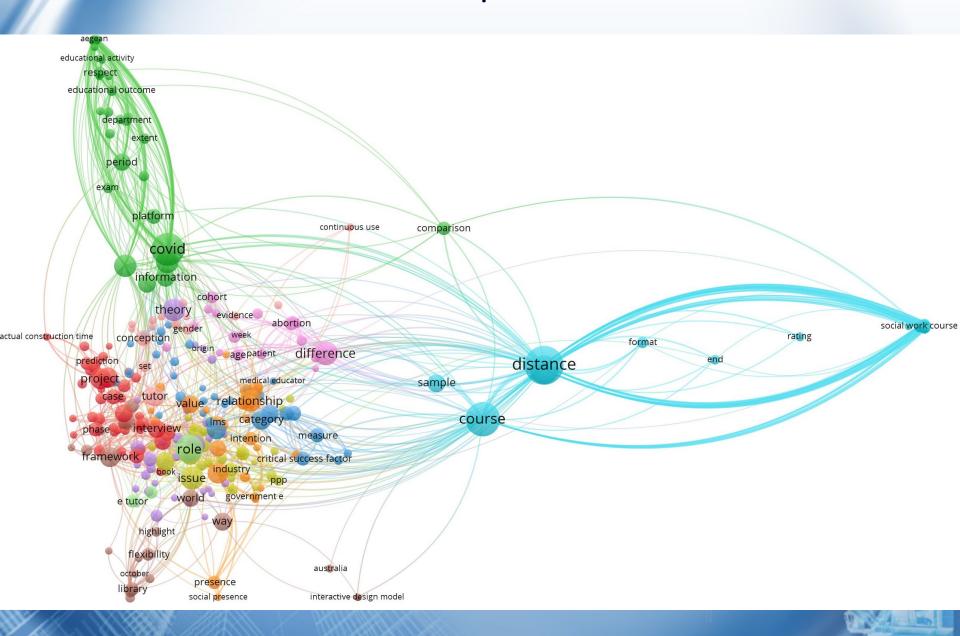
# Overlay map designed for four occurrences of keywords



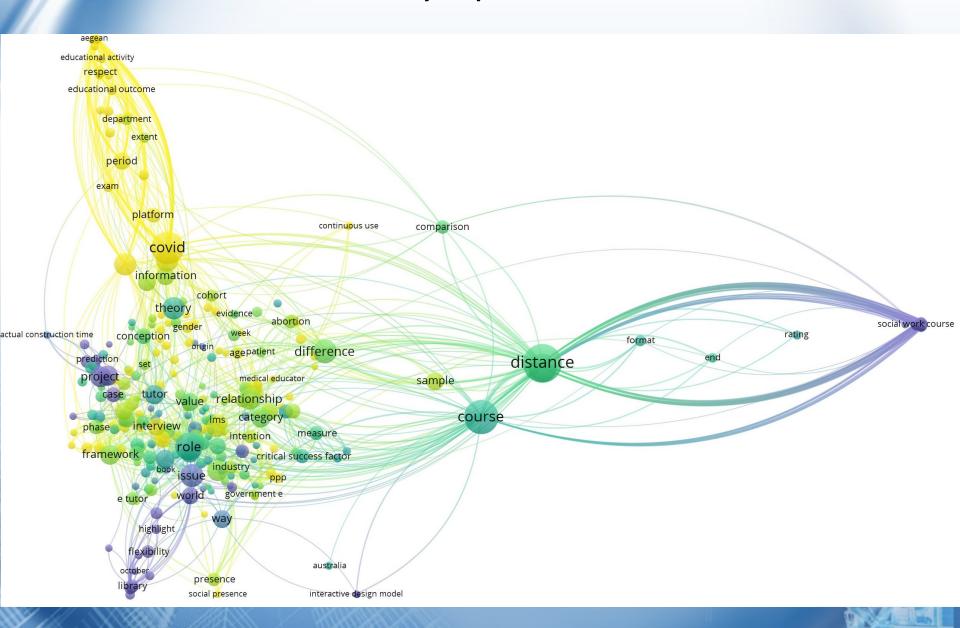
# Density map designed for four occurrences of keywords



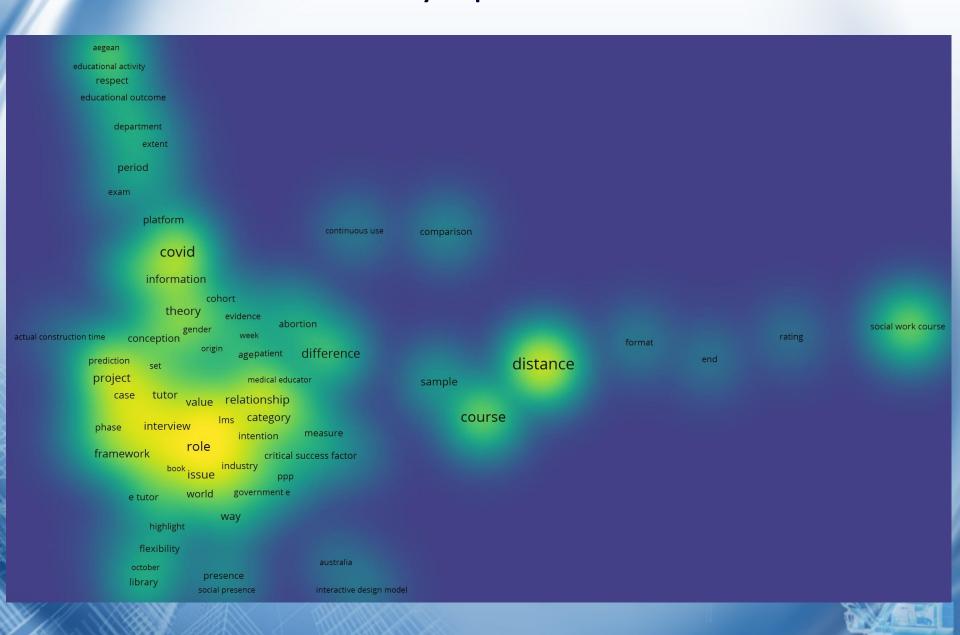
## Network map text based



# Overlay map text based



# **Density map text based**



- Distance Education especially during COVID 19 is a significant tool that would transform the educational process
- People who are involved in the implementation of distance education programs originate from a wide variety of scientific fields
- The number of research papers has increased significantly in recent years
- The technology associated with the distance education is highlighted in research
- Research also has focused on the association of COVID 19 and distance education
- Research projects are focusing on the instructors and students
- Personality and cognitive abilities are being considered and evaluated
- Furthermore, teaching and learning styles are receiving a lot of attention
- Technological innovations and availability combined with affordable procurement cost have also increased the demand for distance education
- This demand is also strengthened due to the time and location constraints of the educators and students

The analysis for four occurrences of keywords based on the Network map identified the following clusters:

- ✓ Distance Education
- ✓ Distance Learning
- ✓ Adult Learning
- ✓ Dropout
- ✓ Technology

- Based on the Map of Density, the concepts that seem to be dominant for four occurrences of keywords, include:
- Distance Education
- Distance Learning
- E-learning
- Dropout
- Technology

- ☐ The analysis for five occurrences of keywords based on the Network map identified the following:
- Distance Education
- E- learning
- Distance Learning
- Technology

- ☐ The analysis for five occurrences of keywords based on the Density map identified the following:
- Distance Education
- E- learning
- Distance Learning
- Technology

Text based analysis identified certain core concepts:

- Distance Course
- COVID
- Role

- All the basic terms and concepts are identical in the first two analyses
- Only the dropout term appears in the four occurrences
- Special emphasis is provided on:
  - ✓ Technology
  - **✓** Communication
  - ✓ Cooperation

#### **Limitations**

- The analysis focused mainly on the most current years
- The keywords used was "Distance Education"
- Database was created based on Mendeley
- Bibliometric analysis was based on Vos Viewer
- Analysis on Vos Viewer was mainly based on four and five occurrences and text based analysis

#### **Future Research**

- As part of the future research, it is proposed that the Mendeley database should be increased
- Additional Keywords could be examined (apart from Distance Education)
- Various options regarding the Vos Viewer analysis could be implemented
- A thesaurus could be implemented in order for the analysis to be more reliable
- The database needs to be screened for repetition and relevant terms







The current findings of the research are part of the ODLEP research project (Optimizing

Distance learning Educational Programs) which is co-funded by the European Union.















# **ODLEP Website**





#### **Social Media**



#### Please follow us on the Social Media

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