

THREE DECADES OF FINANCIAL PLANNING RESEARCH

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Abstract

Grable (2006) provides a thorough review of publication rankings commonly used in financial planning. Of these rankings, Grable (2006) notes: “While other publications certainly publish papers that cover these topic areas, only *Financial Counseling and Planning*,² *Financial Services Review*, *Journal of Personal Finance*, *Journal of Financial Planning*, and *Journal of Financial Service Professionals* publish papers that have a predominant relevance to the financial planning and counseling community.” (p. 75). Grable and Archuleta (2009) reiterate the value of these five journals in evaluating financial planning faculty. As such, we focus our analysis on authorship of the articles that have been published in these five financial planning-focused journals.

Others have analyzed a single journal that publishes financial planning research. For example, Kasper and Grable (2005) provide a summary of citations found in the first three volumes of the *Journal of Personal Finance (JPF)*. Hanna et al. (2011) review the 329 articles published in the first eighteen volumes of the *Financial Services Review (FSR)*. Ji, Hanna, Lawrence, and Miller (2010) analyze the content of the articles published in the first two decades of the *Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning (JFCP)*. To our knowledge, no analysis

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² Now known as the *Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning*.

has been conducted on the authorship or content of the *Journal of Financial Planning (JFP)* or the *Journal of Financial Service Professionals (JFSP)*. However, Most (2009) provides a reflective article on the 30 years of the *JFP* and highlights some of the major contributions that were published in the preceding three decades.

We focus our analysis on the authorship of articles that appear in the collection of the five financial planning-focused journals, mentioned in Grable (2006): *Financial Services Review (FSR)*, *Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning (JFCP)*, *Journal of Financial Service Professionals (JFSP)*, *Journal of Financial Planning (JFP)*, and *Journal of Personal Finance (JPF)*. For our analysis, we focus on articles appearing in these journals within the last three decades, from 1984 until 2013 (or since inception, for journals with a history shorter than thirty years). Table 1 provides a summary of descriptive statistics on the number of authors and appearances within each of the five journals and collectively within all five financial planning journals. Collectively, 2,772 authors have appeared in these journals within the last three decades, authoring 2,790 articles.

We recognize that financial planning researchers publish work in other journals and outlets. Similarly, we recognize that some of the authors in these journals may have a predominant research focus other than financial planning. The objective of this analysis is not to provide a comprehensive review of all publications of financial planning researchers. Rather, readers will find it interesting to note the authors who provide considerable contributions to the financial planning field, and by so doing, appear to be dedicated to research within the financial planning profession.

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Table 1. Descriptive Statistics on Authors and Appearances for the Leading Financial Planning Journals from 1984-2013.

Journal	Authors*	Articles	Appearances	Articles per Author	Appearances per Author
Financial Services Review	606	406	856	0.670	1.413
Journal of Financial Counseling & Planning	400	305	706	0.763	1.765
Journal of Financial Service Professionals	1,004	1,054	1,541	1.050	1.535
Journal of Financial Planning	950	867	1,338	0.913	1.408
Journal of Personal Finance	210	156	283	0.743	1.348
All Five Financial Planning Journals	2,772	2,790	4,724	1.006	1.704

* Column doesn't sum to total as authors appear across several journals