



Bibliometrics of undergraduate theses from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics at the National University of Altiplano, Puno, from 2017 to 2024. An indicator of intellectual production in the age of digital technology

Bibliometría de tesis de pregrado de la Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia de la Universidad Nacional del Altiplano, Puno del 2017 - 2024. Un indicador en la producción intelectual en los tiempos de la tecnología digital

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Keywords:

Publication, research, scientometrics, scientific production.

J. Selva Andina Anim. Sci.

2025; 12(2):91-100.

Article ID: [147/JSAAS/2025.](https://doi.org/10.15389/jasaas.2025.12.91-100)

Article history

Received May 2025.
Returned August 2025.
Accepted September 2025.
Available online October 2025.

Edited by:

**Selva Andina
Research Society**

Palabras clave:

Cienciometría, investigación, producción científica, publicación.

Abstract

In the biomedical sciences, bibliometrics has been applied as a means of qualitative-quantitative evaluation of scientific documents, to investigate their dynamics and trends. Therefore, the objective was to analyze the bibliometrics of supported undergraduate theses between 2017 and 2024. A descriptive, observational and retrospective study of the undergraduate theses of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics of Puno from 2017 to 2024 was carried out, collecting data on year of support, gender of the thesis, species under study, area of knowledge, discipline, and number of theses per supervisor. There was a predominance of male thesis students (65%) compared to female (35%). It was observed that the most studied species were the South American camelids with 125 studies in alpacas, 6 parallel studies in alpacas and llamas, 21 only in llamas and 1 in vicuñas; cattle with 91 theses. The area of greatest research was animal production (54 % of the theses published) and its main discipline was animal reproduction with 67 studies, followed by the area of animal health with 25 %. There were 4 professors who supervised more than 25 theses and a notable increase in post-pandemic theses by 2024. This translates into a greater tendency of male thesis students with greater emphasis on theses dedicated to South American camelids within the area of animal production, with the discipline in animal reproduction by the largest number of specialist professors in this area who have dedicated a large part of their effort to the direction of the largest number of theses

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Resumen

En las ciencias biomédicas se viene aplicando la bibliometría como medio de evaluación cuali-cuantitativo de los documentos científicos, para indagar su dinámica y tendencias. Por ello se tuvo como objetivo, analizar la bibliometría de tesis sustentadas de pregrado entre 2017 a 2024. Se realizó un estudio descriptivo, observacional y retrospectivo de las tesis de pregrado de la Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia de Puno del 2017 al 2024, recopilando datos de año de sustentación, género del tesista, especie en estudio, área de conocimiento, disciplina, y número de tesis por director. Se tuvo predominio de tesis masculinas (65 %) en comparación femeninas (35 %). Se observó que la especie más estudiada fueron los camélidos sudamericanos con 125 estudios en alpacas, 6 estudios en paralelo en alpacas y llamas, 21 solo en llamas y 1 en vicuñas; los bovinos con 91 tesis. El área de mayor investigación fue producción animal 54 % de las tesis publicadas y su mayor disciplina fue la reproducción animal con 67 estudios, seguida del área de salud animal con 25 %. Se tuvo 4 docentes que dirigieron más de 25 tesis y un incremento notorio de tesis post pandemia para el 2024. Esto se traduce en una mayor tendencia de tesis masculinas con mayor énfasis en tesis dedicadas a los camélidos sudamericanos dentro del área de producción animal, con la disciplina en reproducción animal por el mayor número de docentes especialistas en esta área quienes han dedicado gran parte de su esfuerzo a la dirección del mayor número de tesis.

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Introduction

The university thesis is research with defined parameters, it is executed as an indication of the completion of undergraduate or postgraduate studies, to obtain a university degree or degree¹, being the first step to get involved in scientific research, which should not only be supported, but also published in indexed scientific journals, in order to increase the scientific production of the university community. thus, the thesis in Veterinary Medicine has great potential in publication, since the thesis published in scientific journals could be evaluated by experts for its validation and improvement in its dissemination, however, a university thesis when evaluated by university professors has certain deficiencies, which in many cases are not perceived, either due to haste or little interest in its evaluation, and who in many cases are not researchers, much less experts in the subject². For this reason, in order to make scientific production visible, bibliometrics is the tool that makes it indispensable and necessary, since it measures through persistent indicators the visibility, downloads, number of visits and citations, essential in its institutional evaluation. Bibliometrics is applied as a means to quantitatively evaluate scientific documents such as the thesis, and investigates their dynamics and trends, being easier nowadays, since science has been digitized³, allowing the diversification of research to be evaluated⁴, helping to determine weaknesses and strengths in research, propose strategies, and improve the increase in publications⁵. Bibliometric indicators help to discern formative research activity, identify weaknesses

and strengths that are the basis for proposing strategies that increase both the quantity and quality of publications⁶, and are also a mechanism for assessing the scientific evolution of an academic institution, its researchers and journals^{4,7}, thus bibliometric analysis, it helps us to evaluate the quality of research in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics (FMVZ), which would provide the authorities with concrete data to strengthen priority areas and lines of research and, ultimately, make informed decisions that benefit the development of research and improve the quality of education⁸.

Research, as well as bibliometrics in Peru, was limited^{9,10}; however, the implementation of University Law 30220 marked the turning point by establishing research as a purpose of the university, increasing research, since it is considered one of the purposes of the university; this law recognizes the publication of scientific articles as fundamental, for professional training and knowledge innovation^{11,12}, in addition to being considered the function of university teachers in response to the needs of society¹³. Thanks to the personal efforts of researchers, complemented by the framework of this law, the publication of research in the country's universities has achieved a sustained increase⁸.

Bibliometric analysis in veterinary schools in Peru is a subject that has been little studied^{6,14}. For this reason, bibliometrics is crucial to quantify and make visible the contribution of theses published by the FMVZ¹⁴. For this reason, the objective of the study

was to analyze the bibliometrics of undergraduate theses between 2017 and 2024 of the FMVZ.

Materials and methods

The study was descriptive, observational and retrospective¹⁴, through bibliometric analysis, considering the database of the Institutional Repository of the National University of the Altiplano of Puno, in the Undergraduate thesis section and in the subcommunity of biomedical sciences, the professional school of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics was considered between the period 2017 - 2024.

Information. Data collection was done as suggested³. *First*, the collection of supported digital theses was recovered from the website of the institutional repository of the National University of the Altiplano of Puno, in the FMVZ section. *Second*, the metadata of the theses was carried out manually in a new database considering year of support, gender of the thesis, spe-

cies under study, area of knowledge, discipline, number of theses per supervisor. *Third*, the quantitative analysis of the data was done. *Fourth*, the data was visualized in figures and tables reflecting the trends and results in such a way that it looks friendly to the reader. *Fifth*, the interpretation of the results was carried out.

Data processing. The data was taken to a Microsoft® Office Excel sheet. The data were presented in tables and figures with absolute and relative frequencies. The statistical analysis was descriptive (averages, sum, frequencies) and bar graph. All analyses were performed in Jamovi 2.3.21.

Results

Figure 1, percentage frequency of undergraduate theses published during the period 2017 - 2024 according to the gender of the thesis students. A predominance of male thesis students is observed, who represent 65 % of the total, compared to 35 % corresponding to female thesis students.

Figure 1 Frequency of undergraduate theses supported at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics during the period 2017 - 2024 in relation to the gender of the thesis student



The most studied species were the South American camelids, distributed in 125 studies on alpacas, 6 studies carried out in the same research on alpacas and llamas, 21 studies only on llamas and 1 study on vicuñas, which represents 40 % of the undergraduate theses, followed by studies on cattle with 91 documents and sheep with 42 papers. In a second order of frequency, 27 studies were recorded in small animals (guinea pigs and rabbits) and 21 in canines. The rest of the species represented a smaller proportion

within the sample analyzed.

4 main areas were identified, which are Animal Health, Animal Production, Basic Sciences and Public Health, each of them with their respective disciplines as can be seen in Table 2 and Figure 2, it is noted that the area of Animal Health represents 25 % of the total and within it the most representative discipline was Virology with 24 theses. the area of Animal Production represents the highest percentage with 54 % and its largest discipline is Animal Repro-

duction with 67 studies; in the area of Basic Sciences there is a proportion of 16 % and within it the most outstanding discipline is Animal Physiology with 18

theses and finally in Public Health with 5 % there is the discipline of greatest relevance to Public Health itself with 13 theses and Zoonosis with 7 theses.

Table 1 Number of undergraduate theses supported at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics during the period from 2017 to 2024, according to species under study

Species	Years								Total
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Small animals	3	1	5	1	4	5	1	7	27
Ovine	11	5	3	0	2	6	4	11	42
Bovine	16	25	16	6	15	4	3	6	91
Alpaca	35	16	6	10	4	16	12	26	125
Canine	5	1	4	1	0	0	4	6	21
Poultry	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	6	18
Fishes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Porcine	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Wild	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Llama	6	1	0	0	1	6	0	7	21
Human	3	2	0	1	0	6	0	0	12
Alpaca and llama	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Equine	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	4
Feline	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Vicuñas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	6
Total	88	55	40	23	30	46	26	74	382

The directors (Table 3) who had a thesis published during the period 2017 - 2024 were 8; directors who conducted between 2 and 5 theses were 21; 13 directors were identified with 6 to 14 theses supervised; those professors who supervised between 15 and 25 theses were number 5 and finally those professors who conducted more than 25 theses were four.

Figure 3, percentage frequency of undergraduate theses published during the period 2017 - 2024, observing a reduction in works published for the years 2018 to 2021, the lowest production of studies for the year 2020; however, the last year analyzed (2024) had a significant increase compared to the previous year, which represents 19 % of the total production.

Discussion

Regarding the gender of the thesis students, there was a similar trend to the report⁵. The representation of women in research has been growing, especially due to inclusion policies, so we hope that this gap will be reduced⁵, as it is evident in the number of female entrants to the Faculty in recent years, being up to 50 % in both genders, despite the fact that there is currently a disparity, it is expected that in the future the proportion of theses according to gender will be similar or higher for the female gender¹⁵ as has been happening in other areas of the academic world¹⁶ as reported² with 52.2 % of female thesis students and likewise, in the Faculty of Medicine of the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos¹⁰.

Table 2 Number of undergraduate theses supported at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics during the period from 2017 to 2024, according to the area of knowledge and discipline

Area and discipline	Years								Total	%
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Animal health										
Parasitology	0	3	4	0	1	0	5	10	23	
Epidemiology	3	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	
Virology	2	11	8	2	1	0	0	0	24	
Bacteriology	2	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	7	
Animal Immunology	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	
Veterinary Pathology	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	
Animal health	3	1	2	3	4	1	0	0	14	
Clinical Pathology	3	1	0	0	0	3	0	3	10	
Total	17	26	15	5	6	6	6	15	96	25
Animal production										
Animal reproduction	23	7	1	6	2	12	4	12	67	
Animal nutrition	14	9	10	1	0	0	2	2	38	
Animal production	5	0	1	3	7	1	7	7	31	
Poultry Production	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
Production of small animals	0	0	0	1	4	4	0	1	10	
Flame Production	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	
Animal Feed	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	5	11	
Alpaca Production	5	6	0	4	3	11	0	16	45	
Total	48	22	12	15	21	31	13	44	206	54
Basic Sciences										
Pharmacology	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	
Animal physiology	7	3	3	1	1	1	2	0	18	
Anatomy	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	7	
Genetics and animal breeding	2	0	4	0	0	3	2	2	13	
Embryology	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Biochemistry	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	
Histology	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Microbiology	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Anesthesiology	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Total	20	4	13	1	2	5	6	9	60	16
Public health										
Public health	1	0	0	2	1	3	0	6	13	
Zoonosis	2	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	7	
Total	3	3	0	2	1	4	1	6	20	5
Total	88	55	40	23	30	46	26	74	382	100

Table 1 shows the distribution of the number of theses according to species, with a total of 382 theses, which indicates the importance of Veterinary Sciences in research⁸, considering it one of the main thematic areas of research at the National University of the Altiplano, therefore, we consider that the support and collaboration of policies on the part of the university should be generated in this area⁵.

Table 1, the FMVZ has research potential in South American camelids, because the Puno region is the area with the largest population of camelids in Peru, on the other hand, the University has experimental centers such as the Experimental Center (EC) La Raya, EC Chuquibambilla and EC Carolina, where Huacaya and Suri alpacas are concentrated. K'ara and Chaku llamas providing access facilities for research,

in addition the tendencies of this species under study were due to the interest of the student and the economic activity from which they come, as well as the specialties of the teachers¹⁷. The second most im-

portant species to be studied are cattle with 91 studies, due to the fact that the Puno region has livestock basins dedicated exclusively to cattle production, facilitating their study similar to what has been reported^{17,18}.

Figure 2 Frequency of undergraduate theses supported at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics during the period 2017 - 2024 in relation to the area of study

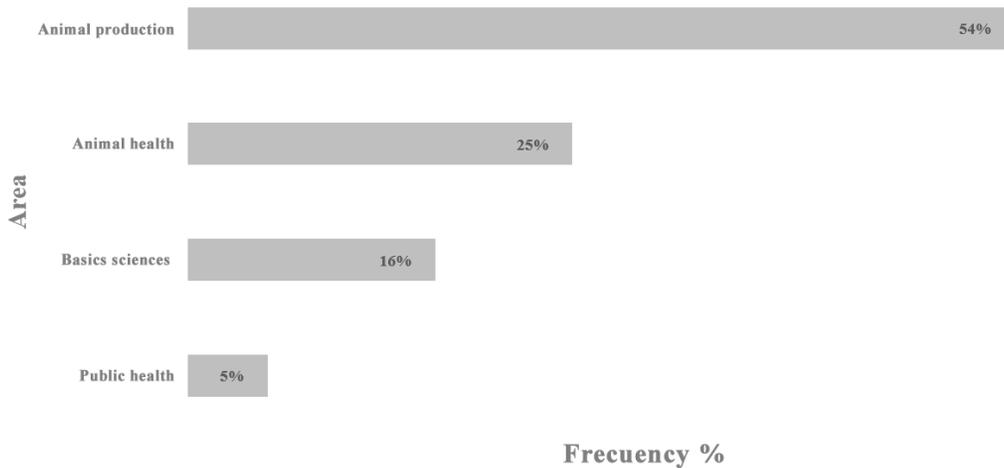
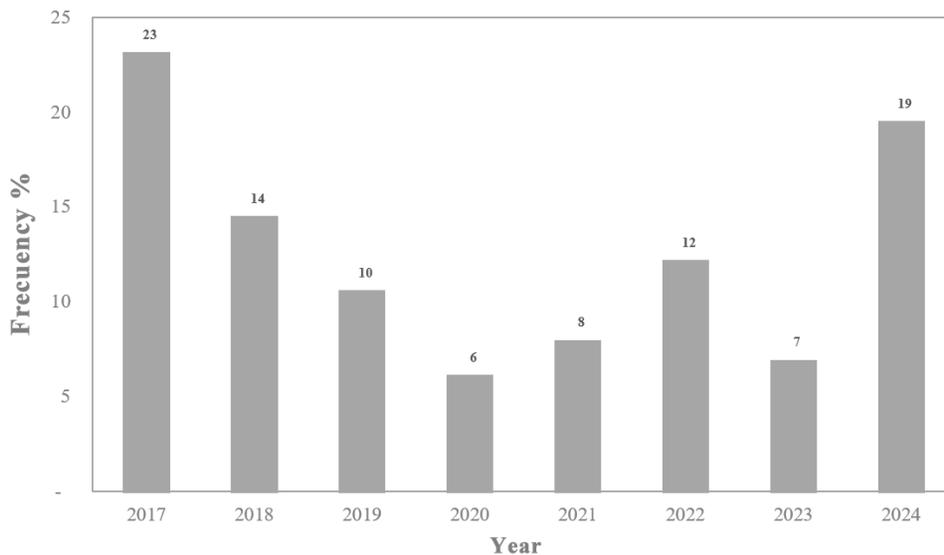


Figure 3 Frequency of undergraduate theses supported at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics during the period 2017 - 2024



Our bibliometrics differ from other universities that do not have South American camelids, such as the

case of the report¹⁴ of the Universidad Mayor de San Marcos, prioritizing canines and cattle, and also in

the case of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, where domestic and wild animals were prioritized⁶.

Table 3 Relationship of the number of theses published and the number of thesis supervisors in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics during the period from 2017 to 2024

Thesis number by supervisor	Directors (n)
1	8
2 a 5	21
6 a 14	13
15 a 25	5
>25	4

In the case of areas and disciplines of study, our data are consistent with the report⁵, which mentions that the area of animal health and the sub-area of animal production is relevant in veterinary sciences, and likewise¹⁷ with respect to the greater number of theses in the area of animal production due to the breadth of the field of study and the interest of thesis students in livestock production systems. In our case, the largest number of theses published was in the discipline of animal reproduction, which is due to a greater number of research professors who predominate in this discipline. The above should not detract from the other areas of research, on the contrary, their development should be encouraged. Other veterinary schools also prioritize animal production⁶, but this differs from other schools dedicated to animal health¹⁴ or public health¹⁹.

The number of theses supervised by a supervisor is similar in proportion to what was reported¹⁷, with 4 professors directing more than 25 theses, it could be due to the fact that the professors are more empathetic with the students, as well as the level of research of the students that generate confidence in the direction of the theses¹⁴ since it is a commitment of the university professor, dedicating one's entire life to the increase of knowledge with the fundamental

requirement of updating and mastering knowledge within their field¹³ since teachers with deficient scientific preparation could harm the research stages and generate inconsistencies between scientific research and the development of the thesis or generate irrelevant research¹ hence it is necessary, that within the curricular plan of the career, research professors are designated to research courses⁸ since they are evaluated for their scientific production and registered in the National Scientific, Technological and Technological Innovation Registry (RENACYT)²⁰. Figure 3, the drop in the first years of evaluation in publications was due to the restrictive measures generated by COVID-19 in university education, bringing with it problems of adaptation to a virtual scheme, on the other hand, publications increased since 2022, which is related to the state's response to guarantee the continuity of educational services and the lifting of the restrictive measures of COVID-19 towards blended and blended education. face-to-face²¹. Finally, the increase in support in 2024 shows the need for the legal exercise of the profession⁶ since Law No. 31151 in its articles 290, 363, 364 establishes penalties for the exercise of the profession without a professional degree. In addition, another factor that contributed to the increase in theses published in 2024 could be the facilities and opportunities for research in veterinary sciences². From all of the above, it can be deduced from the analysis of bibliometrics, I report a greater tendency of male thesis students, dedicating the greatest research effort to South American camelids, which is evidenced by the strategic role of the FMVZ in scientific production; this high specialization in South American camelids responds to the productive needs of the highland region that strengthens the value chain of this species. In addition, their EC are a source of biological mate-

rial available for the development of animal production and within it the discipline of animal reproduction by the largest number of specialist teachers in this area who have been able to dedicate a large part of their effort to the direction of the largest number of theses.

Source of financing

Self-funded with resources from researchers.

Conflicts of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the leveling students of the Descriptive Biostatistics course at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science of the National University of the Altiplano for their support in collecting data as part of their course practice.

Ethical considerations

Ethics Committee approval was not required since the information was taken from public documents, therefore, the privacy or confidentiality of personal data was not violated.

Authors' contribution to the article

Perez Guerra Uri Harold, statistical analysis and article supervision. *Manrique-Quispe Yan Pierre*, article writing. *Condori-Carbajal Julio*, methodology development. *Dueñas-Chayña Edwin Amadeo*, article writing. *Rodríguez-Huanca Francisco Halley*, methodology development. *Perez-Durand Manuel Guido*, study supervision.

Limitations in the research

There were no limitations in the research.

Access to data

The data can be collected in the institutional repository of the National University of the Altiplano of Puno: <https://repositorio.unap.edu.pe/>

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Use of Artificial Intelligence

The authors declare that they did not use Artificial Intelligence in writing this document.

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