

# New Research of Distance Higher Education in Mainland China

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## PRESENTATION OUTLINE

PART 1 INTRODUCTION

PART 2 METHODS

PART 3 FINDINGS

- 2.1 Who did the research?
- 2.2 What did they research?
- 2.3 How did they research?

# PART 1

# INTRODUCTION

## Background





PART 2

METHODS

# PART 2

# METHODS

**cnki 中国知网**  
www.cnki.net  
中国知识基础设施工程

China Knowledge Resource Integrated Database **KNS**

Journals | Doctoral Dissertations | Masters' Theses | Statistics | Yearbooks | Reference Works | Law | Proceeding | Newspapers | Standards | MoreV

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Search

Articles Numbers Tables Definitions Academic Trends

China Knowledge Resource Integrated Database (Subscribed)

Cross-database search: Search in Several Chosen Databases at The Same Time.

- China Academic Journals Full-text Database 1994 onwards, 60563993 records in total >More
- China Doctoral Dissertations Full-text Database 1984 onwards, 329254 records in total >More
- Masters' Theses Full-text Database 1984 onwards, 3086133 records in total >More
- China Proceedings of Conference Full-text Database 1983 onwards, 2195625 records in total >More
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News

August 16-21, 2017  
2017 International Conference on Integrated Development of Digital Publishing and Digital Libraries will be held in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province

**China National Knowledge Infrastructure**



CSSCI and GCJC are both authoritative Chinese literature retrieval system in mainland China

CSSCI	Chinese Social Science Citation Index
GCJC	Guide to Core Journals of China



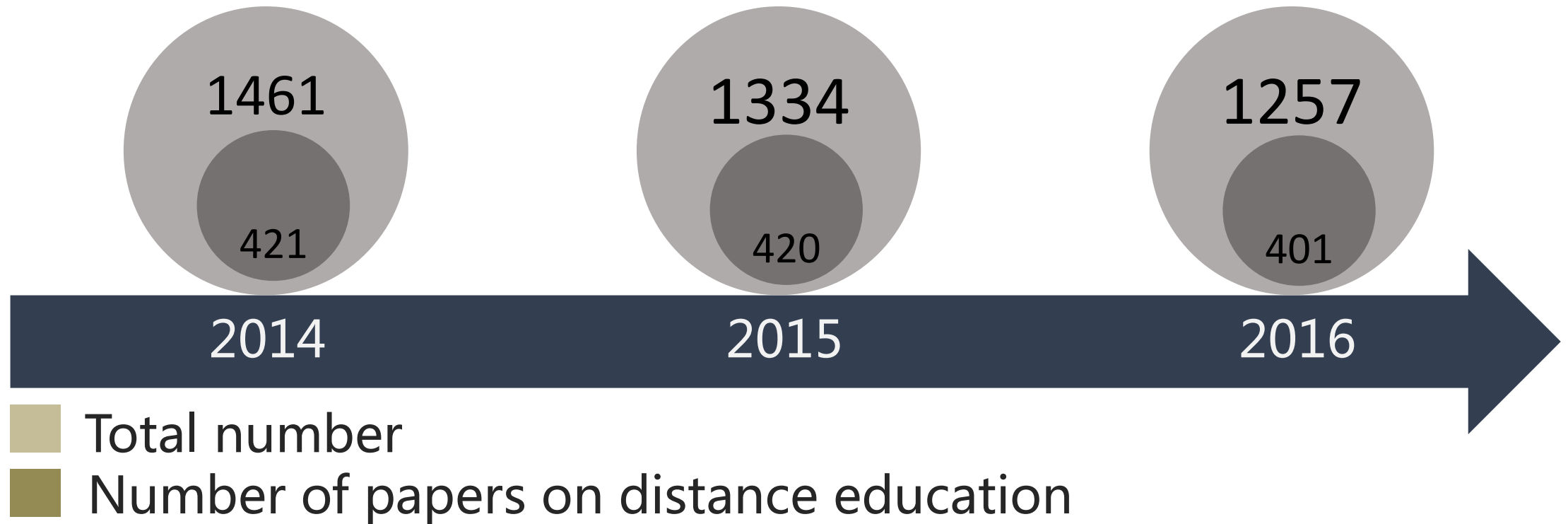
PART 3

FINDINGS

# PART 3

# FINDINGS

The eight observational journals published 4052 articles during 2014-2016. Among them, there are more than 400 articles on **distance education** per year, and 40% of them are about **distance higher education**.





<b>FUND</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>The National Natural Science Fund</b>	3	3	3
<b>The National Social Science Fund</b>	2	1	1
<b>The National Education Scientific Planning</b>	16	22	15
<b>Provincial project funds</b>	13	14	6

## 3.1 Who did the research?

- Most of the authors come from open universities (or radio & TV universities)

## the top 5 distance education institutions

	2014	2015	2016
1	OUC (38)	OUC (23)	OUC (24)
2	Zhe Jiang OU ( 22 )	Zhe Jiang OU ( 13 )	Shan Tou R&TVU ( 14 ) ↑
3	Shang Hai OU (17 ) ↓	Shan Tou R&TVU ( 12 )	Zhe Jiang OU ( 12 )
4	Shan Tou R&TVU ( 16 )	Chong Qing R&TVU ( 10 )	Bei Jing OU ( 11 ) ↑
5	Tian Jin OU ( 6 ) ↓	Shang Hai OU (8 )	Shang Hai OU ( 7 )
			Chong Qing R&TVU ( 7 )

# Research collaboration

Collaboration among authors in 2014- 2016

year	independent author	More than one author	Cooperative research proportion
2014	70	126	64.3%
2015	55	103	65.2%↑
2016	34	112	76.7%↑

## 3.2 What did they research?

- Research areas
- Keywords

## Classification of Research Areas in Distance Education (Zawacki-Richter, 2009)

Level		Research areas
Macro	Distance education systems and theories	➤ Access, equity, and ethics
		➤ Globalization of education and cross-cultural aspects
		➤ Distance teaching systems and institutions
		➤ Theories and models
		➤ Research methods in distance education and knowledge transfer
Meso	Management, organization, and technology	➤ Management and organization
		➤ Costs and benefits
		➤ Educational technology
		➤ Innovation and change
		➤ Professional development and faculty support
		➤ Learner support services
		➤ Quality assurance
Micro	Teaching and learning in distance education	➤ Instructional design
		➤ Interaction and communication in learning communities
		➤ Learner characteristics

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Level	Research Areas	2014	2015	2016	Total
<b>Meso</b>	Management and organization	34	23	23	80
	ICT and media applications	13	7	11	31
<b>Micro</b>	Instructional design and learning process	27	26	34	87
	Learning Resources	20	18	8	↓ 46
	Learning Evaluation	8	7	17	↑ 32
	Learner	7	11	11	29



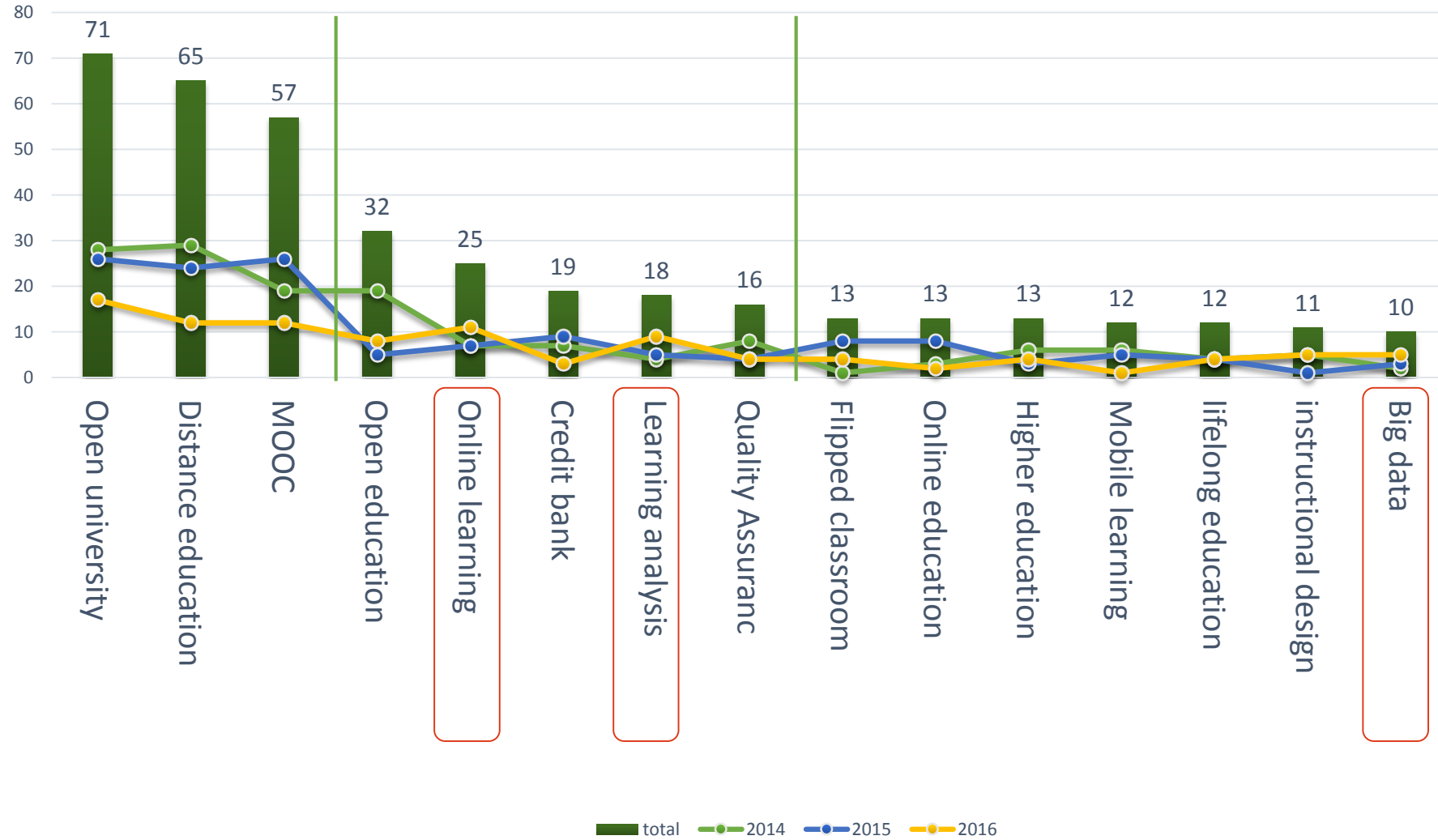
There are 2453 key words in these selected papers.

the **top 20** keywords include:

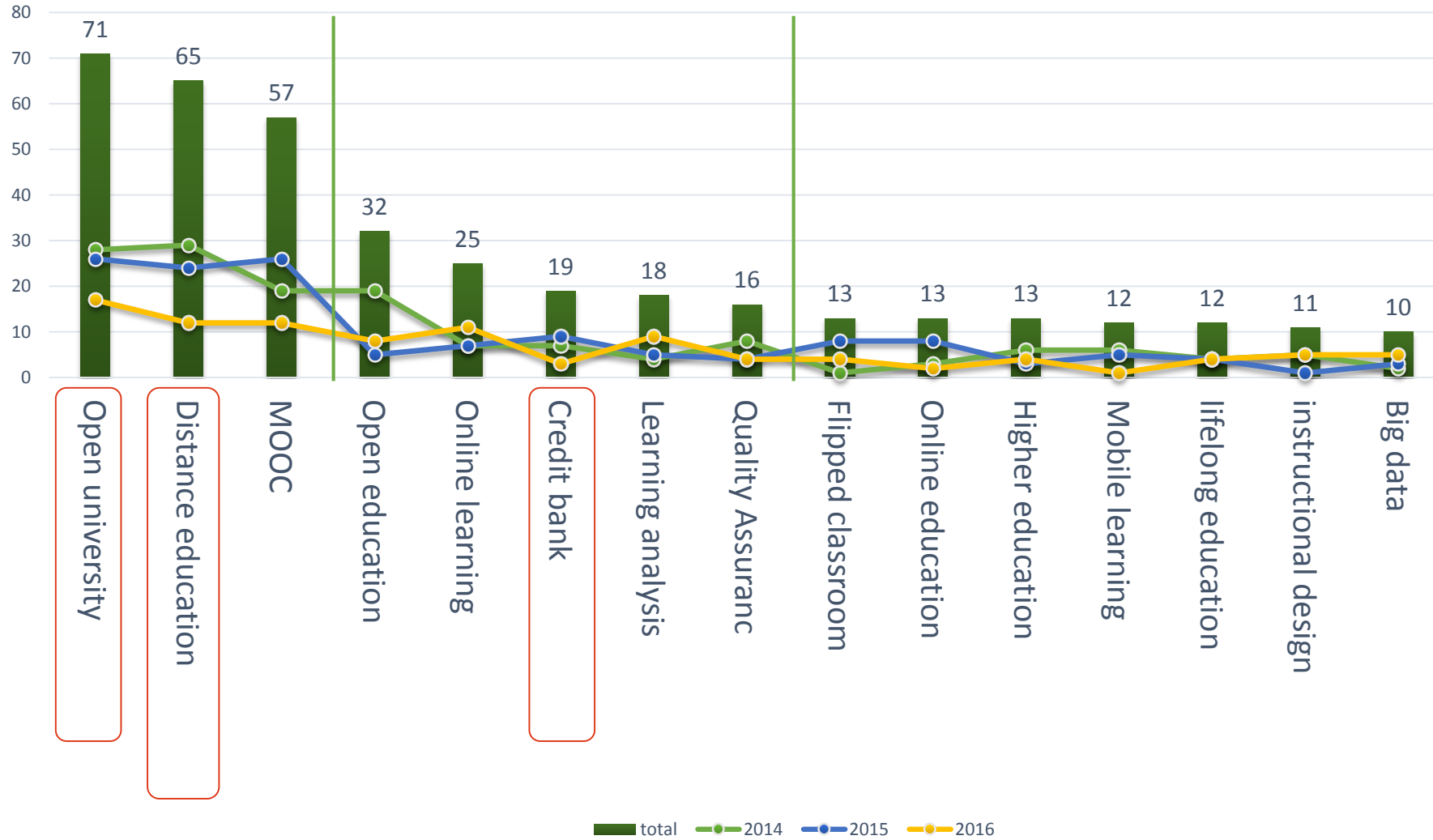
Open University	MOOC	distance education	open education
online learning	credit bank	quality assurance	learning analysis
online education	flipping classroom		higher education
mobile learning	lifelong education	ICT	Learning
instructional design		teaching mode	micro course
learning resources		big data	OER

The range of these word frequencies is from 71 down to 10.

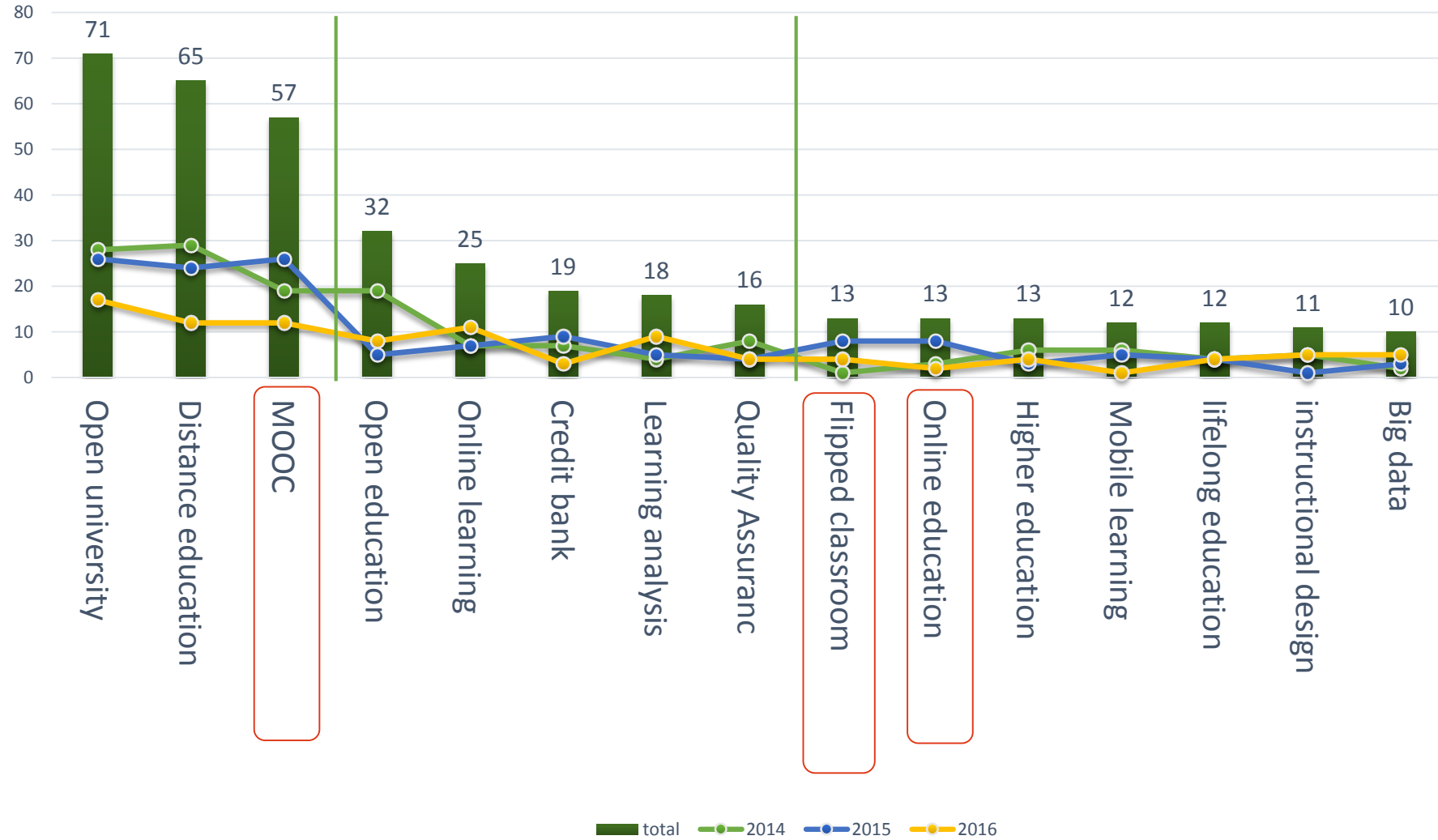
Top 15 keywords(2014-2016)



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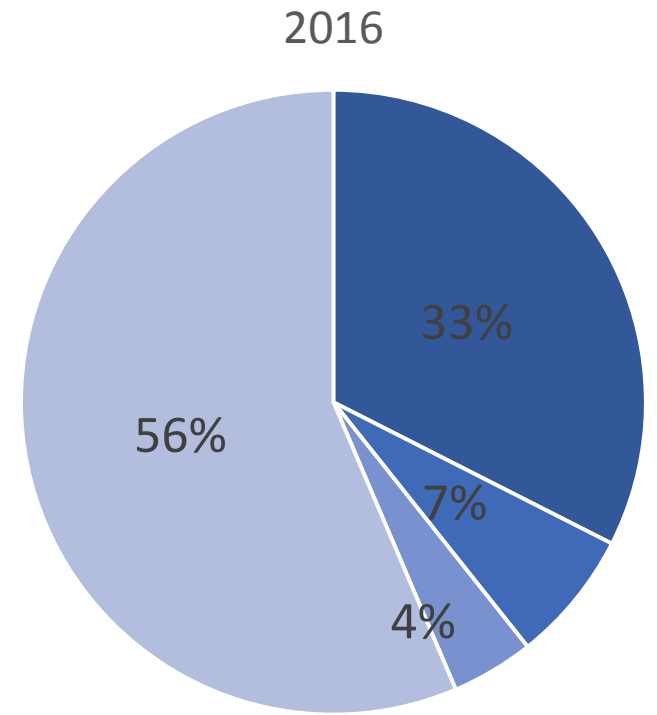
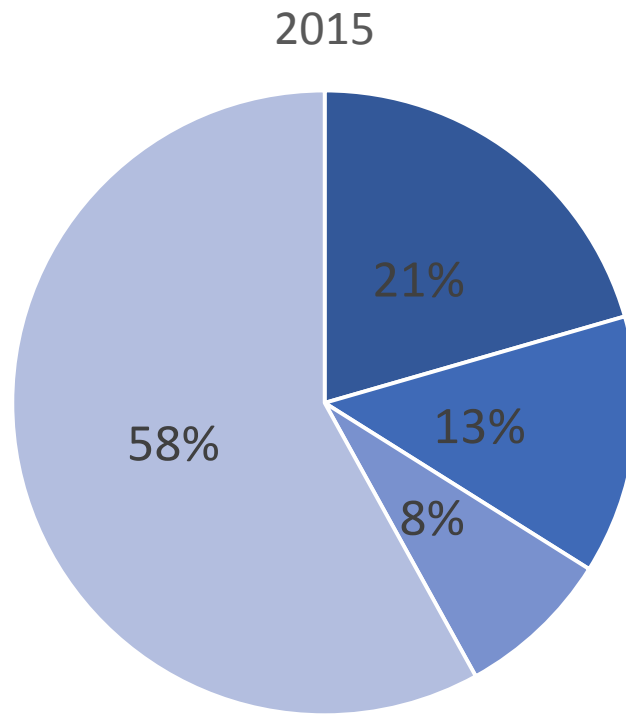
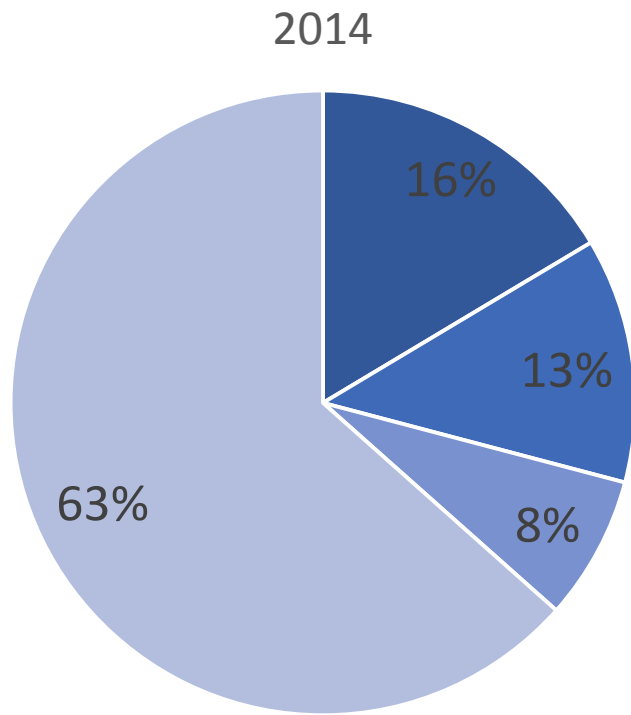
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### 3.3 How did they research?

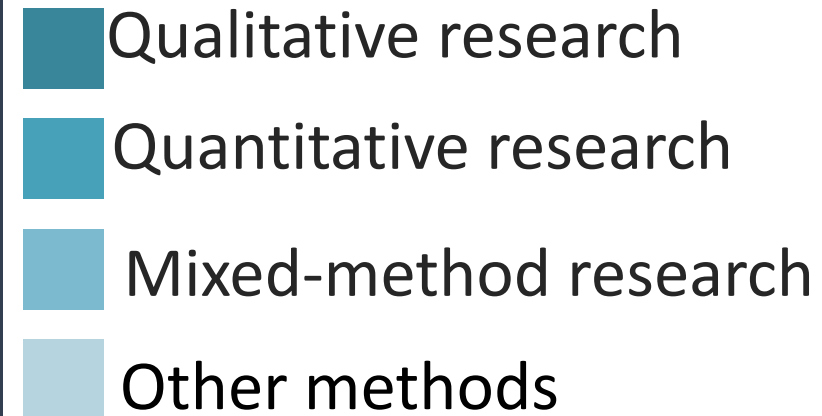
- Research methods
- The changes in research methods

<b>Method type</b>	<b>Mainly includes</b>
<b>Qualitative research</b>	questionnaire, test method, experimental method, Delphi method, non-reaction measurement (specific common for content analysis, meta-analysis, social network analysis, data mining analysis), etc
<b>Quantitative research</b>	the interview method, literature method, observation method, history method, comparative method, ethnography, phenomenology, biography method, method of grounded theory, education narrative method, etc.
<b>Mixed-method research</b>	At least from quantitative research and qualitative research, a specific method is used to synthesize the application. If "qualitative + other", "quantitative + other" class, according to the main method, no "mixed research" other classes.
<b>Other methods</b>	There is no specific research method in the strict sense. It is common to think in terms of pure theory and pure concept (describe the discussion, experience summary, impressions, etc.); It is common in system design, platform development and mathematical model to borrow the methods of natural science.



## The general trend

- Qualitative research continues to rise.
- Quantitative research has declined slightly.
- Other methods have fallen sharply.



# Reflection

- Change and invariance in the past three years, to some extent, reflect the dynamic and steady state of China's distance higher education research.
- The findings obtained in this study may be useful in the exploration of potential research areas and identification of neglected areas in the field of distance higher education in china.
- Whether the “slight change” in the study are hiding the big change that will affect the future pattern still needs a longer period to see and verify.





T H A N K S

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