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The correlation between author-editorial cooperation and the author's publications in journals

Tianjiao Zhang [a], Jin Shi [a,*], Lingyun Situ [a,b]

[a] School of Information Management, Nanjing University, Nanjing, 210023, Jiangsu, China
[b] State Key Laboratory for Novel Software Technology, Nanjing University, Nanjing, 210023, Jiangsu, China

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ABSTRACT

Author-editorial cooperation is an important form of scientific research cooperative relationship, which is divided into four types in this paper. We select top 10 Information Science & Library Science (IS&LS) journals as samples, and try to figure out whether and how the author-editorial cooperation affects the author's publications and citation impact in the journal.

First, three new measurement metrics, including indicators of author-editorial cooperation, article publication and article impact, were proposed. Then, we evaluated the influence of the author-editorial cooperation on academic research by using correlation analysis, Ordinary Least-Squation (OLS) and quantile regression. Finally, five key observations were obtained: (1) Author-editorial cooperation type is weakly negatively correlated with the author's publications. (2) The proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles is weakly negatively correlated with the author's publications. (3) The contribution of the editorial board has a strong positive effect on the author's publications. (4) The citation impact of the articles of authors who work closely with the editorial board is not affected by author-editorial cooperation relationship. (5) The Management Information Systems (MIS) and Information Science (IS) differ in relationship strength between author-editorial cooperation and author's publications.

1. Introduction

Cooperation has become the dominant form of scientific research. Although there are many forms of scientific cooperation, the co-authorship of articles is one of the most representative forms. A lot of studies on the network characteristics of co-authored articles have been performed, and they have revealed some key observations about the internal connection and influence of the academic cooperation.

However, the author-editorial cooperation (i.e., the cooperation between the author and editorial board), as another important and representative form of scientific cooperation, is less studied. The editorial board members usually have a high academic level and influence in the related fields. At the same time, as the gatekeeper of a journal, they are responsible for determining whether a submission could be published or not. It is generally believed that the articles of authors who have a cooperative relationship with the editorial board are more likely to be published, is that true?

* Corresponding author.
E-mail addresses: MF1914073@smail.nju.edu.cn (T. Zhang), shijin@nju.edu.cn (J. Shi), stly@nju.edu.cn (L. Situ).

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1.1. Problem Definition: how does the author-editorial cooperation affect the author's publications in journals?

To answer the question, some researchers put forward various indicators to describe scientific research cooperation from different perspectives, such as Degree of collaboration (DC) and Collaborative indicator (CI), since the 1980s (Ajiferuke, Burell, & Tague, 1988). But existing studies mainly focus on the impact on scientific research cooperation from the perspective of article publication and quality. For example, Franceschet and Costantini (2010) used the large-scale dataset of the first Italian research assessment exercise (VTR), and studied how the scholar collaboration influence the impact and the quality of academic contributions.

Moreover, the definition of the author-editorial relationship among existing works mainly refers to the personal relationship between editorial board members, rather than the academic cooperative relationship'(Reingewertz and Lutmar, 2017). For example, Brogaard, Engelberg, and Parsons (2014)) analyzed more than 50,000 articles in 30 major economics and finance journals, and found that during an editor's tenure, the editor's current university colleagues published 100 % more papers, compared to the years when the editorial board had not yet taken office.

At the same time, the research of scholars mainly covers the economic and financial fields. Chan, Chang, and Chang (2015)) used detailed publications, editorial membership and Google citation data from 23 finance journals from 1990 to 2010, and examined the impact of editorial relationships on financial research.

In addition, existing studies have paid more attention to whether the articles' quality of authors who have personal relationship with the editorial board is worse than that of those who have not (Brogaard et al., 2014), and paid less attention to the influence of the proportion of editorial board participation on the article publication.

1.1.1. Our work

We probe into the correlation of the author-editorial academic cooperation and author's publications in the field of IS&LS. First, we propose three indicators, i.e., author-editorial cooperation, article publication and article impact. Then, we explore the influence of the author-editorial relationship on the publications and the article impact by using correlation analysis, OLS regression and quantile regression. Finally, we obtain five key observations: (1) Author-editorial cooperation type is weakly negatively correlated with the author's publications. When the author has cooperated with the editorial board outside of the journal, the author will have more publications. (2) The proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles is weakly negatively correlated with the number of articles published in the journal. The higher proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles is, the lower the publications are in the journal. (3) The contribution of the editorial board has a strong positive effect on the author's publications, and the more contribution of the editorial board in author-editorial cooperation made, the more articles published by the author. (4) The citation impact of the articles of authors who work closely with the editorial board is not affected by author-editorial cooperation relationship. (5) The MIS and IS journals differ in relationship strength between author-editorial cooperation and author's publications.

1.1.2. Contributions

We summarize our key contributions as follows.

1 Dataset: A cleared and refined data set for analyzing the impact of author-editorial cooperation on publications.
2 Systematized approach: New cooperation indicators are proposed to describe the author-editorial relationship. Based on correlation analysis, OLS regression and quantile regression, this study analyzes the influence of the author-editorial cooperation on academic research.
3 Multi - Angle analysis: This study divides the author-editorial cooperation relationship into four types, and analyzes the two types in depth: author-editorial cooperation only outside of the journal; author-editorial cooperation only in the journal. Furthermore, this study discusses the differences between MIS journals and IS journals.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews a theoretical and empirical background to the related work. Section 3 describes the method selection and data collection, and determines the independent variables and dependent variables. Section 4 presents the results of data analysis. Section 5 discusses the effects of author-editorial cooperation on authors' publications and the article impact based on results, and Section 6 concludes.

2. Related work

Academic journals are the main carriers for the dissemination of scientific research achievements and professional knowledge. The editorial board is an important functional organization in today's journal operation. It is responsible for the direction and content of the journal, soliciting, reviewing, recommending reviewers and so on (Goyanes and de-Marcos, 2020). Therefore, the ability of editorial board will obviously determine the level of scientific research and the influence of academic journals. Among the top international academic journals, scholars who could be members of the editorial board have an important position in a specific field in general (Metz, Harzing, & Zyphur, 2016).

2.1. Some studies show that journals tend to choose scholars with high academic level and academic reputation as the editorial board members

By selecting 16 journals in the field of Library and Information Science as samples, Willett (2013) counted the article publication and academic influence characteristics of the editorial board members. The conclusion was that the publication volume and citation frequency of the editorial board were high. And there was a significant difference between editorial board members and non-editorial board members. Based on the papers published in 30 library and information science journals between 2007 and 2012, Walters (2016) evaluated the research contributions of editorial board members. They found that the quality of a journal was related to the academic expertise of its board members. High quality journals tend to select accomplished scholars to serve on their editorial boards. Baccini and Barabesi (2011) proved the influence of editorial boards from the interlocking editorship phenomenon. Due to the competition among journals for scarce resources, some of their editorial boards overlapped, and some of these journals with overlapping editorial boards had similar editorial policies. Teixeira and Oliveira (2018) suggested that analyzing editorial board interlocking (EBI) could be helpful to understand how the academic journals networks were generated and how they affected related academic fields. The research showed that the editorial board was the decisive factor of the development path and quality standard of academic journals.

The editorial board members are the gatekeeper of a journal. They are responsible for setting research priorities, building extensive networks and ensuring the quality of published articles. They also play a vital and powerful role in the evaluation and selection of contributions to periodicals (Rosenblum et al., 2020). Furthermore, they have a more direct influence on the content and quality of the journal than the authors in a journal (Feeney, Carson, & Dickinson, 2019). Regarding the influence of editorial board on the quality of periodicals, Card and Dellavigna (2020) collected the data from four leading economics journals and developed a benchmark model. It showed that the editorial board could maximize the expected quality of accepted papers, and the reference recommendations were strong predictors of citations.

2.2. Some other scholars focus on the influence of the position power of editorial board on individual article publication

Chan et al. (2015) used detailed publications, editorial membership and Google citation data from 23 financial journals from 1990 to 2010, and examined the impact of editorial relationships on financial research. Their research indicated that the quality of the articles published by their colleagues or friends was no worse than that of those who were not. In contrast, articles published online with colleagues showed significantly higher total citations on average. In other words, editors could identify good articles from their colleagues. This phenomenon can be explained by the fact that editorial board members actively seek high-impact articles to be published in their journals by virtue of their own relationships. Based on the detailed publication and citation data of more than 50,000 articles in 30 major economics and finance journals, Brogaard et al. (2014) examined that the university colleague was more successful at publishing in the editor's journal. It showed that the network distance between authors and editors affected authors' publications. But there was no evidence that the quality of such ïnsideärticles was lower.

3. Methods

This study details the process of data collection and preprocessing, and proposes indicators and methods to analyze the influence of author-editorial cooperation on the article publication in the following. The overview of the methods is as illustrated as Fig.1.

All the data we collected ranges from 2015 to 2020. According to the average impact factor in the past five years, we first select top 10 IS&LS journals listed in JCR. Then, we determine the tenure of editorial board. Considering the different types of author-editorial cooperation, we search all articles in top 10 journals through WOS, and get all editorial published articles during the tenure.

Based on the above proposed data, we get authors who have cooperated with the editorial board in office. Also, we calculate publications and cited data of articles published by the authors since they have cooperated with the editorial board. After cleaning the data, we show the author distribution and article distribution about author-editorial cooperation.

Finally, we set the independent variables and dependent variables: author-editorial cooperation indicators as independent variables; article publication indicators and article impact indicators as dependent variables. We use the mathematical methods to describe the relationship between the variables, like correlation analysis, OLS regression and quantile regression.

3.1. Data collection

According to Journal Citation Reports(JCR), we calculate the average impact factor of each journal in the past five years, and the list of journals is the top 10: *MIS Quarterly, International Journal of Information Management, Journal of Information Technology, Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, Government Information Quarterly, Journal of The American Medical Informatics Association, Journal of Strategic Information Systems, Information and Management, Information Systems Journal, Telematics and Informatics*.

Web of Science (WOS) database is our data source. WOS is the world's largest comprehensive academic information resource covering the most subjects. Web of Science Core Collection covers over 18,000 high impact journals from all over

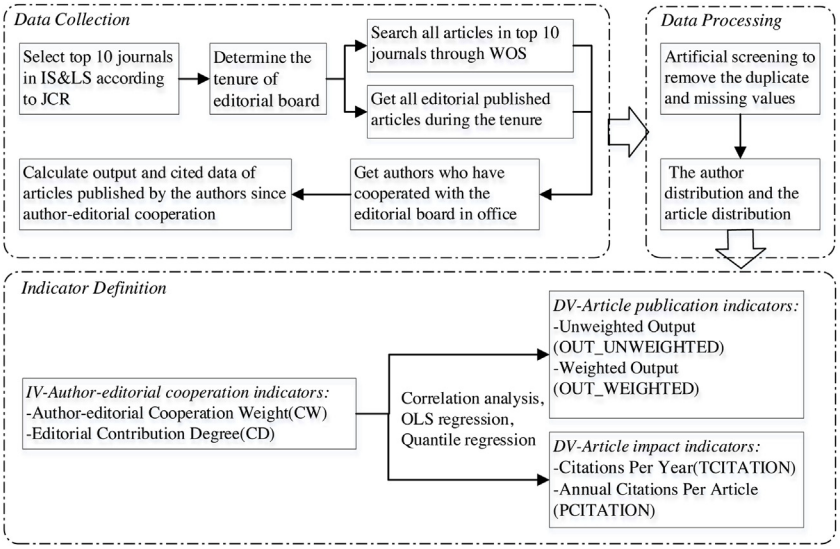

Fig. 1. Overview of method.

Table 1
The author distribution about author-editorial cooperation of the samples during the editorial tenure.

Type	Authors	Percent
No author-editorial cooperation	8309	95.85%
Author-editorial cooperation only in the journal	261	3.01%
Author-editorial cooperation only outside of the journal	87	1.00%
Author-editorial cooperation both in and outside of the journal	12	0.14%
Total	8669	100 %

the world, including the most influential core academic journals in the fields of natural science, social science, humanities and arts. At present, WOS is internationally recognized as an authoritative tool for the objective and quantitative evaluation of the scientific achievements of academic journals.

We obtain the tenure of the editorial board based on official information. Firstly, we download the documents published on the official website of the journal, which records the list of editorial board members of the journal at specific points of time. Secondly, we determine when the editorial board member first appeared on the list and last appeared on the list. The intervening period is the term of office of the editorial board. Finally, according to the lists of editorial board members in the period from 2015 to 2020 provided by each journal, we find the editorial tenure of 510 editorial board members from 2015 to 2020 in 10 journals.

During the data collection process, we fully consider the different types of cooperation. For the type of author-editorial cooperation only in the journal, we search 4286 articles in top 10 journals from 2015 to 2020 through WOS. For the type of author-editorial cooperation only outside of the journal, we also get 9790 articles published by the editorial board during the tenure. The data includes their titles, authors, publication dates, journal volumes and average annual citations.

Combined with the above data, we successfully get authors who have cooperated with the editorial board in office. Also, we find all articles published by the authors since they have cooperated with the editorial board.

3.2. Data processing

After the data collection, we clean the data manually. In addition, we also remove the authors who only have one article in the journal, and the article belongs to the author-editorial cooperation article. Finally, we show the author distribution and article distribution about author-editorial cooperation.

Table 1 shows the author distribution about author-editorial cooperation during the editorial tenure. After filtering and eliminating unqualified data, we find 8669 authors besides the editors. For author-editorial cooperation only in the journal, there are 261 authors who have author-editorial cooperation articles during the editorial tenure. For author-editorial cooperation only outside of the journal, the number of authors is 87. Since author-editorial cooperation both in and outside of the journal is relatively complex, it is impossible to make clear how the editorial board plays the role. Therefore, this paper does not consider this situation.

Table 2 shows the article distribution about author-editorial cooperation during the editorial tenure. In terms of the article distribution, we have found a total of 4286 articles in top 10 journals except those published by editorial board members

Table 2
The article distribution about author-editorial cooperation of the samples during the editorial tenure.

Type	Articles	Percent
Articles by authors who have no author-editorial cooperation	3398	79.28%
Articles by authors who have author-editorial cooperation only in the journal	711	16.59%
Articles by authors who have author-editorial cooperation only outside of the journal	134	3.13%
Articles by authors who have author-editorial cooperation both in and outside of the journal	43	1.00%
Total	4286	100 %

themselves. There are 711 articles by authors who have author-editorial cooperation in the journal, and the number of articles by authors who have author-editorial cooperation only outside of the journal is 134.

From the Table 1 and Table 2, it can be seen that the number of authors who cooperate with the editorial board during the editorial tenure accounts for about 5% in total, but the articles published by these authors are as high as 20 %.

3.3. Indicator definition

We give the conceptions and detailed definitions of author-editorial cooperation indicators, article publication indicators, and article impact indicators in the following.

3.3.1. Independent variable: author-editorial cooperation indicators

In the early 1980s, a series of indicators used to identify the level of cooperation between authors were proposed. One typical indicator is Degree of Collaboration (DC), which was defined to measure the author's ability to cooperate by Subramanyam, 1983. The DC refers to the percentage of articles co-authored by nations, institutions or individuals. It is computed as follows:

$DC = 1 - \frac{f}{N}$

Where N represents the total number of articles, and f represents the number of individual articles.

Ajiferuke et al. (1988) proposed Collaborative Coefficient (CC) based on Degree of Collaboration (DC). The CC describes the proportion of co-authors' contributions to published articles, and the contribution proportion of co-authors is divided equally according to the number of authors. CC is computed as follows:

$$CC = 1 - \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{q}\left(\frac{1}{j}\right)f_j}{N}$$

Where N represents the total number of articles, q represents the number of authors per article, and $f_j$represents the number of articles when the number of authors is j.

We define Author-editorial Cooperation Weight (CW) and Editor's Contribution Degree (CD) by considering the particularity of author-editorial cooperative relationship. Meanwhile, Cooperation Type (CT) is proposed to distinguish the type of author-editorial cooperation. We summarize the definitions of author-editorial cooperation indicators below.

(1) Cooperation Type (CT) refers to the type of author-editorial cooperation. It has three values, i.e., 0, 1 and 2. Zero indicates that there is no author-editorial cooperation within or outside of the journal. One indicates that the author-editorial cooperation only exists outside of journal. Two indicates that author-editorial cooperation exists within journal.

(2) Author-editorial Cooperation Weight (CW) refers to the proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles in total articles by the author m. It is computed as follows:

$CW_{m=}\frac{i}{i+j}$

Where i represents the number of author-editorial cooperation articles during the editorial tenure by the author m, j represents the number of articles published by the author m since the author has cooperated with the editorial board, which refers to all non-author-editorial cooperation articles.

(3) Editorial Contribution Degree (CD) determines the contribution of editorial board members in all articles published by author m within the journal. It is computed as follows:

$CD_m = \sum_{i=1}^{j}(f_i/n_i)$

Where n_i represents the number of all authors for the article i by the author m, f_i equals the number of editorial board members for the article i, and 1 through j represent the first to last articles by the author m since the author has cooperated with the editorial board.

3.3.2. Dependent variable: article publication indicators

A researcher's publications are often measured by the number of articles the researcher published (Unweighted Output), which equates co-authors with sole authors (Bergh, Perry, & Hanke, 2006). However, in the context of close collaboration between authors and editors, it is easy to generate a multiplier effect due to scientific research cooperation. Thus, it exaggerates the number of authors' article publication and cannot accurately reflect the actual contribution of a single author. It is generally believed by bibliometrics that allocating contributions to multi-author articles in proportion is the best way

(Sassmannshausen & Volkmann, 2018), so as to exclude the co-authors when measuring the publications of a single author and obtain the weighted output of a single author.

Therefore, we define the indicators of OUT_UNWEIGHTED and OUT_WEIGHTED to represent the author's article publications. Due to the selection of relative weights is "inevitably arbitrary and conjectural" (Colman, Dhillion, & Coulthard, 1995), this paper does not consider the order of authors when calculating the Weighted Output, but calculates each article according to the number of authors (Lowe & Van Fleet, 2009).

(1) Unweighted Output (OUT_UNWEIGHTED): It refers to the number of articles published by the author m since the author has cooperated with the editorial board, including co-authored and authored articles. OUT_UNWEIGHTED is computed as follows:

$OUT\_UNWEIGHTED_m = k$

(2) Weighted Output (OUT_WEIGHTED): Assuming that the total weight of each article published by author m since the author has cooperated with the editorial board is 1, OUT_WEIGHTED determines the contribution according to the number of co-authors. It is computed as follows:

$OUT\_WEIGHTED_m = \sum_{i=1}^{j}(1/n_i)$ Where n_i equals the number of authors for the article i, and 1 through j represent the first to last articles by the author m.

3.3.3. Dependent variable: article impact indicators

In addition to measuring the number of articles published by researchers, the scientific research level of scholars also includes indicators of academic influence. Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) advocates citation frequency as the basis for evaluation of scientific achievements. At present, the citation frequency is often used to judge the value of the article. In order to explore the relationship between the author-editorial cooperation and article impact, this paper adopts Citations Per Year (YCITATION) and Annual Citation Per Article (PCITATION) as the indicators to evaluate the academic influence of scholars (Franceschet & Costantini, 2010).

$YCITATION_m$ represents WOS annual citation frequency of articles by the author m since the author has cooperated with the editorial board, $PCITATION_m$ represents WOS annual citation frequency of each article by the author m since the author has cooperated with the editorial board.

4. Data analysis and results

Based on the above proposed indicators, we perform detailed analysis on the preprocessed data by using correlation analysis, OLS regression and quantile regression. We evaluate the influences of author-editorial cooperation on authors' publications and the article impact, and try to answer the research questions as follows.

RQ1: Does the type of author-editorial cooperation affect the author's publications in the journal?

RQ2: How does the author-editorial cooperation affect the author's publications in the journal?

RQ3: How does the author-editorial cooperation contribute to the impact of the author's articles in the journal?

RQ4: Does the category of IS&LS journals affect the relationship between author-editorial cooperation and author's publications in the journal?

4.1. Relationship between the type of author-editorial cooperation and the author's publications in the journal

We investigate the relationship between author-editorial cooperation type and the author's publications in the journal, and try to figure out whether the type of author-editorial cooperation will influence the author's publications. The indicators of Cooperation Type (CT), Unweighted Output (OUT_UNWEIGHTED) and Weighted Output (OUT_WEIGHTED) are used for correlation analysis.

Considering the large number of samples, this study uses Kolmogorov-Smirnova test in the normal distribution test. The results show that the p values of all indicators are less than 0.05, which indicates that they are not normal distribution. Spearman correlation coefficient test is used to test the correlation between the indicators. The results show that author-editorial cooperation type is weakly negatively correlated with the author's publications (rs =-.159, $p < .001$; rs =- .283, $p < .001$). It can be seen that when author-editorial cooperation exists outside of the journal, the author will have more publications.

4.2. Effects of author-editorial cooperation on authors' publications in the journal

In order to clarify the effects of author-editorial cooperation on authors' publications in the journal, this paper focuses on the two author-editorial cooperation types: (1) Author-editorial cooperation only exists in the journal (CT = 2); (2) Author-editorial cooperation only exists outside of the journal (CT = 1).

4.2.1. Author-editorial cooperation only in the journal (CT = 2)

When CT equals to 2, there are 261 authors who have author-editorial cooperation articles during the editorial tenure, which are selected to explore that how the author-editorial cooperation relationship affects authors' publications in the

Table 3
Descriptive statistics of indicators of the samples (CT = 2).

Variables	N	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Standard-deviation
CW	261	0.05	1	0.55	0.26
CD	261	0.05	1.92	0.36	0.27
OUT_UNWEIGHTED	261	2	20	2.90	2.05
OUT_WEIGHTED	261	0.1	14.54	0.77	1.01
YCITATION	261	0	63.53	8.86	10.44
PCITATION	261	0	26.3	3.04	3.32

Table 4
Correlation test of indicators of the samples (CT = 2).

	CW	CD	OUT_UNWEIGHTED	OUT_WEIGHTED
CW	1	.484**(.000)	−.674**(.000)	−.393**(.000)
CD		1	−.041(.509)	.412**(.000)
OUT_UNWEIGHTED			1	.595**(.000)
OUT_WEIGHTED				1

Table 5
OLS regression analysis of these indicators of samples (CT = 2).

CT = 2 N = 261	(Dependent variable:OUT_UNWEIGHTED)				(Dependent variable:OUT_WEIGHTED)			
	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
(Independent variable:CW)								
Constant	.23**	.013	17.397	.000	.09**	.010	9.450	.000
CW	−.16**	.021	−7.3745	.000	−.07**	.016	−4.463	.000
R^2	.174				.071			
Adjusted R^2	.170				.068			
F-test	F = 54.387 (P = .000)				F = 19.92(P = .000)			
(Independent variable:CD)								
Constant	.122**	.209	11.685	.000	.025**	.100	3.661	.000
CD	.120*	.465	2.683	.008	.146**	.223	4.965	.000
R^2	.027				.087			
Adjusted R^2	.023				.083			
F-test	F = 7.198 (P = .007)				F = 24.651 (P = .000)			

journal. Independent variables are two indicators of author-editorial cooperation: Author-editorial Cooperation Weight (CW), Editorial Contribution Degree (CD). Dependent variables are two indicators of publications: Unweighted Output (OUT_UNWEIGHTED), Weighted Output (OUT_WEIGHTED). We use Spearman's correlation coefficient to test the relationship between the indicators. The results are shown in Table 4. It can be found that CW is strongly negatively correlated with OUT_UNWEIGHTED (rs =- .674, p < .001), and there is a weak negative relationship between CW and OUT_WEIGHTED (rs =- .393, p < .001). While there is a weak positive correlation between CD and OUT_WEIGHTED (rs = .412, p < .001). The results of descriptive statistical analysis of these indicators of samples are illustrated in Table 3. On average, Author-editorial Cooperation Weight reaches 55 %, and Editorial Contribution Degree is 0.36.

To further depict the correlation between author-editorial cooperation and authors' publications in detail, we standardize the data and conduct OLS regression analysis through Eviews10.0. The results are shown in Table 5. OLS regression fits the linear relationship between the dependent variables and the independent variables, and measures the average influence of the two variables.

According to the OLS results, CW has a weak negative influence on OUT_UNWEIGHTED (β =-.16, p < .001), which can explain the variance of 17 %. There is also a significant correlation between CD and OUT_WEIGHTED, and CD has a weak positive influence on OUT_WEIGHTED (β = .146, p < .001).

In order to describe the influence of independent variables on dependent variables when dependent variables are distributed in different positions, we make quantile regression for the variables. Quantile regression (QR) can respond to the presence of outliers and skewness in the distribution of variables(Das, Krzywinski, & Altman, 2019). When the dependent variable is divided into 9 parts at a 10 % interval, we get the different values of the independent variable. Table 6 reports the results of quantile regression of these indicators of samples.

Table 6 shows that CW has a weak negative influence on OUT_UNWEIGHTED and OUT_WEIGHTED, while CD has a weak positive influence on OUT_UNWEIGHTED. However, the regression slope has some differences at each quantile in Panel A and Panel B. The strength increases incrementally from quantiles .40 (Panel B: β =-.028, p < .001) to .50 (Panel A: β =-.075, p < .001; Panel B: β =- .028, p < .001) until leveling off at quantile .70 (Panel A: β =-.075, p < .001; Panel B: β =- .041, p < .001), and finally begins to increase rapidly at quantile .90 (Panel A: β = -.25, p < .001; Panel B: β = -.072, p < .001).

Table 6
Quantile regression of these indicators of samples (CT = 2).

CT = 2	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
Panel A: dependent variable (OUT_UNWEIGHTED)									
CW	–	–	–	–	−.075	−.075	−.075	−.150	−.250
	–	–	–	–	.007	.007	.006	.019	.024
	–	–	–	–	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
Constant	–	–	–	–	.175	.175	.175	.250	.350
	–	–	–	–	.007	.007	.006	.019	.024
	–	–	–	–	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
R^2	–	–	–	–	.021	.141	.014	.172	.200
Panel B: dependent variable (OUT_WEIGHTED)									
CW	−.004	−.017	−.020	−.028	−.028	−.030	−.041	−.052	−.072
	.008	.007	.006	.006	.006	.006	.007	.009	.013
	.613	.019	.003	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
Constant	.019	.035	.043	.054	.058	.064	.078	.095	.129
	.006	.005	.005	.004	.004	.005	.005	.008	.011
	.001	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
R^2	.002	.016	.030	.030	.038	.051	.059	.059	.098
Panel C: dependent variable (OUT_WEIGHTED)									
CD	.059	.096	.101	.091	.083	.090	.095	.103	.156
	.017	.009	.009	.010	.012	.013	.022	.066	.020
	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.120	.000
Constant	.010	.010	.011	.019	.025	.028	.032	.042	.062
	.002	.002	.002	.002	.003	.003	.004	.012	.011
	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
R^2	.109	.146	.125	.100	.091	.088	.070	.055	.064

Note: For each quantile, the following data is provided in turn: regression coefficient value, Std. Error, P value and the goodness of fit R^2.

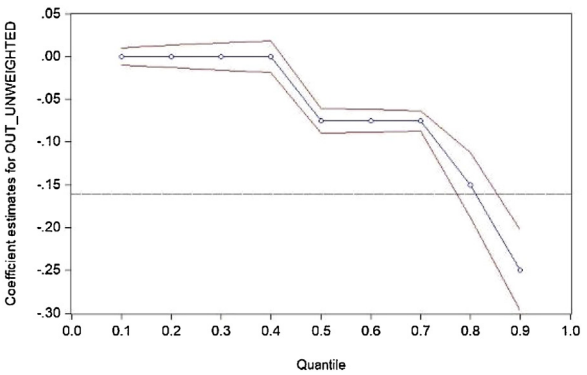

Fig. 2. The curves of quantile regression and OLS regression of CW and OUT_UNWEIGHTED (CT = 2). In the graph, the abscissa is the fractional point, and the ordinate is the regression coefficient of CW on OUT_UNWEIGHTED (CT = 2). The horizontal dashed line is the OLS regression result, the circle curve is the quantile regression result, and the curve dashed line is its 95 % confidence interval.

In Panel C, the strength increases incrementally from quantiles .10 (Panel C: $\beta = .059$, $p < .001$) to .30 (Panel C: $\beta = .101$, $p < .001$), and then begins to wane slightly until quantile .70 (Panel C: $\beta = .095$, $p < .001$), finally increases rapidly at quantile .90 (Panel C: $\beta = .156$, $p < .001$).

Figs. 2–4 are the results of quantile regression and OLS regression of related variables, and the variation trend of quantile regression can be intuitively found. Compared with OLS regression results, the quantile regression coefficient of CW on OUT_UNWEIGHTED below 80 % is larger than the absolute value of OLS regression, while the absolute value of the regression coefficient CW on OUT_WEIGHTED is always higher than that of OLS regression. The regression coefficient of CD on OUT_UNWEIGHTED below 90 % is lower than the absolute value of OLS regression.

Based on the above analysis, we can find that:

(1) The proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles in the journal has a weak negative influence on the authors' publications.

First, the correlation analysis shows that CW is strongly negatively correlated with OUT_UNWEIGHTED ($rs = -.674$, $p < .001$). And there is a weak negative relationship between CW and OUT_WEIGHTED ($rs = -.393$, $p < .001$). Then, OLS analysis makes clear the weak negative influence of CW on OUT_UNWEIGHTED ($\beta = -.16$, $p < .001$), which can explain the variance of 17%. According to QR analysis, we also get the integrally strengthening trend of the author's publications under different levels of author-editorial cooperation articles. It indicates that the proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles is significantly negatively correlated with the number of articles published in the journal, and the higher the author-editorial cooperation rate is, the fewer articles the author publishes.

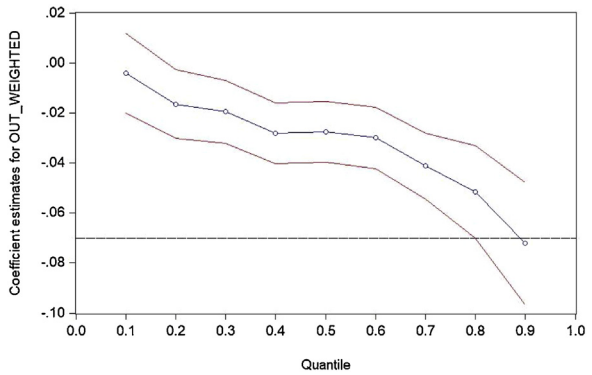

Fig. 3. The curves of quantile regression and OLS regression of CW and OUT_WEIGHTED (CT = 2). In the graph, the abscissa is the fractional point, and the ordinate is the regression coefficient of CW on OUT_WEIGHTED (CT = 2). The horizontal dashed line is the OLS regression result, the circle curve is the quantile regression result, and the curve dashed line is its 95 % confidence interval.

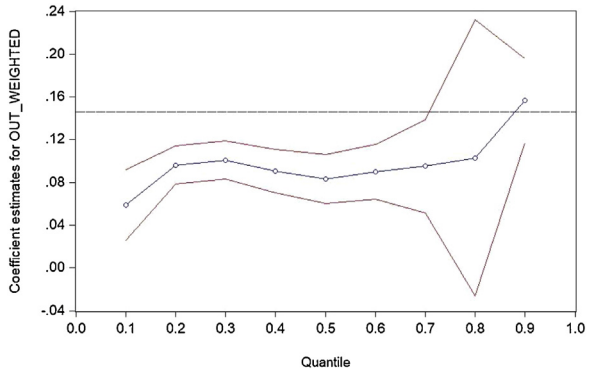

Fig. 4. The curves of quantile regression and OLS regression of CD and OUT_WEIGHTED (CT = 2). In the graph, the abscissa is the fractional point, and the ordinate is the regression coefficient of CD on OUT_WEIGHTED (CT = 2). The horizontal dashed line is the OLS regression result, the circle curve is the quantile regression result, and the curve dashed line is its 95 % confidence interval.

Table 7
Descriptive statistics of indicators of the samples (CT = 1).

Variables (CT = 1)	N	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Standard-deviation
CW	87	0	1	0.56	0.20
CD	87	0	8.17	0.62	0.92
OUT_UNWEIGHTED	87	1	18	3.55	2.47
OUT_WEIGHTED	87	0.25	12.33	1.21	1.39
YCITATION	87	0	71.78	13.33	14.07
PCITATION	87	0	18.63	3.39	2.77

(2) The contribution of the editorial board in author-editorial cooperation has a weak positive effect to the authors' publications.

According to above analysis, there is a weak positive correlation between CD and OUT_WEIGHTED ($rs = .412$, $p < .001$), and CD has a weak positive influence on OUT_WEIGHTED ($\beta = .146$, $p < .001$). In addition, the intensity of the influence is increasing. It is suggested that the contribution of the editorial board in author-editorial cooperation is significantly positively correlated with the number of articles published in the journal, and the more contribution of the editorial board in author-editorial cooperation made, the more articles published by the author.

4.2.2. Author-editorial cooperation outside of the journal (CT = 1)

When CT equals to 1, the authors have collaborated with the editorial board outside the journal. 87 authors are selected to explore that how the author-editorial cooperation relationship affects the authors' publications in the journal. Independent variables are two indicators of author-editorial cooperation: Author-editorial Cooperation Weight (CW) and Editorial Contribution Degree (CD); dependent variables are two indicators of publications: Unweighted Output (OUT_UNWEIGHTED) and Weighted Output (OUT_WEIGHTED). Table 7 shows the results of descriptive statistical analysis of these indicators. On average, Author-editorial Cooperation Weight reaches 56 %, and the Editorial Contribution Degree is 0.62. Compared with

Table 8
Correlation test of indicators of the samples (CT = 1).

	CW	CD	OUT_UNWEIGHTED	OUT_WEIGHTED
CW	1	.535**(.000)	.095(.384)	.032(.769)
CD		1	.671**(.000)	.719**(.000)
OUT_UNWEIGHTED			1	.878**(.000)
OUT_WEIGHTED				1

Table 9
OLS regression analysis of these indicators of samples (CT = 1).

CT = 1 N = 87	(Dependent variable:OUT_UNWEIGHTED)				(Dependent variable:OUT_WEIGHTED)			
	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
constant	.123**	.011	11.560	.000	.027**	.338	4.842	.000
CD	.979**	.079	12.459	.000	.926**	.042	22.111	.000
R^2	.646				.852			
Adjusted R^2	.642				.850			
F-test	F = 155.24 (P = .000)				F = 488.88 (P = .000)			

Table 10
Quantile regression of these indicators of samples (CT = 1).

CT = 1	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
Panel D: dependent variable (OUT_UNWEIGHTED)									
CD	.947	.927	.917	.958	.984	–	–	–	–
	.027	.034	.042	.049	.062	–	–	–	–
	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	–	–	–	–
constant	.053	.073	.083	.081	.077	–	–	–	–
	.006	.007	.008	.011	.025	–	–	–	–
	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	–	–	–	–
R^2	.243	.258	.310	.355	.394	–	–	–	–
Panel E: dependent variable (OUT_WEIGHTED)									
CD	.726	.721	.720	.723	.757	.981	.969	.955	–
	.067	.070	.084	.091	.119	.020	.018	.016	–
	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	–
constant	.010	.017	.018	.023	.023	.019	.031	.045	–
	.005	.005	.006	.006	.008	.004	.005	.009	–
	.065	.002	.003	.000	.003	.000	.000	.000	–
R^2	.415	.442	.455	.457	.464	.476	.485	.476	–

Note: for each quantile, the following data is provided in turn: regression coefficient value, Std. Error, P value and the goodness of fit R^2.

author-editorial cooperation in the journal, author-editorial cooperation outside of the journal has a similar proportion of author-editorial cooperation weight, while the editor's contribution has been greatly improved.

We use Spearman's correlation coefficient to test the relationship between the indicators. The results are shown in Table 8. It can be found that CD is strongly positively correlated with OUT_UNWEIGHTED (rs = .671, p < .001) and OUT_WEIGHTED (rs = .719, p < .001). While there is no significant correlation between CW and OUT_UNWEIGHTED, OUT_WEIGHTED.

We also conduct OLS regression through Eviews10.0 to further depict the correlation in detail, and the results are shown in Table 9. According to the OLS results, CD has a great influence on OUT_UNWEIGHTED (β = .979, p < .001) and OUT_WEIGHTED (β = .926, p < .001), which can explain the variance of 64.2 % and 85 %.

OLS regression allows us to make a basic judgment about the impact of the collaboration degree on authors' publications in the desired sense. While the results of quantile regression can help us to analyze the variation law of the authors' publications at different levels of cooperation. Table 10 shows the results of quantile regression.

According to the QR results, the influence of independent variables on dependent variables is positively rising overall. While the regression slope shows more detail at each quantile in Panel D and Panel E. The strength wanes gradually from quantiles .10 (Panel D: β = .947, p < .001; Panel E: β = .726, p < .001) to .30 (Panel D: β = .917, p < .001; Panel E: β = .720, p < .001), then begins to increase rapidly at quantile .60 (Panel E: β = .981, p < .001) until leveling off at quantile .80 (Panel E: β = .955, p < .001).

Based on the above analysis, we can find that:

(1) The contribution of the editorial board in author-editorial cooperation outside of the journal has a strong positive influence on the authors' publications.

The correlation analysis shows that CD is strongly positively correlated with OUT_UNWEIGHTED (rs = .671,p < .001) and OUT_WEIGHTED (rs = .719, p < .001). Furthermore, CD has a great influence on OUT_UNWEIGHTED (β = .979, p < .001) and OUT_WEIGHTED (β = .926, p < .001), which can explain the variance of 64.2 % and 85 %.

Table 11
Correlation test of indicators of the samples (CT = 2).

CT = 2	CW	CD	YCITATION	PCITATION
CW	1	484**(.000)	−.314**(.000)	−.068(.274)
CD		1	.007(.913)	.026(.680)
YCITATION			1	.914**(.000)
PCITATION				1

Table 12
Correlation test of indicators of the samples (CT = 1).

CT = 1	CW	CD	YCITATION	PCITATION
CW	1	.535**(.000)	−.002(.986)	−.045(.681)
CD		1	.472**(.000)	.214*(.046)
YCITATION			1	.858**(.000)
PCITATION				1

According to the QR results, the influence of independent variables on dependent variables is positively rising overall. It indicates that the contribution of the editorial board in author-editorial cooperation outside of the journal is significantly positively correlated with the number of articles published in the journal. And the more contribution of the editorial board in author-editorial cooperation made, the more articles published by the author.

(2) The proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles outside of the journal has no significant influence on the authors' publications.

There is no significant correlation between CW and OUT_UNWEIGHTED, OUT_WEIGHTED. It shows that the proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles outside of the journal does not affect the author's article publication.

However, different from 4.2.1, in the regression analysis of this section, goodness of fit R^2 is much higher than that of CT equals to 2. The results show that the contribution of the editorial board can explain more variance of the authors' publications when author-editorial cooperation outside of the journal.

4.3. The relationship between author-editorial cooperation and the article impact in the journal

In addition to the output of scientific research, the article impact has become the focus of scholars. We use Citations Per Year (YCITATION) and Annual Citation Per Article (PCITATION) to evaluate the article impact. This part mainly explores the relationship between author-editorial cooperation and article impact in the journal, Author-editorial Cooperation Weight (CW) and Editorial Contribution Degree (CD) are used to describe author-editorial cooperation. We have adopted Spearman's correlation coefficient to test the correlation between the indicators.

Table 11 shows the correlation analysis results of indicators when CT equals to 2. We find that CW is weakly negatively correlated with YCITATION (rs =-.314, p < .001). There is no correlation between CD and YCITATION, PCITATION. CW has no correlation with PCITATION.

Table 12 shows the correlation analysis results of the indicators when CT equals to1, we can see that CD is weakly positively correlated with YCITATION (rs = .472, p < .001), PCITATION (rs = .214, p < .05). However, there is no correlation between CW and YCITATION, PCITATION.

4.4. The relationship between author-editorial cooperation and the author's publications in different journal categories

Recently, some scholars have studied the classification of IS&LS journals. Based on papers and citation data from 88 IS–LS journals from 2005 to 2014, Huang, Shaw, and Lin (2019)) found that subfields differ in publishing and citation characteristics, cited subjects, and author affiliations. Xie, Wu, Zhang, and Li (2020)) used the subject-related information of 232 editors to find descriptive differences in editorship characteristics for the subfields' journals.

According to the specific classification of journals mentioned above, the selected 10 IS&LS journals are classified into two categories: Management Information Systems (MIS, 8 journals), Information Science (IS, 2 journals). In this section, instead of distinguishing between in-journal and out-of-journal, we focus on the relationship between collaboration and the author's publications in different journal categories.

Similar to the selection of independent variables and dependent variables mentioned above, we first make descriptive statistics on these variables. Table 13 shows the results of descriptive statistical analysis of these indicators of samples. Although the number of journals in the two categories varies greatly, the number of authors who have author-editorial cooperation articles during the editorial tenure does not differ significantly (MIS journals, 176 authors; IS journals, 172 authors). On average, CW and CD of MIS journals are higher than those of IS journals, while author's publications and citation impact in IS journals are more than those of MIS journals.

We use Spearman's correlation coefficient to test the relationship between the indicators. The results are shown in Table 14. Compared with MIS journals, the negative correlation between CW and OUT_UNWEIGHTED (rs =-.562, p <

Table 13
Descriptive statistics of indicators of the samples (MIS, IS).

	CW		CD		UNWEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		YCITATION		PCITATION	
	MIS	IS	MIS	IS	MIS	IS	MIS	IS	MIS	IS	MIS	IS
N	176	172	176	172	176	172	176	172	176	172	176	172
Minimum	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.05	1.00	1.00	0.25	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maximum	1.00	1.00	1.65	8.17	10.00	20.00	4.33	14.54	59.95	71.78	18.63	26.30
Average	0.57	0.55	0.46	0.39	2.89	3.23	0.94	0.81	9.68	10.29	3.10	3.15
Standard-deviation	0.24	0.26	0.30	0.68	1.61	2.63	0.62	1.49	10.85	12.34	2.89	3.48

Table 14
Correlation test of indicators of the samples (MIS, IS).

		OUT_UNWEIGHTED	OUT_WEIGHTED	YCITATION	PCITATION
MIS	CW	−.332**(.000)	−.283**(.000)	−.278**(.000)	−.153*(.042)
	CD	.255**(.001)	.407**(.000)	.031(.685)	−.055(.466)
		OUT_UNWEIGHTED	OUT_WEIGHTED	YCITATION	PCITATION
IS	CW	−.562**(.000)	−.340**(.000)	−.195*(.01)	.05(.519)
	CD	.151*(.047)	.502**(.000)	.247**(.000)	.212*(.005)

.001), OUT_WEIGHTED (rs =-.340, p < .001) in IS journals is stronger. While the positive correlation between CD and OUT_UNWEIGHTED (rs = .255, p < .001), OUT_WEIGHTED (rs = .407, p < .001) in MIS journals is stronger.

5. Discussion

This paper probes into the relationship between author-editorial cooperation and the article publication, as well as the article impact in the journal by using correlation analysis, OLS regression and quantile regression. Finally, following conclusions are obtained:

(1) The type of author-editorial cooperation has a weak negative relationship with the author's publications.

It can be seen from the correlation analysis of 4.1. The results show that author-editorial cooperation type is weakly negatively correlated with the author's publications (rs =-.159, p < .001; rs =- .283, p < .001). It indicates that when author-editorial cooperation outside of the journal, the author will have more publications.

(2) The contribution of the editorial board in author-editorial cooperation within journal to the author's publications has a strong positive effect.

According to 4.2.1 and 4.2.2, when CT equals to 2, there is a weak positive correlation between CD and OUT_WEIGHTED (rs = .412, p < .001). When CT equals to 1, it can be found that CD is strongly positively correlated with OUT_UNWEIGHTED (rs = .671, p < .001) and OUT_WEIGHTED (rs = .719, p < .001). CD has a great influence on OUT_UNWEIGHTED (β = .979, p < .001) and OUT_WEIGHTED (β = .926, p < .001), which can explain the variance of 64.2 % and 85 %. According to the QR results, the influence of independent variables on dependent variables is positively rising overall.

It indicates that the contribution of the editorial board in author-editorial cooperation is strongly positively correlated with the number of articles published in the journal. And the more contribution of the editorial board in author-editorial cooperation made, the more articles published by the author. In author-editorial cooperation, the high Editorial Contribution Degree of the editorial board means a close cooperation, and the linear regression coefficient shows an increasing trend.

It is supposed that most of the editorial board members have high academic level and reputation, and the scholars who work closely with them should also have a certain academic level. Because of the cooperation, the editorial board members also have a better understanding of the scholars' research direction and content. Therefore, no matter from the perspective of articles' impact or from the trust in the author, the editorial board members are more likely to choose articles by the author who works closely with them.

(3) The proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles in the journal has a weak negative influence on the author's publications.

According to 4.2.1 and 4.2.2, when CT equals to 2, it can be found that CW is strongly negatively correlated with OUT_UNWEIGHTED (rs =-.674, p < .001), and there is a weak negative relationship with OUT_WEIGHTED (rs =-.393, p < .001). OLS analysis makes clear the weak negative influence of CW on OUT_UNWEIGHTED (β =-.16, p < .001), which can explain the variance of 17%. While there is no significant correlation between CW and OUT_UNWEIGHTED, OUT_WEIGHTED when CT equals to 1.

It indicates that when author-editorial cooperation exists in the journal, the proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles is weakly negatively correlated with the number of articles published in the journal. The higher the author-editorial cooperation rate is, the fewer articles the author publishes. Furthermore, the linear regression coefficient shows an increasing trend.

Some scholars have done the similar research. For example, Scarazzati and Wang (2019) analyzed the relationship between the publications of many countries and the proportion of transnational cooperation, and found that the publications and cooperation were negatively correlated. Finally, they got the law that countries with high publications can easily

find cooperation at home, while countries with low publications need to seek cooperation abroad. According to the rules, the reason for the above results may be that the authors with high publications have strong academic ability and are easy to find collaborators. While the authors with low publications will seek cooperation from more competent scholars such as the editorial board. Therefore, the authors with low publications will cooperate with the editorial board more often. In general, there is an inverse relationship between the author's publications and the proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles in the journal, which is related to whether the author is at the central position in the author-editorial cooperation relationship.

(4) Different types of author-editorial cooperation will bring different influence to the author's publications.

Compared with 4.2.1 and 4.2.2, for the author-editorial cooperation in the journal, the proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles has a significant negative influence on the authors' publications. Furthermore, the contribution of the editorial board has a significant and positive effect on the authors' publications.

For the author-editorial cooperation outside of the journal, the proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles outside of the journal has no significant influence on the authors' publications. The contribution of the editorial board has a stronger positive influence on the authors' publications compared with author-editorial cooperation in the journal.

(5) The MIS journals and IS journals differ in relationship strength between author-editorial cooperation and author's publications in the journal.

On average, CW and CD of MIS journals are higher than those of IS journals, while author's publications and citation impact in IS journals are more than those of MIS journals. Compared with MIS journals, the negative correlation between CW and OUT_UNWEIGHTED ($rs = -.562$, $p < .001$), OUT_WEIGHTED ($rs = -.340$, $p < .001$) in IS journals is stronger. While the positive correlation between CD and OUT_UNWEIGHTED ($rs = .255$, $p < .001$), OUT_WEIGHTED ($rs = .407$, $p < .001$) in MIS journals is stronger.

(6) There is no significant correlation between author-editorial cooperation and article impact.

According to 4.3, when CT equals to 2, it can be found that CW is weakly negatively correlated with YCITATION. There is no correlation between CD and YCITATION, PCITATION. CW has no correlation with PCITATION. When CT equals to1, it can be found that CD is weakly positively correlated with YCITATION and PCITATION. However, there is no correlation between CW and YCITATION, PCITATION.

On the whole, whether author-editorial cooperation within or outside of the journal, it has a low correlation with the article impact, and the significance level is not high. The reason for this phenomenon may be the difference between the nature of author-editorial cooperation and article impact. CW and CD indicate the close degree of author-editorial cooperation. However, the citation frequency of articles in the journal reflects the impact of articles. Moreover, citation frequency is only one aspect of the article impact.

From the results, it can be known that editorial boards do not publish poor articles in the journal for author-editorial cooperation relationship. This conclusion is similar to existing research results. For example, Chan et al. (2015) proved that editorial boards were able to identify good articles from author-editorial relationship.

6. Conclusion

This paper explores that whether author-editorial cooperation affects the author's publications and citation impact in the journal. This study selects top 10 IS&LS journals (two categories: MIS journals, IS journals) as sample journals, and divides the relationship into four forms. We firstly define the author-editorial cooperation indicators, article publication indicators and article impact indicators. Then, we perform correlation analysis, OLS regression and quantile regression to investigate the detailed relations.

Finally, we conclude that author-editorial cooperation has a complex effect on the publications in the journal. More specifically, the contribution of the editorial board in author-editorial cooperation to the publications has a significant positive effect. The editorial board actively seeks high-quality articles to be published in their journals by using their own connections. However, there is an inverse relationship between the author's publications and the proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles in the journal. The larger proportion of author-editorial cooperation articles is, the lower the publications are in the journal. The result is related to whether the author is at the central position in the author-editorial cooperation relationship. In addition, different types of author-editorial cooperation will bring different influence to the author's publications, and the MIS and IS journals differ in relationship strength between author-editorial cooperation and author's publications.

Compared with the complex influence of author-editorial cooperation on the author's publications, the article citation impact of the authors who work closely with the editorial board is not affected by author-editorial cooperation relationship.

Furthermore, this study analyzes those authors who have author-editorial cooperation and finds that, for the author-editorial cooperation outside of the journal, 32 of the 87 authors already have published in the journal before author-editorial cooperation, accounted for as 36.78 %. For the author-editorial cooperation in the journal, 140 of the 261 authors have published articles in the journal before author-editorial cooperation, accounted for as 53.64 %. Thus, many authors have no publication in the journal before the first author-editorial cooperation. However, further detailed research is needed to determine whether the authors are PhD students guided by editorial board rather than already successful researchers.

This paper mainly studies the influence of a short period of time after author-editorial cooperation on the author's publications in journals. However, due to the time range of data collection from 2015 to 2020, data for author-editorial

cooperation before 2015 are not taken into account. In the next step, we will expand the time frame of the study and provide a larger amount of data for subsequent studies.

In future, on the basis of this research, we will continue to explore the position of editorial board members in the author-editorial cooperation papers (first or last author), and the influence of these on the author's productivity and impact.

Author contributions

Zhang Tianjiao: Collected the data, Contributed data or analysis tools, Performed the analysis, Wrote the paper.
Shi Jin: Conceived and designed the analysis, Performed the analysis.
Situ Lingyun: Contributed data or analysis tools, Writing- Reviewing and Editing.

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