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Comparison of Hot Research Topics on the Inheritance of National Traditional Sports Culture between China and Other Countries: Visual Analysis Based on CiteSpace (2000-2023)

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Abstract

The inheritance of national traditional sports is an important way to promote the great development of human culture. This study utilized CiteSpace software to visually analyze 916 Chinese and English literature in Web of Science (hereinafter WOS) and China National Knowledge Infrastructure (hereinafter CNKI) databases from 2000 to 2023, and compared the hot research topics of traditional sports culture inheritance between China and other countries. The results show that: firstly, although the starting time of Chinese and foreign research is not synchronized, the period of steady growth is roughly the same period of time. Afterwards, the number of foreign publications showed a trend of tortuous development to high-speed explosion, while China shifted from a fluctuating and sustaining growth to a gradual development. The distribution of disciplines and journals of foreign research achievements is diversified, while most of the achievements in China are distributed in sports disciplines, and the distribution of journals is single. Secondly, core author groups and teams have formed in foreign countries, and research institutions are mainly comprehensive universities. Although China has not formed core authors and teams, a few research institutions had made outstanding contributions abroad. Finally, Wushu (martial arts) is on the cutting edge as well as a hot topic of common concern both in China and other countries, and the content and path of inheritance are the topics of common discussion. However, other countries focus on inheritance methods, while China emphasizes more on inheritance attitude. Future research should be approached from micro and diverse perspectives, and adopt various narrative methods and multidisciplinary thinking methods to make breakthroughs.

Keywords: *National Traditional Sports, Cultural Inheritance, Hot Research Topics, Comparison*

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1. Introduction

National traditional sports, as a remarkable cultural heritage of humanity, play an important role in the process of promoting the great prosperity and development of global culture. However, during the process of inheriting national

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traditional sports, challenges such as weak awareness of inheritance (Zhao and Xiong, 2019), insufficient inheritance motivation (Li, 2021), and lack of reserve talents (Zou and Liu, 2022) are often encountered, which hinder the sustainable development of traditional national sports. In February of 2023, National Development and Reform Commission and the General Administration of Sport of China clearly stated that in order to better inherit and promote traditional sports, it is necessary to focus on exploring new ways of inheriting national traditional sports. Therefore, it is of great theoretical and practical significance to sort out timely and compare the cutting-edge hot topics of Chinese and foreign national traditional sports culture inheritance in time order for clarifying the national traditional sports inheritance system and guiding the specific practice of national traditional sports inheritance.

Through literature review, it is found that the “inheritance” of national traditional sports has long been a focal point in academic discourses, mainly focusing on inheritance principles, difficulties and paths. Some scholars believe that in the process of inheriting national traditional sports, it is necessary to adhere to the principles of overall policy, symbiosis and integration, field connection and value orientation (Van and Melo, 2021). Another group of scholars believe that the inheritance of national traditional sports is mainly faced with many difficulties such as limited external environment, reduced inheritance soil, and gradual alienation of native culture (Li *et al.*, 2020). Additionally, some scholars posit that the inheritance path of national traditional sports is diversified, and tourism has become the mainstream trend (Pookaiyudom, 2019). In recent years, a few China scholars have made some comments on the research of national traditional sports from different perspectives, one of which is to explore the protection mechanism construction and specific measures of national traditional sports from the perspective of protection strategies (Chen and Xie, 2017). The other is to discuss the development trend of national traditional sports from the perspective of global integration and intangible heritage (Chen and Ni, 2016). It can be seen that the existing research mainly focus on the inheritance of national traditional sports, and neither does it systematically sort out the inheritance of national traditional sports culture, nor does it measure and compare the research hot topics of the inheritance of national traditional sports culture between China and other countries.

With the aim to provide cutting-edge and trend reference for exploration of the inheritance of national traditional sports culture and to promote the great prosperity and development for human cultures, this study is to make a bibliometric analysis of the hot research topics on the inheritance of national traditional sports culture in China and other countries by applying Mapping Knowledge Domain and CiteSpace software, as well as the journal source of Peking University in CNKI database, CSSCI thesis database and WOS core database.

2. Research Method

2.1. Data Collection

In order to ensure the authority, reliability and scientific validity of the data in this study, the selected basic data are all sourced from CNKI academic journals (Peking University Core, CSSCI) database and Web of Science core collection database. In order to fully obtain the core documents on “the inheritance of national traditional sports culture”, after multiple attempts, in Peking University Core and CSSCI, the retrieval method is: (title = inheritance AND traditional sports) OR (title = cultural inheritance AND traditional sports) OR (title = inheritance mode AND national traditional sports) or (title = creative transformation AND national traditional sports) or (title = national traditional sports) “AND” folk sports “) OR (title =” inheritance “AND” sports intangible cultural heritage “) or (title =” inheritance “AND” martial arts “), etc. were randomly combined for totalling 54 groups (including synonyms and near-synonym). Following manual screening, comparison, weight reduction, and integration (merging synonyms and deleting synonyms), a total of 661 Chinese literature related to the research topic were finally obtained, covering a period of 2000-2023. The time of literature acquisition was July 20, 2023.

In the Web of Science core collection database, the search condition is set to (TS = “inheritance” and “national traditional sports”) OR (TS = folk custom sports) OR (TS = “inheritance” “and” folk sports “) OR (TS = sports intangible cultural heritage) OR (TS = martial arts), set the literature type as Article (refined) and the language as English (refined). After manual screening, comparison, and weight reduction, as well as manual integration (merging synonyms and deleting synonyms), a total of 255 English literature related to the research topics were finally obtained, spanning the period from 2000 to 2023. The time of literature acquisition was July 20, 2023. The final information obtained mainly includes: title (TI), author (AU), abstract (AB), keywords (AK), references (RE), source journals (SO), etc.

2.2. Knowledge Graph

Mapping Knowledge Domain based on scientometrics is a modern theory that vividly displays the core structure, development history, frontier fields and overall knowledge structure of a discipline by using visual maps (Wu and

Zhang, 2016). Primary function of scientific knowledge graph is to sort out the evolution of research topics, clarify the knowledge system, integrate the core content and predict the frontier dynamics. It is been widely used and has been distributed in various research fields and disciplines.

Developed by Professor Chen Chaomei, CiteSpace is applied in this study for scientific knowledge mapping, the function of which is to draw co-citation maps, keyword maps and time zone views, and dynamically identify co-citation clusters, key nodes and research hot topics (Chen, 2006). In this study, CiteSpace version 6.2.R4 is adopted and with the help of the analysis means and advantages of “keyword sharing-hot word clustering-time zone map of high-frequency words-prominent word analysis”, the research hot topics of national traditional sports culture inheritance in China and other countries are compared.

3. Results and Analysis

3.1. The Number of Papers Published

The number of published papers is one of the important indicators to measure the development trend of a research field in a certain period of time (Qiu et al., 2019), allowing for an intuitive understanding the change of research enthusiasm at a specific period, but also predict and evaluate the future developing trends and frontier trends. In this study, Excel tools are used to make statistics on the literature about the inheritance of national traditional sports culture in China and abroad since 2000, and a linear chart is made (Figure 1). Generally speaking, the trend of research on the inheritance of national traditional sports culture between China and foreign countries is increasing. The first stage belongs to the initial stage, and the number of related papers published in China (2000-2004) and abroad (2000-2002) began to increase. This trend appeared in the success of China’s “Olympic bid”, and China and foreign countries began to pay attention to and think about the inheritance of national traditional sports (Yu, 2017). The second stage is a steadily growing stage, and the number of articles published in China (2005-2009) and abroad (2005-2008) is in a steady growth state. The Beijing Olympic Games which was held in 2008 China would be the cause. The inheritance of national traditional sports has attracted much attention from scholars among China and other countries. The third stage is about continuous fluctuation growth in China (2010-2016), while it is in the stage of tortuous development abroad (2009-2015). The corresponding situation of China and foreign studies is based on the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, and the cultural soft power is specially regarded as an important indicator of building a strong cultural country. In the fourth stage (2017-2022), the number of articles published in China declined, but overall, it is still in a stage of gentle development. This situation stems from the fact that the 19th to 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China continuously proposed to strengthen the creative transformation and innovative development of Chinese excellent traditional culture, thus promoting the construction process of a cultural power and a sports power. In foreign countries (2016-2022), it is in the stage of rapid explosion. The reason for the major changes is that the rapid development of global science and

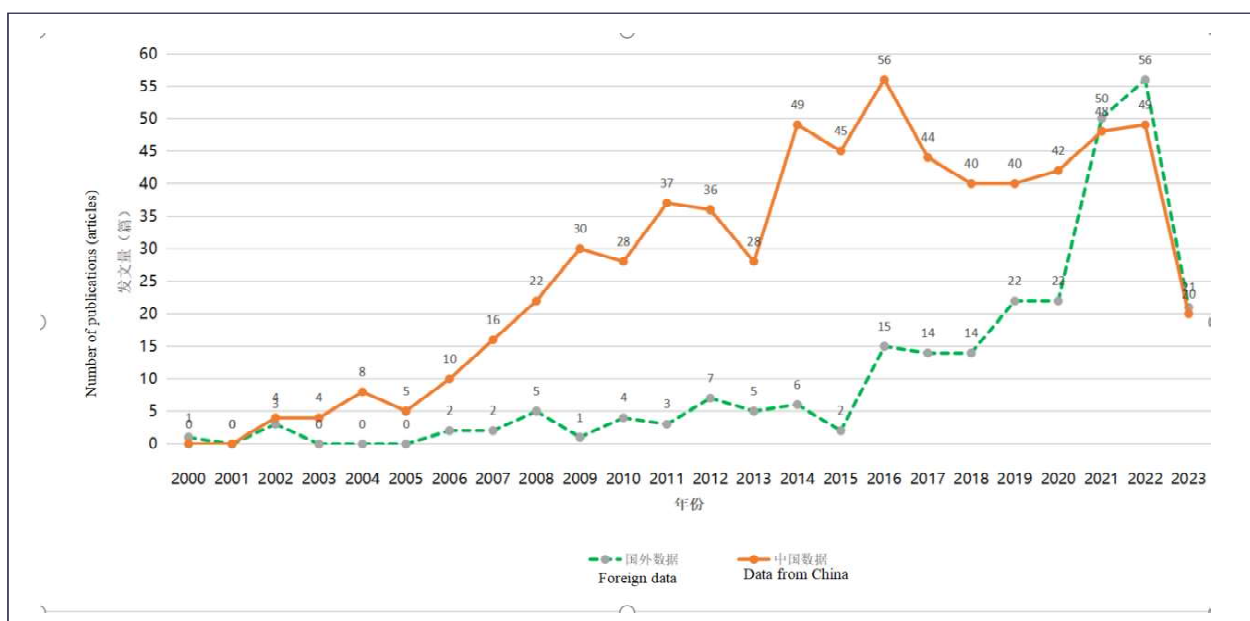


Figure 1: Annual Distribution of Literature in the Field of National Traditional Sports Culture Inheritance Between China and Foreign Countries

communication technology has provided new means and perspectives for the inheritance of national traditional sports (Li *et al.*, 2008).

Through the comparison between China and foreign countries, it is found that the research field of national traditional sports culture inheritance has been paid attention to and valued all over the world. The same point is that the initial and steady growth stages of China and foreign countries are basically in the same time period. The difference is that the high-speed development period between China and foreign countries is inconsistent, especially in 2016, the number of articles published in China has reached its peak (56 articles) and there is an inflection point. Furthermore, the growth rate of foreign papers has accelerated rapidly since 2015, and by 2021, their research trend had surpassed that of China.

3.2. Discipline Distribution

The classification of disciplines can reflect the author's research perspective, research methods and fields of achievements to a certain extent (Liang *et al.*, 2020). As can be seen from Table 1, the research on the inheritance of national traditional sports culture in China is mainly distributed in physical education (418 articles), ethnology (87 articles), education (58 articles), etc. Among them, physical education is the hottest discipline, accounting for 63.24%, and other disciplines account for 36.76%. Foreign studies are mainly distributed in hospitality, leisure, sport & tourism (80 articles), history (31 articles), sport sciences (21 articles), etc. The proportions of the top three disciplines are: Hospitality, Leisure, Sport & Tourism is 35.56%, History is 12.16%, and Sport Sciences is 8.24%.

Comparing the distribution of disciplines between China and foreign countries, the same discipline involved in China and foreign countries is sociology. From the disciplinary nature, China studies tend to be humanities and social sciences, while foreign studies tend to be natural sciences, and interdisciplinary fields have emerged. Judging from the proportion of each discipline, China studies account for a large proportion in this discipline, which is far behind other disciplines. However, although the proportion of foreign research in various disciplines has a certain gap, it is generally in a balanced development state.

China		Foreign Countries	
Distribution of Disciplines	No. of Papers	Distribution of Disciplines (Top Ten)	No. of Papers
Physical Education	418	Hospitality, Leisure, Sport & Tourism	80
Ethnology	87	History	31
Education	58	Sport Sciences	21
Sociology	39	Computer Science, Information Systems	19
Arts	36	Sociology	16
Journalism and Communication	10	Telecommunications	16
Management	10	Engineering, Electrical & Electronic	13
History	3	Environmental Sciences	11
		Psychology, Multidisciplinary	10
		Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary	9

3.3. Distribution of Journals

The distribution of journals can be used for reference in mastering the outcomes and distribution of research results in related fields, academic authority and public relations research (Yang, 2007). As can be seen from Table 2, the research in China is mainly published in *Sports Culture Guide* (96 articles), *Journal of Beijing Sport University* (48 articles), and *Guizhou Ethnic Studies* (43 articles), among which the *Sports Culture Guide* has the most articles, accounting for 14.52%, mainly focusing on the inheritance path of national traditional sports culture. Research internationally are mainly published in the *International Journal of the History of Sport* (26 articles), *Frontiers in Psychology* (10 articles), *I Do Movement for Culture-Journal of Martial* (9 articles), etc., among which the *International Journal of the History*

of Sport has the most articles, accounting for 10.20%, mainly focusing on the topics of modern integration and inheritance of national traditional sports, folk sports and sports intangible cultural heritage. By comparing the distribution of journals in China and abroad, it is found that the journals with the highest number of research publications in China and abroad are both in the field of literature and history. However, the distribution of research journals in China mostly leans towards the journals of professional sports colleges, while the distribution of foreign research journals shows a diversification.

Table 2: Distribution of Journals in China and Abroad

China		Foreign Countries	
Journal Title (Top Ten)	No. of Papers	Journal Title (Top Ten)	No. of Papers
Sports Culture Guide	96	International journal of the history of sport.	26
Journal of Beijing Sport University	48	Frontiers in Psychology	10
Guizhou Ethnic Studies	43	I Do Movement for Culture-Journal of Martial	9
Wuhan Institute of Physical Education	38	Art Anthropology	9
Guangzhou Institute of Physical Education	33	Archives of Budo	7
Journal of Shandong Institute of Physical Education and Sports	26	Mobile Information Systems	7
Journal of Xi'an Physical Education University	25	Wireless Communications & Mobile Computing	7
Sports Science	25	Revista de Artes Marciales Asiaticas	6
Journal of Chengdu Sport University	24	Sport in Society	6
Journal of Sports and Science	21	Pakistan Journal of Medical & Health Sciences	5

3.4. Important Authors

Author analysis can reflect the author’s situation in related research fields and the communication and cooperation between authors more intuitively and clearly (Chen, 2021). In this paper, with the help of CiteSpace version 6.2.R4, the document data is processed, the Node Types are set as the Author, and the other requirements are set as the default values, and a visual graph of scientific research cooperation is drawn. Excel tools are used to sort out the names of the top ten authors and the number of papers by each author.

As can be seen from Figure 2 and Table 3, the author with the highest number of publications in China is Bai Jinxiang, with 15 articles, mainly studying the protection and modern inheritance of national traditional sports. Other authors with a high volume of publications are Yang Jianying (10 articles), Yu Dinghai (8 articles), Guo Yucheng (8 articles), Sun Qingbin (7 articles), Yang Haichen (7 articles), etc. They are mainly engaged in folk sports, traditional martial arts, sports intangible cultural heritage, and inheritance research of ethnic and folk sports. Among them, the number of achievements of Bai Jinxiang increased suddenly in 2022. During this period, the healthy development of folk sports and the concept of harmonious symbiosis were systematically studied. These authors constitute the core authors and research teams in the field of national traditional sports culture inheritance, and have strong influence in cooperation in intangible cultural heritage, intergenerational inheritance and modernization inheritance. According to the formula of Price’s Law: $M=0.749 \times (N_{max})^{1/2}$ (N_{max} refers to the number of articles published by the highest-producing authors), the threshold is 3.873. According to statistics, the total number of articles published by high-yield authors in China is 239, accounting for 36.16%, which indicates that the scientific cooperation between authors is weak. Although a few core authors and research teams have been formed in China, a number of high-yield and influential core authors and research teams have not yet been formed.

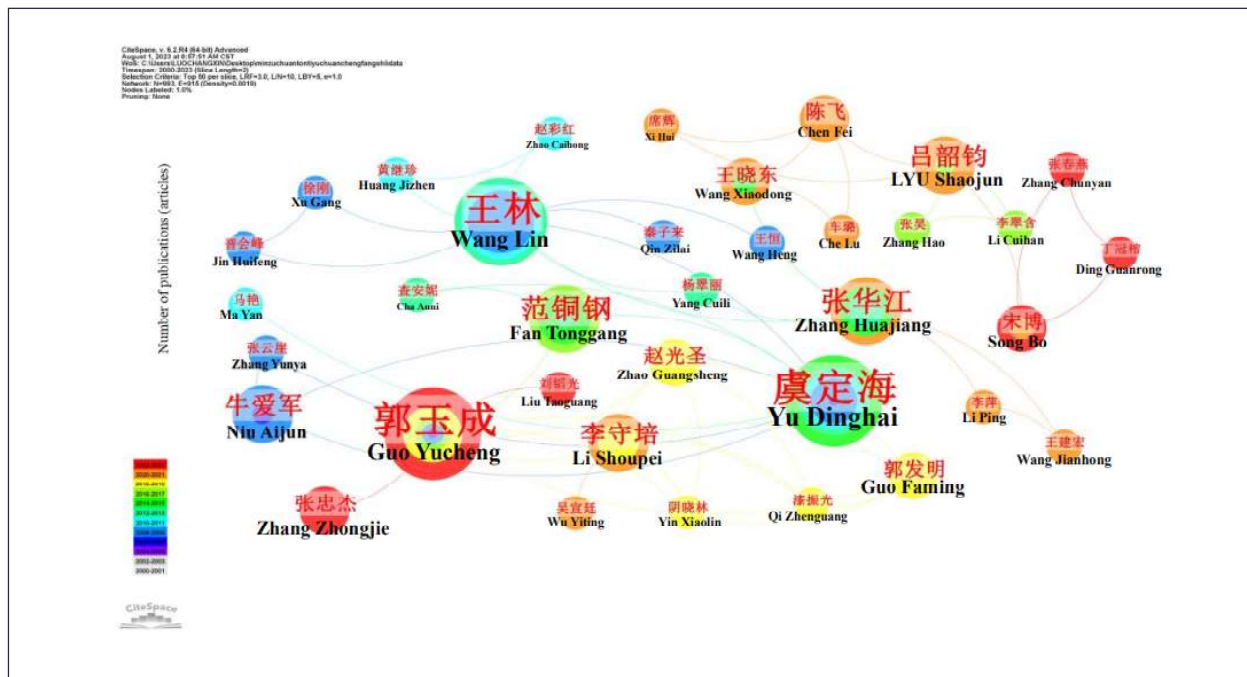


Figure 2: Analysis Diagram of Scientific Research Cooperation Relationship of Chinese Authors

China		Foreign Countries	
Authors (Top Ten)	No. of Papers	Authors (Top Ten)	No. of Papers
Bai, Jinxiang	15	Turkmen, Mehmet	8
Yang, Jianying	10	Cynarski, Wojciech J	7
Guo, Yucheng	8	Lavega-burgues, Pere	6
Yu, Dinghai	8	Prat, Queralt	5
Yang, Haichen	7	Damian-silva, Sabine	5
Sun, Qingbin	7	Pic, Miguel	5
Wang, Lin	7	Zhu, Dong	4
Gao, Liang	7	Theeboom, Marc	4
Wang, Gang	6	Allen, Barry	3
Wang, Zhihui	6	Salas-santandreu, Cristofol	3

As can be seen from Figure 3 and Table 3, the author with the highest number of publications in the foreign countries is Turkmen, Mehmet, with 8 articles, mainly carrying out research on traditional sports of nomadic people, involving the living conditions, practical factors, and social and cultural effects of traditional sports (Türkmen, 2021). Other authors with a large number of articles include Cynarski, Wojciech J (7 articles), Lavega-burgues, Pere (6 articles), Prat, Queralt (5 articles). Among them, Lavega-burgues published four articles in 2021, with a sudden increase in the number of achievements, mainly exploring the new mode of sustainable development of sports intangible and traditional sports. According to the formula of Price’s Law, the threshold of high-yield authors in foreign languages is 2.118. Therefore, there are 131 papers published more than high-yield authors, accounting for 51.37%. This shows that foreign authors have strong scientific research cooperation. Although there are no high-yield authors, they have begun to form a group of core authors and scientific research teams with close cooperation and high influence.

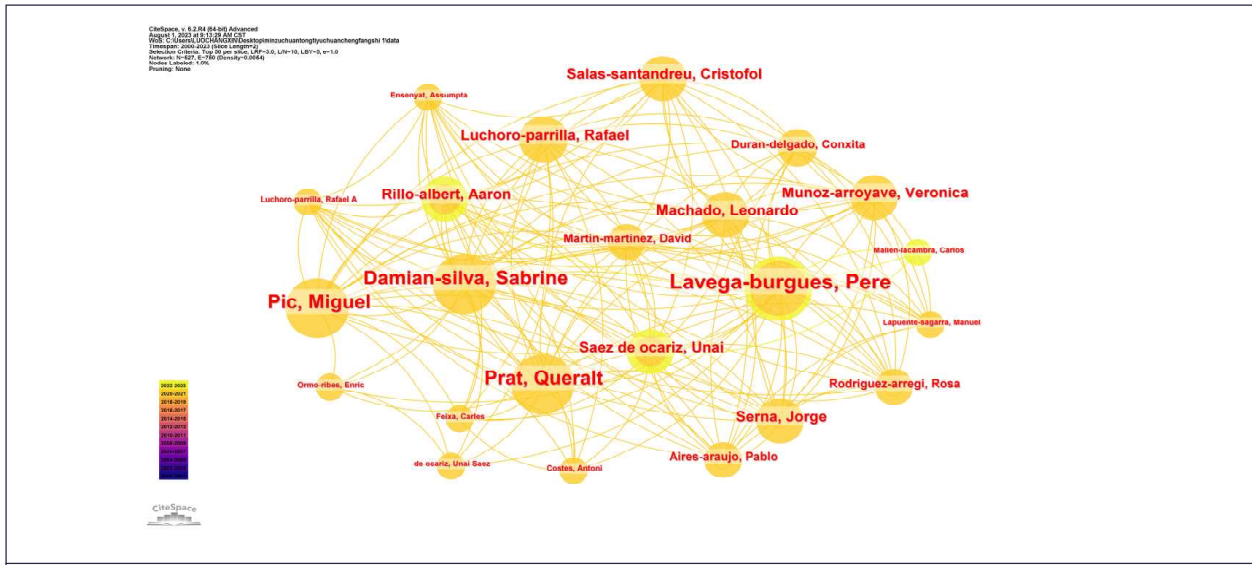


Figure 3: Analysis Diagram of Scientific Research Cooperation Relationship of Foreign Authors

By comparing the papers published by Chinese and foreign authors, this study finds that: (1) from the perspective of high-yield authors, the number of papers published by high-yield authors in China is higher than that published by high-yield authors abroad. (2) In terms of author cooperation, foreign authors exhibit the closest cooperation relationships. (3) On the whole, a number of high-impact core authors and research teams have been formed abroad, but there are no high-impact core authors and research teams in China.

3.5. Important institutions

The analysis of important institutions is to obtain the distribution of research contents in different research institutions through the analysis of institutional publishing networks (Wang and Hou, 2021). In this study, CiteSpace software is used to analyze Chinese and foreign sample data respectively. The type of Node is set to Institution, and the rest is the default value. Add to the Alias List (Primary, Secondary) is specially used to merge renamed or affiliated institutions.

As can be seen from Table 4, the institution with the largest number of sample documents published in China is Shanghai Institute of Physical Education (27 articles), and other institutions with higher number of articles are the

Table 4: Analysis of Important Research Institutions in China and Foreign Countries			
China		Foreign Countries	
Institution Name (Top Ten)	No. of papers	Institution Name (Top Ten)	No. of papers
Shanghai University of Sport	27	Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University	9
School of Sports Science, Jishou University	20	Shanghai University of Sport	8
College of Physical Education and Health, East China Normal University	16	University of Rzeszow	7
School of Physical Education and Sports Science, South China Normal University	15	Universitat de Lleida	6
School of Physical Education and Sports Science, Fujian Normal University	11	UDICE-French Research Universities	5
Beijing Sport University	9	South Ural State University	5
School of Physical Education, Guizhou Normal University	9	Mus Alparslan University	4
School of Martial Arts, Wuhan Sports University	8	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	4
College of Physical Education, Northwest Normal University	8	State University System of Florida	3
Physical Education College, South-Central Minzu University	8	Southwest University - China	3

School of Physical Education Science of Jishou University (20 articles), the School of Physical Education and Health of East China Normal University (16 articles) and the School of Physical Education Science of South China Normal University (15 articles). From the institutional cooperation map (Figure 4), there are 601 domestic sample publishing institutions, 438 links between institutions, and the cooperation network density is only 0.0024, which shows that the cooperation of domestic research institutions needs to be further strengthened. According to Price’s Law, the threshold of high-yield institutions in China is 3.892. Therefore, there are 390 papers published more than high-yield authors, accounting for 59.00%, which shows that the core publishing institutions in China have been formed. Regarding the distribution of institutional nature, there are more comprehensive physical education colleges and normal physical education colleges in China than professional physical education colleges.

As can be seen from Table 4, Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University (9 articles) has the largest number of sample documents published abroad, and other institutions with a high number of papers are Shanghai University of Sport (8 articles), University of Rzeszow (7 articles) and Universitat de Lleida (University of Lerida). From the institutional cooperation map (Figure 5), there are 313 foreign sample publishing institutions, 238 links between institutions, and the cooperation network density is only 0.0049, which shows that the cooperation of foreign research institutions needs to be further strengthened. According to Price’s Law, the threshold of foreign high-yield institutions is 3.892. Therefore, there are 163 papers published more than high-yield authors, accounting for 63.92%, which indicates that foreign core institutions have also been formed. From the perspective of institutional region, both China and foreign research institutions are involved in the research field of national traditional sports culture inheritance, especially a few domestic research institutions have occupied a certain influence in this field and become the main research force.

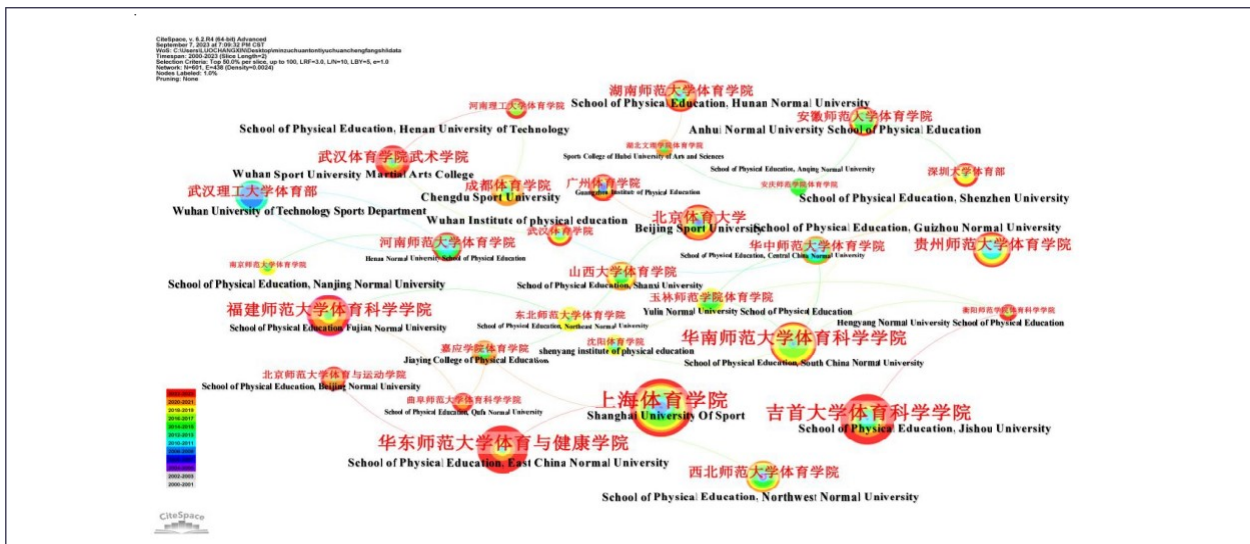


Figure 4: Analysis of Important Research Institutions in China

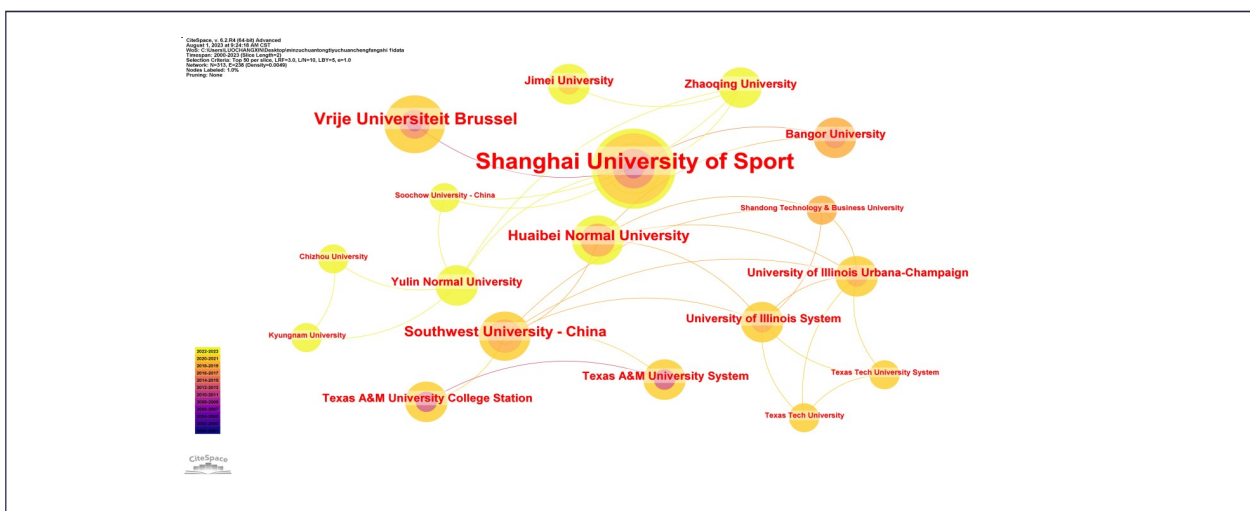


Figure 5: Analysis of Important Research Institutions in Foreign Countries

promotion of martial arts and the way of fighting in the West, the other is the protection of intangible cultural heritage, and the third is the difference between the function of traditional games and e-sports.

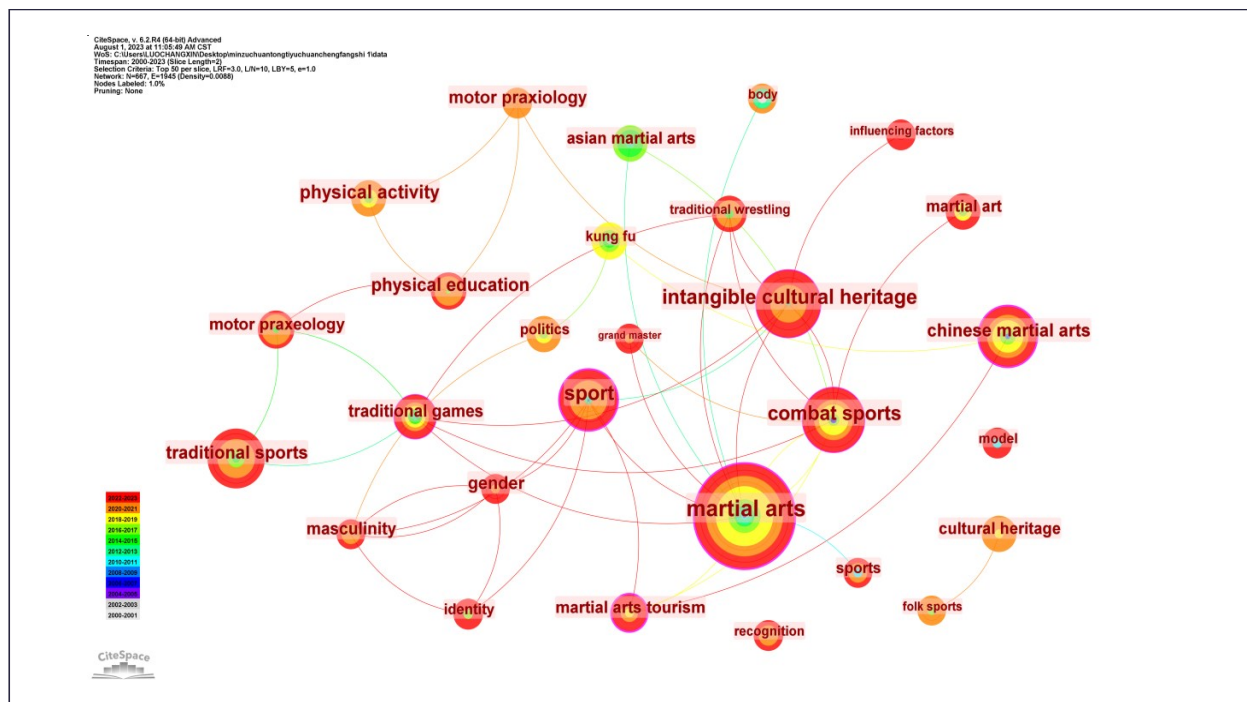


Figure 7: Co-Occurrence Analysis Of Keywords In Foreign Countries

By comparing the co-occurrence analysis of keywords between China and foreign countries, it is found that although the co-occurrence keywords in China and foreign countries all have “martial arts” and “sports culture” and their neutral values all exceed 0.1, there are differences in other research topics and hotspots. Both China and foreign countries pay great attention to the research on Wushu and sports culture, but the difference is that China pays more attention to the traditional sports of folk customs and development, while foreign countries pay attention to traditional sports with physical confrontation skills. The reason is that there is a huge difference between China and foreign countries in the overall cultural system. In addition to traditional sports dominated by martial arts, China also has a wealth of national and folk sports, which pay attention to the content and form of the projects. Conversely, foreign countries prioritize “competition” and “individualism.”

Table 5: Keyword Co-occurrence Analysis

China			Foreign Countries		
Keyword (Top Ten)	Frequency (times)	Neutral Value	Keyword (Top Ten)	Frequency (times)	Neutral Value
impart and inherit	0.32	109	Martial arts (martial arts)	37	0.37
folk sports	0.35	75	intangible cultural heritage (Intangible cultural heritage)	14	0.19
traditional martial art	0.16	44	Sport (sports)	14	0.14
sports culture	0.16	44	Combat sports (fighting sports)	12	0.32
develop	0.06	40	Traditional sports (traditional sports)	12	0.06
cultural heritage	0.19	38	Chinese martial arts (Chinese Wushu)	11	0.22
martial arts	0.13	35	Traditional games (traditional games)	6	0.12
mass sports	0.1	34	Physical education (physical education)	5	0.04
ethnic minorities	0.08	33	Motor praxeology (human behavior)	5	0.05
traditional sports	0.07	30	Kung fu (kung fu)	5	0.03

4.2. Keyword Clustering

Analyzed by CiteSpace, keyword clustering shows that keywords are interrelated, infiltrated and clustered around a core keyword, thus mapping out a specific research hot topics (Gao and Wang, 2020). In this study, the “LLR” algorithm in CiteSpace software is used to construct the knowledge map of keyword clustering analysis (see Figures 8 and 9).

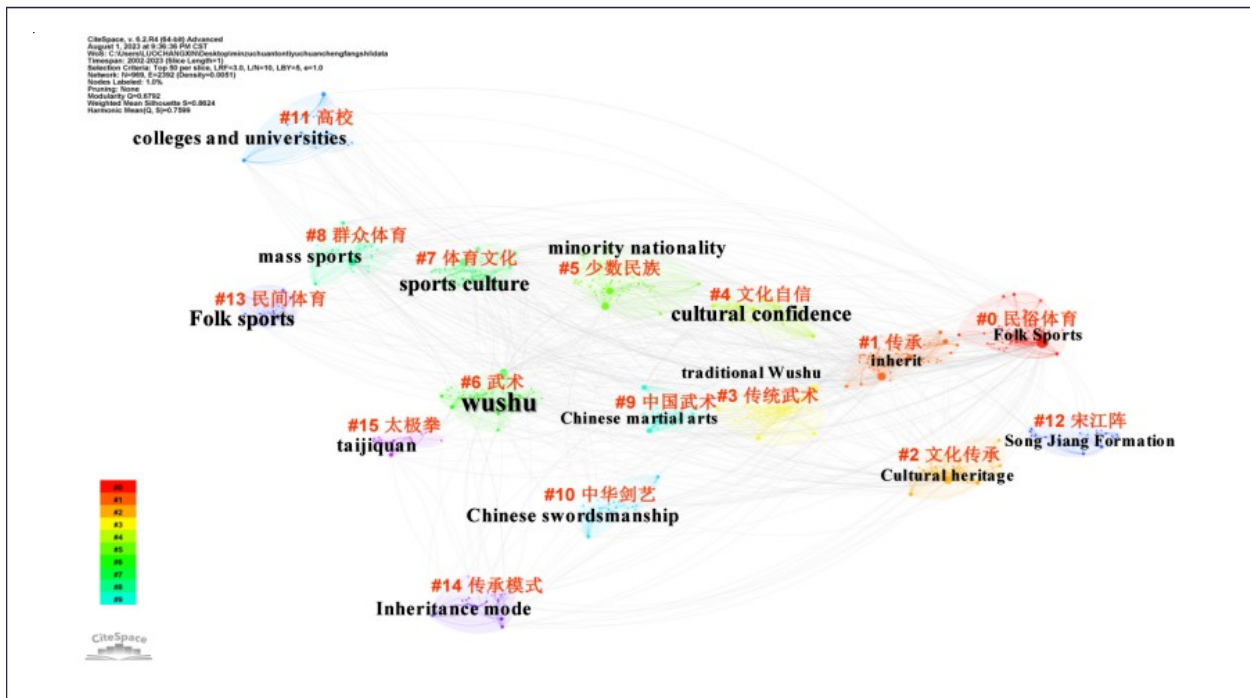


Figure 8: China Keyword Cluster Analysis

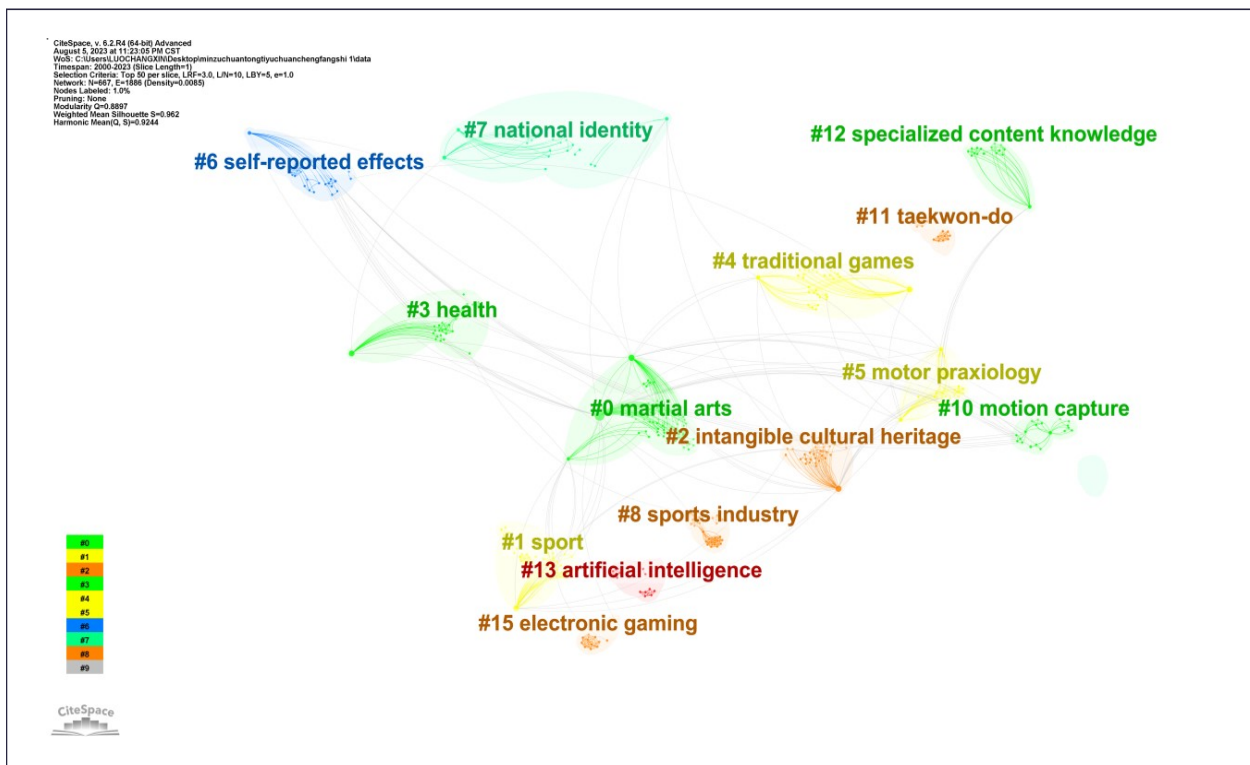


Figure 9: Cluster Analysis of Foreign Keywords

As shown in Figure 8, there are 16 clusters, and the clustering module value $Q=0.6792$, which indicates that the clustering structure and results are remarkable. The average contour value $S=0.8642$, which indicates that the clustering

result means that the clustering is convincing. The atlas shows #0 folk sports, #1 inheritance, #2 cultural inheritance, #3 traditional martial arts, #4 cultural self-confidence, #5 ethnic minorities, #6 martial arts, #7 sports culture, #8 mass sports, #9 China martial arts, #10 Chinese sword art, #11 universities, #12 Song Jiangzhen, #13 folk sports and #14 inheritance modes. Integrating the clustering results in Figure 8, we can get Table 6, and divide the research focus on the inheritance field of China national traditional sports culture into three categories: inheritance content, path and consciousness research. The first category is the study of inheritance content, which mainly includes seven clusters: #2 cultural inheritance, #3 traditional martial arts, #6 martial arts, #9 China martial arts, #12 Songjiang array, #14 inheritance mode and #15 Tai Ji Chuan. Wang and Yu (2009) believe that inheriting the essence of Wushu is the embodiment of social relations in Wushu field. Cui and Wang (2022) believe that Shaolin Wushu gathers the essence of martial arts and becomes the core role of teaching martial arts people in the world. Up to today, martial artists should not only enjoy their historical achievements, but also accept their civilized information. The second category is the study of inheritance path. It mainly includes five clusters: #0 folk sports, #1 inheritance, #5 ethnic minorities, #8 mass sports and #11 colleges and universities. It is argued that we should attach importance to integrating into the new cultural communication environment and give this culture a strong vitality of the times by giving full play to the advantages of modern cultural communication technology (Ai et al., 2020). The third category is the study of inheritance consciousness. It mainly includes four clusters: #4 cultural confidence, #7 sports culture, #10 Chinese sword art, and #13 folk sports. Kong and Chen (2019) hold that we should adhere to the theory of cultural identity and cultural consciousness, analyze the times value and development dilemma of Chinese traditional sports, and seek ways to resolve contradictions and conflicts. Lu and Wang (2015) believe that the principle of “culture first” must be established to inherit national traditional sports, with “inheritance and innovation” as the driving force, “existence space” as the responsibility and “system linkage” as the means. In addition, researchers mostly put the research perspective in two categories: inheritance content and inheritance path.

Table 6: China Keyword Clustering Map

Cluster Seq. No.	Cluster Name	No. of Clusters	Research Focus
#2	Cultural heritage	81	Inherit content
#3	Traditional martial art	61	
#6	Martial arts	57	
#9	Chinese Martial Arts	41	
#12	Songjiang Array	25	
#14	Inheritance mode	23	
#15	Tai chi chuan (a kind of traditional Chinese shadowboxing)	19	
#0	Folk sports	91	Inheritance path
#1	Impart and inherit	81	
#5	Ethnic minorities	59	
#8	Mass sports	44	
#11	Colleges and universities	26	
#4	Cultural confidence	60	Inheriting consciousness
#7	Sports culture	56	
#10	China sword art	30	
#13	Folk sports	24	

As shown in Figure 9, there are 14 clusters, and the clustering module value $Q=0.8897$, which indicates that the clustering structure and results are remarkable. The average contour value $S=0.962$, which indicates that the clustering result means that the clustering is convincing. The atlas shows 14 clustering categories - #0 martial arts (Wushu), #1 sport, #2 intangible cultural heritage, #3 health, #4 traditional games, #5 motor praxiology, # 6 self-reported effects, #7 national identity, #8 sports industry, #10 motion capture, # 11 taekwon-do, # 12 specialized content knowledge, #13 artificial intelligence and #15electronic gaming - which contain the main research topics in the field of foreign traditional sports culture inheritance.

Table 7 is obtained by integrating the clustering results in Figure 9, and the research focus on the inheritance of foreign traditional national sports culture is divided into three categories: inheritance content, path and means research. The first category is the study of inheritance content. It mainly includes five clusters: #0 martial arts (Wushu), #1 sport, #6 self-reported effects, # 11 taekwon-do and #12 specialized content knowledge. Moenig *et al.* (2023) thinks that the inheritance of Wushu needs to point out the historical and philosophical narration related to martial arts (Wushu) practice training activities. It is argued that Wushu, as a folk sport in China, can not only activate global sports, but also serve as a responder and promoter of global sports culture (Tzeng *et al.*, 2023). The second category is inheritance path research, which mainly includes three clusters: #2 intangible cultural heritage, #3 health, and #8 sports industry. It is argued that the specific ways to promote the protection and development of intangible cultural heritage in the Yellow River Basin mainly include investing more funds and improving utilization efficiency (Nie *et al.*, 2022). Highlight regional cultural characteristics and strengthen exchanges and cooperation. Develop cultural and creative products and take the road of integrated development of literature and tourism. The third category is the study of inheriting consciousness. It mainly includes six clusters: #4 traditional games, #5 motor praxiology, #7 national identity, #10 motion capture, # 11 taekwondo, #13 artificial intelligence, and #15 electronic gaming. Hui (2023) thinks that in the process of Wushu inheritance, artificial intelligence system can be used as Wushu visual training to help more people inherit and develop Wushu. On the whole, the related achievements of foreign countries in inheriting content and means are

Table 7: Cluster Map of Foreign Keywords

Cluster Seq. No.	Cluster Name	No. of Clusters	Research Focus
#0	Martial arts (Wushu)	75	Inherit content
#1	Sport	43	
#6	Self-reported effects	26	
#11	Taekwon-do	18	
#12	Specialized content knowledge	17	
#2	Intangible cultural heritage	34	Inheritance path
#3	Health	33	
#8	Sports industry	25	
#4	Traditional games	32	Inheriting consciousness
#5	Motor praxiology	30	
#7	National identity	26	
#10	Motion capture	20	
#13	Artificial intelligence	16	
#15	Electronic gaming	13	

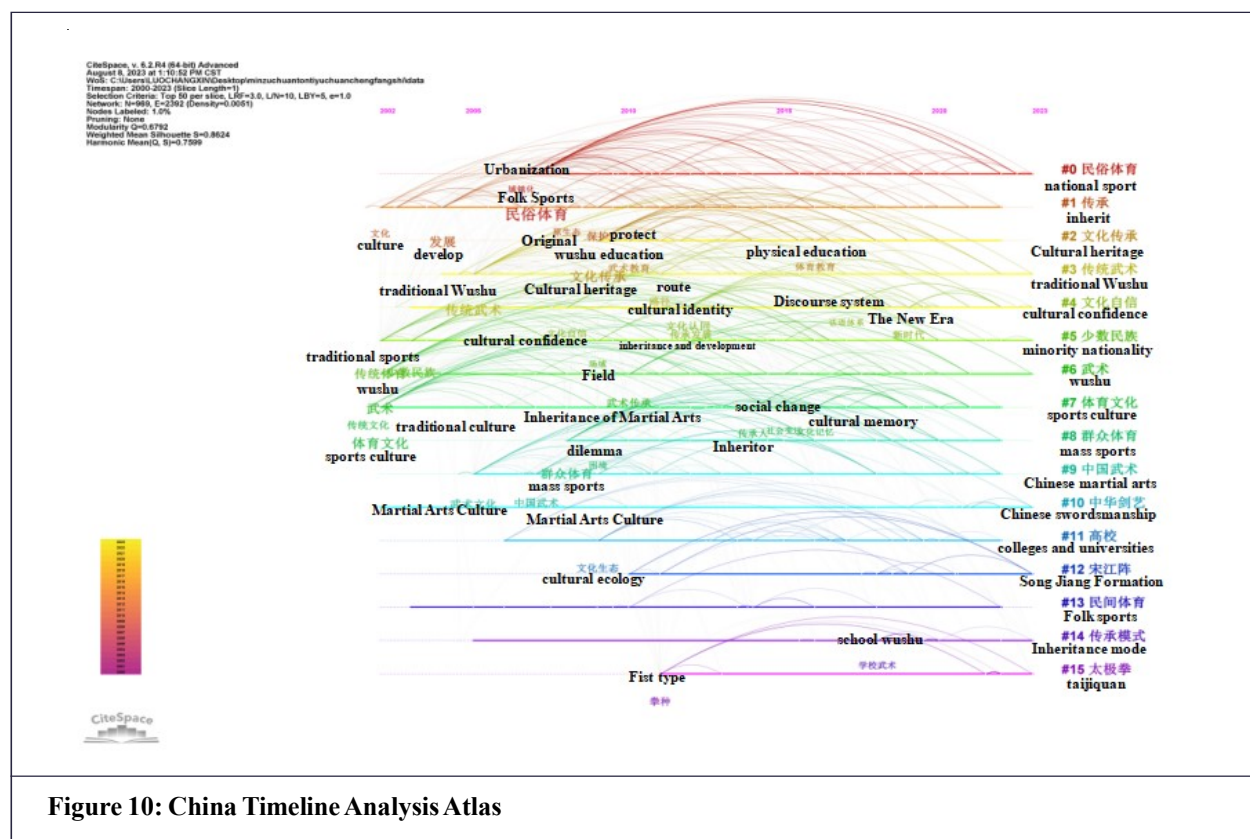
relatively rich and mature.

Comparing the keyword clustering analysis between China and foreign countries, the number of clusters in China is more than foreign countries, but the clustering structure and results are remarkable and convincing. As far as the research focus is concerned, the similarity between them lies in their great attention to the content and path of inheritance, while the difference lies in the emphasis on inheritance consciousness in China research and the exploration of inheritance means in foreign research. The main reason is that since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, China has been closely related to promoting the inheritance and development of Chinese traditional culture and strengthening the construction of a cultural power (Hu, 2019), while foreign countries have explored new modes for the inheritance of national traditional sports with the help of new technologies and technology empowerment functions (Wang and Gao, 2016).

4.3. Evolution Trend

Timeline view can reflect the year, popularity and duration of each theme of national traditional sports culture inheritance (Zheng and Huang, 2023). The time zone view mainly takes five years as a time node, and each time zone generates keyword terms synchronously, which reflects the research trends of the research field in each time zone and helps to capture the research logic of each stage (Huang and He, 2021).

In order to clearly observe the evolution trend of clustering research on the inheritance of national traditional sports culture in each period in China, the clustering results of keywords are displayed according to time line chart and time zone view. From Figure 10 and Figure 11, it can be found that the evolution trend of the research on the inheritance of national traditional sports culture in China is mainly divided into initial development period, rapid development period and gentle development period. (1) 2000-2006 is the initial development period, and the number and subject types of related research results are gradually increasing. Most scholars mainly focus on the cluster themes of sports culture, martial arts, traditional sports, ethnic minorities and traditional martial arts. (2) The period from 2007 to 2016 signifies a period of rapid development, with a notable increase in the number of research results and further expansion of the scope of clustering topics. The research focus mainly includes folk sports, China Wushu, cultural inheritance, mass sports, cultural self-confidence, folk sports and universities. (3) The period from 2017 to 2023 is a period of gentle development, and the related research shows a steady trend, but new research clustering themes have emerged, such as China sword art, Songjiang Array and Tai Chi.



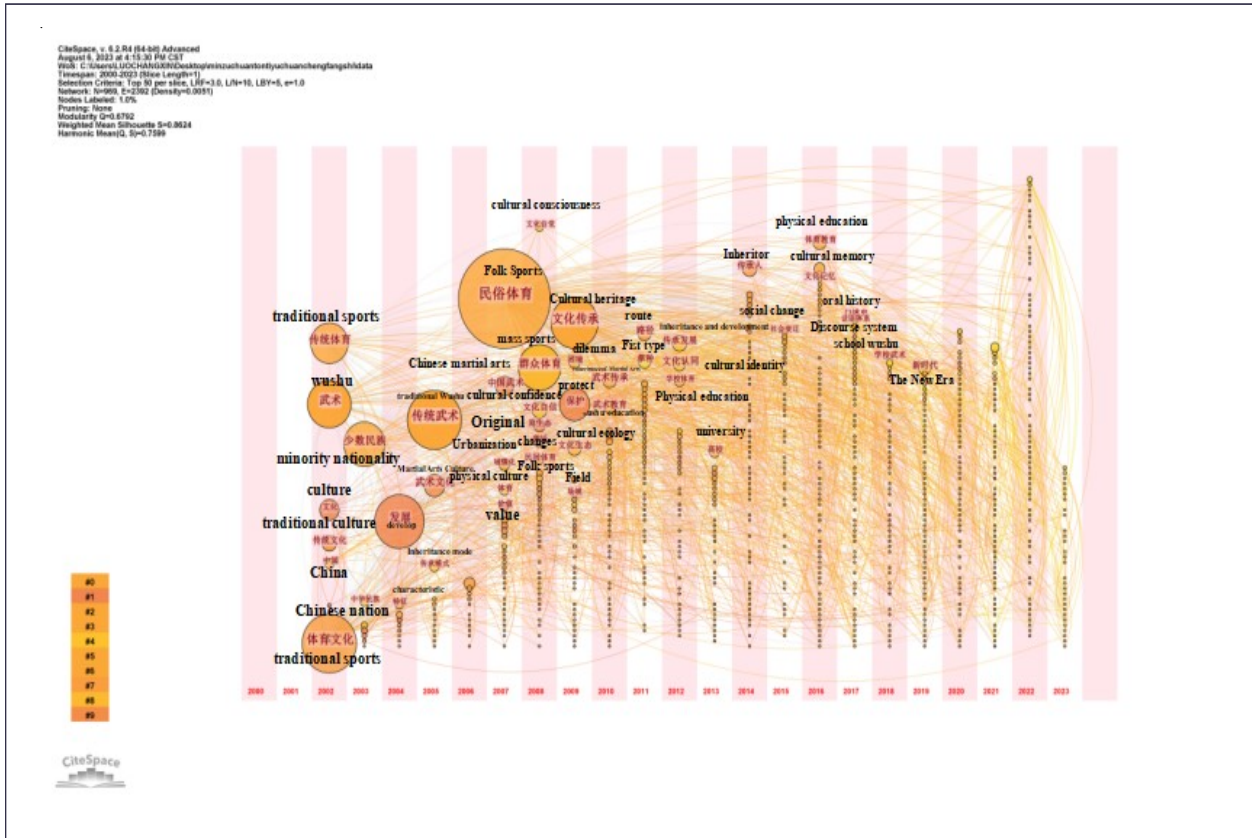


Figure 11: China's Time Zone View Atlas

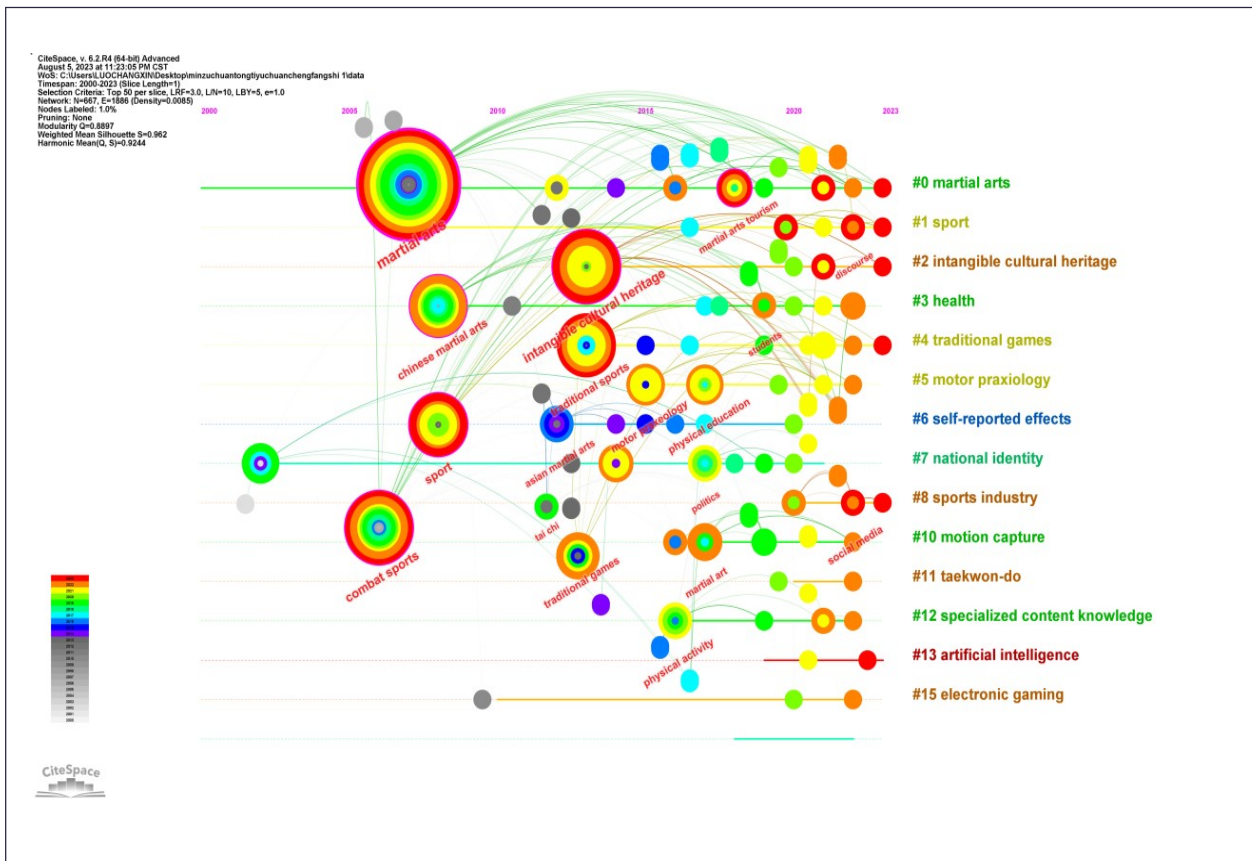


Figure 12: Foreign Timeline Analysis Atlas

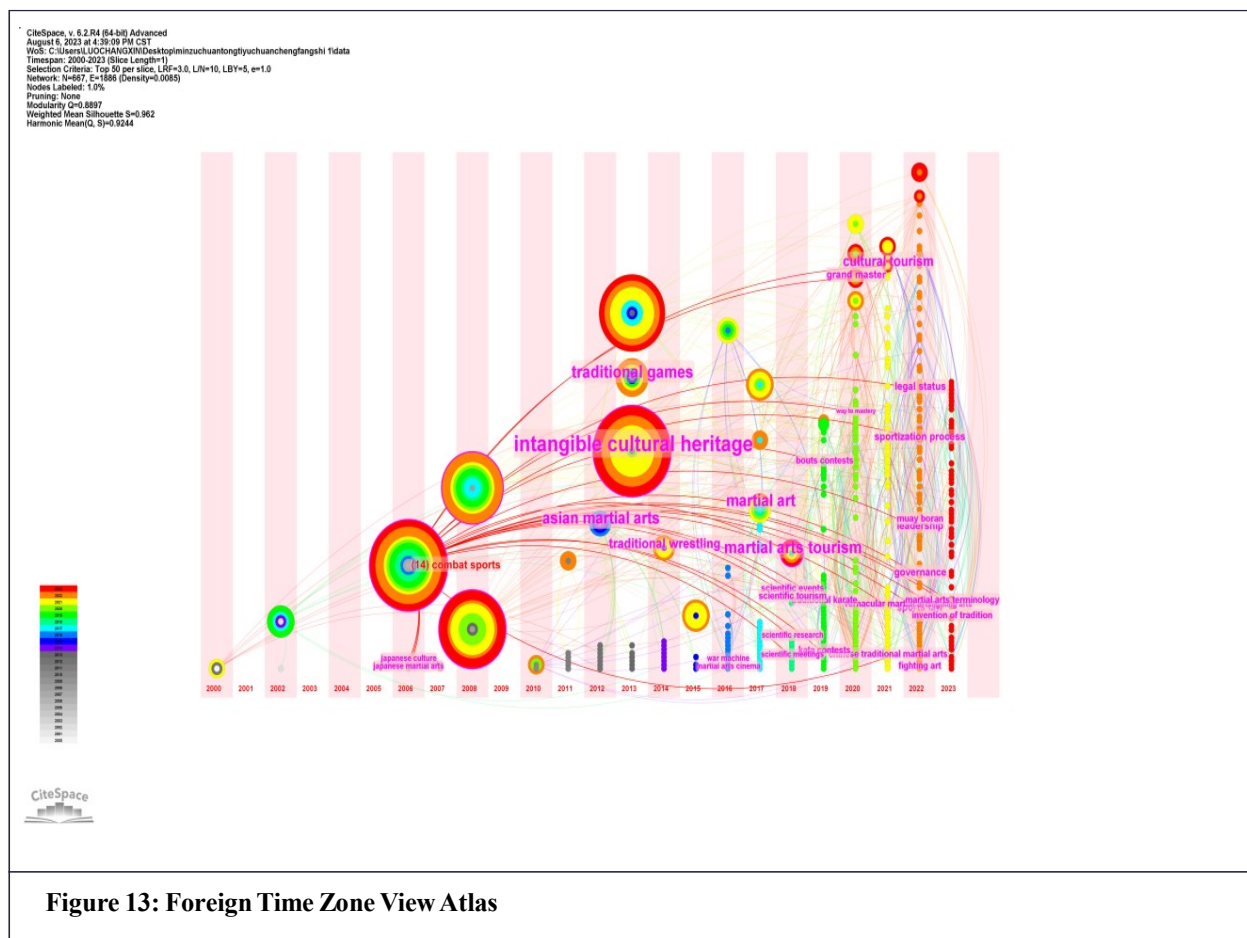


Figure 13: Foreign Time Zone View Atlas

Similarly, combined with Figures 12 and 13, it can be found that the evolution trend of foreign research on the inheritance of national traditional sports culture can be divided into initial stage, stable development stage and rapid development stage. 2000-2005 is the initial stage, and there are few research results at this stage. Scholars only study taekwondo clustering theme. The period from 2006 to 2015 is a stage of stable development, in which martial arts and sports culture run through, and the clustering themes mainly focus on martial arts, sport, intangible cultural heritage, national identity, and self-reported effects. 2016-2023 is a stage of rapid development, and the research trend is rising rapidly and a new research perspective appears. At this stage, based on the research topics related to traditional games, a series of new research topics have emerged: motor praxiology, motion capture, specialized content knowledge, health, sports industry, artificial intelligence, and electronic gaming.

Comparing the evolution trend of China and foreign countries, it is found that from the initial stage, the research in China and foreign countries is generally similar, but the research cycle in foreign countries is slightly longer than that in China. Since the initial stage, China studies have developed from a rapid development period to a gentle development period, while foreign studies have changed from a stable development period to a rapid development period. Judging from the clustering theme, the clustering theme appeared earlier in foreign countries than in China. In addition, compared with China’s research, the number of clustering topics in foreign research is increasing.

4.4. Mutant Words

Mutant words refer to the sudden increase in the frequency of articles published by a keyword in a certain year, and the sudden node thickening represents the sudden increase in the number of articles published by its corresponding topic at the corresponding time, thus judging the research frontier in this field (Du et al., 2021).

Table 8 shows that China’s research on keyword mutation can be divided into three stages. The mutant words that appeared from 2002 to 2015 are traditional sports, development, inheritance, traditional martial arts and protection. From the successful Olympic bid to the successful hosting of the 2008 Olympic Games, China made a major breakthrough in the field of competitive sports. Zhang and Fang (2009) believe that opening China’s traditional martial arts to the world will help broaden the channels for China’s traditional martial arts to spread abroad, enhance the friendship between countries and carry forward the spirit of Chinese nation. At the same time, it provides new measures to promote the development of China traditional Wushu in foreign countries and towards the Olympic Games.

Table 8: List of Keyword Mutations in China And Foreign Countries

China	Foreign Countries																																																																																																						
<p style="text-align: center;">Top 12 Keywords with the Strongest Citation Bursts</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Keywords</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Strength</th> <th>Begin</th> <th>End</th> <th>2002 - 2023</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>传统体育 traditional sports</td> <td>2002</td> <td>5.98</td> <td>2002</td> <td>2009</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>发展 develop</td> <td>2004</td> <td>7.11</td> <td>2004</td> <td>2013</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>传承 inherit</td> <td>2006</td> <td>12.43</td> <td>2006</td> <td>2013</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>传统武术 martial arts</td> <td>2007</td> <td>3.23</td> <td>2007</td> <td>2009</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>保护 protect</td> <td>2009</td> <td>3.97</td> <td>2009</td> <td>2015</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>少数民族 minority nationality</td> <td>2010</td> <td>4.29</td> <td>2016</td> <td>2017</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>文化自信 cultural confidence</td> <td>2018</td> <td>3.72</td> <td>2018</td> <td>2021</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>路径 route</td> <td>2018</td> <td>3.53</td> <td>2018</td> <td>2021</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>活态传承 live transmission</td> <td>2019</td> <td>3.33</td> <td>2019</td> <td>2021</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>群众体育 mass sports</td> <td>2014</td> <td>3.29</td> <td>2018</td> <td>2023</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>新时代 The New Era</td> <td>2020</td> <td>3.67</td> <td>2020</td> <td>2023</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>乡村振兴 rural revitalization</td> <td>2021</td> <td>3.14</td> <td>2021</td> <td>2023</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Keywords	Year	Strength	Begin	End	2002 - 2023	传统体育 traditional sports	2002	5.98	2002	2009		发展 develop	2004	7.11	2004	2013		传承 inherit	2006	12.43	2006	2013		传统武术 martial arts	2007	3.23	2007	2009		保护 protect	2009	3.97	2009	2015		少数民族 minority nationality	2010	4.29	2016	2017		文化自信 cultural confidence	2018	3.72	2018	2021		路径 route	2018	3.53	2018	2021		活态传承 live transmission	2019	3.33	2019	2021		群众体育 mass sports	2014	3.29	2018	2023		新时代 The New Era	2020	3.67	2020	2023		乡村振兴 rural revitalization	2021	3.14	2021	2023		<p style="text-align: center;">Top 3 Keywords with the Strongest Citation Bursts</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Keywords</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Strength</th> <th>Begin</th> <th>End</th> <th>2000 - 2023</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>kung fu</td> <td>2002</td> <td>1.62</td> <td>2002</td> <td>2019</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>martial arts</td> <td>2007</td> <td>3.02</td> <td>2007</td> <td>2016</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>asian martial arts</td> <td>2012</td> <td>2.35</td> <td>2012</td> <td>2016</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Keywords	Year	Strength	Begin	End	2000 - 2023	kung fu	2002	1.62	2002	2019		martial arts	2007	3.02	2007	2016		asian martial arts	2012	2.35	2012	2016	
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In 2016-2017, the mutant word “ethnic minorities” began to appear, and the traditional sports and cultural research of various ethnic groups began to be discussed in depth. Wang and Wang (2016) believe that the development of sports intangible cultural heritage in Xinjiang is facing difficulties such as weak awareness of protection, excessive commercial development, chaotic inheritance order, lagging laws and regulations, interweaving cultural sources and modern sports impact. In order to break through the above difficulties, it is necessary to seize the strategic opportunity and enhance the awareness of protection. Strengthen government leading power and improve policy environment. Attach importance to folk inheritance and advocate the parallel of science and education. Perfecting the legal system and realizing the balance of interests. Ensure that the roots are retained and treated differently. Promote rational evolution and advocate rational regression.

The mutant words that began to appear in 2018-2023 are cultural self-confidence, path, live transmission, mass sports, new era and rural revitalization. Since 2018, China has entered a new era, in order to better inherit and carry forward Chinese excellent traditional culture, and vigorously promote its creative transformation and innovative development (Wang, 2021). Zhang *et al.* (2023) think that the inheritance of traditional Wushu culture in China faces the dilemma of cultural ecological destruction, lack of inheritors and insufficient innovation. At the same time, we should take protective inheritance, documentary inheritance, intergenerational inheritance, sublation inheritance, referential inheritance and innovative inheritance as basic strategies and inheritance measures.

From Table 8, it can be seen that the mutant words studied abroad began to appear kung fu (martial arts) from 2002 until 2019. In the meantime, there were two short-term mutations of other keywords, one was martial arts from 2007 to 2016, and the other was Asian martial arts from 2012 to 2016. Since China’s successful bid for the Olympic Games, the voice of “Wushu entering the Olympic Games” has not diminished. Foreign countries have made a series of studies around the core theme of Wushu and adopted different expressions. Ye (2019) believes that various martial arts schools and their related cultural expressions in other fields are a microcosm of Guangdong traditional martial arts culture. The ideology and culture of Guangdong traditional Wushu comes from China’s traditional philosophy, which provides it with vitality and platform. Because of this, it is ensured that this cultural symbol can always be created, maintained and exported.

By comparing the keyword mutation between China and foreign countries, They have the same keyword Wushu. But from the perspective of time span, China has certain continuity compared with foreign countries. However, from the perspective of foreign research, the research time of “kung fu” abroad is long-term and fixed. This shows that the study of China is based on national traditional sports, combined with national policies and large-scale policies in different periods, from different dimensions and perspectives, while foreign countries only focus on the Wushu project for in-depth discussion. The main reason is that since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, a series of policy orientations have been put forward to adhere to cultural self-confidence and the creative transformation and innovative development of Chinese traditional culture, and relevant practical actions have also been carried out around corresponding policies. However, foreign countries have always been curious about Wushu, and they are also considering whether it can be accepted by the global public as a typical representative of oriental sports and whether it can be listed as an Olympic event.

5. Discussion and Conclusion

5.1. Discussion

Based on CiteSpace, this paper analyzed the related literature on the inheritance of national traditional sports culture between China and foreign countries from 2000 to 2023, including the number of papers published, the distribution of disciplines, the distribution of periodicals, important authors, important institutions, keyword co-occurrence, keyword clustering, evolution trend and mutation words, and draws the following conclusions:

1. The analysis of the number of published articles, disciplines and periodicals shows that since 2021, the number of published articles abroad has surpassed that of China, and its growth trend has been significantly higher than that of China. The distribution of foreign research tends to be balanced in various disciplines, while China research is mostly distributed in this discipline. Compared with China, the distribution of foreign research periodicals tends to be diversified.
2. The analysis of important authors and institutions shows that the number of papers published by high-yield authors in China is higher than that published by high-yield authors abroad, but foreign authors have the closest cooperation relationship and have formed a number of well-known researchers and teams. The cooperation density between China and foreign research institutions is relatively low, and foreign countries are mainly comprehensive universities, while China is mainly specialized sports colleges and sports colleges of comprehensive universities, and some research institutions have occupied a certain influence abroad.
3. Keyword co-occurrence and keyword cluster analysis show that Wushu and sports culture have always been the focus of attention in China and abroad, and both of them are deeply discussed from the two dimensions of inheritance content and path. The difference is that China pays attention to the development of folk sports, while foreign countries pay more attention to individual sports with antagonistic characteristics. The former emphasizes the attitude of inheritance, while the latter attaches importance to the means of inheritance.
4. The analysis of evolution trend shows that although the research trends of China and foreign countries are similar in the initial stage, the research cycle of foreign countries in this period is longer than that of China. With the passing of time, the number of clustering topics in China is getting less and less, but it is quite the opposite in foreign countries.
5. The analysis of mutant words shows that the common mutant word studied in China and abroad is Wushu. The former focuses on national traditional sports and the research duration are certain, while the latter focuses on “kung fu” for a long-term and fixed study.

5.2. Conclusion

Looking back from 2000 to 2023, the research on the inheritance of national traditional sports culture has achieved certain research results with much hot research topics. As far as the research potential is concerned, there is still some room for the inheritance of China's national traditional sports culture. In the future, the research will continue to make breakthroughs from the following contents:

1. Perspective: On the basis of adhering to national policies such as “cultural power”, “sports power” and “rural revitalization”, we will continue to make in-depth discussions from the perspectives of “micro history” and “life history”. In the future, we can consider “certain group” such as inheritors, participants and organizers of national traditional sports as the entry point, and tell new stories for the inheritance of national traditional sports around their personal growth and daily life.
2. Content: Foreign research topics on physical confrontation in traditional sports could be utilized as reference, and expected that the existing “cultural narrative”, “historical narrative” and “physical narrative” can be combined in future research. Based on the expression of body movements and behaviors, combined with the historical and cultural narrative of national traditional sports, this paper clarifies the internal relationship of each part and continues to write new content for it.
3. Discipline integration: it can be integrated with the inheritance of national traditional sports with the help of superior disciplines such as education, science and technology, information technology and medical care. For instance, advanced teaching methods and emerging technologies should be judiciously applied. This involves establishing tutorial education platforms and employing virtual reality technology to bolster the professional knowledge and skills of national traditional sports practitioners. Be good at using information technology such as digital intelligence platform, internet and blockchain to promote the modernization and inheritance process of national traditional

sports. Furthermore, proactive utilization of medical knowledge is essential to explore the rehabilitation and physical therapy effects of national traditional sports, thereby contributing significant academic insights to support the development of the “integration of sports and medicine” trend.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Acknowledgment

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