An Invisible Knowledge Network of Leadership Studies: Tag Cloud Analysis

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Abstract. The purpose of this study is to identify the evolution of the intellectual structure of leadership studies and to propose a theory of an invisible network of knowledge. Tag cloud analysis was used to trace the development path of leadership research. By analyzing 22,487 citations of 840 articles published in SCI and SSCI journals in the leadership field from 2002 to 2011, this study maps the intellectual structure of leadership studies. This article dwells upon the wide spreading social tags of website applications. By so called “crowd wisdom”, the tag cloud analysis reveals the preliminary investigation from a social network viewpoint, provides researchers with profiles of leadership related subjects and theories, and sheds light on future directions of studies. The results profile the invisible network of knowledge production in the leadership studies. The contribution of this study is to provide important insights and implications of current and future research paradigms for both management scholars and practitioners.

Key words: leadership, Intellectual Structure, Invisible Network of Knowledge, Tag Cloud Analysis