

Israeli publications were selected on the basis of the presence of key words described above. Publications from all five databases were selected containing these key words. It was estimated at the outset that the number of potential publications would be much greater than this study could directly examine. Therefore, it was decided to sample an appropriate number of key-word selected Israeli publications during the years 1970 to 1992. Preliminary surveys found approximately 16,055 publications from Israeli centres of research in all databases containing the key-words described above. To achieve a sample size of approximately one thousand unique publications for analysis, six percent of the publications were arbitrarily sampled by record number. The box below contains an explanation of the terms used throughout this study.

The sampled references were stored in a Pro-Cite bibliographic database. The records of the published research were analyzed in terms of:

- 1) sites of research;
- 2) patterns of publications over time;
- 3) authors of the publications; and
- 4) apparent nature of the research.

In the case of some research centres, further searches were done

with the on-line scientific databases. This was done to compare the results obtained from the sample of Israeli research with the overall picture contained in the major scientific databases.

Explanation of Terms

Identification is the process of finding all the publications from the major scientific databases for a particular country. In the case of Israel, there were 177,794 publications.

Selection is the process of using the key-words to find research on particular topics. In the case of Israel, approximately 100 key-words selected 16,055 publications.

Sampling is the process of taking a fixed percentage of the selected publications. In the case of Israel, 6% of 16,055 publications or 962 publications were sampled, and each abstract was examined in detail.