

Review

A Scientometric Research on Applications and Advances of Fire Safety Evacuation in Buildings

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Abstract: Fire safety evacuation has been used in numerous different kinds of buildings. This research conducts a scientometric review of fire safety evacuation applications and advances in the buildings to clarify the research trends of fire evacuation in the future and provide guidance for relevant research. A total of 3312 journals and conference proceedings were analyzed through different dimensions. The result proves that evacuation environments concentrate mainly on residential building, commercial building, school, and railway station. The characteristics of the evacuee have been gradually refined in recent years, including children, the elderly, patients, and vulnerable groups. The main experimental approaches of fire safety evacuation are evacuation drills, site records, and VR/AR experiments. The crowd behavior models mainly consist of six types: a cellular automata model, a social force model, a lattice gas model, a game-theoretic model, an animal agent-based model, and a computer agent-based model. The analysis results in the theoretical method are becoming gradually closer to the behavioral characteristics and movement data of the crowd during the actual evacuation with improvements of practical considerations. The study of evacuation drills, disaster rescue, emergencies, and other external environmental factors will become the forefront of future research, and subway stations, airports, high-rise building, and other personnel places will be the focus of the study of crowd evacuation.

Keywords: fire safety evacuation; scientometric research; clustering analysis; research method; numerical simulation



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1. Introduction

Fire safety evacuation is the process by which people are transferred from a dangerous area to a safe area in case of emergency. Studies on safety evacuation have been used in numerous different scientific fields to provide information or data as guides for improving the success rate of escape. Many disasters are predictable to the extent that sufficient warning can be provided to those who need to get out of harm's way, and effective evacuations are critical to reducing disaster-related casualties [1]. When disaster strikes, a well-rehearsed repertoire of responses on safety evacuation can provide fall back with relief. Fire safety evacuation has to address the optimal solutions in dangerous environments. Untimely fire safety evacuation will lead to more casualties when disaster strikes. Many scholars have conducted relevant studies on the evaluation of evacuation achievements, including human behaviors in fire, earthquakes, and other dangerous environments [2–12], and crowd evacuation in buildings and subways [13–18]. It has been found that fire safety evacuation research has diversified with the development of emerging technologies.

Scientometric literature research in a certain field is considered an expedient approach to acquiring a thorough comprehension; it can quantitatively study science including impact, hotspot issues, and the distribution of institutions and journals conducting a certain field. Scientometric research has been used in numerous different scientific fields to provide information or data such as computer vision applications for construction [14], safety

science community [15], smart disaster management [16], microalgae-based wastewater treatment [17], computational modelling in built environments [18], dynamics applications in construction management [19], AAP (accident analysis and prevention) [20], CEM (construction engineering and management) [21], or BIM (building information model) [22]. The findings based on scientometric analysis provide excellent research status and development trends for researchers in particular domains of scientific inquiry [23–29]. Researchers can gain quantitative insights in the development direction and efficiently solve complex problems with respect to the theoretical backgrounds, tools, and frameworks on particular domains of scientific inquiry.

There is sustained and fast growth in studies on fire safety evacuation in the buildings research of the past ten years, and the applications and advances in fire safety evacuation have been diverse, with varying degrees of complexity. Nevertheless, few existing publications showcase detailed analyses on fire safety evacuation. Therefore, a research effort is needed to provide the full scope of the applications and advances of fire safety evacuation.

This paper attempts to conduct a scientometric review of the scientific literature relating to fire safety evacuation and to provide an overall description of the applications and advances in fire safety evacuation during the past ten years (from 2010 to 2022). This paper also attempts to clarify the evolution path and development trend of fire safety evacuation in buildings and to provide suggestions for further applications and research directions. The research objectives of this paper are relevant academic publications on fire safety evacuation in the Web of Science database during the past ten years. Data sources and CiteSpace software are introduced to statistically analyze trends in academic publications, subject distribution, journals distribution, research institutions distribution, evacuation objects, evacuation environments, inductive factors, and research methods. This paper aims to review publications that showcase detailed analyses in fire safety evacuation research and to provide research hotspots, development trends, and overall characteristics for researchers on fire safety evacuation domain of scientific inquiry. The achievements in this paper can provide a detailed and comprehensive understanding of the current research state in fire safety evacuation.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 provides the research methodology in this paper; Section 3 identifies the core journals and conferences, leading source countries and organizations, core authors, and keywords by correlation analysis and processing of academic publication data with WOS and CiteSpace; Section 4 analyzes evacuation models and experiment methods on fire safety evacuation in buildings in the recent ten years; Section 5 derives applications and advances in fire safety evacuation in buildings according to research objects, evacuation environments, and disaster classification; Section 6 summarizes the analysis results.

2. Methodology

Database selection and searching strategy are crucial since they determine academic publications from which conclusions will be drawn. Past studies have considered academic publications from the Web of Science core database (WOS) to be reliable and efficient sources of knowledge with high impact due to rigorous review processes.

A delimitation of the research boundary is necessary since there are many previous academic publications on fire safety evacuation. The time frame is set from January 2010 to December 2022. “Fire evacuation” is used as the key word, and wildcard character is also used to capture variations of one keyword. The keyword search is set as title/abstract/keywords in order to retrieve all the publications containing the selected keywords in the title, abstract, or selected keywords section. In order to use this theme-specific search for quick visibility with an identical construct in terms of research aims and methods, only papers in peer-reviewed English journals and conference proceedings are taken into consideration. Irrelevant journals and conference academic publications are excluded from the analysis data; hence, some academic publications on medical treatment and mechanical engineering are excluded. Duplicated articles are reduced to one record in

the analysis. This paper analyzes the retrieved publications with CiteSpace software, and the research route on fire safety evacuation in buildings is given in Figure 1.

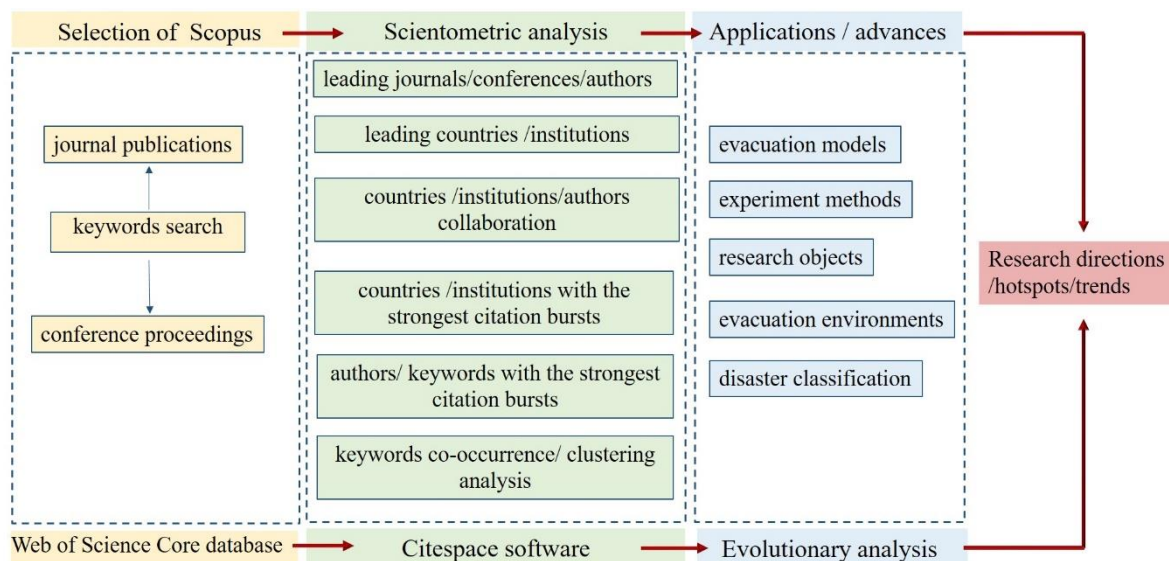


Figure 1. Research route on fire safety evacuation in buildings.

3. Scientometric Analysis

The academic publications on fire safety evacuation are analyzed according to the following methodologies: the number of academic publications, leading journal and conference proceedings, country co-occurrence and burst detection, co-research institution analysis and burst detection, co-author analysis and burst detection, keyword co-occurrence analysis and burst detection, and keyword clustering. Firstly, the co-occurrence analysis and network indicators make an aggregate static representation of fire safety evacuation. Secondly, the strongest citation burst detection sheds further insight on the relative changes of significance over time to identify trends and changes in fire safety evacuation, providing a dynamic representation of fire safety evacuation. Finally, keyword indicators provide evidence for the posterior clustering analysis. Keywords clustering indicates the research patterns within the field in detail, as well as various specific associated research themes to lay out the research conceptual framework. These techniques have been recommended in previous studies of a similar nature.

3.1. Year and Quantitative Analysis of Academic Publications

Exactly 3312 academic publications on fire safety evacuation are evaluated. The number of academic publications in fire safety evacuation from the 2010 to 2022 is given in Figure 2, including journal publications and conference proceedings.

Two main bursts of academic publications are shown in 2012 and 2016, with an increase of 68.7% and 38.9%, respectively. The number of academic publications goes through a steady development stage after each growth. Publications in fire safety evacuation show an overall growth from 2015 to 2022, and the longest period of steady development exists from 2016 to 2022, which shows that the research in this field is developing smoothly and sustainably.

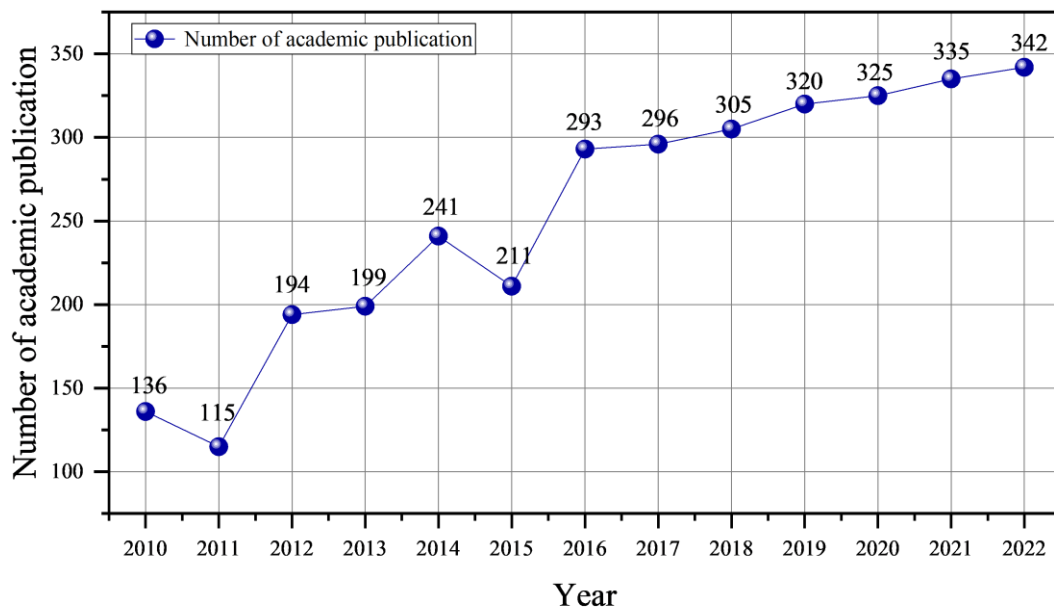


Figure 2. Number of academic publications in fire safety evacuation from 2010 to 2022.

3.2. *Leading Journals and Conference Proceedings*

The selection of an appropriate journal helps the researchers to deliver effective communication in a particular domain. The leading journals and conference proceedings also provide a useful learning channel for the beginner to acquire a quick familiarity and understanding. Leading journals and conference proceedings on fire safety evacuation are concluded in Table 1.

Table 1. Journals and conference proceedings publications in fire safety evacuation from 2010 to 2022: (a) Journals publications. (b) Conference proceedings publications.

(a) Journals Publications		
Journal Title	Number of Articles	% Total Publications
Safety Science	131	3.95%
Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and Its Applications	114	3.42%
Transportation Research Record	92	2.77%
Procedia Engineering	77	2.31%
Fire	70	2.13%
Transportation Research Procedia	42	1.29%
Simulation Modelling Practice and Theory	40	1.18%
Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies	39	1.10%
Journal of Disaster Research	36	1.06%
PLOS ONE	35	1.02%
Applied Mechanics and Materials	33	0.95%
IEEE Access	31	0.83%
Mathematical Problems in Engineering	27	0.83%
Advances in Intelligent Systems Research	27	0.80%
Journal of Advanced Transportation	24	0.72%
Sustainability	24	0.72%
Chinese Physics B	21	0.65%
Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness	21	0.65%
International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health	21	0.65%
International Journal of Modern Physics C	21	0.65%
Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence	21	0.65%

Table 1. Cont.

(b) Conference Proceedings Publications		
Conference Title	Number of Articles	% Total Publications
Conference on Pedestrian and Evacuation Dynamics (PED)	123	3.73%
International Conference on Performance Based Fire and Fire Protection Engineering (ICPBFPE)	52	1.56%
IOP Conference Series Earth and Environmental Science	31	0.95%
International Conference on Evacuation Modeling and Management	17	0.53%
International IEEE Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITSC)	16	0.49%
Winter Simulation Conference (WSC)	15	0.46%
International Symposium on Safety Science and Technology (ISSST)	12	0.38%
Traffic and Granular Flow	8	0.27%
IEEE International Conference on Systems Man and Cybernetics (SMC)	7	0.23%
International Conference on Cellular Automata for Research and Industry (CACRI)	6	0.19%
International Conference on Urban Transport and the Environment (ICUTE)	6	0.19%
International Conference on Civil Engineering and Transportation (ICCET)	6	0.19%
IEEE International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management (IEEM)	6	0.19%
World Conference of Associated Research Centers for the Urban Underground Space (ACUUS)	4	0.15%
International Symposium on Transportation and Traffic Theory (ISTTT)	4	0.15%
International Conference on Computer Simulation in Risk Analysis and Hazard Mitigation	4	0.15%
Construction Research Congress	4	0.15%
ASIA Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM)	4	0.15%

3.3. Network of Countries

A network with 92 nodes and 280 links was exhibited in Figure 3 based on the contributions of countries to explore the distribution of research publications on fire safety evacuation, and nodes with high centrality were identified and highlighted with darker outer rings. Research achievements have a positive correlation with research level. Research shows that the more research a country produces, the higher its level of research. As shown in Figure 3, China (959 articles), USA (582 articles), Japan (305 articles), Germany (107 articles), and England (101 articles) have made major contributions to the publications in this field of research. Countries such as the United States of America (centrality = 0.53), France (centrality = 0.21), the United Kingdom (centrality = 0.18), Netherlands (centrality = 0.17), the People's Republic of China (centrality = 0.15), German (centrality = 0.12), or Japan (centrality = 0.12+) have occupied key positions in the network and connected research activities between different countries.

The network of countries makes an aggregate static representation of countries on fire safety evacuation in buildings. The strongest citation burst detection sheds further insight on the relative changes of significance over time to identify trends and changes on countries/organizations/authors/keywords, providing a dynamic representation of these areas. The top 15 countries with the strongest citation bursts are shown in Figure 4.

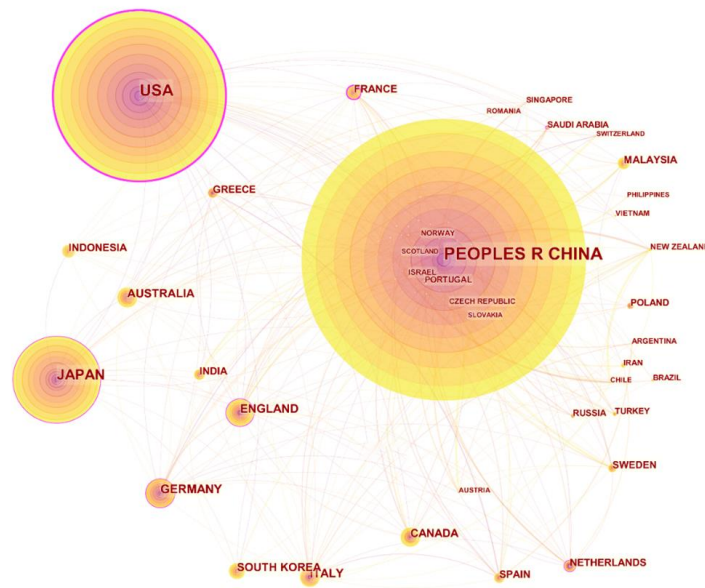


Figure 3. Network of countries.

Top 15 countries with the strongest citation bursts

Countries	Year	Strength	Begin	End	2010–2020
Greece	2010	1.5	2010	2020	████████████████████
Finland	2010	1.25	2010	2020	████████████████████
Austria	2010	2.21	2010	2020	████████████████████
Netherlands	2010	7.72	2010	2020	████████████████████
Germany	2010	2.5	2011	2020	███ ██████████████████
Portugal	2010	2.48	2012	2020	███ ██████████████████
Ecuador	2010	4.54	2014	2020	████████████████████
Czech Republic	2010	1.56	2015	2020	████████████████████
Brazil	2010	2.67	2017	2020	████████████████████
Nepal	2010	1.43	2017	2020	████████████████████
Indonesia	2010	7.43	2018	2020	████████████████████
Bangladesh	2010	1.54	2018	2020	████████████████████
Chile	2010	2.03	2018	2020	████████████████████
Iran	2010	3.62	2018	2020	████████████████████
Egypt	2010	1.78	2018	2020	████████████████████

Figure 4. Top 15 countries with the strongest citation bursts.

The top 15 countries with the strongest citation bursts have a rapid increase in citation frequency in the research time. Articles in these countries tended to affect in great measure the direction of fire safety evacuation research.

3.4. Network of Authorships

The number of research papers could reflect the activity level of scholars in the research domain to a certain degree. The relationship of co-authors could reflect the social interaction in academic communities. The number of research papers and the relationship of co-authors are important indicators by which to evaluate an author. The minimum number of documents and citations of an author are set, respectively, as 5 and 19. Influential authors are given in Figure 5 in the manner of science mapping, and the dot size is proportional to the quantity of research papers.

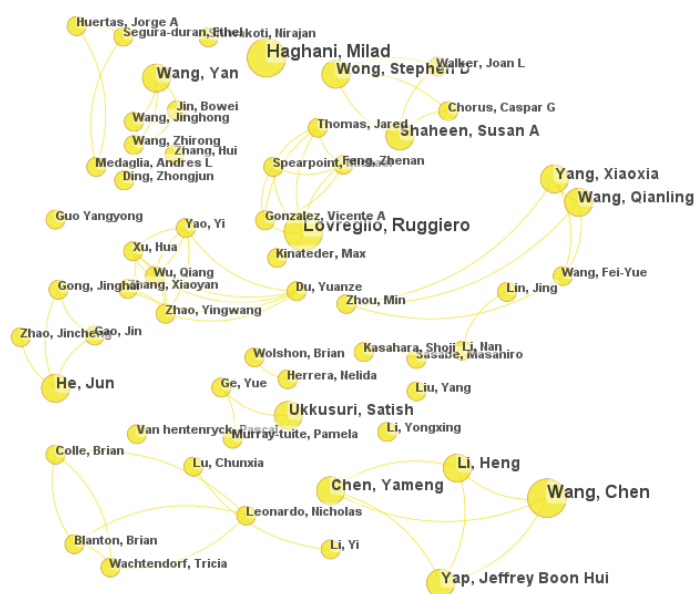


Figure 5. Science mapping of authors.

It can be seen that there are five main research groups in Figure 5. The research group of *Pamela Murray-Tuite* and *Hui Zhang* are located in the center of this mapping and related to the other groups of researchers, showing that they kept a close academic collaboration with leading scholars in the field. *Hui Zhang*, *Tao Chen*, and *Peter B Luh* conduct related research in a team manner. The stair evacuation with considering evacuees' walk preferences is the outstanding contribution in fire safety evacuation of these scholars [28]. Evacuees' walk preference and psychology are introduced into a cellular automata (CA) model, and validation of the model is proved by two fire drills in two high-rise buildings. *Pamela Murray-Tuite*, *Brian Wolshon*, and *Satish V Ukkusuri* have a close cooperative relationship in urban fire safety evacuation. Control strategies of zone phasing and contraflow are proposed to utilize network capacity better and to decrease clearance time [29]. From the analysis results of cooperation academically, it can be summarized that the cooperation among scholars is mainly within the institution, and the core scholars within the institution become the bridge of cooperation with other institutions.

3.5. Keywords Analysis

Keywords can reflect core research content effectively and abstractly. Scholars could identify core research contents and future research trends in a particular domain by keywords. In this scientometric study, keywords are extracted from 3312 publications between 2010 and 2022. The missing keywords in some publications are assigned by the professional indexers from WOS. In this study, the minimum number of occurrences of a keyword is set as 20. Some keywords with the same semantic meanings are combined. The universality and trivial words are ignored. Finally, 43 keywords meet the threshold in total, and the identified keywords are visualized in Figure 6.

Dot size in Figure 6 is proportional to the occurrence frequency of a keyword. The largest point of research directions was "simulation", showing that simulation analysis has been mostly utilized in this area. The distance between the nodes represents the number of co-occurrences of keywords. The higher the number of co-occurrences between two keywords, lesser is the distance between them, and stronger interrelation between those concepts or technologies is depicted. The links are the number of linkages between a given node and others, while the total link strength reflects the total strength linked to a specific item. For instance, the total link strength of simulation is 26, which is at the high level of all the keywords and indicates the strong inter-relatedness between fire safety evacuation and simulation.

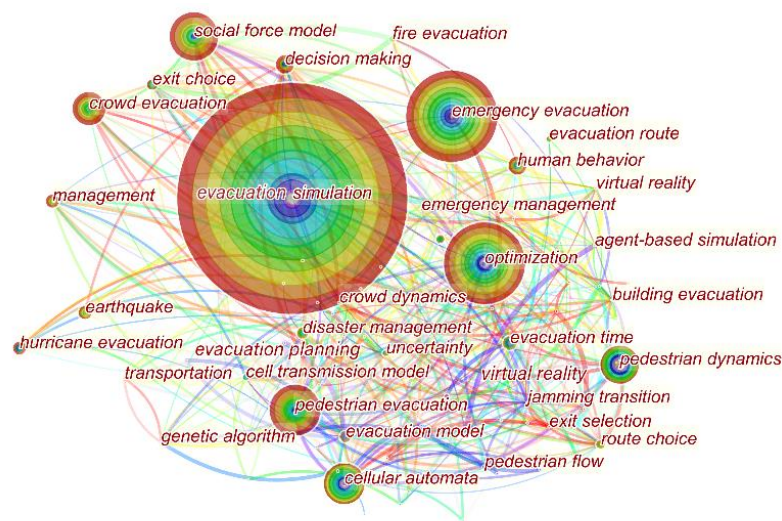


Figure 6. Science mapping of keywords.

According to the results, the keywords with high co-occurrence frequency are “evacuation simulation”, “emergency evacuation”, “optimization”, “pedestrian evacuation”, “social force model”, “cellular automata”, “pedestrian dynamics”, and “crowd evacuation”. The research hotspots in the field of fire safety evacuation mainly revolve around “evacuation simulation”, and it presents a pattern of diversified development. It is also found that the latest research topics relate to “construction safety” and “fire safety evacuation in construction”, which indicates a shift in the field of fire safety evacuation. The visualization of the keywords’ network could demonstrate the results of the bibliometric analysis of the literature. In order to further understand the research trend in the field of safe evacuation, LLR (log-likelihood rate) algorithm in CiteSpace is used in this paper to carry out cluster analysis on the keyword co-occurrence network map. The time range of cluster analysis is from 2010 to 2022, and the time slice is 3.0. Different colors in the cluster analysis are clustering topics, and it is shown in Figure 7.

Clustering analysis is used to study the keyword about fire safety evacuation. The cluster structure is taken as significant when modularity is beyond 0.3. The cluster mean contour value is considered to be reasonable when the silhouette is beyond 0.3. In Figure 7, modularity is 0.392, and the silhouette is 0.7126. Hence, cluster analysis has high reliability. It also can be found that keywords are clustered into seven categories from #0 to #6, and they are emergency preparedness, evacuation planning, evacuation method, FDS plus evacuation, disaster simulation, ICT (information communication technology), and restrictive evacuation. The number of keywords decreases in turn from clustering #0 to clustering #6, which indicates that emergency preparedness covers a wider range of research topics.

The basic knowledge is the co-cited document, and the research frontier is the cited document of the co-cited document. The cluster naming of the knowledge base in CiteSpace is determined by the nominal terms extracted from the cited document, and this naming can be considered as the research frontier. The research frontier is embodied by the clustering of emergent words in the literature that forms the co-citation matrix and in the cited literature. Therefore, the emergent clustering of research keywords is applied to determine the research frontier in the field of fire safety evacuation. In order to better identify and predict the latest evolution and development trend of fire safety evacuation research, keywords with the strongest citation bursts are taken to be analyzed. Compared with high-frequency keywords in fire safety evacuation, keywords with the strongest citation bursts are more suitable for detecting emerging trends and sudden changes in the development of fire safety evacuation. The burst detection algorithm is used in obtaining keywords with the strongest citation bursts, and the threshold is set as Top 30 in this analysis. The top 30 keywords with the strongest citation bursts are exhibited in Figure 8.

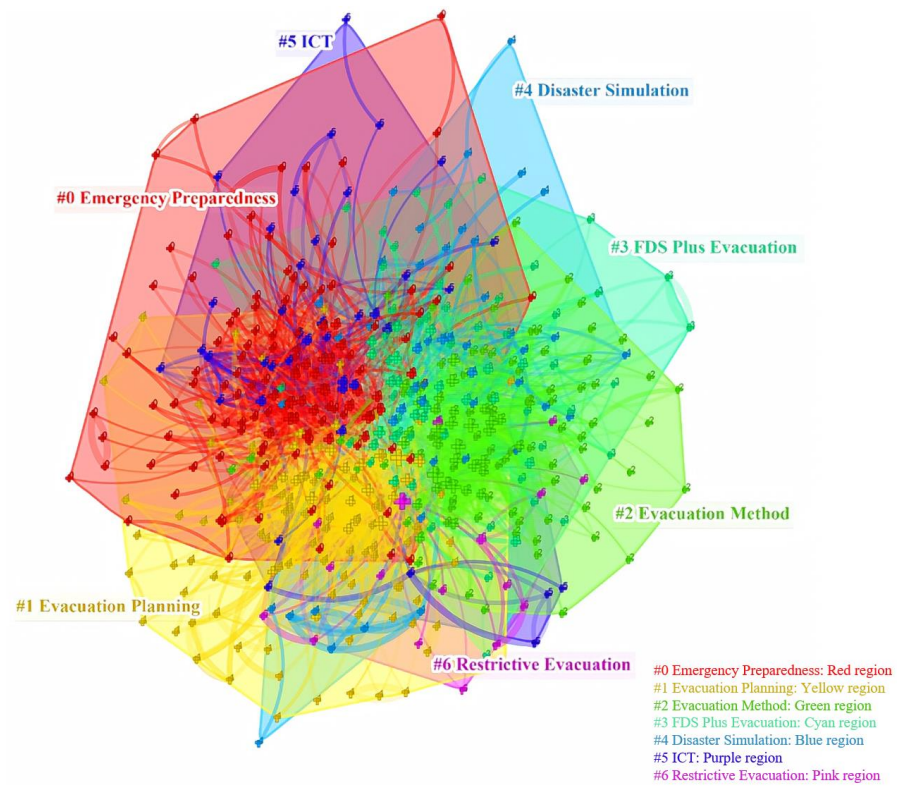


Figure 7. Clustering analysis of keywords.

Keywords	Year	Strength	Begin	End	2010–2022
Evacuation Model	2010	5.23	2010	2022	████████████████████
Pedestrian Dynamics	2010	4.58	2010	2022	████████████████████
Subway Station	2010	4.2	2010	2022	████████████████████
Occupant Evacuation	2010	3.48	2010	2022	████████████████████
Fire	2010	3.42	2010	2022	████████████████████
Cell Transmission Model	2010	3.29	2010	2022	████████████████████
Physics	2010	3.17	2010	2022	████████████████████
Evacuation	2010	2.82	2010	2022	████████████████████
Experiment	2010	2.67	2010	2022	████████████████████
Traffic Flow	2010	2.52	2010	2022	████████████████████
Transition	2010	4.41	2011	2022	███ ████████████████
Evacuation Simulation	2010	4.43	2011	2022	███ ████████████████
Jamming Transition	2010	3.92	2011	2022	███ ████████████████
Evacuation Planning	2010	2.78	2011	2022	███ ████████████████
Wireless Sensor Network	2010	4.3	2012	2022	███ ████████████████
Pedestrian Flow	2010	4.13	2012	2022	███ ████████████████
Routing	2010	3.52	2012	2022	███ ████████████████
Decision Support System	2010	3.18	2012	2022	███ ████████████████
Cellular Automata Model	2010	2.72	2012	2022	███ ████████████████
ICT	2010	3.36	2013	2022	███ ████████████████
Assignment	2010	3.22	2013	2022	███ ████████████████
Congestion	2010	2.66	2013	2022	███ ████████████████
Road Tunnel	2010	2.65	2013	2022	███ ████████████████
Traffic Simulation	2010	2.53	2014	2022	███ ████████████████
Floor Field Model	2010	2.5	2014	2022	███ ████████████████
Network flow	2010	2.77	2016	2022	███ ████████████████
Crowd	2010	4.67	2017	2022	███ ████████████████
Earthquake	2010	3.29	2017	2022	███ ████████████████
Emergency Response	2010	2.69	2017	2022	███ ████████████████
Selection	2010	2.84	2018	2022	███ ████████████████

Figure 8. Top 30 keywords with the strongest citation bursts.

The evacuation model has the highest strength and the longest persistent period in the Top 30 keywords, which indicates that the evacuation model is the most interesting research topic. Keywords with citation bursts in the last five years are network flow, crowd, earthquake, emergency response, and selection, which indicates research trends in fire safety evacuation. In 2013, ICT has become the representative of the emerging hot words, and scholars pay more attention to high-rise buildings and building fire evacuation with the help of wireless sensor networks and mobile devices. From the keywords with the strongest citation bursts and clustering analysis of keywords, both ICT and building evacuation are research trends. ICT technology is more closely combined with crowd evacuation, more integrated, more widely applied, and more systematic. It benefits from the mature manufacturing technology of hardware facilities such as navigation equipment, sensor devices, and computers in recent years, as well as the development and application of algorithms and related software such as path optimization, simulation modeling and cloud computing. The rapid development of building evacuation is because the study of crowd evacuation depends on the external environment. Therefore, the study of evacuation drills, disaster rescues, emergencies, and other external environmental factors should also become the forefront of future research, and subway stations, airports, high-rise buildings, and other personnel places will be the focus of the study of crowd evacuation.

4. Research Approaches of Fire Safety Evacuation

Many studies have concentrated on fire safety evacuation that aims to guide evacuees out of hazardous areas safely and efficiently. Research approaches regarding fire safety evacuation are mainly from evacuation models and experiment methods. Evacuation models are established to predict the egress time for all evacuees, provide evacuation paths for evacuees, and optimize the design of crowded sites. Experiment methods could validate and improve the proposed evacuation models. Records from past incidents, evacuation drills, controlled experiments, questionnaire surveys, and VR/AR experiments are the main experimenting methods.

4.1. Evacuation Models

It is not realistic to carry out the research of evacuation behavior during disasters. Therefore, computational tools are widely accepted as the best approach for simulating evacuation behavior during disasters. Parametric numerical models of evacuation could be employed as behavioral comparison tools for various aspects of evacuees' decision-making. Numerical simulation tools are considered valuable in most fire safety evacuation studies with easier alternatives to experiments. The simulation results can be used to predict safety performance and to make an evacuation plan to reduce casualties and unfold the saving work smoothly.

The evacuation model concentrates on guiding evacuees out of emergency safely and efficiently from the wayfinding algorithm. Crowd behaviors including clogging, pushing, and trampling could lead to serious fatalities in the evacuation process. The crowd behavior models could be divided into the cellular automata model [30–36], social force model [37–43], lattice gas model [44–51], game-theoretic model [52–54], animal agent-based model [55–62], and computer agent-based model [63–72]. The functions of evacuation models have been analyzed and are shown in Table 2.

There are many examples of evacuation simulation software and they are classified according to the approach of physical space simulation, including fine grid models, rough grid models, and continuous models. Evacnet [73] and CFAST [74] are example of simulation software with fine grid models. Building Exodus [75] and Simulex [76] are examples of simulation software with rough grid models. Legion [77] and Pathfinder [78] are examples of simulation software with continuous models. The results of evacuation simulation software with fine grid models are well in agreement with the actual situation in detail. The computation speed of the adaptive grid roughening algorithm increases greatly compared with that of the fine grid method.

Table 2. Functional analysis of evacuation models.

Model Type	Motion	Evacuee Characteristic		Avoidance	Reentry	Evacuation Behavior		Guideline
		Variable	Type			Following	Nearby	
Cellular automata	UD (direction)	US (0/1)	SD	UI	UI	UI	UD	UD
Social force	UD (speed)	UD	UD	UI	UI	UD	UD	UD
Lattice gas	UD (direction)	US (0/1)	SD	UI	UI	UD	UD	UD
Game-theoretic	UD	SD	UD	UD	UD	UD	UD	UD
Animal agent-based	UD	SD	US	SD	SD	SD	SD	SD
Computer agent-based	UD	UD	UD	SD	SD	SD	SD	SD

UD—could define the variable according to demand. UD (direction) represents that the direction is the only defined variable. **US**—users could select the variable from the original model system. US (0/1) represents that there are only 0 and 1 options in the function. **UI**—users need to improve the original model system to realize the function. **SD**—the original model system has set options separately; users can realize the function by turning on and off.

ICT in fire safety evacuation integrate fire science, traffic science, psychological science, and other disciplines. The Internet of Things, radio frequency technology, the geographic information system, and other technologies have been applied in fire safety evacuation. Big data, virtual reality crowdsourcing, and other technologies are used to quantify and analyze the human psychology and social behavior of groups under different evacuation situations. By integrating the Internet of Things, BIM, and fire dynamics simulation (FDS) technologies, real-time fire monitoring and intelligent simulation and formulation of fire safety evacuation routes are realized [79–90]. The emergence of ICT [91,92] enables people to begin to quantify and analyze human psychology and social behavior in evacuation situations on a large scale and accurately. The quantitative model of human evacuation behavior is of great practical significance for updating emergency evacuation coordination systems, optimizing intelligent decision-making methods, and improving core evacuation capabilities, such as psychological and behavioral intervention, before and after safe evacuation.

The exploration of various correlations from the available data can support the scientometric analysis. Therefore, various data visualization tools including CiteSpace [93], VOSviewer [94], Gephi [95], and CiteNetExplorer [96] are used to analyze information such as year, author, journal, affiliation, country, document-type, and domain distribution.

4.2. Experiment Methods

The validity and transferability of theory and numerical analysis models put forward by researchers need to be proved by conducting experiments. Safety evacuation can hardly be completely conducted because of danger and risk. Both evacuation data records from actual emergencies and data from evacuation experiments without danger and risk are valid sources of safety evacuation data. Even based on incomplete evacuation data, the behaviors from accidents and emergencies can reveal safety awareness, true reflection, and the details of the escaping process of evacuees. Conclusions regarding safety evacuation could be drawn and summarized. There are four primary sources of real safety evacuation data, including earthquake/fire evacuation record, terror attack incident evacuation record, crush incident evacuation record, and trajectories record of pedestrians in a natural setting [97–118]. Evacuation time depends on many factors, including the behavior of evacuees and characteristics of evacuated surroundings. An evacuation drill could assess the evacuation procedure, observe the behavior of evacuees, and give a prediction of the relationship between evacuation time and the number of evacuees in a specific environment. Evacuees also could gain training experience in evacuating surroundings from participation. Evacuation drills in different evacuated surroundings have been researched for egress design, selection, and optimizing of the evacuation route in case of emergency. A series of controlled experiments were conducted to explore the commonality behavior of evacuees in evacuation procedures: exit and route choice behavior, stepping and conflict/collision avoidance behavior of pedestrians in different circumstances, including limited visibility conditions, decision-making behavior of social groups in evacuations, fundamental factors (speed, step, pace, etc.) of different human crowds (male/female, young/elder/child, unidirectional/bidirectional/multi-directional) [119–128].

A questionnaire survey is a conventional form of hypothetical choice survey. Investigators could obtain the expected data accurately by the design of questionnaire, including choice surveys under emergency scenarios in different evacuate surroundings [116,125,129,130]. A questionnaire survey is often used in combination with other experiment methods by investigators.

VR and AR experiments are emerging technologies which, initially, were mainly applied in evacuation education. VR/AR experiments, including immersive and non-immersive experiments, could record and analyze test results of emotional, psychological, and physiological responses, wayfinding performances, exit and route choice behaviors, and pre-evacuation time of evacuees [97,131–151]. It has been confirmed that VR/AR experiment is a reasonable proxy of evacuee’s performance under emergency scenarios.

Through the analysis of recent studies, it can be found that evacuation experiments have gradually changed from traditional evacuation exercises to VR and AR experiments. This is mainly because the traditional evacuation exercises have certain security risks and inauthenticity, and the participants do not have a sense of urgency in the event of an actual emergency. In contrast, the test results of VR and AR experiments will be more accurate, because the exercisers will be substituted into the crisis by visual and auditory stimuli. Therefore, the use of VR and AR experimental methods will be the trend of future research on fire evacuation. The outline for the implementation of fire safety evacuation simulation are shown in Figure 9.

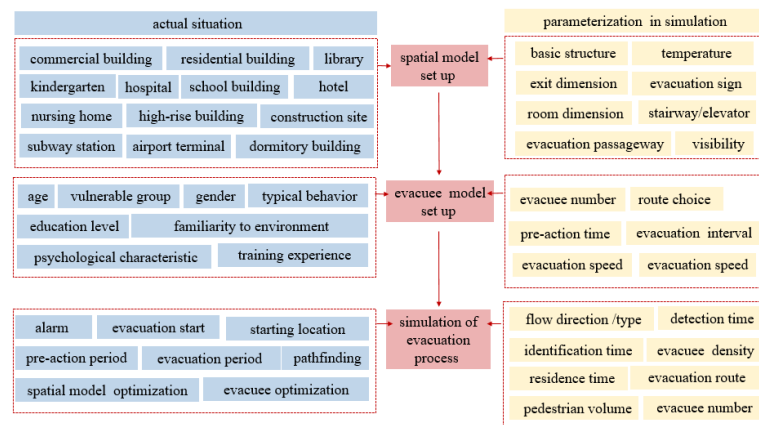


Figure 9. Outline for the implementation of fire safety evacuation simulation.

5. Research Contents of Fire Safety Evacuation

5.1. Research Objects

Physical property, subjective consciousness, and psychological features of evacuees are research objects in safety evacuation. The subjective consciousness of evacuee includes inclusive cognition under emergency circumstances [18,54,69,140], familiarity with evacuation environment [55,129,137,152,153], and individual sense of direction [154]. The psychological features of evacuees include panic, conformity, despair, and impulse [155–160]. The physical properties of evacuees include personnel type, human characteristic, crowd density, walking speed, and crowd flow [77,79,123,141,142,152–154,161]. Evacuee behaviors show great differences under the influence of personality, age, gender, and other factors inhibiting the implementation of evacuation [6,32,71,109]. It poses a great challenge to the study of the crowd dynamics for vulnerable populations. Safety evacuation has a trend of delicacy management. It has been found that the relationship of velocity-step width, velocity-step length, velocity-stepping time, and step length-step frequency for different groups have considerable differences affected by evacuee gender, age, height, and state of health. Children, older people, disability people, patient, and building workers are studied on classification to identify the factors that inhibit the implementation of evacuation in each group [78,79,81,85,99,102,121,123,162–166]. The habitual behavior, herd behavior, and

avoidance behavior are observed when people escaped from emergency circumstances. According to the different directions of pedestrians in the space, the pedestrian flow is divided into the unidirectional pedestrian flow, bidirectional pedestrian flow, and multi-directional pedestrian flow [113–115,167–169]. There are different categories of research objects and influencing factors in safety evacuation; nevertheless, the time line in safety evacuation has universal stages in different research objects, and it is shown in Figure 10.

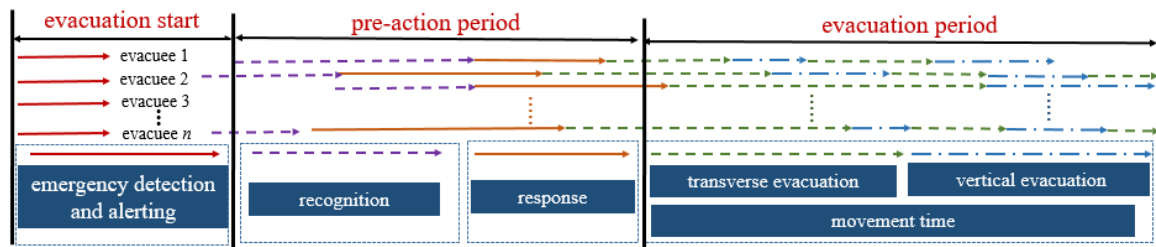


Figure 10. Time line in fire safety evacuation.

The physical properties of evacuees are the most studied objects at present because its appearance is the most intuitive and easy to be digitized. However, the subjective consciousness and psychological features of evacuees also have a great impact on evacuation behavior, which is often ignored in previous studies.

5.2. Evacuation Environments

Evacuation environments have a number of unique features in crowd density and physical characteristics. Hence, effective evacuation planning should be primarily put forward according to environmental features in order to minimize the number of casualties and property loss. Most attention has been paid to safety evacuation in buildings, and a number of environmental characteristics of buildings have been studied. Influences of spatial type, quantity and location of stairs, quantity, and location of exits, quantity and location of facilities, and state of exits have been points of focus. By studying the influence factor of environments, safety evacuation models in different buildings are set up, and targeted safety evacuation strategies are proposed.

Mass audience venues with high-density pedestrian flows, rapid oxygen consumption, limited space for movement, and fixed exits are always the research focus in safety evacuation, including railway stations [170], subway stations [15,171], airports [31], hospitals [99,102], schools [108,120], commercial buildings [65], residential buildings [107,128], and public places of entertainment [172–174]. Safety evacuation of offshore platforms are one of the frontiers of research and a new branch in offshore engineering to which increasing attention has been paid [122].

Safety evacuation in high-rise buildings is the emphasis in this domain, and it becomes difficult as interior structure and architectural form of high-rise building [110,112,136,155]. People in high-rise buildings are highly concentrated, and some areas have poor mobility for various reasons. If there is an emergency, a large number of people rush to the security exit and go downstairs to evacuate. However, the stairs of high-rise buildings are too limited to evacuate pedestrian flow which is over the design condition. Hence, it is impossible to evacuate all people to the ground safely in a short time. When there is an emergency, the crowd becomes panicked and disorder. In an unorganized situation, it is easy to lead to congestion and stampede, which further affects the evacuation efficiency. Research flow of fire safety evacuation is summarized and shown in Figure 11. There are mainly six categories of factors affecting safety evacuation performance, including evacuation object, psychological characteristic, typical behavior, evacuation environment, evacuation route and evacuation time.

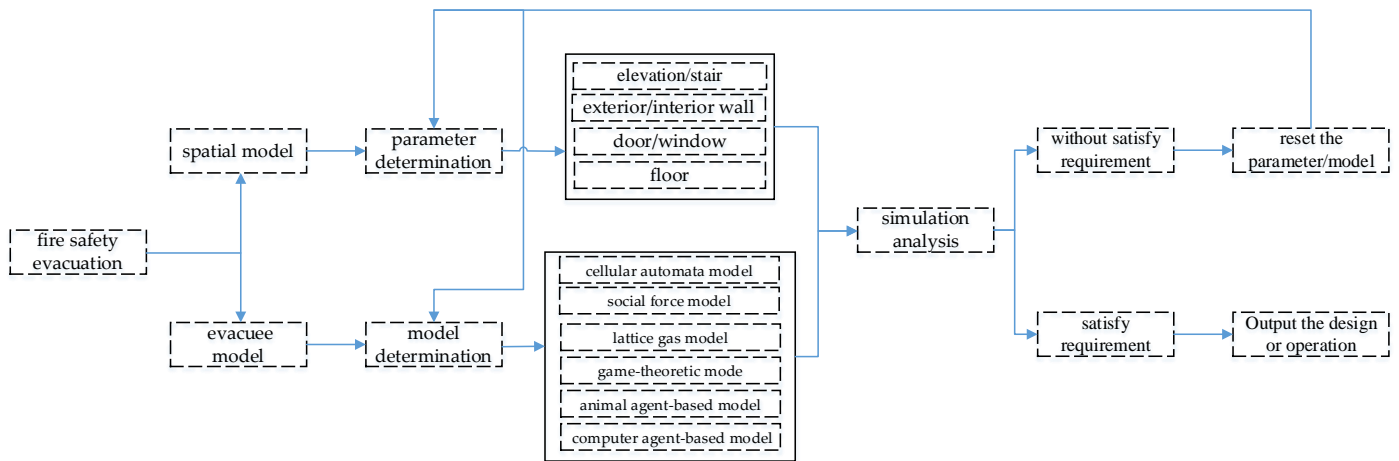


Figure 11. Research flow of fire safety evacuation.

The research on the fire evacuation environment has gradually shifted from the relatively simple mass venues to marine engineering and high-rise buildings with complex structures and difficult evacuation. With the development of the construction industry, the research on fire evacuation to ensure personal safety should also keep pace with the times.

With the emergence of high-rise buildings, it is necessary to study the appropriate use of elevators for fire safety evacuation. After analyzing the structural characteristics of high-rise buildings, fire spread law, evacuation behavior, stair-elevator hybrid evacuation strategy, elevator operation control mode, evacuation system operability, and other factors, the elevator evacuation system is summarized for reference, and it is shown in Figure 12.

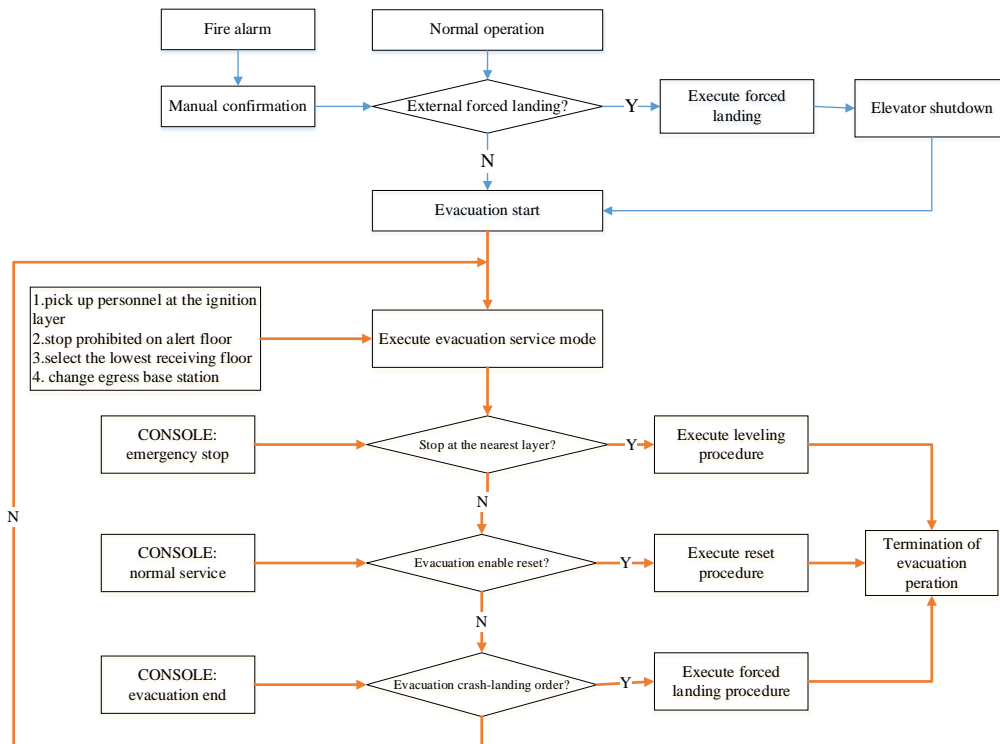


Figure 12. Elevator fire evacuation.

5.3. Disaster Classification

Development and implementation of more efficient targeted safety evacuation could significantly reduce lives and property losses in disasters. Targeted safety evacuation

studies have been conducted in natural disasters and man-made/humanistic disasters, including fires [3], earthquakes [8,100,104], landslides [175], tsunamis [61], floods [63], hurricanes [176], typhoons [177], tornados [178], transportation accidents [18,29,42,67,69,108,145,152], and terrorist attacks [179]. In the scientific research on disaster risk reduction, disasters could be classified into three types: natural disasters, man-made/humanistic disasters, and industrial/technological disasters. Fire safety evacuation received the most attention in recent years.

6. Conclusions

Fire safety evacuation research is of great significance to whether a person can reach the safe area smoothly, and thus to preventing the occurrence of casualties. Fire safety evacuation research plays a very positive role in the development of social health and stability. There is a bias in the research literature towards traditional fire safety evacuation in buildings and a concerning lack of fire safety evacuation innovation; conducting similar research at future crucial junctures will continue to address the evolving nature of fire safety evacuation in buildings and help monitor its development. With the help of CiteSpace and WOS, this paper analyzes the research frontier, application trends, and knowledge basis of fire safety evacuation through correlation analysis and the processing of literature data and information. Based on co-citation theory and the pathfinding network algorithm, the trends and hotspots in fire safety evacuation research are revealed using reference burst-detection analysis. Through visualization of the research literature, the key evolution path of the discipline's frontier and the key nodes of the discipline are clearly and intuitively analyzed. This paper points out that the future research trends of fire evacuation are intelligence, visualization, and interaction, which have a certain guiding role for the development of related research.

(1) New fire safety evacuation research themes have emerged or have been visibly strengthened, including fire safety evacuation of elderly, children, people with mobility difficulties, and vulnerable groups. While the hottest traditional topics have been explored primarily through laboratory crowd experiments, VR/AR approaches have proved more helpful in studying the hottest emerging topics with applications that involve fire safety evacuation design, decision-making, and forecasting;

(2) In the fire safety evacuation research, the hotspots of the study mainly include the emergency events caused by different factors (natural disaster and man-made disaster), evacuation environment, evacuation objects, psychological characteristics, behavioral characteristics, pathfinding characteristics of evacuees, and overall evacuation time. The core technologies and methods include questionnaire surveys, evacuation drills, actual data collection through an information system, and numerical simulations;

(3) ICT and restrictive evacuation are the most active research directions by clustering analysis of keywords. The outline for the implementation of fire safety evacuation is the establishment of a spatial model, the establishment of an evacuee model, and the simulation of the evacuation process;

(4) The main experimental approaches of fire safety evacuation are evacuation drills, site records, and VR/AR experiments. The experimental approaches are developing in the direction of intelligence. The crowd behavior models could be divided into a cellular automata model, a social force model, a lattice gas model, a game-theoretic model, an animal agent-based model, and a computer agent-based model. The factors considered in the theoretical analysis process are gradually complete and closer to the behavioral characteristics and movement data of the crowd during the actual evacuation. Keywords mainly focus on "evacuation simulation", "emergency evacuation", and "optimization". Intelligent fire safety evacuation, visual fire safety evacuation, and multi-dimensional dynamic collaborative interactive fire safety evacuation are the future research trends of fire safety evacuation;

(5) In the papers related to fire evacuation, "simulation" is the most frequent keyword, showing that simulation analysis has been mostly utilized in this area. Meanwhile,

“evacuation” is the most frequent word, indicating the research hotspots in the field of fire safety evacuation mainly revolve around “evacuation simulation”, and this presents a pattern of diversified development. It is also found that the latest research topics relate to “construction safety” and “fire safety evacuation in construction”, which indicates a shift in the field of fire safety evacuation in the buildings;

(6) The rapid development of building evacuation is because the study of crowd evacuation depends on the external environment. Therefore, the study of evacuation drills, disaster rescues, emergencies, and other external environmental factors should also become the forefront of future research, and subway stations, airports, high-rise buildings, and other personnel places will be the focus of the study of crowd evacuation.

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