

## SURFING MONOGRAPHS PUBLISHED IN SPAIN (1983-2024): A BIBLIOMETRIC APPROACH

### Monografías de surf publicadas en España (1983-2024): aproximación bibliométrica

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#### Abstract

Surfing in Spain began in the 1960s. Since then, surfing has been developed as a sporting, economic and cultural activity. This surfing expansion has also led to the publication of specialized magazines, as well as books dedicated to spreading surf culture. Moreover, surfing scientific output has increased significantly during the 21st century, attracting the interest of academics to know, interpret or analyze the multiple edges that surfing presents. However, surfing analysis is also carried out through other types of documents complementing this scientific production, such as books or academic works. The aim is to analyze, from a bibliometric approach, surfing monographs published in Spain. The first monograph appeared in 1983 and since then the amount of documents has increased progressively along time, particularly from the 2010s onwards. Academic works predominated within these monographs, being main publishers associated to Spanish universities. Among these top publishers, one publisher exclusively dedicated to the edition of surfing books was discovered, confirming the social and cultural relevance of surfing. Four fields of science were represented in more than half of total monographs, linked to the economic, tourism and business sector, as well as the pedagogical processes for surfing practice.

**Keywords:** bibliometrics, publications, history, surf.

#### Resumen

El surf en España comenzó en la década de 1960. Desde entonces, se ha desarrollado como una actividad deportiva, económica y cultural. Esta expansión del surf también ha provocado la publicación de revistas especializadas, así como libros dedicados a la difusión de la cultura del surf. Además, la producción científica dedicada al surf ha aumentado significativamente durante el siglo XXI, captando la atención de los estudiosos para conocer, interpretar y analizar las múltiples aristas que presenta el surf. Sin embargo, el análisis del surf también se realiza por medio de otro tipo de documentos que complementan a la producción científica, tales como los libros y trabajos académicos. El objetivo es analizar, desde una perspectiva bibliométrica, las monografías de surf publicadas en España. La

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primera monografía apareció en 1983 y desde entonces la cantidad de documentos ha aumentado paulatinamente a lo largo del tiempo, especialmente a partir de la década de 2010 en adelante. Los trabajos académicos predominaron entre estas monografías, siendo las universidades españolas las principales editoras. Entre estas editoriales, se descubrió una dedicada de manera específica a la publicación de libros de surf, confirmando la relevancia social y cultural del surf. Cuatro campos de conocimiento estuvieron representados en más de la mitad de las monografías, vinculados al sector económico, del turismo y de los negocios, así como a los procesos pedagógicos para la práctica del surf.

**Palabras clave:** bibliometría, publicaciones, historia, surf.

## Introduction

The origin of surfing in Spain dates back to the 1960s, starting in different places of the country by the influence of the cinema, television, press and the meeting with foreign surfers (Esparza 2014). Since then, surfing has been developed in this country as a sporting, economic and cultural activity. In the sports field, this development is represented in the creation of the *Federación Española de Surfing* (FES) in 1999 (FES 2024b), the progressive increase of the amount of sporting licenses until reaching 75,348 (Consejo Superior de Deportes 2024a), the host of several championships and tournaments throughout the country in the different surf sports included in the FES (FES 2024a) or the rise of Team Spain to the top 5 during the last years in Para Surfing (International Surfing Association 2020, 2024, 2022, 2021c, 2023), among others. On the other hand, surfing has become an economic activity bonded, for example, to the manufacture of surfboards, the establishment of several surf shops, the proliferation of surf schools, as well as the amount of practitioners and tourists enjoying surfing from a recreational perspective (Esparza 2019a). Finally, surfing has permeated the social and cultural sphere, celebrating surf film festivals in different places such as Canary Islands (Canarias Surf Film Festival 2024), Madrid (Madrid Surf Film Festival 2024) or San Sebastian (Surfilmfestival 2024) among others, joining activities related to cinema, music, art and ocean protection. These festivals have also triggered the preservation of waves and the environment as natural, sports, socioeconomic and cultural heritage for sustainable development (Surf & Nature Alliance 2019). This surfing expansion has also led to the publication of specialized magazines (Esparza 2020), as well as books dedicated to spreading surf culture or serving as inspiration for novels, short stories, photo books, essays or movies.

Moreover, surfing scientific output indexed in the main international databases has increased significantly during the 21st century, attracting the interest of academics to know, interpret or analyse the multiple edges that surfing presents from different perspectives (Pérez-Gutiérrez and Cobo-Corrales 2020). However, surfing study or analysis is also carried out through other types of documents complementing this scientific production, such as books and academic works. Thus, editorial production is responsible for disseminating scientific or technical knowledge on a subject to society in general. It also reflects, to a certain extent, the informational demands and the contributions of professionals or scholars to advance in the understanding of a subject. On the other hand, grey literature refers to "... that which is produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in print and electronic formats, but which is not controlled by commercial publishers" (Farace and Schöpfel 2010, 1). Therefore, grey literature presents problems for finding and accessing documents. Academic works such as Bachelor (BTs) and Master theses (MTs) and doctoral dissertations (PhDs) are considered grey literature. However, these documents are important since they are the result of the first approaches or training stages of a researcher, opening new lines of research or perspectives from which a topic can be studied. Thus, the aim of this paper was to analyse, from a bibliometric approach, books and academic works focused on surfing published in Spain. Moreover, it aims to reveal the history and characteristics of the scientific and technical knowledge linked to the editorial and academic production on surfing in Spain, discovering its origins, evolution, topics, fields of science and the main publishers disseminating these monographs.

## Methodology

The object of study was monographs focused on surfing sport published in Spain or presented in some of the Spanish universities. Documents published until August 2024 were included. The term monograph was defined as a “publication in print or non-print form, complete in itself or intended to be completed in a finite number of parts”, following the ISO 690 standard (Agencia Española de Normalización 2013). Considering this definition, books as well as academic works such as Bachelor (BTs) and Master theses (MTs) and doctoral dissertations (PhDs) were included.

Regarding the topic, monographs should be focused on surfing directly or as the object of study of other disciplines. Thus, surfing was defined as those sporting activities with competition and recognized by the International Surfing Association (ISA), that is, bodyboarding, longboard, shortboard, standup paddle (SUP) racing and surfing, para-surfing, bodysurfing, wakesurfing and all other wave riding activities on any type of waves, and on flat water using wave riding equipment (ISA 2021a). Those works focused on general topics, such as water sports, encyclopedias including several sports or those books inspired by surfing but not addressing their study, such as photo books, poetry, stories or novels, among others, were not included.

## Data collection

The catalogues of the Spanish National Library and the University Libraries Network, the collective catalogue of Public Libraries, Dialnet database, the catalogue of the ISBN agency, AbeBooks, the webpage of several sports-oriented bookstores, as well as the webpage of surfshops dedicated to the sale of surf equipment and publishers that had previously edited a book of surfing, were checked for data retrieval. For the search of academic works, the Spanish database about PhDs and the institutional repositories of the different Spanish universities were also consulted.

Regarding the several surf sports and their spellings, the terms used for data mining were the following: bodysurf, bodyboard, longboard, kneeboard, shortboard, skimboard, stand up paddle, standup paddle, strapsurfing, surf, surf-boating, surfing, surf-riding and tandem surfing. These terms were individually entered in the different catalogues, databases and webpages. Data mining was performed on August 2024.

Obtained results were checked for assessing that they met the inclusion criteria. Bibliographic information of each monograph was included in the record card presented in Endnote X9 programme. In this card, basic bibliographic information of each document, following ISO 690 standard was recorded. Other information such as type of document, decade, surf sport and field of science, were also registered for the subsequent bibliometric analysis. In relation to the type of document, monographs were classified as books, PhDs, BTs and MTs. Regarding surf sport, the classification of the ISA was used as the world governing authority recognized by the International Olympic Committee (ISA 2021a). For the categorization of documents by field of science, the UNESCO nomenclature for fields of science and technology was followed (Simple Knowledge Organization System 2024).

## Data analysis

Then, data was exported to Microsoft Excel for statistical analysis. The bibliometric analysis was focused on productivity and topic aspects (López López 1996). By means of descriptive statistics, frequency and percentage of monographs distribution by type of document, decade, surf sport, field of science and publisher were calculated. In this analysis, the several editions of the same book were registered as different records, since they are informing about those books having a greater acceptance and dissemination at both editorial and social level, following the same criteria used by Pérez-Gutiérrez and Gutiérrez-García (2008).

## Results

The present study collected a total of 250 documents published between 1983 and 2024. As Table 1 shows, most of these monographs were BTs, followed by the publication of books. Most of the monographs (65,2%) were published during the 2010s. This productivity presents a progressive increase along time, despite during the 2020s only 54 surfing monographs were published. More than half of total production appeared in the 2010s. All type of documents depicts an increase of publications during the last decades.

Decade	1980		1990		2000		2010		2020		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Books</b>			2	0,80	17	6,80	44	17,60	32	12,80	95	38,00
<b>PhD</b>					2	0,80	6	2,40	5	2,00	13	5,20
<b>BTs</b>	1	0,40	2	0,80	8	3,20	91	36,40	14	5,60	116	46,40
<b>MTs</b>					1	0,40	22	8,80	3	1,20	26	10,40
<b>Total</b>	1	0,4	4	1,6	28	11,2	163	65,2	54	21,6	250	100

Table 1. Distribution of monographs by type of document and decade.

Regarding surf sports, surf in general collected the highest amount of documents (92%). On the contrary, kayaksurf and longboard are barely represented in one monograph, respectively (Table 2). Surfing monographs presented a progressive increase of publications along time.

Decade	Bodyboard		Kayaksurf		Longboard		SUP		Surf		Surf-Bodyboard	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>1980</b>									1	0.40		
<b>1990</b>									3	1.20	1	0.40
<b>2000</b>	1	0.40							25	10.00	2	0.80
<b>2010</b>	3	1.20			1	0.40	6	2.40	151	60.40	2	0.80
<b>2020</b>			1	0.40			3	1.20	50	20.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

Table 2. Distribution of monographs by surf sports and decade.

The most represented fields of science were economic and technological sciences with 44 and 42 monographs respectively (Table 3). On the contrary, linguistics and anthropology were the less represented fields with four and two documents respectively. Moreover, most of the fields showed a progressive increase of documents along time, highlighting the rise of economic and technological sciences during the 2010s.

Field of science	1980		1990		2000		2010		2020		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Anthropology</b>					1	0.40	1	0.40			2	0.80
<b>Earth and space sciences</b>			1	0.40	4	1.60	15	6.00	6	2.40	26	10.40
<b>Life sciences</b>					1	0.40	2	0.80	3	1.20	6	2.40
<b>Science of arts and letters</b>			1	0.40	1	0.40	19	7.60	4	1.60	25	10.00
<b>Economic sciences</b>			1	0.40	1	0.40	35	14.00	7	2.80	44	17.60
<b>Juridical sciences and law</b>							4	1.60	6	2.40	10	4.00
<b>Medical sciences</b>							9	3.60	2	0.80	11	4.40
<b>Technological sciences</b>					5	2.00	33	13.20	4	1.60	42	16.80
<b>Philosophy</b>					1	0.40	3	1.20	3	1.20	7	2.80
<b>History</b>					5	2.00	11	4.40	9	3.60	25	10.00
<b>Linguistics</b>					1	0.40	3	1.20			4	1.60
<b>Mathematics</b>					1	0.40	4	1.60	1	0.40	6	2.40
<b>Pedagogy</b>	1	0.40	1	0.40	6	2.40	17	6.80	4	1.60	29	11.60
<b>Psychology</b>							5	2.00	1	0.40	6	2.40
<b>Sociology</b>					1	0.40	2	0.80	4	1.60	7	2.80

Table 3. Distribution of monographs by field of science and decade.

The most important publishers are shown in Table 4. Most of these publishers belong to Spanish universities. In addition, it should be highlighted one of them is a surf-oriented publisher, Libros del Océano (Ocean Books), editing ten monographs. Almost a quarter of total monographs were edited by 51 different publishers.

<b>Publisher</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	17	6.8
Universidad de Cantabria	14	5.6
Universidad de Sevilla	14	5.6
Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	12	4.8
Universitat Politècnica de Valencia	11	4.4
Libros del Océano	10	4
Universidad del País Vasco	9	3.6
Universidade da Coruña	8	3.2
Universitat de les Illes Balears	7	2.8
Universidad de La Laguna	6	2.4
3 publishers with 5 documents each	15	6
3 publishers with 4 documents each	12	4.8
8 publishers with 3 documents each	24	9.6
20 publishers with 2 documents each	40	16
51 publishers with 1 document each	51	20.4

Table 4. Distribution of monographs by publisher.

## Discussion

The first monograph about surfing dates back to the 1980s, specifically in 1983 when a BT attempted to perform a surf analysis (García Álvarez 1983). This first work appeared two decades after the origins of surfing in Spain (Esparza 2014). It is not anecdotal that it appeared in the *Instituto Nacional de Educación Física* (INEF) of Madrid. On the one hand, the INEF was created in the 1960s and depended directly on the *Delegación Nacional de Educación Física y Deportes* (DNEFD), a government entity of the Franco dictatorship regulating sport and physical education in Spain during that period (Rivero Herráiz 2012). On the other hand, the *Sección Nacional de Surf* (SNS), as the germ of the FES, was established in 1969 with its headquarters in Madrid. Until 1971, the SNS was included in the *Federación Española de Esquí Náutico* and since then, it became integrated into the DNEFD (Esparza 2019b). SNS promoted the surf practice and culture in the facilities of the INEF, screening surf movies and giving press conferences regarding its activities and explaining the development of surfing throughout the country between 1971 and 1973 (Esparza 2019b). Therefore, this mutual connection with the DNEFD could explain the close relationship between INEF and SNS for the dissemination of surfing in the university environment. This promotion of surfing in the INEF probably attracted the attention of the first Physical Education students and teachers and, consequently, the publication of the first BT focused on surfing.

Academic works collected 62% of total monographs, reflecting the interest of students, teachers and researchers about this sport and the relevance of this topic as object of study, as it was corroborated by Pérez-Gutiérrez and Cobo-Corrales (2020) regarding the scientific output indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus. They found 318 documents published between 1967 and 2017. However, the publication of academic works began to increase from the beginning of the 21st century with 11 documents compared to 17 books, and the next decade with 119 works compared to 44 books.

On the other hand, the amount and development of surfing monographs published in Spain should be discussed within the national and international context for understanding its relevance as

a media for spreading the surfing culture and practice in this country. Surf boom occurred in the late 1950s and early 1960s mainly in the United States of America and Australia, experiencing a great development as a sport, economic activity and social and cultural phenomenon (Westwick and Neushul 2013), triggering its international spreading. Thus, within the European context, the practice of surfing started in Portugal and United Kingdom during the 1920s (Mansfield 2009; SurferToday 2012) and in France in the late 1950s (Gardinier 2004; Bégue and Gardinier 2019), while in Spain first surfers appeared during the 1960s in different places that had no contact with each other (Esparza 2014). These pioneers reminded their beginnings were bonded to some Waikiki images with small waves shown in the Kostka cinema (Pellón 2009), films and documentaries about the Pacific exhibited in the Actualidades cinema of Bilbao (Uribe 1990), surfing scenes included in an American film shown in Albéniz cinema (Esparza 2015), surfing images contained in Captain Blood movie starred by Errol Flynn in 1935 (Esparza 2014), the meeting with foreign surfers (Bas 2011) or Spaniards living abroad, reports and photos included in magazines such as Popular Mechanics, Life, National Geographic or Reader's Digest, the LP cover of "Surfin' Safari" album of the Beach Boys or the TV series titled Hawaiian Eye (Esparza 2016). Furthermore, newsreels, as well as films and documentaries were the first media showing surfing to the Spanish society, capturing the interest of some of its pioneers. Esparza (2019b) found seven newsreels focused on surfing exhibited from 1950 and 1972. The impact of these newsreels was complemented with the appearance of surfing within Hollywood movies, as teenager entertainment products (Lisanti 2012) set on the Hawaii and California beaches, which were configured as a subgenre and showed surfing to millions of people (Booth 1996). These movies, documentaries and newsreels, together with music, fashion and TV were in charge of showing and expanding the culture of surfing not only in the United States of America, but also throughout the world, offering a healthy and safe image of this sport and young people (Engle 2015).

Complementing these media, the diffusion of surfing in the Spanish press began in 1911 but sparsely, being from 1962 when news related to its practice appeared more frequently (Esparza 2013), even in the DNEFD popular sports magazine entitled *Deporte 2000* with a summary note published in 1970 (Esparza 2019b). Surf boom in Spain occurred from the 1980s onwards with the increasing number of surfshops and the appearance of the first surf journal entitled *3sesenta* in 1987. Few years later, *Surfer Rule* and *Marejada* journals were firstly published in 1990 or *Rompeolas* and *Surfari* journals in 1992 (Esparza 2020). In this scenario of growth and expansion of surfing, at the sports and cultural level, is where the first surf monographs in Spain were born, as another means for the dissemination of its culture and practice.

From the 1990s onwards, surf monographs started to increase considerably, especially with the beginning of the 21st century. It should be highlighted 21.6% of monographs were published during the 2020s; despite data mining was performed until August 2024 and almost half of the decade was included, reflecting this increasing trend. The rise of academic works, particularly BTs and MTs, is one of the factors affecting this trend. The construction of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), started in 1999 with the Bologna Declaration (Battaner Moro, González Chamorro, and Sánchez Barrios 2016), made BTs and MTs mandatory works for finishing university degrees. The publication of university works focused on surfing reflects the academic interest for a sports activity in continuous expansion with a social, cultural and economic relevance at the Spanish and international level (Westwick and Neushul 2013). Moreover, the publication of surfing monographs in Spain shows an evolution in accordance with the exponential law of scientific growth, indicating scientific information duplicates every 10-15 years (Price 1986). In this way, our results seem to indicate it is a growing field of knowledge.

However, the amount of surfing monographs published in Spain seems scarce in comparison with similar works. Within martial arts and combat sports field, the work carried out by Pérez-Gutiérrez and Gutiérrez-García (2008) found 2036 monographs published from 1906 to 2006. The main causes explaining these differences in the productivity and time span are the introduction of martial arts in Spain, which started at the beginning of the 20th century, and the thematic variety of martial arts monographs with 38 different topics. On the other hand, Roblés-Tascón and García-

Robles (2017) only found 19 monographs about Leonese wrestling published from 1977 to 2015, a traditional fighting sport in Spain that has been mainly transmitted orally, visually and bodily to this day. Therefore, the historical origins and the features associated with these sports restrict comparison of results.

Surf was the most represented sport modality and term (92%). However, it seems this term is commonly used for referring to shortboard surfing. All surf sports share some similarities in relation to their aim of riding waves (ISA 2021a), but they also present some differences particularly regarding their equipment. These differences are not considered when surf term is used generically. Although ISA (2021a) recognizes several sports within surfing, the truth is shortboard surfing is the most practiced and popular, being firstly included in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (Olympics 2024b, 2024a). On the other hand, shortboard, para-surfing, bodysurfing or wakesurfing were not represented in our results. In the case of shortboard, as it was mentioned, is probably due to the use of the surf term in a general way. The celebration of the first World Para Surfing Championship in 2015 (ISA 2021b), as well as the low number of wakesurfing practitioners could explain the lack of publications related to these sports respectively, becoming knowledge gaps. Therefore, as surfing spreads and diversifies, a similar impact would be expected in the monographs on this topic and its different sports.

Regarding the fields of science, it should be highlighted the wide variety of approaches studying and analysing surfing, being represented 15 out of the 24 fields collected by UNESCO (Simple Knowledge Organization System 2024). Among them, economic and technological sciences were the most represented, focused on studying the economic sector generated by surfing (Molinos Sáez 2020; Canales Galván 2018) and analysing the several aspects surrounding the production and manufacture of surf equipment (Arrans Gallardo 2019; Barco Tárraga 2020), respectively. Pedagogy and earth and space sciences were also represented in a considerable number of monographs for analysing the teaching-learning processes associated to its practice (Orbelian 2020; Alías García 2018), as well as for presenting the different surf spots along Spain or preparing your surftrip, the architecture and advertising design linked to surf facilities and its image respectively (Balagué 2020; Sánchez Martínez 2023). These four fields of science collected 56.40% of total documents, being complemented by the rest of fields that broaden the understanding of surf from their own viewpoints, such as anthropology (Finnegan 2016) or linguistics (Cobelo Pérez 2014). However, there are fields of science that were not represented and they could enrich the understanding about this topic, such as chemistry for the analysis of materials used in surf equipment, mathematics for the development of statistical analysis related to surf practice, or demographics for assessing the population distribution of surfers.

In relation to the main publishers of surfing monographs in Spain, a group of ten publishers compiled 43.2% of total documents (Table 4), corroborating Bradford's law about a nucleus of journals, in this case publishers, publishes a great amount of documents (Diodato 2012; Salini 2016). The rest of monographs were disseminated by 85 publishers, editing five or less monographs each one. Moreover, it should be pointed out no sports-related publishers were found within these main publishers. The specialization of surfing monographs seems to be decisive for the publication of these documents.

Due to the high percentage of academic works found, the main publishers belonged to Spanish universities. With the exception of the University of Seville and University of Valladolid, the rest of publishers were located in regions with coastline, so this situation and its cultural bonding with the ocean could explain the high number of works about surfing presented in these universities. On the other hand, the presence of one surf-related publisher (Libros del Océano) is reflecting the social impact and the existing demand pertaining surfing cultural contents. The appearance of these publishers also reflects the development of this sport in Spain, with 75,348 licences and 208 sports clubs in 2023 (Consejo Superior de Deportes 2024a-2024b). All those practitioners who surf recreationally and are not federated should be also considered as potential readers. Therefore, the presence of Libros del Océano among the main publishers is confirming the social relevance of surfing in Spain from the cultural and publishing spheres. Thus, Libros del Océano was the



publishing branch of the Océano Surf Club, first surfing club of Galicia founded in 1988 (Océano Surf Club 2024), aiming to “bring to light publishing projects of authors, photographers, cartoonists ..., of our community, who share with us a special relationship with the sea” (Libros del Océano 2021). The relevance of this publisher is due to the publication of the *Manifesto for the Protection of the Waves* (Surf & Nature Alliance 2019) in eight different languages. Nevertheless, this book is an important contribution for the surfing practice and culture in relation to the protection of marine environment and surf breaks.

Finally, the access to surfing monographs was facilitated by the development of online databases, repositories and catalogues. These sources of information were essential for retrieving the academic works, being considered as grey literature due to their finding and accessing problems. Therefore, there are probably more surfing monographs published in Spain, but they have not been retrieved in the present research. The ongoing process of digitalisation of the bibliographic archives of libraries, as well as the publication of local or regional monographs with a scarce number of copies, not indexed in the main databases or catalogues, would be the main causes explaining this situation.

## Conclusions

The publication of surfing monographs in Spain dates back to 1983. Since then, production has increased progressively along time, particularly from the 2010s onwards. Academic works predominated within these monographs, especially BTs and MTs dedicated to the study and analysis of surf from several perspectives due to the establishment of the European Higher Education Area. The amount of monographs, their evolution and the variety of fields of science represented in them indicate it is a consolidated topic in the publishing and academic world, attracting the interest of students, teachers and researchers. The appearance of monographs dedicated to some surf sports is also reflecting the consolidation of this sport at the social and cultural spheres, confirming the interest and demand for specific knowledge about these surf sports.

Four fields of science were represented in more than half of total monographs, linked to the analysis of the economic, business and tourism sectors, as well as the pedagogical processes for surfing practice. These fields were complemented from different approaches for widening the knowledge about surfing.

Due to the high percentage of academic works, main publishers were associated to Spanish universities. Among the most important publishers, there was one of them exclusively dedicated to the edition of surfing books, confirming the social and cultural relevance of surfing in this country. Therefore, our results corroborated the importance of surfing as object of study, sports practice and cultural product in Spain.

The present paper allows scholars and researchers to know the publishing and academic production about surfing in Spain, discovering its origins and evolution, as well as its main features. These monographs are products of the study, analysis and research of their authors, so they should be considered means of disseminating their culture. They contribute to enrich socially and culturally this sport, improving understanding of the different aspects surrounding surfing. The results of this research improve our understanding of the introduction and development of surfing in Spain, complementing existing studies on its history. Moreover, it provides a global view of the features of these monographs, guiding scholars work for studying less-represented surf sports and approach surf analysis from other fields of knowledge.

Future studies should analyse the publication of monographs focused on sports or activities with similar features and a postmodern character (Camino, Maza, and Puig 2008; Bodet 2009), for determining similarities between their publishing patterns and social expansion. Moreover, future studies should perform a content analysis of surfing monographs published in Spain for determining surf sports or modalities to which they refer, and future researchers should visit the main Spanish libraries and universities in person to discover those works that are not part of their online catalogues. Finally, surf scholars in Spain should be interviewed for discovering those books with a scarce publishing spreading.

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