

# THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SMART TOURISM DESTINATIONS: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

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*Despite the emergence of the notion of smart tourism destinations in tourism research, few studies have delved deeply into the topic, and the little research focusing on the subject has not offered an overview of its evolution, current scope, and potential domains of interest. This study aims to fill this gap in literature by applying a bibliometric approach. The current research offers a comprehensive review of 258 investigations published between 2013 and 2019 in outlets indexed by the ISI Web of Science database and other relevant publications on information technology related to hospitality and tourism. The findings indicate the domains of tourism, journals, and themes that merit consideration in smart tourism destination future research and serve both professionals and academics as a guide for future lines to explore.*

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**KEYWORDS:** *bibliometric research; smart tourism destination (ST); tourism research; consumer behavior*

## INTRODUCTION

In 2018, according to the World Tourism Organization (WTO, 2019), 1,400 million international tourists were recorded worldwide. The tourism sector accounts for 10% of the global gross domestic product and 7% of world exports. Moreover, one in 10 jobs worldwide is linked to the tourism sector, which directly or indirectly generates more employment (WTO, 2019). Tourism is hence increasingly considered vital to promote economic growth and fight poverty (Richardson, 2010). Numerous studies reveal that it can

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**Authors' Note:** The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose. This work was supported by an Excellence Project awarded by the Junta de Andalusia under Grant REF: B-SEJ-220-UGR18; and an FPU contract awarded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports of Spain [REF: FPU14 / 04736]. This manuscript has also received funding from Fundación Ramón Areces: "Neuroonline: Neuroscience as a tool for the understanding of the cognitive and affective effects of the website design on online purchase intentions".

**Submitted October 22, 2019**

**Accepted February 27, 2020**

**Refereed Anonymously**

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