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AN OVERVIEW OF FAMILY BUSINESS RESEARCH IN AFRICA

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AN OVERVIEW OF FAMILY BUSINESS RESEARCH IN AFRICA

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Lupho Aubrey Gila (s216424178), hereby declare that the treatise, “An overview of family business research in Africa” for the degree BAHons in Business Management, is my own work and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment or completion of any postgraduate qualification to another university or for another qualification, and that all the sources I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged as complete references.

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ABSTRACT

Over the years the research interest in family businesses has grown because of the entrepreneurial potential of these businesses, as well as their potential to outperform non-family businesses. The field of family business has grown across the globe as more family-owened businesses are emerging. However, the research done on family businesses on the African continent is considered insufficient or if available of poor quality. The primary objective of this study was to provide an overview of published research undertaken on family businesses in an African context. To achieve this objective, primary data from published journal articles was collected and analysed using bibliometric analysis. Two bibliometric indicators were used on the study namely: publication count and citations, and impact factor. The first category of productivity indicators included the number of publications published at a given period and by each individual author. The second set of indicators comprised, among other things, the total number of citations per period and by individual author/journal. Finally, in the third category, there were hybrid measures like the average number of citations as well as productivity and impact indices.

Search conditions for this study included: journal publications only, using Google and Google Scholar as search engines only, retrieving English publications only, and research done on African family businesses based on the African continent. A total of 206 articles were identified on which to undertake the analysis. When presenting the findings, author contribution, publication activity, journal names, journal accreditation, country contribution, methodologies adopted, keywords identified, citations made, and impact factors of journals were identified and discussed. The findings show that there are still many African countries who are yet to make a contribution to the field, however a number of countries have made significant contributions researching various topics which are included on this research.

KEYWORDS: Family businesses, African family businesses, field of family business research, bibliometric analysis, statistical analysis, publication count, citations.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION, PROBLEM STATEMENT AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUD TO THE STUDY

Although mature economies are paying more and more research attention to family businesses, attention to research on family businesses in Africa is limited (Khavul, Bruton and Wood, 2009:10). This lack of attention to family business research in Africa may be the reason why family business research productivity in Africa is not only limited, but also why the content produced is of poor quality (Acquaah and Eshun, 2016:44).

According to Zoogah and Nkomo (2013:10), management research from Africa in general is often of low quality and as a result this research is seldom published in reputable international journals. The fact that most editors and editorial board members of international management journals are unfamiliar with research using data from Africa may also contribute to the low productivity on family business research in Africa (Zoogah and Nkomo, 2013:10).

A first step to increasing the productivity of family business research in Africa is to obtain an overview of existing research done and to take stock of the topical areas and regions in Africa where research is missing (Acquaah and Eshun, 2016:44). By establishing what research has been done in the field of African family business research gaps and suggestions for future research in the African family business context can be identified. Furthermore, future research can be focused on resolving the real challenges facing African family businesses.

Against this background the problem statement and research objectives are formulated.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Research on family businesses in Africa is limited (Khavul, Bruton and Wood, 2009:10) and the content produced is of poor quality (Acquaah and Eshun, 2016:44). As a result, no thorough overview of research done in the field of African family business has been done to date. Such an overview is necessary because by reflecting on and analysing the family business research done in Africa, potential avenues for future research can be identified and existing research in the discipline on the continent can be consolidated.

1.3 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1.3.1 Primary study objective

The primary objective of this study is to provide an overview of published research undertaken on African family businesses.

1.3.2 Secondary study objectives

The secondary research objectives are set to fulfil and give effect to the proposed primary objective of the study. The secondary research objectives have been formulated as follows.

SO^1: To identify the authors, and countries undertaking research on African family businesses.

SO^2: To determine trends in research on African family businesses with regard when and where it has been published, as well as the topics investigated.

SO^3: To identify the impact that research on African family business is making.

1.3.3 Methodological objectives

As to achieve the primary and secondary objectives, the following methodological objectives are formulated.

MO[1]: To undertake a literature review on the nature and importance of family businesses, the evolution, as well as research done in the field of family business as a whole.

MO[2]: To identify and describe the research methodology most suitable for conducting this study.

MO[3]: To collect and analyse primary data from published journal articles published on African family businesses.

MO[4]: To draw conclusions and make suggestions based on the results of the study that can guide future research on African family businesses on the African continent.

1.4 SCOPE AND DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The bibliometric analysis undertaken in the current study includes research publications that meet several criteria. These criteria outline the scope of the current study. The first criteria would be research focus where the study focusses only on family businesses only, and family businesses on the African continent. The analysis will also only focus on published journal articles written in the English language. Furthermore, Google and Google Scholar will be the only search engines used to source the articles. The search timeframe is up to the 30 June 2021.

1.5 KEY CONCEPTS

Clear definitions of some key concepts for the study are presented below.

1.5.1 Family business

For the purposes of this study, a family business is a business where decision making is influenced by multiple generations of a family (Nuswantoro and Hermawan, 2015:430). Furthermore, such a business must have at least 51 percent of the controlling shares in the hands of family members and more than one family member must be involved in the operations of the business (Dumbu, 2018:39).

1.5.2 Field of Family business research

For the purposes of this study, the goal of family business research, according to Sharma (2004:23), is to improve the performance of family businesses. Payne (2018, 167) maintains that in family business research, "a vast array of interconnected sub-fields representing a recognition that families can have a unique influence on a variety of business activities and outcomes as owners and operators”.

1.5.3 African Family businesses

For the purpose of this study, African family businesses refer to those that are located and operate on the African continent and are owned by people born on the African continent. Acquaah and Eshun (2016:60) state that to be considered a family business in an African setting, the owners should have a 50 percent stake in the business so as to control the strategic direction of the business it owns.

1.5.4 Bibliometrics

Bibliometrics is defined by Xu and Yu (2019:3) as a technique of analysing and forecasting the current state of science and technology using mathematical, statistical, and other measurement tools. Bibliometrics are used for spotting trends in publications, citations, authors, keywords, and institutions, as well as for providing an overview of academic research in a topic or journal (Rovelli et al. 2021:2).

1.6 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STUDY

Most published journal articles in the field of family business research are based on Western family businesses and there is little knowledge of research done in the field in an African context. This study intends to make a contribution to the field of research on African family businesses by investigating the current status of field. Through undertaking a bibliometric analysis on African family business research this study will evaluate this scientific output and assess the fields future potential (Thanuskod, 2010:77). As suggest by Rovelli et al. (2021:2), the results of the bibliometric analysis can be “used as a guide to understand the key concepts and scholars in the field of family businesses" which might give direction as where to where family business research is in Africa today, and where it is going. Furthermore, conducting a bibliometric analysis on family business research in Africa will help identify the gap in research on the continent and provide directions for future research in the field.

1.7 STRUCTURE OF THE STUDY

Chapter one: This chapter will provide an introduction and background to the study. A problem statement has been formulated and the primary and secondary objectives are presented. Methodological objectives were set to give a clear guide on how this study will be conducted. This was followed by the scope and demarcation of the study, the key terms, contributions made to the study and the overview of the study.

Chapter two: This chapter will provide a review of literature. More specifically the nature and importance of family businesses, the evolution of the field as a whole and previous research done on research in the field of family businesses will be elaborated on.

Chapter three: This chapter will outline the research design and methodology used in this study. The choices made are describe and justified, and the research strategy is described in detail.

Chapter four: This chapter will present the empirical findings of the bibliometric analysis undertaken on research done on family business in Africa. More specifically the authors, institutions, countries, dates, topics covered, methodologies and theories adopted as well as journal outlets and impact factors will be summarised.

Chapter five: This chapter will provide an overview of the whole study and show how the objectives of the study have been met. The chapter will summarise the empirical results on the research on family businesses in Africa as well as provide recommendations for future research in the field. To conclude the chapter, the limitations and contribution of the study will be highlighted and directions for future research will be made.

1.8 STUDY TIME FRAME

This research will be carried out during the 2021 academic year

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

In this literature review section, a discussion on the nature and importance of family businesses, the evolution of the field of family businesses and previous research on the field of family business as a whole will be elaborated on.

2.2 NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY BUSINESSES

According to The Family Firm Institute (2015:1), one of the most debated aspects in the field of family business is that of defining a family business. Braidford, Houston, Allinson and Stone (2014:5) agree stating that no commonly acknowledged definition of a family business exists. "The definition of a family business is further complicated by the fact that family businesses are not consistent when we consider involvement of the family in the business" (Acquaah and Eshun, 2016:45).

Despite the debate around a family business definition, several definitions exist. For example, Blodgett, Dumas and Zanzi (2011:29) defined family businesses as 'businesses that are defined by some degree of family ownership, administration, and sustainability, as well as a dominant coalition of family members' controlling vision". Duh, Belak and Milfener (2011:474) add that the family system establishes essential concepts and core values that serve as guidance for establishing a family business's vision, mission, and goals. Common among these definitions is that a family business is a kind of business where the decision making of a family is impacted by several generations, and a family business must have at least 51 percent of the controlling shares in the business (Blodgett et al. 2011:29; Duh, Belak and Milfener, 2011:473).

One of the most evident characteristics of family businesses are that managers and employees share family ties, beliefs and ethics and behaviour patterns that are transferred or at the very least shared at work (Debarliev and Janeska-Iliev, 2015:43). Families with strong relationships may have both positive and negative effects on their business. The advantages of strong relationships include mutual support, loyalty, trust, altruism, and nurturing behaviour outcomes that benefit the family and bond its members together Le Breton-Miller and Miller (2011:1178). Furthermore, Le Breton-Miller and Miller (2011:1186) state that family integration gives stability, trust, cohesion and strong traditions in certain family enterprises, enabling them to pursue a business strategy and remain successful over the generations.

Leybag (2018:1) argues that family-owned businesses continue to flourish in today's competitive economy as most successful family businesses are not just well founded, but well managed. In order for them to be successful, family members should take the example of showing and committing themselves to the family business, and should respect its vision and identity (Leybag, 2018:1). Eddleston and Morgan (2014:213) note that trust, commitment and intimate ties are considered essential for the success and longevity of family businesses. Leybag (2018:1) continues to argue that a united leadership and solidarity for people who are involved in the family business may arise from the commitment of family members and energy may be transferred to family members that are also working in the business.

The importance of family businesses to the economies of countries cannot be overstated. According to Devins and Jones (2016:4), family businesses play an important role in the economy by creating opportunities for employment for both family and non-family members, improving the standard of living of relevant stakeholders and most importantly making a contribution to the gross domestic product of different economies of different countries.

Osunde (2017:1) outlines that for decades family businesses have been a vital component of the global economy and they continue to play an important role today, despite the fact that they are growing more difficult to sustain. Osunde (2017:1) also asserts that the family business is the most common type of business ownership business model which has a considerable impact on the global economy. The entire economic impact of family businesses on global GDP is estimated to be around 70% (Osunde, 2017:1).

Despite their importance Deloitte (2016:1) indicates that one of three family businesses survive from one generation to the next. About 12 percent of family businesses worldwide succeed to third generation (PWC, 2016:15). These succession failures are due to the vulnerability of family businesses when new leadership takes over, because there is sometimes conflicts over who the successor should be (Deloitte, 2016:1).

2.3 THE EVOLUTION OF THE FIELD OF FAMILY BUSINESSES

Before the 1970s, family businesses were not really looked at by researchers as they focused on broad topics other than the form of family business (Colli, 2003:22). Bird, Welsch, Astrachan and Pistrui (2002:338) continue to outline that during the 1970's, family businesses were not looked at by researchers because they had been classified under the field of sociology and were later classified under small business management. It is clear that family business research before 1988 was "persona non-grata" in the field of business as a whole (Litz, Pearson and Litchfield, 2012:17). Handler (1989:257) attest to these claims by Litz et al. (2012) pointing out that research in the field of family business was rather restricted.

This field of family business was not recognised as a separate field of study until the late 1980's to early 1990's (Bird et al. 2002:338). During this period, family business research started gaining momentum and continued to develop to such an extent that it gained recognised as entrepreneurship within the business management discipline. In addition, researchers stopped relying on borrowed theories from other disciplines but started to create their own (Bird et al. 2002:344). During the 1990's, the field of family business began to emerge as a discipline on its own and began to experience a rapid increase in journal articles that published on family businesses research (Casillas and Acedo, 2007:151).

A rapid increase in the number of published journal articles on family businesses was evident as the number of journal articles published increased from 33 in 1989 to over 300 by the year 2003 (Acquaah and Eshun, 2016:43; Sharma, 2004:1). The number post 2003 grew even further where a record of 855 articles were published between 1998 to 2014 in the Family Business Review alone (Evert, Martin, McLeod and Payne, 2015:18). There were various topics that were covered by these articles, including “management of the firm, business performance and growth, characteristics and attributes of the business, interpersonal family dynamics, governance and succession (Evert et al. 2015:21).

Rovelli et al. (2021:2) outlined that to date, over 1 381 journal articles have been published over a 32-year period, recording 52 970 citations between 1988 to 2020. These articles have been published in several journal publications and have been written by numerous authors, from many different institutions and countries, covering many different topics of interests and using a variety of research methods (Rovelli et al. 2021:2). As predicted by Bird et al. (2002:344), the field of family business research has developed into one which is taken more seriously. Looking to the future of the field, De Massis and Rondi (2020:1729) suggest that a new topic requiring research attention is that of crisis management. Researching this topic is of importance as it will provide insights into how family businesses survive crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic, which will assist them in surviving future crises they may face, and ultimately ensuring their existence for generations to come.

2.4 PREVIOUS RESEARCH ON THE FIELD OF FAMILY BUSINESS AS A WHOLE

Several authors have undertaken research in attempting to provide an overview of the field of family business as a whole. These publications are summarised in Annexure A.

From the articles summarised in Annexure A it can be seen that 19 articles have been identified as articles that review the field of family business research. Most of these articles had a review period starting in the 1980's with two articles going as far as the 1930's and 1960's. The most common review period is between 1980 and 2020. The number of articles reviewed by authors varied but in total 5 400 articles were reviewed (some articles may have been reviewed in more than one review article).

To facilitate the discussion of Annexure A, the various review articles are group according review periods. The oldest review article published is that of Bird et al. (2002) and the most recent is that of Rovelli et al. (2021). The review period groups are as follows: 2002-2004, 2007-2013, 2014-2018 and 2020-2021.

The first article summarising the field of family business was published by Bird et al. (2002) who reviewed 148 articles published during the period 1980s and 1997-2001. Their main aim was to examine the literature on establishing a distinct field of study as well as foundational research done during the period of 1980s and (1997-2001). Their review was based on published family business research from a variety of sources. The second article was that of Colli (2003) who reviewed articles from 1850 to 2000. Although the number of articles reviewed was not specified, the main aim was to contrast family business success with that of other non-family organisations and how they contributed to industrial capitalism.

The third article was authored by Chua et al. (2003). This article examines how goal specification is linked to the various techniques adopted by scholars investigating family businesses using prominent theories of the business as framework. In another study Sharma (2004) reviewed 217 articles published in the Family Business Review between the year 1989 to 2003 with the purpose of providing a reflective moment for the field of family business studies, from the perspective of the primary scholarly journal of the field. In the same year Zahra and Sharma (2004) published a review article where they analysed 8 articles specifically focussing on identifying patterns in family business research with the purpose of boosting growth and impact on managerial practice.

The second review period focusses on articles published during the years 2007 and 2013. Casillas and Acedo (2007) reviewed 339 articles from 1988 to 2005 with the aim of using only co-citation analysis to develop an intellectual framework for the family business area. Debicki et al. (2009) then reviewed 291 articles between 2001 to 2007 also using network analysis of co-author ties which was done to better understand the interrelationships among researchers who have contributed to family business research. Their aim was to establish a better understanding of the interrelationships between researchers who have made contributions to the field of family business.

Chrisman et al. (2010) reviewed 25 articles between 2003 and 2008. Their review article aimed to identify individual books that have had a significant impact on the field of family business in recent years, as measured by citation counts. Yu et al. (2011) reviewed 257 articles between 1998 and 2009. The focus of their review was on analysing the family business discipline by looking at the dependent/outcome variables that have been employed in recent family business research and the linkages between them. They also look at dependent/outcome variables that should be studied further in future family business research.

In their article, Benavides-Velaco et al. (2013) reviewed 703 articles between 1961 and 2008. Two other articles also did reviews during this period, namely Colli (2003) and Cisneros (2018). All three articles made use of bibliometric indicators and methods to assess current trends and identify potential future study areas of interest to researchers in the field of family businesses. During this review period a total of 1 615 articles were reviewed.

Several review articles were published during the period 2014 to 2018. Wilson et al. (2014) reviewed 617 articles published during 1984 and 2014. In their review they discussed the progression and development of techniques, sample sizes and related methodological concerns, as well as ideas and topics researched in family business research. They also highlighted strategies that they thought should be employed in future research to advance family business theory and practice. In addition, they discussed topics researched in the field and motivations for using research methods.

In their study Xi et al. (2015) analysed 25 articles published on family business research. The review period related to articles and books published before 2012. Their study was one of a first to provide a complete account of family business studies from a variety of perspectives. Their study contributed to current knowledge in several ways. It was the first book to present a fully complete account of family business studies from a variety of perspectives. Previous studies have excluded books from their findings, despite the fact that some of these works have had a significant impact on the area.

Evert et al. (2015) reviewed 319 articles from the year 1988 to 2015. The focus of their review was to analyse the level of empirical research conducted in family business research so that they could account for past and future research efforts. In 2016, Farrington and Jappie (2016) undertook a review focussing specially on family business research done in South Africa. They reviewed 48 articles that were published between 1985 and 2015. The purpose of their study was to analyse the level of empirical research in family business research in order to account for the past and guide future research efforts in the country.

Payne (2018) reviewed 5 articles from 2000 to 2018 with the aim of reflecting on the future and validity of the family business research. The last article published in this review period was that of Cisneros et al. (2018) who reviewed 661 articles from the year 1939 to 2017. The aim of their review was to identify the most important topics studied, and theoretical and methodological approaches employed in the field of family business. A total of 1 675 articles were reviewed during the review period 2014 to 2018.

The last and most recent review period covered 2020 and 2021. Three review articles were published highlighting the current status of family business research. In total 1 737 articles were reviewed during this period. In their study Samara (2020) reviewed 70 articles between 2000 and 2018 with the aim of assessing the state of family business research in the Arab Middle-East. Their review was also specific to where the research was conducted as they only included articles published on research done on family businesses in the Arab Middle-East.

In the same year De las Heras-Rosas and Herrera (2020) reviewed 286 articles published between 2003 and 2019. Their review focussed on family businesses and sustainability and aimed to find out how the term sustainability has been related to other concepts through time to give a better understanding of how research relating to sustainability in family businesses has evolved. The most recent review article is that of Rovelli et al. (2021). Their article reviewed 1 381 articles published between 1988 and 2020. The aim of their review was to determine the structure of publications in three family business journals, namely the Family Business Review, the Journal of Family Business Strategy and the Journal of Family Business Management. To structure the field they looked at citations, notable authors, institutions, and countries, as well as themes of interest and research methodologies used by various publications. The review article provided a full and comprehensive picture of the family business research field, including a detailed examination of its early challenges, significant features, and progress through the use of studies developed by a large number of researchers in the topic.

Given that most family business research is published in the aforementioned journals and that it covers the field of study up to the present, their findings and recommendation are worth noting. Rovelli et al. (2021) noted a key concern that continues to plague the field as a whole, namely that of defining what a family business is. According to Rovelli et al. (2021), contemporary phenomena is directly affecting the concept of family business, which is now different from what it was in the past. Rovelli et al. (2021) stated that in future studies researchers can continue to contribute to the field in two ways: by adopting previously unexplored units of analysis or by employing methods that have not yet been applied to family business.

Out of the 19 review articles included in Annexure A, only 2 articles gave specific attention to publications based on research on African family businesses, namely the articles of Farrington and Jappie (2016), who focussed on South African research and Samara (2020), whose study on research done in the Arab Middle-East, included several African countries. Furthermore, of the 1 381 articles reviewed by Rovelli et al. (2021), none were based on research done on African family businesses and none of the articles were written by authors based in Africa. As such the lack of research done on African family businesses by African scholars and scholars around the world, is highlighted.

2.5 SUMMARY

This chapter gave an overview of the nature and importance of family businesses, how the field of family business has evolved since the first articles were written and published about the field which led to the previous research on the field on the field of family business as a whole to be conducted as to see how the field evolved till this day. The next chapter will discuss research methodology which was implemented on this study.

CHAPTER 3
RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

According to Naidoo (2011:47), research is an examination of nature and civilization with the goal of validating and improving current information by drawing new findings. Researchers can use a research design to figure out where they will collect data and how they will analyse it (Heppner, Kivlighan and Wampold 2008:67). In the paragraphs that follow, the research design and methodology used in this study will be outlined. A research design, according to Van Wyk (2012:5), is the overall plan for connecting conceptual research concerns to relevant empirical research. To put it in another way, a study’s research design lays out what data is needed, what methods will be used to collect and analyse the data, and how all of this will help answer a research question. More specifically how the literature review and empirical investigation will be undertaken are elaborated on in the sections below.

3.2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Secondary data is information that has already been gathered by other researchers and is used when undertaking a literature review (Walliman 2017:52). In the current study a variety of journal articles and previous studies on family businesses as a whole were consulted. This was done in order to get a sense of what research has been done to date, to identify trends in research and to get a sense of what needs to be done in the field for future research purposes. To find relevant literature sources, several databases such as Sagepub, Reseachgate, Academia, Sabinet, EBSCOhost, Emerald, Google and Google Scholar as well as the Nelson Mandela University library's resources were consulted for this study. How this secondary data will be collected is outlined under the research strategy section below. The results of this literature review are presented in Annexure A.

3.3 EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION

Primary research entails the gathering of unique facts and information relevant to the aim of a given study (Creswell 2012:67). This information is gathered for the first time, and it may be relevant for future studies (Walker 2005:572). The research paradigm adopted in a study guides the manner in which primary research is conducted and how the data is collected (Walliman 2017:92). Table 1 details the various options, decisions, and justifications for decisions taken in relation to the empirical inquiry in this study.

Table 1: Research design descriptors for study

Descriptor	Option chosen	Description of choice and justification for use
Philosophy and approach		
Philosophy/paradigm	Positivism	Park, Konge and Artino (2020: 691) describe positivism as aligning it with the hypothetical-disincentive scientific model which uses the verification of hypotheses and experiments a priori by implementing variables and measurements. Quantitative approaches such as social polls, systematic questionnaires, and official statistics are preferred by positivists because they are reliable and representative (Thompson, 2015:2). Since this research takes a quantitative approach, positivism is feasible, owing to the fact that the results can be applied to other studies of a similar nature, regardless of how they were performed.
Approach to theory development (The logic of the research)	Deductive research	A deductive approach entails formulating a hypothesis or theories based on current theory and then devising a research method to test it. In other words, the deductive method involves drawing conclusions from premises or propositions. (Wilson, 2010:1). The deductive approach is considered most suitable in the current study as categories for analysing the data collected will be based on existing literature.
Research design		
The purpose of the study	Descriptive	Descriptive research is described "as a statement of affairs as they are at present with the researcher having no control over variable" (Ethridge, 2004:24). Descriptive research is "aimed at casting light on current issues or problems through a process of data collection that enables them to describe the situation more completely than was possible without employing this method" (Fox and Bayat, 2007:45). Given that the aim of the current study is to provide an overview of research done on African family business, frequencies and as well as categories of research will be presented. As such the data collected will be described and analysed.
Methodological choice	Mono method	The mono-method is synonymous with the use of a single analysis technique for a given sample. When a researcher uses either a qualitative or quantitative approach, this is referred to as mono-method methodology (Saunders et al. 2016:138). A mono method is used because the current study makes use of a single method to collect and analyse the data.
The process of the research (approach)	Quantitative study	Aliaga and Gunderson (2002:1) define a quantitative study as an explanation of phenomena by the collection of numerical data analysed using methods based on mathematics. They further state that quantitative analysis is primarily concerned with gathering numerical data in order to describe a phenomenon, specific questions seem to be well-suited to being addressed using quantitative methods. Given that the current study attempts to describe a certain phenomenon (research on African family businesses), a quantitative study is considered most suitable.

Table 1: Research design descriptors for study (continued)

Descriptor	Option chosen	Description of choice and justification for use
Research strategy	Archival research	Archival research includes the examination of historical records, that is, documents produced in the relatively recent past that give us access to institutions, people, and events that we would not otherwise have (Ventresca and Mohr, 2002:2). Scholars conducting non-historical studies of documents and texts created by and about contemporary organizations, on the other hand, often use archival approaches as a complement to other research strategies. As a result, archival techniques can be used to analyse digital texts such as databases, emails, and web pages (Ventresca and Mohr, 2002:2). A researcher may conduct research using archive records and current knowledge while conducting archival research. The use of archival research has often been the catalyst for confronting and rephrasing central issues of organizational theory, policy, and practice. The relics of organizational life, spanning time and space, are kept in archives and are retrievable should one want to investigate or clarify changes that occur over time (Ventresca and Mohr, 2002:25).
	Bibliometric analysis	A bibliometric analysis is "a branch of information and library science that studies bibliographical data using a quantitative approach" (Broadus, 1987:373 Pritchard,1969:348). A technique for summarising, classifying, and presenting representative results from a collection of bibliographic documents is bibliometrics (Rovelli, Ferasso, De Massis and Kraus, 2021:2). This approach is very useful for summarising scholarly research in a specific field or journal, determining the production and trend of publications, citations, writers, keywords, and institutions, and determining the development and trend of publications, citations, authors, keywords, and institutions (Rovelli et al. 2021: 2). This strategy is suitable for this study as it mainly focuses on retrieving data about African family business research publications which will then be categorised and analysed in order to provide an overview of the field.
The time dimension	Cross-sectional	A cross-sectional research design is a design that tests both the outcome and the exposures of study participants at the same time (Setia, 2016:505). A cross-sectional study's participants are chosen solely on the basis of the study's inclusion and exclusion criteria. A cross-sectional research design is used in the current study because data was gathered at a specific point in time.

Table 1: Research design descriptors for study (continued)

Descriptor	Option chosen	Description of choice and justification for use
Techniques and procedures for data collection and analysis	Communication method	The communication method includes people as analysts, interrogators and observers; individuals with ethically neutral experiences (Greenberg, Eastin and Garramone, 2002:5). Since quantitative research is used for this study, communication is mainly used because of the exploration of subject perceptions and understandings as they relate closely to communication. This communication method is chosen mainly because a bibliometrics approach will be used where a report on results based on statistics of who was publishing a journal article on African family businesses, where they published it, what contributions were made, what citations were made and how the research would contribute to future research in the field.
Data collection	Desk research	Desk research, also known as secondary research, involves collecting data from primary and secondary resources that already exist. To be more precise, desk research refers to any dataset not collected by the author, or "the study of data gathered by someone else" (Boslaugh, 2007:9). Secondary data is information that has been collected previously and is being considered for use in new questions for which it was not originally planned (Vartanian, 2010:3). This form of data collection is chosen because the data that is already available will be collected and analysed, namely published journal articles on family businesses in Africa.
Data analysis	Statistical analysis, and content analysis.	Brooks (2020:1) defines statistical analysis as the data collection and analysis method in which patterns and trends are identified. It is a way to use numbers to try to eliminate any distortions when checking facts. Content analysis is a methodology for describing the manifest content of communication in an analytical, systematic, and quantitative manner (Berelson, 1952:2). In the current study statistical analysis will be used to count how many authors, citations, institutions, regions etc. have contributed research on African family businesses and content analysis will be undertaken to analyse the topical areas of research.

Table 1: Research design descriptors for study (continued)

Descriptor	Option chosen	Description of choice and justification for use
Other descriptors		
The degree of structure	Exploratory study	Burns and Grove (2003:313) describe exploratory research as "research to obtain new perspectives, develop new ideas and/or increase phenomenon awareness". Collins Cobuild English Dictionary for Advanced Learners (2001:540) further explains that explorative research is mostly undertaken to find something or to understand the facts. The exploratory research approach is chosen in order to obtain new perspectives, explore new concepts, and expand awareness of experience in the field of African business research.
The outcomes of the research	Basic (pure) research	"Basic research is experimental or theoretical work carried out with the primary goal of gaining new information about the fundamental basis of phenomena and measurable evidence, with no specific application or use in mind" (Frascati Manual 2002:30). The current research is considered basic research because the aim of the study is to gain a better understanding of the field of the study of family business research in Africa.

(<u>Source</u>: Researcher's own construction)

3.4 RESEARCH STRATEGY

Akhtar (2016:68) defines a research design as “the arrangement of conditions for the collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose and procedure”. In other words, the research design specifies what data is needed, what methods will be used to collect and analyse it, and how all of this will contribute to answering the research question (Van Wyk, 2012:5).

The research strategy adopted in the current study is a bibliometric analysis. A quantitative study of published material is referred to as a bibliometric analysis (Mukhlif, Hodonu-Wusu, Noordin and Kasirun, 2018:1). Bibliometrics is widely used to analyse scientific and scholarly publications (Waltman and Noyons, 2018:3). Bibliometrics, according to Ziegler (2009:14), is a set of techniques for assessing publication data. Bibliometrics allows researchers to gain a better understanding of their research field and its linkages to other fields of study (Waltman and Noyons, 2018:3).

Bibliometric indicators are increasingly being used to assess the quality of research (Wallin, 2005:261). Joshi (2014:258) distinguishes three types of bibliometric indicators: “quantitative indicators that measure a researcher's productivity, performance indicators that assess the journal's or the researcher's quality, and structural indicators that aid in establishing a link between publications, authors, and research fields”. For the purpose of this study, structural indicators will be used. When employing bibliometric indicators, Waltman and Noyons (2018:4) point out that it is important to remember that indicators do not always give an accurate measurement of the topic of interest but can only provide approximate information.

Archambault and Gagne (2004:2) explain that bibliometrics is based on two assumptions. The first is that researchers' goal is to advance knowledge, which entails disseminating the results of their research and studies through a variety of communication media, including writing, which is at the heart of the academic tradition. The second assumption is that researchers must publish to develop their careers and develop a reputation.

Archambault and Gagne (2004:2) identify three basic techniques of bibliometric indicators: publication count, citations and impact factor, and co-citation and co-word analysis.

- Publication count: The number of articles published in scholarly journals over a period of time is a measure of a set or subset of the science system's output. It is also feasible to compare data to determine the intensity of production in various fields.
- Citations and impact factor: The number of citations can be used to assess a study's scientific influence. Thomson ISI compiles the number of citations received by scholarly publications and sells them under the name Journal Citation Reports. The impact factor is arguably the most often used indicator in this package, which covers a number of measures relating to citations received by journals.
- Co-citation and co-word analysis: To map research activity, three co-citation-based indicators are used: co-citation analysis, co-word analysis, and bibliographic coupling. Mapping is a technique for examining the evolution of new fields using time as a variable. Co-citation and co-word indicators, as well as publication and citation counts, can be used to create comprehensive representations of research domains, their linkages, and the actors who shape them.

According to Waltman and Noyons (2018:9), bibliometrics may be used to solve a wide range of issues in research administration and evaluation, such as supporting the evaluation of research institutions and research groups, or providing information for evaluating candidates for scientific positions. Author, affiliation, citations from other publications, co-citations with other publications, reader usage, and linked keywords are among the bibliometric information linked with a publication (Ziegler, 2009:14).

According to Donthu, Kumar, Mukherjee, Pandey and Marc-Lim (2021:291), there are three steps that should be followed when conducting a bibliometric analysis. These steps will be described below.

- Step 1: Define the aims and scope of the bibliometric study

The first step is to establish the bibliometric study's goals and scope, which must be done before choosing the bibliometric analytic tools and collecting bibliometric data. It is dangerous to do the latter before the former, because inappropriate goals and scope might render bibliometric analysis ineffective, squandering valuable resources that may be better spent with proper planning. Pirri, Lorenzoni, and Turchetti (2020:3) also discuss the scope of a bibliometric study, stating that the goal of scoping is to create a framework that includes the study design and methodologies employed.

A bibliometric study's goals should be related to a review of a research field's performance and science. For this study, unlimited journal articles on African family business research will be reviewed where the scope will be open in terms of topics searched as long as the research is done on African businesses. The goal of this study is to have an understanding of what is available in terms of research on African family businesses and what topics were covered by which others in which institutions and countries. Therefore, the primary objective is to provide an overview of published research undertaken on African family businesses

The population and sample of articles under investigation outline the scope of the bibliometric study. The population, according to Burns and Grove (2009:343), is "the specific sort of individual or element from which the sample is drawn." For the purposes of this study, the population is neither capped or limited to a specific number or portions, but all published journal articles relating to research on African family business. Burns and Grove (2009:349) define sampling as the process of selecting a group of people, events, behaviors, or other components that represent the population under study. According to Kontinen, Ojala and Plakoyiannaki (2012:6), researchers must report on how their cases are chosen, what kind of data are used, and how the data is collected and analysed.

All journal articles published to date on research done among African family businesses which meet specific criteria will be included in the sample. As such a criterion sampling strategy was chosen for this study's purposes. Identification of important criterion, articulation of these criterion, and systematic evaluation and research of examples that match the criterion are all part of criteria sampling (Cohen and Crabtree, 2006:1). The following criteria were used to select journal articles for inclusion in this study's sample: The article must be based on research conducted on family businesses that operate on the African continent and are owned by, people born on the African continent.

Search conditions for this study include: journal publications only; using Google and Google Scholar as search engines only; retrieving English publications only; and research done on African family businesses based on the African continent.

- Step 2: Choose the techniques for bibliometric analysis

The second step is to design the bibliometric study, in which the bibliometric analysis techniques are chosen to match the first phase's objective and scope. One issue that scholars frequently face at this point is deciding whether to select a technique based on the bibliometric data desired or to select a technique first and then produce the bibliometric data using that methodology. The use of bibliometric analysis, according to Baraibar-Diez, Luna, Odriozola, and Llorente (2020:2), is very useful for researchers, as well as journal editors and reviewers, because it converts qualitative information into quantitative information, allowing conclusions to be drawn about the magnitude of studies that may exist on a particular line of research or topic. It provides a comprehensive view of the scientific fields that have gained focus on a certain topic, as well as presumed paradigms or current thinking (Baraibar-Diez, Luna, Odriozola, and Llorente (2020:2).

The different techniques available for bibliometrics analysis according to Fabregat-Aibar, Barberà-Mariné, Terceño and Pié (2019:2) are as follows:

- Review techniques: Systematic literature reviews, meta-analyses, and qualitative investigations are examples of traditional review techniques. These methods provide knowledge by combining bibliographic data from published publications with statistical analysis.

- Evaluative techniques: Evaluative techniques are divided into three categories based on how they assess academic impact. The first group contains productivity indicators such as the number of papers published each year and by each individual author. The second set of indicators includes overall number of citations per year and per individual author/journal, among other things. Finally, there are hybrid measures, such as the average number of citations per manuscript, as well as productivity and impact indices in the third group.

- Relational techniques: Within a study field, relational techniques investigate the link between units of analysis. These analyses reveal a study topic's structure, identify patterns among authors or affiliations, and indicate hot themes and research methodologies. There are four types of analysis that can be performed using these techniques: Co-citation analysis, bibliographic coupling, co-authorship analysis, and co-word analysis are all examples of co-citation analysis.

For the purposes of this study, evaluative techniques are going to be used to assess the field of research on African family businesses. This technique will involve identifying the number of journal articles that have been published so far in the field, as well as the authors, institutions and countries that contributed to the field of African family business research. Furthermore, the overall number of citations per year and per individual author, among other things, will be established.

- Step 3: Collect the data for bibliometric analysis

The third step is to collect the data needed for the bibliometric analysis chosen in the second step. For this step raw data must be obtained from the necessary databases

(Forliano, De Bernardi, and Yahiaoui 2021:3). In the case of the current study the Google and Google Scholar databases will be used. Scholars must define search words in this stage such that search results are broad enough to support the bibliometric analysis while being concentrated enough to stay within the specialized research field or area of study defined in the first step (Donthu, Kumar, Mukherjee, Pandey and Marc-Lim, 2021:291). Scholars have two alternatives in this regard: first, they can review the literature to determine a meaningful combination of search keywords, and second, they can curate suitable search phrases by brainstorming among themselves or with subject matter experts (Donthu, Kumar, Mukherjee, Pandey and Marc-Lim, 2021:291).

According to Myers (2013:26), the data collecting strategy chosen should allow for the collection of all information required to answer the study objectives. The primary data for this study was comprised of all journal articles that met the specified criteria. This information will be gathered through desk research, which will comprise searching for all journal publications on research done on African family businesses.

Details of interest obtained from the collected articles will then be entered into an excel sheet to make sorting and analysing the data for this study possible. The data will include the authors name with their contact details and address, the total number of authors involved in writing the article, the number of authors based in an African country, title of the article, date published, journal name, current impact factor journal, journal accreditation, citations of article as of June 2021, research approach (quantitative or qualitative), country focus, topic, website URL, keywords and abstract.

The search terms used are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Key words and search terms used for search criteria

Key words and search terms
Africa + family + business
Africa+ family + firm
Africa+ family + enterprise

Table 2: Key words and search terms used for search criteria (continued)

Key words and search terms
Africa + family + business research
Africa + family + firm
Africa + enterprise + research
Family + business + country
Family + firm + country
Family + owned + country
Family-owned + country
Family owning + country

(Source: Researcher's own construction)

The time periods for the search are not limited as long as the article is on African family business research, but excludes articles published after 30 June 2021.This being the date the searches began.

- Step 4: Run the bibliometric analysis and report the findings

Running the bibliometric analysis and reporting the results is the fourth and last step. The performance analysis that summarizes the performance of prolific research constituents like as authors, institutions, countries, and journals is often characterized as discrete processes in theory and this is what will be done on this study. Another phase is scientific mapping; however, this will not be done in the current study.

Quinlan, Babin, Carr, and Griffin (2015:70) define data analysis as the use of logic to comprehend the information gathered. In its most basic form, data analysis entails identifying consistent patterns and summarising the pertinent information uncovered throughout a study. They further state that the information requirements of management, the characteristics of the research design, and the type of the data acquired will decide the best analytical approach for data analysis.

Bibliometric data analysis can involve plotting trends in general activity, topic-specific activity, or institution activity (Taylor 2013:28). For example, simple counts of articles can be provided, as well as more advanced counts that give varied weight to primary authors as needed (Taylor, 2013:28). More extensive analyses can include co-citation and co-authorship, which might be transferred into an appropriate application with chart-making capabilities, such as Microsoft Excel (Taylor, 2013:28).

This particular study will make use of Microsoft Excel where data will be uploaded into different columns. The data will include the authors name with their contact details and address, the total number of authors involved in writing the article, the number of authors based in an African country, title of the article, date published, journal name, current impact factor journal, journal accreditation, citations of article as of 30 June 2021, research approach (quantitative or qualitative), country focus, topic, website URL, keywords and abstract. This enable the researcher to analyse the data and to achieve the objectives of the current study.

3.5 TRUSTWORTHINESS AND RIGOUR

Trustworthiness describes the extent to which the information reported in a study can be trusted and believed or seen as credible (Struwig and Stead 2013:130). According to Cypress (2017:261), researcher must be proactive and accept responsibility for guaranteeing the rigor of a research study. The outcomes of a study are deemed trustworthy if the data collection and analysis procedures used are recognised as credible, dependable, transferable, and confirmable. The aforementioned are measures most often used to assess the trustworthiness of a study.

3.5.1 Credibility

Credibility, according to Korstjens and Moser (2018:121), is the “quantitative equivalent of internal validity and is concerned with the truth-value component”. To recognise credibility in research, Stenfors, Kajamaa, and Bennett (2020:598) state that there must be alignment between theory, research question, data collection, analysis, and outcomes. For this study, Hadi and Closs (2016:4) state that to ensure credibility, triangulation should be used. To get a fuller understanding of the phenomenon being studied, triangulation requires the use of various methods, data sources, witnesses, or theories. It is utilised to ensure that the study findings are solid, detailed, and well-developed.

3.5.2 Dependability

Dependability is defined by Korstjens and Moser (2018:121) as the consistency of findings over time. Dependability includes assessing study findings, interpretations and recommendations by participants to provide support for all the data received from study participants (Korstjens and Moser, 2018:121). Dependability was achieved through making sure that the findings were consistent and repeatable.

3.5.3 Transferability

The term "transferability" refers to the ability to extrapolate. It is based on the assumption that results can be generalised or applied to different contexts or groups (Elo, Kaariainen, Polkki, Ultraianen and Kyngas, 2014:2). DeVault (2019:1) adds to this by asserting that transferability generalises study findings and attempts to apply them to other situations and contexts.

3.5.4 Confirmability

Confirmability is concerned with demonstrating that the data and interpretations of the findings are clearly drawn from the data and are not the result of the inquirer's imagination (Korstjens and Moser, 2018:121). To demonstrate confirmability, researchers must provide detailed descriptions of how they arrived at their conclusions, as well as the use of quotes (Stenfors et al. 2020:598). A verification method of using an audit trail was used to ensure that the process of data collection, data analysis and data interpretation were given in correct detail.

3.6 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Creswell (2014:132) emphasizes the relevance of ethics in research by pointing out that research is essentially concerned with gathering information about people from people. Quinlan et al. (2015:41) maintain that ethics in business research has grown in popularity, and as a result, aids researchers while they undertake a specific study. Blumberg, Cooper and Schindler (2011:115) emphasise the relevance of ethical considerations, stating that considering them in research is beneficial to ensuring that participants are not harmed by the study's findings.

To keep and uphold set ethical standards by the institution, an ethics clearance form has been completed and submitted to the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences before the research commenced and is attached as annexure 2. However, the study undertakes a desk research to collect the data and no interaction with humans takes place. Given the nature of the information collected (the fact that the information is not private nor personal in nature and that no people are directly involved), no specific ethical clearance is required.

3.7 SUMMARY

Chapter Three described the research design and methodology which was used on the study. A research design was discussed and formulated. A quantitative paragdim was found suitable for this study. A research strategy which included a description of population, sample and sampling methods, data collection and data analysis were discussed. This was followed by trustworthiness and rigour considerations which included credibility, dependability, transferability and confirmability which were taken into consideration prior undertaking this study.

CHAPTER 4
EMPIRICAL FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

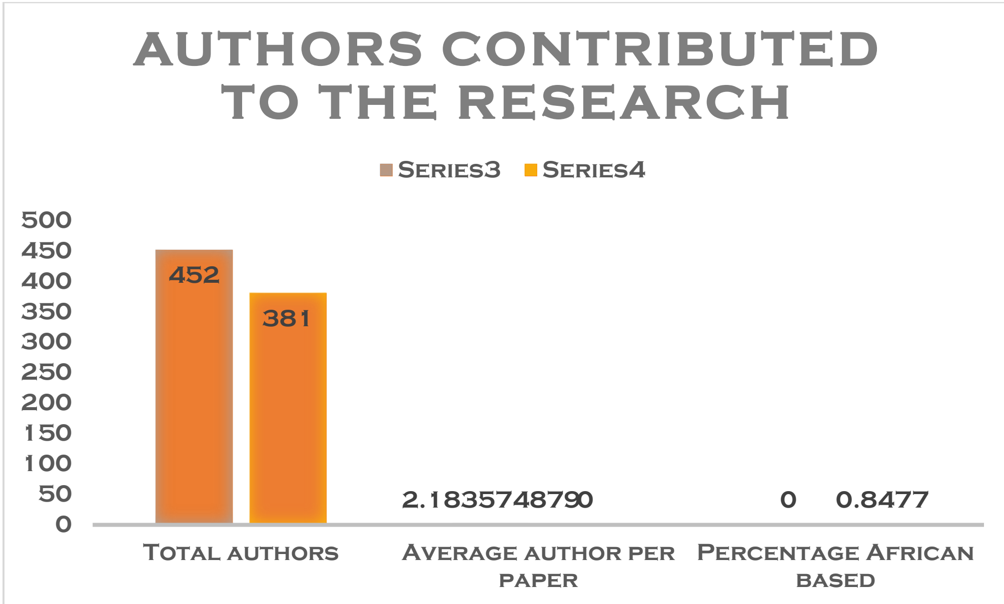
In the previous chapter, an overview of the research design and methodology used in the current study was outlined. This chapter, Chapter Four, will provide a summary of empirical findings of this study. Firstly, a brief description of authors who contributed to the research will be given. This will be followed by reporting on the levels of publication activity over the years, the journal names in which these articles were published, the journal accreditation of these journals as well as the countries where these articles were published. Thereafter, the article methodologies as well as the keywords used in the published studies will be presented. Lastly, citations and impact factors of the articles are presented.

4.2 EMPIRICAL FINDINGS

4.2.1 Author contribution

Figure 1 outlines the total number of authors which have contributed to research on family businesses in Africa. A total of 452 authors have made a contribution to the field by authoring or co-authoring the 206 journal articles based on African family businesses. Of these authors, 381 were based in Africa at the time of publication, whilst the remainder of the authors were based on other continents. An average of 2.18 author(s) made a contribution to each article.

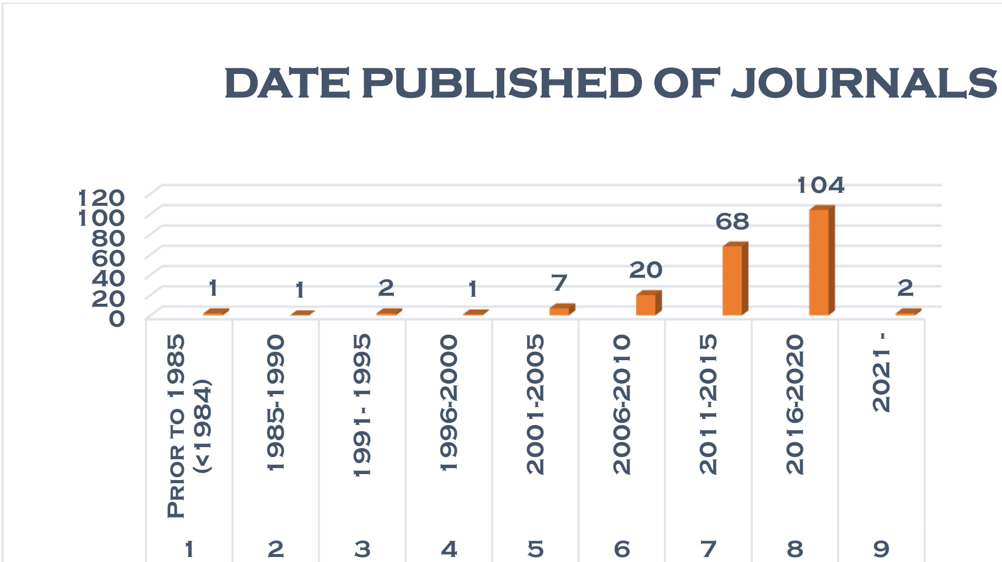
Figure 1: Total authors contributed to the research



4.2.2 Publication activity

The 206 articles identified for analysis in this research were written by authors from various African countries as well as countries outside of Africa. The first article was published in 1975, and the most recent was published in 2021 (see Figure 2). During the period of prior 1985, only one article was found to have been published. This article tittled "*The social and economic network of an Indian family business in Kenya,1920-1970"* by J. Zarwan, was published in 1975 in Kenya. The article was published by Kroniek van Afrika. The second article was published in 1985 by S. Jithoo from the University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa. The article was published by the Journal of Comparative Family Studies. Jithoo used a qualitative method to conduct research for this article. These two articles paved the way for family business research in Africa. Only two articles were published between 1990 and 1995, and between 1996 and 2000, only one article was published. An increase was recorded between 2001 and 2005 with seven articles being published. The trend continued as there was an increase of articles published between 2006 and 2010, namely 20 articles were published. Article publication on the continent kept growing and the period 2011 to 2015 and 2016 to 2020 recorded 68 and 104 published articles respectively. These two periods produced the highest number of published articles to date. Lastly, the most recent period of one year only, namely 2021, has only produced 2 articles to date.

Figure 2: Publication activity



4.2.3 Journal names

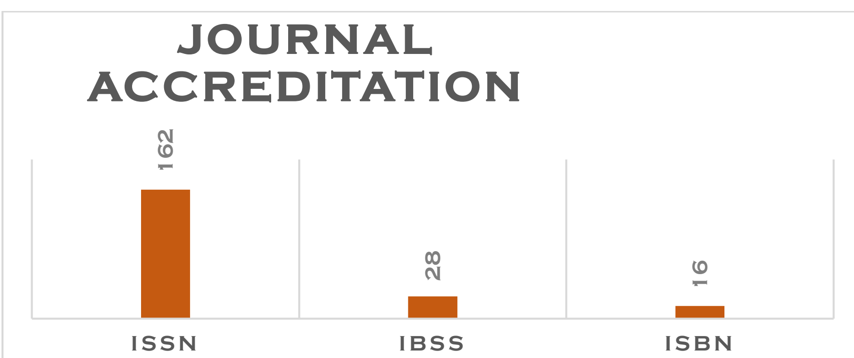
In total, there were 133 journals in which the 206 articles analysed in this study were published (see Figure 3). Figure 3 only shows the names of the journal that had three or more articles published in them. There were 15 journals with 3 or more publications. The *European Journal of Business and Management* accounts for the most articles published, with 11 articles published by this journal. It is followed by the *South African Journal of Business Management* in which 10 articles were published, *Management dynamics* with 8 articles and the *Family Business Review* and the *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences* with 5 articles each. The following journals have each published 4 articles namely: *Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship, Journal of African Business,* and *the International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business*. *The International of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences, Academy of Academy Entrepreneurship Journal, Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice, International Journal of Business and Social Science, International Journal of Business and Management Invention* and lastly, *The Pan-African Journal of Business Management* have each published 3.

Figure 3: Journal names

4.2.4 Journal accreditation

Figure 4 describes the accreditation of the various journals in which the articles analysed were published. Of the 206 articles, 162 were published in journals with an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) (79% of total articles). This is followed by journals with an International Bibliography of Social Sciences (IBSS) accreditation, 28 articles (13% of total articles) and those with an International Standard Book Number (ISBN) accreditation, namely 16 articles (8% of total articles). All 206 articles were published in accredited journals.

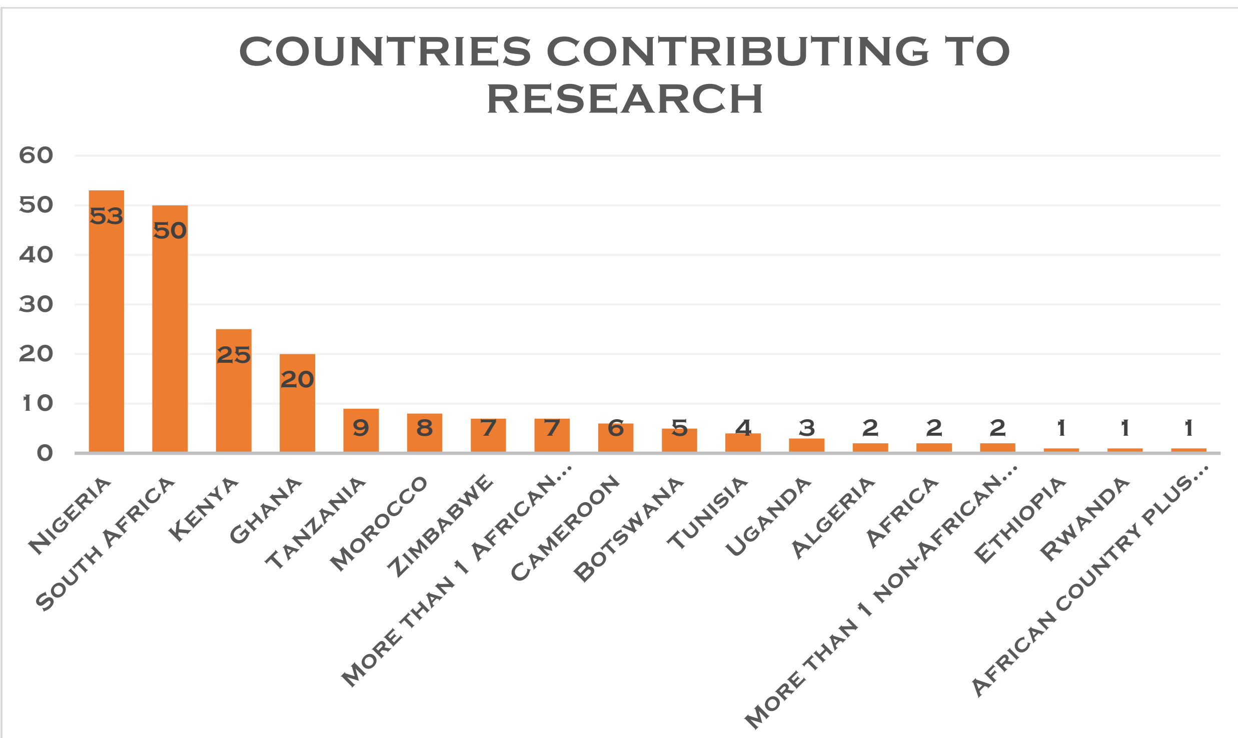
Figure 4: Journal accreditation



4.2.5 Countries

Figure 5 shows the various African countries in which the research on family businesses was conducted. Nigeria has the most contributions, 53 articles, followed by South Africa (50), Kenya (25), and Ghana (20). Several other countries had a contribution of less than 10 articles, namely Tanzania (9), Morocco (8), Zimbabwe (7), Cameroon (6), Botswana (5), Tunisia (4), Uganda (3), with (2) and both Ethiopia and Rwanda had 1 article each. There were 7 articles that focused on research in more than one African country, 2 articles that focussed on the whole African continent and 2 articles that focussed on an African country and a country outside the continent. Lastly, 2 articles were written in countries which were not from the African continent but were on family business research in Africa.

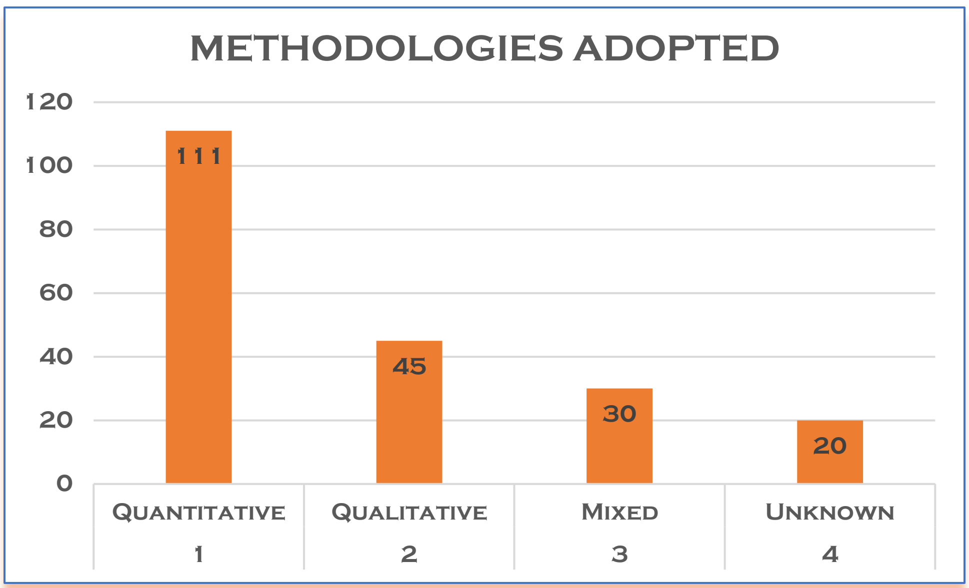
Figure 5: Countries



4.2.6 Methodology

From Figure 6, it can be seen that the 206 articles analysed in this study made use of either quantitative, qualitative or mixed methodologies. There were 20 (9%) articles for which the methodologies could not be established. Adopting a quantitative methodology was most common and 111 out of 206 (54%) articles made use of this approach. This was followed by the qualitative and mixed methodologies, with 45 (22%) and 30 (15%) articles adopting these approaches respectively.

Figure 6: Methodologies adopted



4.2.7 Keywords

In total, 375 keywords were extracted from the 206 articles that were being analysed. The words were then sorted according to the number of times they appeared, from those that appeared the most to those that appeared the least times. A wordcloud (see Figure 7) was then generated using Atlas ti. The words appearing more than three times are succession, performance, entrepreneurship, sustainability, culture, governance, human resource management, continuity, knowledge management, networking, leadership, strategy, teamwork, growth, family dynamics, founders, gender, innovation, sibling partnership, competencies, finance, succession planning, innvesment and ownership.

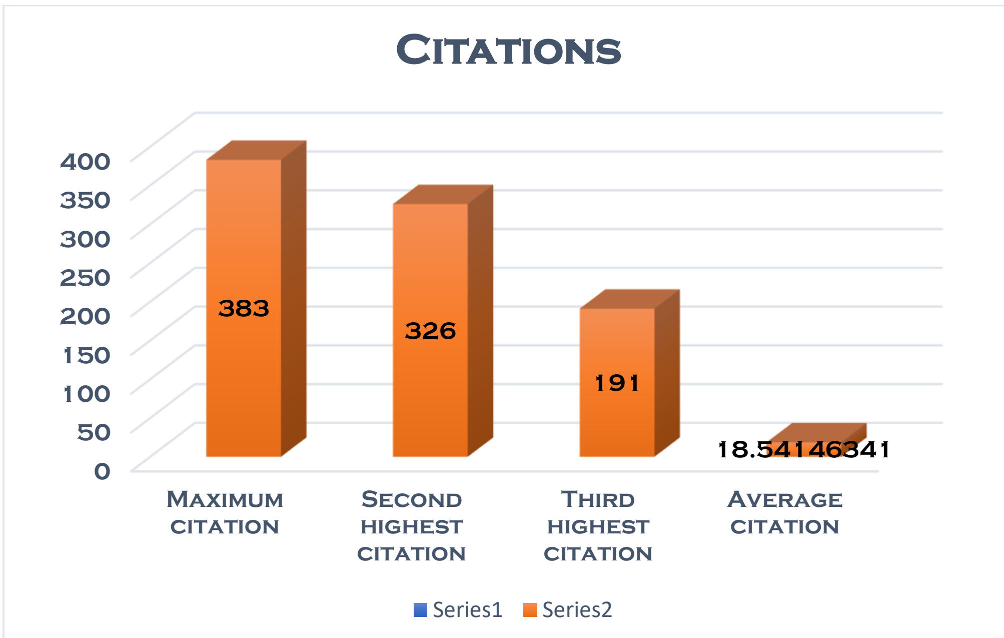
The keywords that appeared the most are successon (58) followed by performance (54) and entrepreneurship (27). Based on these keywords, it can be suggested that authors focussed their research on business succession of African family businesses most often and also on the performance of these businesses. The words performance, sustainability and growth appear often indicating possible dependent variables in these studies, whereas succession, entrepreneurship and continuity appear to be the most often researched independent variables.

Figure 7: Keywords

4.2.8 Citations

Figure 8 (see below) shows the number of times the various articles have been cited. In total the 206 articles have received 3801 citations. The maximum citations given to any one article to date is 383. This article was published in 2009 by Khavul, S., Bruton, G. D. and Wood, E. and was titled "*Informal family business in Africa*". The article with the second highest number of citations is titled “*Correlates of success in family business transitions”* by Morris, M., Williams, R., Allen, J. and Avila, R. which was published in 1997. The article with the third highest number of citations was published in 2012 by Acquaah, M. titled “*Social networking relationships, firm-specific managerial experience and firm performance in a transitional economy: A comparative analysis of family owned and non-family firms*”. The average citations received by the articles analysed in this study is 18.541.

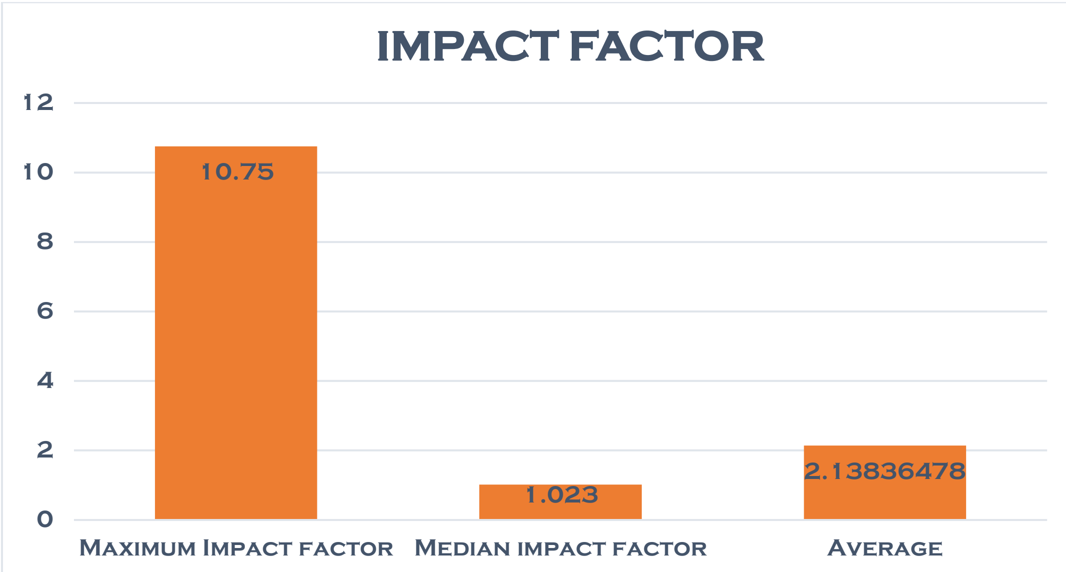
Figure 8: Citations



4.2.9 Impact factor

Out of 206 articles published on family business research in Africa, the journal article with the highest maximum impact factor was the “*Journal of Entreprenuership: Research and Practice*” which currently has an impact factor of 10.75 and the name of the article published under this journal is titled “*Factors Affecting the Sustainability of Family Businesses in Cameroon: An Empirical Study in Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon*”. The median and and average impact factor of the 133 journals is 1.023 and 2.138 respectively. Fifty-six journal articles had no impact factors.

Figure 9: Impact factor



4.3 SUMMARY

Chapter Four presented the empirical findings of the study. A description of the authors that contributed to the study was given. This was followed by the publication activity of these articles giving a timeline of when these articles were published, from 1975 till 2021. Thereafter, journal names that contributed to this study were identified followed by journal accreditations where three journal accreditations were identified. Countries that contributed to this study and methodologies adopted were outlined. This was followed by an analysis of the keywords and the citations made of each article. Lastly, the maximum, median and average impact factors were presented.

Chapter 5 which will be the final chapter of this study and will summarise the study as a whole. Chapter Five will show how the objectives of the study have been achieved and discuss the findings. In addition, the contributions of the study as well as the limitations of the study will be highlighted and recommendations for future research will be presented.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY, SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The fourth chapter presented the study's empirical findings, which were based on the identification and analysis of existing journal articles on African family businesses. The final chapter of the study, Chapter Five, will provide an overview of all chapters, a summary of findings, and recommendations to the study of family business research in Africa. Finally, limitations, contributions to the study, and concluding remarks will be made.

5.2 OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

Chapter One provided an introduction and a background to the study. The introduction was followed by the problem statement which highlighted the low levels of publication activity on research which done on family businesses in Africa. To address this problem the primary of this study was to provide an overview of published research undertaken on African family businesses. In order to address the primary, secondary objectives, methodological objectives were also formulated. More specifically the study aimed toidentifying authors, countries as well as topics which have been researched. Furthermore, trends in research regards to when and where the research was published and what keywords had been used in their research, were also investigated.Chapter One also gave an outline of the scope and delimitations of the study, defined several key concepts, highlited the contribution to the study, and outlined its structure.

Chapter Two focussed on the review of literature on research done on family businesses as a whole since it was first conducted up until now. This chapter provided an analysis on the nature and importance of family businesses, the evolution of the field of family businesses and previous research done on the field of family business as a whole. Braidford et al. (2014:5) argued that there was no acknowldgement of a common definition for a family business and that this was further complicated by the inconsistency of family businesses when a consideration of involvement of family in the business was considered, this being argued by Acquaah and Eshun (2016:45). What was common was that however in defining family businesses was that a family business must at a least be in control of 51 percent of the shares in the business (Blodgett et al 2011:29; Duh et al. 2011:473).

Deberliev and Janeska-IIiev (2015:43) outlined that the most obvious characteristics of a family business which were family ties between the manager and employees, beliefs, ethics and behaviour patterns. Considering these characteristics, trust, commitment and intimate ties are the one that are considered important for succession of the family business (Eddleston and Morgan, 2014:213). Looking at the importances of family businesses, it was important to note that family businesses play a role in the world's economy as they create employment opportunities, improve the standard of living for its stakeholders and making a contribution towards gross domestic product (Devins and Jones, 2016:4), and is estimated to be contributing around 70 percent worldwide (Osunde, 2017:1). Prior to the 1970's, family businesses were not considered by researchers (Colli, 2003:22) and the field was only recognised a separate field in the late 1980's to early 1990's as Bird et al. (2002:338) argued. An increase in article publications on family businesses was evident from there on as the number increased from 33 in 1989 to over 300 in 2003 (Acquaah and Eshun, 2016:43; Sharma, 2004:1). It continued to evolve and as such in 2021, over 1 381 journal articles on family businesses were published over a 32-year period as reported by Rovelli et al. (2021:2). The growth of this field had been predicted by Bird et al. (2002:344) that it would develop and be taken seriously.

Also, previous research on the field as a whole was done as to see what had been covered by researchers of the field so far. 19 articles had been identified (see Annexure A) that gave a review on the review on the field of family business research. It was evident that the most common review period was between 1980 and 2020 as indicated by Bird et al. (2002:338) that the field was recognised in the 1980's. Looking at the review articles, only 2 had done research on African family businesses which were written by Farrington and Jappie (2016) and Samara (2020) and this really showed the lack of research on the filed on the African continent.

Chapter Three gave a detailed description of the research design and methodology used in the study. The research methods used for this study were outlined on table 1. A positivism paradigm was followed for the study and a deductive research approach to theory development was also used. For the purpose of the study, a descriptive research design which is "aimed at casting light on current issues or problems through a process of data collection" was also used. A mono-method approach was applied as a methodological choice for this study. A quantitative study approached was employed whereby an archival research was used to examine historical records and also making use of the bibliometric analysis which "summarises, classifies and present representative results from a collection of bibliographic documents:" This study also used desk research for data collection and mainly focused on statistical analysis and content analysis. This as followed by outlining the research trustworthiness and rigour then the ethical considerations that would apply to this study.

Chapter Four presented the empirical findings of the study of the research on African family businesses. A total of 206 articles were identified on which to undertake the analysis in the study. Author contribution to the study was given, publication activity of articles, journal names, journal accreditation, country contribution, methodologies adopted, keywords identified, citations made and impact factors of journals were identified and discussed. These findings will be discussed in detail in Section 5.3 of this chapter.

The summary of the study provided above demonstrates the study's objectives which were achieved. Table 3 will give a summary of these objectives and the chapters in which they were met. As a result, the study's primary objective was achieved.

Table 3: Study objectives achieved in the relevant chapters

OBJECTIVES	RELEVANT CHAPTER(S)
Primary objective:	
The primary objective of this study is to provide an overview of published research undertaken on African family businesses.	**Chapter 1-5**
Secondary objectives:	
SO1 To conduct a literature review on the nature and importance of family businesses, evolution of family businesses and previous research on the field of family businesses as a whole.	**Chapter 2; Annexure A**
SO2 To determine trends in research on African family businesses with regard when and where it has been published, as well as the topics investigated	**Chapter 4**
SO3 To identify the impact that research on African family business is making.	**Chapter 4-5**
Methodological objectives:	
MO1 Determining the appropriate research methodology that will be used in undertaking this study	**Chapter 3**
MO2 Source primary data from journal articles published on African family businesses	**Chapter 4**
MO3 Collect and analyse data collected using bibliometric analysis	**Chapter 4**
MO4 Provide conclusions and recommendations based on findings of the study conducted	**Chapter 5**

(Source: Researcher's own construction)

5.3 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The primary objective of this study was to provide an overview of published research undertaken on African family businesses. More specifically the study looked at describing the number of authors that have contributed, the publication activity, names of journals involved, journal accreditations, countries of research, methodologies adopted, keywords used, ciations acheived and impact factors of journal articles. These results will be briefly discussed in the sections that follow and recommendations and conclusions will be made.

5.3.1 Author contribution

Since 1975, the field of family businesses in Africa has grown and continues to do so. Having a total of 452 authors contributing to published articles, with 381 based in Africa. This is a sign that scholars on the African continent are starting to make an increased contribution to the field as a whole. However, to continue to make a contribution to the field as a whole more author and high-quality articles are still needed. For that to happen, the following recommendation is made:

- More African based authors should be involved in contributing towards research on the field of family businesses in Africa. This can happen through attending research presentations and conferences related to the field and also providing funding for those who intend on doing research in the field of family business.

5.3.2 Publication activity

For the current study 206 published articles on research done among African family businesses were analysed. These articles were publsihed over the period 1975 and 2021.The number of articles published during the late 1970’s and 1980’s was low, however the number grew year to year and from the period 2006 to date publications increased steadily, with the the highest number of publication occurring during the period 2016 to 2020. This increase in publication acitivity was aligned with the field as whole as noted by Sharma (2004:1) who stated that the number of journal articles published showed a rapid increase from the year 1989 as there was new knowledge about family businesses. The reason for such an increase could be attributed to scholars having the necessary resources to publish their work and a growing interest in the field. To increase publication activity, the following recommendations are made:

- Efforts should be made to increase the quantity of articles on African family businesses. This can be done by authors collaborating more often so that more quality articles are produced which will increase the number of published articles on the continent.
- More resources should be made available to researchers who intend to undertake research on topic(s) on African family businesses.
- Institutions based in Africa should create module that focus on family businesses as to allow students to gain more understanding about and interest in the field.

5.3.3 Journal names

The articles analysed were published in 133 journals. However, there were only 15 journals with 3 or more publications. Three journals accounted for 14% of the publications. The vast majority of journals only has one article published in it. With regard to the journals selected for publications the following recommendations are made:

- Researchers should aim to publish in open access journals that are available online. This way, their work will be accessible to more readers.
- Researchers should publish their articles in top family business journals. This is because the journals are well known and credible.

5.3.4 Journal accreditation

The findings show that all 206 articles have been published in journals that are accredited with either an ISSN, IBSS or an ISBN number. This is a positive thing as it indicates high quality from the articles that were published under these accreditations. Going forward authors should continue to publish in accredited journal as well as in those with accreditations relating to ISI, DHET, Scopus and the Norwegian list. In addition, predatory journals should be avoided at all costs. The goal of these predatory journals, according to Beall (2012:179), is not to foster academic rigor but rather to generate money, therefore peer review is restricted or non-existent. Predatory journals tempt scholars with mass emails inviting submissions and advertising opportunities to serve on editorial boards and as reviewers. It is often difficult to tell which scientific publications are trustworthy and which are 'predatory' among the rising number of options accessible today (Kurt, 2018:141).

5.3.5 Countries

The finding shows that research on African family businesses has only been undertaken in 14 countries with the vast majority of this research being undertaken in Nigeria and South Africa, which account for 50% of the articles published. More countries are needed to contribute to the field of African family business and for that to happen countries should have English as one of their official languages as other languages create a barrier for some researchers who publish in different languages.

5.3.6 Methodology

The results of this study show that authors have made use of both qualitative and quantitative methods, with quantitative methods been used most often. Of the 206 articles analused quantitative research methods were popular followed by qualitative and mixed methodologies. However, today there are calls for more qualitative methodologies to used in the field. According to Nordqvist, Hall, and Melin (2009:294), family business research has developed and quantitative research methodologies have dominated the field. They contend that the field needs to be supplemented by a research strategy that can better reflect the distinctive complexity and dynamics of family businesses, and they believe the qualitative method has potential. This call is echoed by Fletcher, De Massis, and Nordqvist (2016:8), who argue that the full potential of qualitative methods is not being fulfilled in published research output.

African family business scholar should increasingly employ qualitative research. because the data gathered provides a complete description of the study in terms of the participants and yields a wealth of information about real people and circumstances (De Vaus, 2014:6; Leedy and Ormrod, 2014:1).

5.3.7 Keywords

An analysis of key words showed that key topics of investigation by African family business scholars relate to succession, performance, entrepreneurship, sustainability and culture. According to Saan, Boating and Kamwine (2013:24), succession planning is a critical component of family business continuity. Succession is a problem that almost every viable business face, and it becomes necessary when the owner passes away, retires, or resigns. As seen on the keywords, succession is the most popular topic that is researched. Also common are topics relating to the longegivity of a business including performance, involvement of family members, culture and sustainability. Sharma, Chrisman and Gersick (2012:10) further state that the topic of succession has dominated for so long that researchers have had to commission new topics to assist expand the field's borders and ensure its long-term viability. They went on to say that further words, such as business dynamics, conflict, firm performance, governance, innovation, and gender, were then explored. These terms are still used in the field today.

Other possibilities for research in the field, according to Rovelli et al. (2021:12), include socioeconomic wealth, psychological ownership, social capital, trust, family influence, id entify, and family control. Topics currently worth invetigating include communication, values, goals, corporate social responsibility and earnings management (Rovelli et al. 2021:12).

5.3.8 Citations

The results on this study show the highest number of citations achieved by any one article is 383, with the average number of citations being 18.541. These numbers are relatively low and to increase the number of citations, the following recommendations are proposed:

- African family business scholar shoulc join or sign up with Academia or Research gate and make use of these platforms to publish articles as they are accessible for free to readers.

5.3.9 Impact factor

The 206 analysed articles were published in 133 different journals. The average impact factor of these journals is 2.138. Only one articles was published in a high impct journal, namely the *"Journal of Entrepreneurship: Research and Practice".* Thirty-three journals (32%) of the journals had no impact factor. To improve the impact of their publication, authors should publish their work in journals with high impact factors. Impact factors, according to Tetzner (2021:1), can be incredibly useful in determining which influential and renowned journal will effectively make ones' work available to a broader audience for whom whom one is writing, but should also be used with caution.

5.4 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

As with all research, this study has some limitations that should be highlighted. The first limitations are that the research focus was only publications on research done among family businesses on the African continent. The analysis also only focused on published journal articles written in the English language. Furthermore, Google and Google Scholar were the only search engines used to source the articles. The search timeframe was up until the 30 June 2021

The second limitation is that the 206 articles analysed did not include all research publication done on African family businesses. Only 14 of the 54 African countries were represented suggesting that not all African research on this topic is represented. Some countries like Morocco and Egypt could have published articles in a different language other than English and were thus not identified.

5.5 CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE STUDY

Despite its limitations, this study has contributed by adding to the body of African family business research by analysing all articles on family business research in Africa. The study provided insights by highlighting the contributions made by authors, countries, journals used to publish, and, most importantly, the keywords used in the study. Through analysing keyword avenues for future research have been identified.

5.6 CONCLUDING REMARKS

To summarise, this study has contributed to a better understanding of what research has been done in the field of African family businesses. The researcher gained a better understanding of the research conducted on African family businesses by various authors from various countries, with the majority of them addressing the issues of succession, performance, entrepreneurship, and sustainability. The study improved the researcher's writing and research abilities. It provided the researcher with the skills needed to conduct research using the appropriate methods and techniques.

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ANNEXURE A: Review articles on the field of family business

Author(s)	Year	Title	Review period	Number of articles reviewed	Key study objective/purpose	Key findings/conclusions/recommendations
Bird, B., Welsch, H., Astrachan, J.H. and Pistrui, D.	2002	Family Business Research: The Evolution of an Academic Field	1980's 1997-2001	148	This paper examines the literature on establishing a distinct area of study, as well as foundational family business research from the 1980s and four recent years (1997-2001) of published family business research from a variety of sources.	In recent years family business research has grown increasingly empirical and rigorous with broader sample sizes, less systemic samples, more independent, more dependent variables, and greater application of multivariate statistical tools. The research of family business is becoming more sophisticated.
Colli, A.	2003	The History of Family Business, 1850–2000	1850-2000	-	In their analysis of the diverse interactions between family businesses and between family businesses, Andrea Colli presents a historical and comparative perspective on family business in various political and institutional environments. He contrasts family business' success with that of other economic organisations, and examines the contribution made by these companies to the development of modern industrial capitalism.	In recent years people have become increasingly aware of the necessity to move beyond the divide between family and management companies and to renounce convergence determinism. The current research into family businesses, based on sociology, politics and management and on economics and history has become multidisciplinary. The role of family companies in various stages of growth of a defined domestic economic system has been increasingly analysed.
Chua, J.H., Chrisman, J.J. and Steier, L.P.	2003	Extending the Theoretical Horizons of Family Business Research	-	-	This article examines how goal specification is linked to the various techniques adopted by scholars investigating family businesses using prominent theories of the business as frameworks.	The papers in this special issue show two main themes in the continued evolution of the family business theory. The first is that the implementation of dominant business theories in the family business can provide both theoretical and empirical research with better discipline and organization. Nevertheless, in order to conform with the realities of the family firm it is vital to continue examining the implied and explicit assumptions inside these ideas. Secondly, social science borrowing can hasten theoretical breakthroughs, as many necessary concepts, for example Anthropologie, Finance, History, Organizational Theory, Political Studies, Sociology and Strategy have previously been examined in depth, by students in fields. There is plenty to learn and resources are limited; family business research can be improved by reducing unnecessary repetition.
Sharma, P.	2004	An Overview of the Field of Family Business Studies: Current Status and Directions for the Future	1989-2003	217	The purpose of this review is to provide such a reflective moment for the field of family business studies, as the primary scholarly journal of the field.	All in all, this evaluation demonstrated a favorable tendency towards more advanced research based on rich conceptualizations based on theory of different phenomena of interest. Although these attempts should go further in the future, the theoretical models established for sophisticated empirical studies are as significant. We may become closer to the generation of usable information only through ongoing theory building and testing.
Zahra, S.A. and Sharma, P.	2004	Family Business Research: A Strategic Reflection	-	8	The objective was to develop strategies for accelerating the growth of family business research in order to better understand the paradoxes faced by family business managers, gain deeper insights into the problems they face, improve the rigor of reported research, find ways to promote a dialogue with scholars from sister disciplines, and give back to the disciplines from which we borrow heavily.	In summary, research methodologies that are well aligned with the research issues of interest and the level of dominant knowledge on this substantive subject can be used by researchers in the area. It is also vital to follow the basic principles of selected research methods and to do longitudinal and multi-interviewed cross-sectional investigations.

ANNEXURE A: Review articles on the field of family business (continued)

Author(s)	Year	Title	Review period	Number of articles reviewed	Key study objective/purpose	Key findings/conclusions/recommendations
Casillas, J. and Acedo, F.	2007	Evolution of the Intellectual Structure of Family Business Literature: A Bibliometric Study of FBR	1988-2005	339	The goal of this study is to use co-citation analysis to infer an intellectual framework for the family business area accounting from 1988 to 2005 (the lifetime of Family Business Review).	This paper offers fascinating proposals for future investigation. The journal study base and the time period should be extended to provide an overview of the discipline. It would be of interest. The combination of co-quote analysis and contents or topic analysis would also help track the future trends in research in family businesses and not only the growth of the intellectual structures in the sector. However, this article provides a wide-ranging picture of the history of study in this area and seeks to help synthesize the growth in family business literature and therefore to facilitate the work of academics, university students, consultants and family company entrepreneurs.
Debicki, B. J., Matherne, C. F., Kellermanns, F. W. and Chrisman, J. J.	2009	Family business research in the new millennium: An overview of the who, the where, the what, and the why.	2001-2007	291	A network analysis of co-author ties was done to better understand the interrelationships among researchers who have contributed to family business research. The writers also analyse the articles' content and make recommendations for future research.	Our network analysis shows that the area is relatively connected between researchers and suggests that knowledge generation and dissemination is likely to be deliberate and speedy in the coming years. Finally, our analysis of subject area coverage illustrates trends in research and contributes to the identification of key knowledge gaps.
Chrisman, J.J., Kellermanns, F.W., Chan, K.C. and Liano, K.	2010	Intellectual Foundations of Current Research in Family Business: An Identification and Review of 25 Influential Articles	2003-2008	25	This article aims to identify individual books that have had the significant impact on the field of family business in recent years, as measured by citation counts.	First, they analyse the papers which have been most important in shaping recent advancements in knowledge by citing family business studies published in the four journals publishing the bulk of this research for a period of 6 years. Secondly, we present an overview of these articles' conclusions and intellectual contributions. This should be valuable for scientists, because an awareness of the connections between research past and present gives a perspective as to why the area has developed. Finally, researchers might identify directions for future research that appear especially promising by looking at common themes among those publications from the past.
Yu, A., Lumpkin, G.T., Soreson, R. and Brigham, K.H.	2011	The Landscape of Family Business Outcomes: A Summary and Numerical Taxonomy of Dependent Variables	1998-2009	257	The goal of this paper is to analyse the family business discipline by looking at the dependent/outcome variables that have been employed in recent family business research and their linkages. We also look at dependent/outcome variables that should be studied further in future family business research."	The main contribution of this research is that the field of family business study is represented in accordance with the dependent variable/outcome. A study of 12 years of empirical literature and the underlying themes and structures among dependent variables has been conducted through research and a numerical taxonomy. A valuable tool to summarize and expose correlations between research variables is the methodology of the numerical taxonomy.
Benavides-Velaco, C.A., Quintana-Garcia, C. and Guzman-Parra, V.F.	2013	Trends in family business research	1961-2008	703	The aim of this analysis was to use bibliometric indicators and methods to assess current trends and potential future study areas in the subject of family businesses.	This article was intended to outline the patterns and trends in family business literature in order to propose prospective areas for future research that are valuable for consolidating the discipline. We conducted bibliometric study for the scientific journals included in the Social Science Citation Index subjects of business, business finance, economics and management, which have published at least one article on family enterprise. The evolution of the production and the structure of the field have been described with many measurements and indicators.

ANNEXURE A: Review articles on the field of family business (continued)

Author(s)	Year	Title	Review period	Number of articles reviewed	Key study objective/purpose	Key findings/conclusions/recommendations
Wilson, S.R., Whitmoyer, J.G., Pieper, T.M., Astrachan, J.H., Hair, J.F. and Sarstedt, M.	2014	Method trends and method needs: Examining methods needed for accelerating the field	1984-2014	617	The article discusses the progression and development of techniques, sample sizes and related methodological concerns, as well as ideas and topics researched in family business research, and evaluates the various motivations for studying research methods, especially in family company. The strategies that we feel should be employed to advance family business theory and practice are highlighted in future research directions.	The assessment suggests that the field is ready to gain methodological rigour, theoretical basis and contribution. However, research discoveries should eventually assist businesses, family members behind these and in turn, boost economies and societies in an area with large external applicabilities, such as family enterprises. The insights generated from our joint research efforts are both rigorous and relevant to the organizations and families we investigate if we were to follow this principle.
Xi, J.M., Kraus, S. Filser, M. and Kellermanns, F.W.	2015	Mapping the field of family business research: past trends and future directions	Articles on family businesses published before 2012	25	The study contributes to the current of knowledge in a number of ways. It is the first book to present a fully complete account of family business studies from a variety of perspectives. Previous studies have excluded books from their findings, despite the fact that some of these works have had a significant impact on the area.	The review of very important contributions in recent years has made it possible to identify new themes that are now being dealt with increasingly by researchers. This has shown that the further development of Socio-economic wealth research and the necessity to take a microphone into account give huge promise for future research.
Evert, R. E., Martin, J. A., McLeod, M. S. and Payne, G. T.	2015	Empirics in Family Business Research: Progress, Challenges, and the Path Ahead	1988-2015	319	The purpose of this study is to analyse the level of empirical research in family business research in order to account for the past and guide future research efforts.	The improvements, possibilities and challenges mentioned included two major concerns relevant to this assessment. As well as the validity and the repute of the field, respondents usually pointed out its growth and also the need to continue to strengthen legitimacy with regard to surrounding areas. Methods and empirics were the second widely referred topic that was intimately connected with the first; not only did respondents notice major advances in empirics but also need improvement.
Farrington, S.M. and Jappie, A.G.	2016	The Field of Family Business Research in South Africa: A Preliminary Review	1985-2015	48	The purpose of this study was to establish the status of the field of family business in South Africa by reflecting on the "who, what, and how" of family business research in the country. This study involved undertaking a bibliometric analysis of journal articles published in the field of family business by South African scholars	The outcomes of this study will help scientists to assess their research against those of their international counterparts and the entire area by determining what South African family business scientists are examining. Benchmarking enables them to analyze whether their study is relevant and in line with world tendencies, which is vital if they wish to publish and contribute to the day's on-the-go discourse. Identifying which subjects were investigated and comparing them across an entire area permits research gaps and ideas to be suggested for future research in the African context
Payne, G.T.	2018	Reflections on Family Business Research: Considering Domains and Theory	2000-2018	5	The current edition of Family Business Review (FBR) is based on these broad concerns on the breadth and scope of the subject. In general, the reflections on the future and validity of the family business area led to a debate about the content and focus of this issue of FBR.	Generally, the family business field seems to have gained its own identity from an adolescent to mature condition. As such, it is time to think more broadly and to further develop research that starts with the construction of the general framework, which will allow us to debate new, more robust theories.
Cisneros, L., Ibanescu, M., Keen, C., Lobato-Calleros, O. and Niebla-Zatarain, J.	2018	Bibliometric study of family business succession between 1939 and 2017: mapping and analyzing authors' networks	1939-2017	661	They map and analyze the most influential networks by identifying the most important topics studied, the theoretical and methodological approaches employed, the scope of the research conducted, and where it has been published.	The status of the coauthorship network in this field was assessed using a bibliometric analysis of family business succession. It looked at the value of collaborative networks as well as productivity. By significantly extending the number of papers in the bibliometric study from 1939 to 2017 and integrating coauthorship network analysis, we outperformed prior relevant studies. This is the world's first comprehensive, historical, and multidisciplinary study of family business succession.

ANNEXURE A: Review articles on the field of family business (continued)

Author(s)	Year	Title	Review period	Number of articles reviewed	Key study objective/purpose	Key findings/conclusions/recommendations
Samara, G.	2020	Family businesses in the Arab Middle East: What do we know and where should we go?	2000-2018	70	This article reviews 70 articles published between 2000 and 2018 to assess the state of family business research in the Arab Middle East. The findings demonstrate that patriarchy and collectivism are prominent cultural qualities that have contributed to a strong dedication to the family business workforce, the ceremonial appointment of women in leadership roles, the prioritization of family peace over all other goals, the pursuit of male dynastic succession that maintains the founder's vision, and informal human resources methods.	The review marks the first step towards organizing what we know about businesses in the Arab Middle East and indicates crucial ways of doing more study in the near future. Scholar students interested in research in family enterprises in the Middle East and Arab countries are encouraged to collaborate on an international footing and to aim to achieve higher theoretical depths and methodological strictness.
De las Heras-Rosas, C. and Herrera, J.	2020	Family Firms and Sustainability. A Longitudinal Analysis	2003-2019	286	The object of this study is to find out how the term sustainability has been related to other concepts through time in order to shed light on the evolution of research related to sustainability in the field of family companies and, on the other hand, to detect the issues that have led to the trends in research connected to family businesses and sustainability.	This study emphasizes the scientific community's growing concern for research into family-owned enterprises, offering a linkage to sustainability difficulties in this form of business and which can help future research interested in offering knowledge on this method.
Rovelli, P., Ferasso, M., De Massis, A. and Kraus, S.	2021	Thirty years of research in family business journals: Status quo and future directions. Journal of Family Business Strategy.	1988-2020	1381	The study intends to determine the structure of FBR, JFBS, and JFBM publications and citations, as well as notable authors, institutions, and countries, as well as themes of interest and research methodologies.	This paper provided a bibliometric analysis of the 1381 contributions published in top journals dedicated exclusively to family business research from its beginning in 1988 to late 2020. In addition to bibliometric analysis of FBR, JFBS and JFBM, they also uncovered the most widely discussed themes and provided guidelines for future research.

(Source: Researcher’s own construction)

ANNEXURE B: ETHICS FORM

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES

ETHICS CLEARANCE FOR TREATISES / DISSERTATIONS / THESES

Instructions:

- Should be completed by study leader and student
- Must be signed off by student, study leader and HoD
- Submit completed form to Ms Lindie van Rensburg
- Please ensure that the research methodology section from the proposal is attached to this form
- ***Please note that by following this Proforma ethics route, the study will NOT be allocated an ethics clearance number***

FACULTY: _Business and Economic Sciences

SCHOOL / DEPARTMENT: __Department of Business Management

I, (surname and initials of study leader) SM Farrington

the study leader for (surname and initials of candidate) Gila, L.A

____________________________ (student number) _216424178

a candidate for the degree of __BAHons (Business Management)

with a treatise/dissertation/thesis entitled (full title of treatise/dissertation/thesis):
AN OVERVIEW OF FAMILY BUSINESS RESEARCH IN AFRICA

Have considered the following ethics criteria *(please tick the appropriate block):*

		YES	NO
1.	Is there any risk of harm, embarrassment of offence, however slight or temporary, to the participant, third parties or to the communities at large?		✓
2.	Is the study based on a research population defined as ‘vulnerable’ in terms of age, physical characteristics and/or disease status?		✓
2.1	Are subjects/participants/respondents of your study:		

2.1.1	Children under the age of 18?		✓
2.1.2	NMMU staff?		✓
2.1.3	NMMU students?		✓
2.1.4	The elderly/persons over the age of 60?		✓
2.1.5	A sample from an institution (e.g. hospital/school)?		✓
2.1.6	Handicapped (e.g. mentally or physically)?		✓
3.	Does the data that will be collected require consent of an institutional authority for this study? (An institutional authority refers to an organisation that is established by government to protect vulnerable people)		✓
3.1	Are you intending to access participant data from an existing, stored repository (e.g. school, institutional or university records)?		✓
4.4	Will the participant's privacy, anonymity or confidentiality be compromised?		✓
4.1	Are you administering a questionnaire/survey that:		
(a) 4.1.1	Collects sensitive/identifiable data from participants?		✓
(b) 4.1.2	Does not guarantee the anonymity of the participant?		✓
(c) 4.1.3	Does not guarantee the confidentiality of the participant and the data?		✓
(d) 4.1.4	Will offer an incentive to respondents to participate, i.e. a lucky draw or any other prize?		✓
(e) 4.1.5	Will create doubt whether sample control measures are in place?		✓
(f) 4.1.5	Will be distributed electronically via email (and requesting an email response)? Note: • If your questionnaire **DOES NOT** request respondents' identification, is distributed electronically and you request respondents to return it *manually* (print out and deliver/mail); **AND** respondent anonymity can be guaranteed, your answer will be NO. • If your questionnaire **DOES NOT** request respondents' identification, is *distributed via an email link and works through a web response system (e.g. the university survey system);* ***AND*** respondent anonymity can be guaranteed, your answer will be NO.		

(g) 5.	Do you wish to publish an article from this study and submit to an accredited Journal?	✓	

*Please note that if **ANY** of the questions above have been answered in the affirmative **(YES)** the student will need to complete the full ethics clearance form (REC-H application) and submit it with the relevant documentation to the Faculty RECH (Ethics) representative.*

and hereby certify that the student has given his/her research ethical consideration and full ethics approval is not required.

SM Farrington — July 2021

___________________________ ____________________

STUDY LEADER(S) DATE

___________________________ ____________________

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT DATE

___ ______________________ __06/07/2021_____________

STUDENT DATE

ANNEXURE C: LEARNING AGREEMENT

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FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES

LEARNING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE POSTGRADUATE CANDIDATE AND THE SUPERVISOR

Instructions to the candidate for completion:

- Save the file electronically as a Word document.
- Type your comments under the headings, print the form and sign it by hand.
- You and your supervisor(s) should also keep signed copies for your own records.

DETAILS OF STUDENT /CANDIDATE	
Name & Surname	Lupho Aubrey Gila
Student Number:	216424178
Degree for which enrolled	BAHons (Business Management)
Faculty	Business and Economic Sciences at the Nelson Mandela University
Department/School	Department of Business Management / School of Management Sciences
Supervisor	Prof SM Farrington
Co-supervisor(s)	n/a
Year of first registration	2021
Provisional title of proposed study	**An analysis of family business research in Africa**

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE POSTGRADUATE CANDIDATE AND THE SUPERVISOR/S

The postgraduate candidate and the supervisor(s) agree to observe the code of conduct and responsibilities for supervisors and research candidates as contained in Sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the *NMU Policy, Procedures and Rules for Postgraduate Research Degrees*. In addition, and as appropriate, the following arrangements serve to supplement the code of conduct:

Specific responsibilities of the supervisor and co-supervisor for research supervision.	**The supervisor(s) will be able to advise the student/candidate (to be used interchangeably) on the:** • Scope of the project; • Relevance of secondary information sourced by student; • Feasibility of the study; • Timeframes for completion of each section of the study; • Validity and reliability of the data collected; • Research methodology chosen; and

	• Final presentation of the thesis/dissertation. **The supervisor(s) is NOT responsible for:** • Providing students with research problems, proposals, methodology and content; • Providing students with literature articles on the research topic; • Rewriting or editing student submissions; • Reading more than two drafts of a chapter; • Assisting students with collecting data; or • Sourcing financial assistance for the study. **In addition, the supervisor(s) will:** • Insist that students maintain satisfactory academic levels. • Provide students with valuable feedback ASAP but undertake to do so within two weeks of receipt of submissions, unless special circumstances prevent feedback from being provided within this timeframe. Where a supervisor is not able to provide feedback within two weeks the candidate will be informed in good time. • Will acknowledge receipt of submissions made. • Will check emails and WhatsApp messages every other day during office hours, this excludes recess/leave periods.
Specific responsibilities of the student/candidate for research supervision	• The student(s) takes full responsibility for all aspects of the research process. • The student(s) agrees to be fully committed and dedicated to completing the research to the best of their ability. • The student(s) will ensure that any submission is of the highest technical, linguistic and academic level. • The student(s) will arrange for all their work to be proofread before submitting to their supervisor(s). This includes both the component parts (the research proposal, theory chapters, questionnaire development, the methodology chapters) and the FINAL draft of the treatise. • The student(s) will draft a research schedule after taking personal commitments and the unavailability of supervisors during academic recess periods, into account. • The student(s) agrees to adhere to all deadlines, including both the deadlines set by the research institution and those that the student(s) has indicated on the research schedule. • The concept plagiarism and its different forms and formats is clearly understood by the student(s) and the student(s) undertakes to NOT make

	himself/herself guilty thereof in any form or format. • The student(s) agrees that all chapters of the research will be submitted to the plagiarism checker Turnitin and if it is found that the research or part thereof has been plagiarised, it is understood that this could lead to having to redo the research and could possibly lead to disciplinary action. • The student(s) will ensure that all deliverables and outputs adhere to the report writing conventions of NMU and it's the student's responsibility to familiarise herself/himself with these conventions on their own. • The student(s) acknowledges that the supervisor(s) has many other responsibilities and that treatise submissions and meeting scheduling will be done in due time to allow him/her a minimum of two weeks before a response will be expected. • The student(s) will check emails and WhatsApp messages every other day during office hours, this excludes recess/leave periods.
Research support required for the successful completion of the study.	• Student(s) would need some research methodology support. • Student(s) would need language editing support.
Research training needs on the part of the student/candidate and process to address them.	• Methodology and statistical analysis training – student(s) will attend the appropriate workshops as suggested by the supervisor(s). • The student(s) will consult a variety of instructional textbooks on the research process. • The student(s) will be provided with a list of language editors (if available), the cost of which will be for the account of the student(s). • The student(s) will review an exhaustive list of the extant academic literature on the research topic, which helps the student(s) to gain insight into the research process.
Frequency and nature of consultation sessions.	• Student(s) will contact the supervisor(s) at least once a month (via email) even if no progress has been made since the last meeting. • Personal meetings between the student(s) and supervisor(s) will depend on the student's availability. • A progress report will be submitted every six months, indicating: objectives met, objectives/deadlines not met and remedial action that will be taken to address objectives/deadlines not met.
Research schedule/plan to be adhered to by the candidate.	• See Proposal for the research schedule.
Remedial action if schedule is not	• Student(s) needs to provide acceptable reasons for

adhered to.	not adhering to a schedule as set out and should negotiate a new timeframe with the supervisor(s). • A progress report needs to be submitted by the student(s) every six months. • Student(s) needs to know that the supervisor(s) may not be able to fit in a new time schedule on short notice when the student(s) has failed to stick to the schedule. • After a student(s) failed to meet a deadline 3 times or where the progress as indicated in the progress report is deemed to be objectively insufficient on TWO or more occasions, it will be at the discretion of the supervisor(s) to determine what action needs to be taken to continue with the studies or will recommend a discontinuation of the study.
Feedback/reviews of the student's/candidate's work (for example, the format in which feedback will be given, the time taken to provide feedback).	• Email with Microsoft Word document attached. • Tracked changes will be submitted electronically. • Personal meetings might need to be arranged to discuss problems/ questions arising (online or in person). • Feedback by the supervisor(s) will be provided within a period of two weeks from receiving a submission. This means student(s) need submit draft to the supervisor(s) MORE THAN two weeks in advance to allow the learner to make changes before the due date of final submission.
Remedial action if feedback agreement is not adhered to.	• Student(s) needs to inform the supervisor(s) that he/she disagrees/not satisfied with the feedback within two weeks after receiving feedback. • A discussion on the disagreements must take place with the supervisor(s). • If the student(s) does not implement the suggested recommendations, the supervisor(s) will request a full explanation of the reasons for not doing so in writing within 14 days of receiving the feedback. • If remedial action was not implemented on THREE occasions, the supervisor(s) has the discretion to withdraw as supervisor(s) from the study.
Availability of supervisor(s) during period of research and/or ordinary leave.	• To be arranged between student(s) and supervisor(s).
Publications from thesis/dissertation.	• Supervisor(s) must be cited as joint author(s) of any articles published or papers presented at conferences. • Should the candidate not submit research results for publication within the stipulated period of one year, the supervisor(s) shall be entitled to proceed with publication with due recognition of the candidate's

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	contribution as a co-author.
Withdrawal by supervisor(s) from supervisory process.	**The supervisor(s) retain the right to withdraw from the supervisory process should:** • The candidate not complete the proposal within the allotted time. • The candidate demonstrates an inability to work independently. • The candidate does not adhere to the conditions of this learning agreement.

This Learning Agreement is made on __15 April 2021__ (date) between the above named Postgraduate Candidate and Supervisor(s).

Prof SM Farrington

____
Signed by the Supervisor

I ___ Lupho Gila ___ (Name and surname) hereby confirm that I have read and agree to (a) the contents of this learning agreement and (b) the *NMU Policy, Procedures and Rules for Postgraduate Research Degrees Sections 5.2 and 5.3.*

____
Signed by the Postgraduate Candidate

ANNEXURE D: TURNITIN REPORT

AN OVERVIEW OF FAMILY BUSINESS RESEARCH IN AFRICA

ORIGINALITY REPORT

16%	9%	7%	8%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

1	www.mdpi.com Internet Source	1%
2	zombiedoc.com Internet Source	1%
3	core.ac.uk Internet Source	1%
4	Naveen Donthu, Satish Kumar, Debmalya Mukherjee, Nitesh Pandey, Weng Marc Lim. "How to conduct a bibliometric analysis: An overview and guidelines", Journal of Business Research, 2021 Publication	1%
5	Submitted to Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Student Paper	1%
6	Paola Rovelli, Marcos Ferasso, Alfredo De Massis, Sascha Kraus. "Thirty years of research in family business journals: Status quo and future directions", Journal of Family Business Strategy, 2021 Publication	1%

Report date: 20 October 2021