

From 1984 to 1989, there was a four-fold increase in the number of all publications from Iraq in the BIOSIS database. As a result, there were 330 publications from Iraq in 1989. After 1989, there was a second decline which was more rapid than the decline in 1980. The output from Iraqi laboratories in 1991 is estimated to be 60 papers. This output is less than the number of papers published in 1977.

The pattern of Iraqi publications in the CA Search database follows a similar time course as the BIOSIS publications. It should be noted that the database CA Search contains chemical as well as biochemical and biological research. Figure 1 shows that between 1969 and 1974 there were approximately 50 publications per year from Iraq. Starting in 1976, there was a rapid increase in the number of publications until 1980. As in the case of the BIOSIS database, the publications decreased until 1983 after which they showed another rapid increase until 1988. After peaking in 1988, with over 300 publications, the number of Iraqi publications dropped to 80 in 1991. Similar patterns of Iraqi publications in the time period under study were found in the three other major databases used in this study: Embase, Medline and CAB Abstracts.

These results give an overview of all Iraqi publications in major scientific databases used in this study. Clearly, there will be research included in these databases that is not at all pertinent to questions that this study is examining. Therefore, it is important to select and survey publications that have been chosen by the key-words that establish more direct relevance to biological and toxin research programs.