

TREND ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION RESEARCH: BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract

How to cite this paper: Ismail, I., & Hartati, S. (2023). Trend on public administration research: Bibliometric analysis [Special issue]. *Journal of Governance & Regulation*, 12(1), 401–410. <https://doi.org/10.22495/jgrv12i1siart18>

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ISSN Print: 2220-9352
ISSN Online: 2306-6784

Received: 06.06.2022
Accepted: 03.04.2023

JEL Classification: J11, H83, C11, D8, D72, D7
DOI: 10.22495/jgrv12i1siart18

Public administration has become the main force for society as well as the government. Given the relevance and urgency of public administration research, this research aims to present publications on public administration research from the Scopus database using bibliometric analysis. The method of this research is qualitative methods using Publish or Perish by Harzing for citations in the form of metrics, Microsoft Excel for frequency analysis, and VOS viewer for data visualization with period time 2010-2021. Based on the research results, the publications on public administration research have been consistently increasing since 2015 with 656 citations. The most popular keywords identified in the document set are development, drug administration, food and practice, China, impact, public administration review and state, application, public administration research, big data, future, case, evolution, and efficiency. The relevance of public administration research probably lies in striking the right balance between application and theory development. On the one hand, public administration research should expose researchers to real-life managerial challenges and give them the necessary tools to implement policy successfully. On the other hand, it should also expose public administration researchers to critical thinking and empower them to engage in governance and societal challenges, propose theoretical solutions and build new theories.

Keywords: Public Administration, Bibliometric, Analysis, Scopus

Authors' individual contribution: Conceptualization — I.I.; Methodology — I.I.; Formal Analysis — I.I.; Data Curation — S.H.; Writing — Original Draft — I.I.; Writing - Review & Editing — S.H.

Declaration of conflicting interests: The Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

1. INTRODUCTION

Public administration has become the main force for society as well as the government (Sarker, 2020). In the context of administering government anywhere, public administration will play several important roles, including providing public services to realize one of the main objectives of the establishment of the state, namely welfare for its people. Public administration has been given more than a simple meaning, namely "the science of state affairs". Public administration has a massive role in covering all aspects of the social, political, cultural, and legal environment that affect the implementation of the duties of state institutions. Public administration can be likened to a link between

the government and the public. Public administration is used to understand these relationships better and can increase the responsibility of a public policy for the effectiveness and efficiency of its implementation.

According to Henry (2012), a country's political system and public administration already exist. The purpose of public administration is to accomplish program objectives established by political decision-makers. In the United States, for instance, the study of public administration began around the end of the 19th century, when Woodrow Wilson published 'The Study of Administration' in 1887. Nevertheless, according to Cameron and McLaverty (2008), some American public administration disputes have been ongoing for twenty years. The abovementioned authors' research

finds, in general, that public administration research fails to add to systematic and increasing knowledge and fails to comply with rigorous scientific research criteria. While Bouckaert (2010) claimed that talks on the future of public administration research are more than a list of study topics inspired by potential future difficulties facing the public sector, four major themes have a significant impact on the future of public administration research, namely: Europeanization, the reform agenda, the issue of globalization, and the marketization of research.

In addition, when referring to the number of public administrations in the world, researchers began to be interested in researching this public administration. For example, Davy (1962) conducted research related to public administration 1962. Based on Yang (2018) conducted research related to public administration in different years (Wilson, 1887). Even the research conducted by Kovač and Jukić (2016) shows that many researchers have reviewed research related to public administration, as well as several other studies conducted a review of research related to public administration using bibliometrics analysis (Vogel, 2014; Arias & Gastaud Maçada, 2016; Ni et al., 2017; Marques et al., 2020; Martín Cervantes et al., 2021; Yu, 2022; Hinojosa & Hernández, 2022), but there has been no bibliometric analysis of public administration reported by Scopus indexed journal publications directly. This means that there is a need to update bibliometric analysis research on public administration. Therefore, researchers will conduct a bibliometric analysis to find out quantitatively through scientific works that have been published relating to public administration, especially things that contain "Public Administration", because the main result from this research hope can be used as a reference and filled the gap from the previous research about public administration and give the best implication theoretically and empirically related to public administration and can give the study's implications for practice, and some of the directions for future research.

First, bibliometrics and scientometrics were introduced by Pritchard (1969) who said bibliometrics is a method that uses mathematics and statistics in books and other communication media. Casadesús de Mingo and Cerrillo-i-Martínez (2018) explained that scientometrics could be used to evaluate research results by examining authors' productivity and citations in science and technology. Scientometrics can measure and describe countries, universities, research institutes, and journals of a research topic. The subsequent development of bibliometrics is informatics-related to electronic media. It uses statistical analysis from text or hypertext systems and information measurement from electronic libraries.

Mapping is a technique that identifies the configuration, dynamics, interdependencies, and interconnections of knowledge items. Knowledge mapping is utilized for technology management, including the definition of research programs, judgments about technology-related activities, the design of knowledge base structures, and the development of education and training programs. Science mapping is a technique for visualizing a scientific area. This is visualized

through the creation of a landscape map. On the map are scientific subjects. Bibliographic information, keywords, and citations compose the input. A map of science can be made to show the growth of a particular field of science and help researchers develop their research programs.

The novelty of this research is to use of the bibliometric analysis method so that the authors know how big the development of international articles on the topic of public administration is from 2010 to 2021 in Scopus-indexed journal publications. This is based on the research done by (Marques et al., 2020; Martín Cervantes et al., 2021; Yu, 2022; Hinojosa & Hernández, 2022) which are shown that Overall, the researchers analyzed the search results from research journal articles that discussed the public administration originating from the Scopus database with the main research questions in this study including:

RQ1: How are the publication trends of each country over time?

RQ2: How are the most cited document?

RQ3: How are the publication trends of each publisher over time?

RQ4: What types of papers are widely used in journals related to public administration?

The body of the present research is categorized as follows. Section 2 consists of the literature review on the bibliometric method used as well as an explanation regarding the Scopus database and criteria for published articles. This is followed by a brief description of public administration as a paradigm. Section 3 presents the research design and the sample is explained and analyzed according to the topic of the research subject. Section 4 demonstrates the results and the discussion of the study. Lastly, Section 5 presents the conclusion of the research.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Bibliometrics method

According to some experts in Iftikhar et al. (2019), bibliometric analysis is defined as a statistical evaluation of published scientific articles, books, or chapters of a book, and it is an effective way to measure the influence of publication in the scientific community. This will bring advancement and development of knowledge if researchers take out cooperative efforts to study certain research issues. Research, of course, requires knowledge from the findings of past scientific activities that peers have also carried out. In the standard input-output paradigm, to illustrate the process of scientific research, publications are advised to show the output of knowledge. Almost all publications in scientific papers and monographs are considered authoritative assertions of research outcomes.

Various research relating to bibliometrics have been carried out. Bibliometric analysis was done to look at the distribution of publications and citations from numerous scientific documents (Wicaksono et al., 2020). Bibliometric analysis's subjects can be stated qualitatively and quantitatively (Velasco et al., 2012). More, Donthu et al., (2021) stated that bibliometric analysis enables one to unpack the evolutionary nuances of a specific field while

shedding light on the emerging areas in that field, yet its application in business research is relatively new, and in many instances, underdeveloped. Bibliometric indicators can provide a level of development of science at a higher level by looking at the nature and progress of the science concerned. Two main aspects affect the reliability of bibliometric indicators, including the selection of databases, namely the number of bibliometric databases, several multidisciplinary and others in certain areas, and the identification of publications based on the address given by the author (Devos, 2011). Bibliometric indicators are more robust at higher levels of aggregation. They are better suited for analyzing patterns in large groups and less suitable for evaluating individuals or small research teams (Russell & Rousseau, 2015).

There are several benefits of bibliometrics as stated by Mejia et al. (2021) that the bibliometric methodology is considered useful as a supporting tool for decision-making in setting research priorities, tracking the evolution of science and technology, allocation of funds, and rewarding scientific excellence, and is a method that is rapidly spreading beyond the information and library science domain from which they started so that they can access to scientists and practitioners at any skill level.

Search for bibliometric data using Scopus data¹. Scopus uniquely combines a comprehensive, expertly curated abstract and citation database with enriched data and linked scholarly literature across a wide variety of disciplines. Scopus was introduced generally in 2004 (Aghaei Chadegani et al., 2011). Scopus does not easily cover all published sources, although Scopus is one of the comprehensive databases of various kinds of documents that archive all academic research (Ahmi & Mohamad, 2019; Sweileh et al., 2017). The data center of attention in this bibliometric analysis tends to be massive and objective. However, its interpretation often depends on the objective and subjective evaluation determined through informed procedures and techniques (Donthu et al., 2021).

2.2. Scopus database and criteria for published articles

Scopus is the world's most extensive collection of literature summaries, with citations providing abstracts from various reviewed scientific and research literature. Scopus can help researchers effectively track, analyze, and visualize research. More than 22,000 high-quality abstracts were published by 5,000 publishers worldwide, provided in the Scopus database from various fields, such as science, technology, medicine, social sciences, arts, and literature. Scopus has had 55 million records since 1823, of which 84% have been sourced from reference listings since 1996. The more specific a journal is, the higher the chances of being indexed by Scopus. Some of the criteria used as a reference to select incoming articles indexed by Scopus are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Scopus-indexed publication criteria

No.	Indicator	Criteria
1	Journal policy (35%)	Convincing editorial policy, Diversification of the geographic distribution of editors, Geographical variety in the author distribution
2	Content (20%)	Scholarly contribution, clarity of the concept, quality, and appropriateness to the declared goal and scope, lucidity of articles
3	Journal standing (25%)	Journal article citations on Scopus, editor's writing on Scopus
4	Regularity (10%)	There is no publication delay schedule
5	Online availability (10%)	Online material accessible, journal homepage accessible in English, journal main page quality

Source: Elsevier.

In addition to these indicators, journals that want to be published in Scopus-indexed journals must also go through several strict stages. Scopus require these stages to select articles that are considered quality. The following are the minimum criteria for journals to be assessed by Scopus:

- a) journals go through a peer-review process;
- b) abstract at least in English;
- c) published regularly;
- d) the reference is written in Romance; and
- e) the publication has publication ethics.

2.3. Development of public administration publication paradigm

Basically, public administration has existed at the same time as public administration existence of a political system in a country (Henry, 2012). Public administration serves to achieve program objectives determined by political policymakers. The study of public administration can be considered to be multi-disciplinary and eclectic because it adapts ideas, methods, techniques, and approaches from other disciplines, such as psychology, sociology, anthropology, communication, law, economics, politics, etc. (Simon, 1997; Harmon & Mayer, 1986; Pamudji, 1993). As one field academically, public administration recognizes five paradigms according to Golimbiewsky (Henry, 2012) revolves around the issue of "locus" and "focus". The locus is place or location, while the focus is what is learned.

The articulation of the development of public administration can be related to the development of public administration the paradigm. Henry (2012) suggests five paradigms of public administration:

Paradigm I: Political-administrative dichotomy (1900-1926)

Goodnow (2017) in the book "*Politics and Administration: A Study in Government*" sees the facts of state/public administration as co-existing facts: politics and then administration. The first fact is that state/public administration is in the form of political action, namely policymaking as a statement of the will of the state. After the political action, the next stage is the action of the state/public administration, namely the implementation of the political policy. Thus, politics and administration are two different facts.

¹ <https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus>

Paradigm II: Principles of state/public administration (1927-1937)

Willoughby (1927) in his book “*Principles of Public Administration*” states that state/public administration has administrative principles. These administrative principles are found in all organizations, both state organizations, and private organizations. The administrative principles include the organization, procedures, and work mechanisms, the implementation of work by trained officials and workers, the use of effective and efficient work methods, and the achievement of objectives in accordance with the plan. These administrative principles are based on scientific management studies.

Paradigm III: State administration as political science (1950-1970)

Simon (1946) in “*The Proverbs of Administration*” questioned the principles of administration based on scientific management studies because of the unclear public element in his study. The principles of administration do not speak publicly even though the object of state/public administration is the public as the ultimate goal of the state’s will. Administrative principles merely look at how work is carried out in organizational systems, work procedures and mechanisms, coordination, control, and output quality assurance systems. The principles of administration do not explain that the organization is public or private and the results of all administrative processes are addressed to the public or private

Paradigm IV: State administration as administration (1956-1970)

This 4th paradigm emphasizes the 2nd paradigm: the principles of state/public administration. Here the study only focuses on the material object of administrative activities, not on the realm where these administrative activities are located. Thus, the 5th paradigm as well as the 2nd paradigm ignores the locus: the place where the state/public administration works. Like the 2nd paradigm, the 5th paradigm also received many questions and criticisms. If the locus is ignored, can the state/public administration still be able to talk about public administration because public administration is held in a public/state organization.

Paradigm V: State administration as state administration (1970)

The 5th paradigm sees state/public administration in focus and locus. The focus is on organizational theories, public policy, and advanced administrative/management techniques, while the locus is on government bureaucracy and public affairs. The study of state/public administration cannot only look at the focus. If so, then the state/public administration becomes relevant to public issues whereas in practice the state/public administration is an instrument of the state’s will to solve public problems.

This 5th paradigm colored the practice of state/public administration in almost all developing countries in the 1970s. This paradigm is known as the old public administration (OPA). OPA at this time is also known as development administration because state/public administration is used as a development tool by the state. Centrally designed development policies and programs are implemented by the state/public administration.

Here the concepts of economics and scientific management such as value-added output, efficiency, effectiveness, cost and benefit, and project management are included in the study and practice of state/public administration.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research design

The method of this research is qualitative methods using systematic review and analyzed by bibliometric analysis, the research approach evaluates publications and production in a certain study field (Moed et al., 2002). The researcher used this method because by using this method, a systematic review and identification of journals can be carried out, which in each process follows the steps or protocols that have been set. In addition, according to some experts, a systematic review is a very strict procedure in identifying, assessing, and synthesizing all relevant research results related to research questions, specific topics, or phenomena of concern by using strategies to limit bias (Briner et al., 2009; Garg et al., 2008; Kitchenham, 2004), as well as being the “gold standard” in assimilating and digesting research (Remme, 2004). Systematic reviews can help us find out the available evidence, by first knowing what is known, what support is had, and what has not been explained (Cooper, 2017), and is very dependent on when the measurement is taken and how the stages are (Rupp et al., 2014). In addition, the bibliometric analysis may better explain the aspects that support research findings, contribute to an investigation, and direct researchers in doing significant research (Akhavan et al., 2016).

3.2. Data collection

The data of the research was collected from the Scopus citation web page using Publish or Perish software which is a citation on public administration from various types of documents, such as journal articles, chapters, books, and conference papers. The term used is “Public Administration”, which is contained in the document’s title and is added by using the keyword “Public Administration”.

3.3. Data analysis

The selected papers are limited only from 2010 to 2021 and only to records in the form of articles. This period was chosen due to the limited number of journal articles that can be recorded from Scopus using Publish or Perish by Harzing. The previous search results via Publish or Perish are limited to only 200 bibliographic listings or one search iteration. The results of the sorting are saved in CSV and RIS formats. To visualize the results of the analysis, the VOSviewer application is used.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Research results

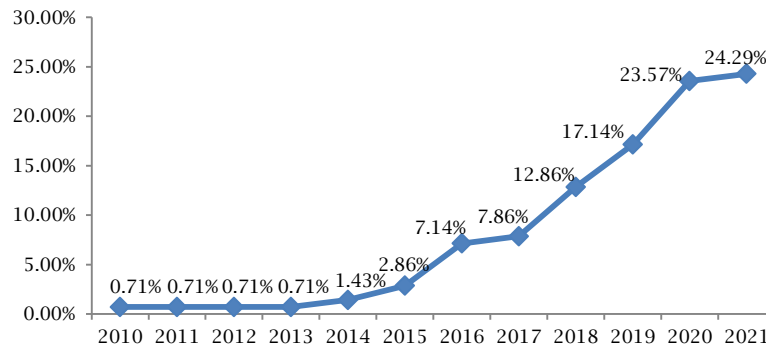
Public administration has contributed to cultural reform in organizations where the resource factor is a determinant of the success of a public institution

to survive and even thrive in creating excellent service for the community. In this sense, academics utilize bibliometric maps to enhance their topic knowledge. The visualization of bibliometric data facilitates a greater comprehension of the links between disciplines, invisible colleges, and research domains. Boyack et al. (2005) define a map as a two-dimensional representation of a collection of items and their connections. According to Calero-Medina and Noyons (2008), maps of science in the literature offer decision-makers simple tools that

improve their comprehension of the complexity and variety of scientific systems. Early bibliometric analysis was widely used for scientific progress research and later library stock management, which was known as statistical bibliography.

The results of document extraction carried out through Harzing's Publish or Perished software show a trend of studies on public administration starting from 2010 to 2021. Public administration began to increase significantly in 2015 and will continue to grow until 2021.

Figure 1. Trends in research related to public administration



Of 200 existing documents, the documents have more than 10376 citations. At the same time, some paper has been cited more than 100 times (see Figure 1).

The majority of documents refer to the rebuilding of the public administration based on social justice, as indicated by the analytical findings in Figure 1 and Table 2 below. Social justice is an expression that includes a set of value choices: choice of organizational framework, selection of management style, emphasis on equal rights in government services, emphasis on accountability for decisions and program implementation for public managers, emphasis on change in general management, emphasis on power responsive more to the needs of citizens than the needs of public

organizations, and emphasis on an approach to the study of puberty. One of the main concerns of various literacy in public administration is the fair treatment of every citizen. Governments that systematically discriminate in favor of established and stable bureaucracies, privileged client minorities, and other minorities (e.g., farmers, farmworkers) who are poor in political and economic resources, widespread unemployment, poverty, ignorance, disease, and hopelessness are the results in an era of economic growth and have received a lot of criticism. Apart from that, various literacy trends are about collaboration and integration of public administration — the most cited document written by Bryson et al. (2014) with 479 citations.

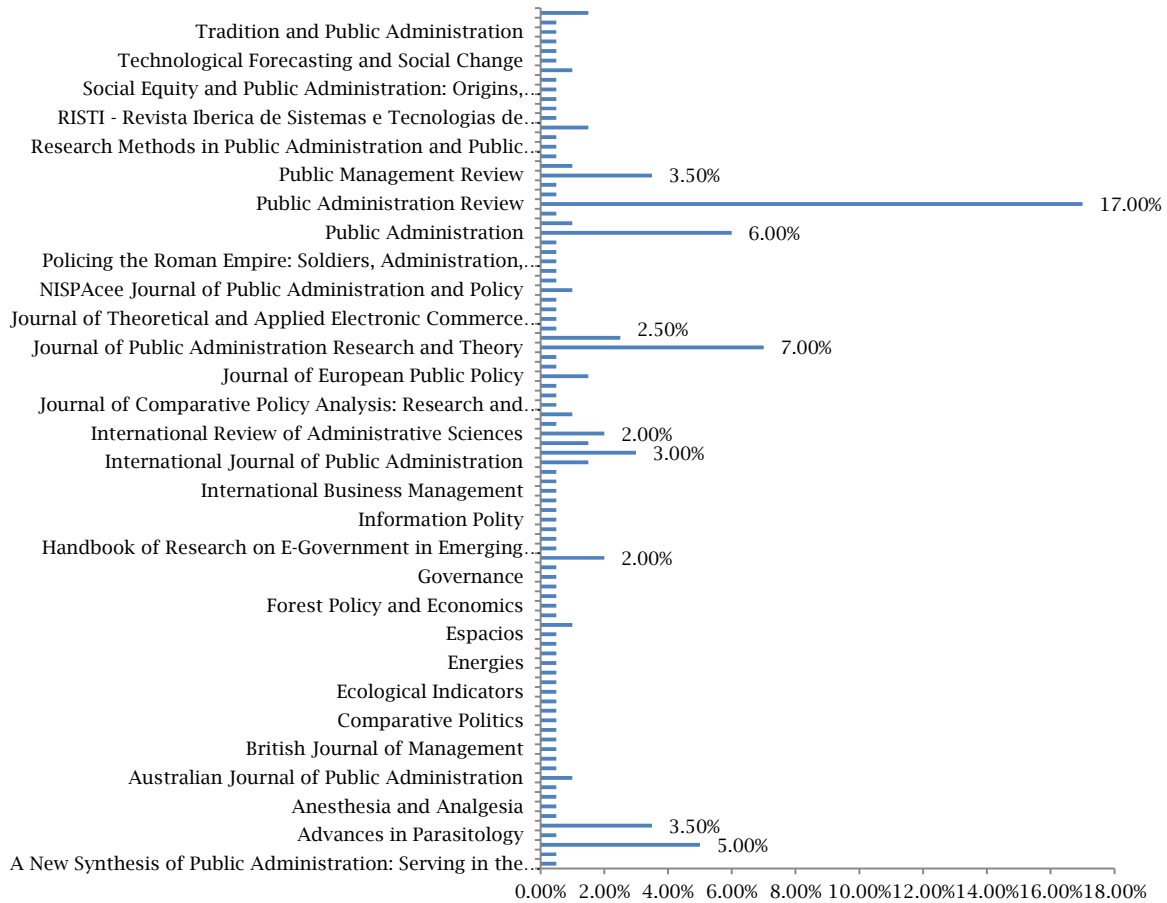
Table 2. Cited documents

<i>Cites</i>	<i>Authors</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Year</i>
479	Bryson et al.	Public Value Governance: Moving Beyond Traditional Public Administration and the New Public Management	2014
276	Osborne and Strokosch	It Takes Two to Tango? Understanding the Co-production of Public Services by Integrating the Services Management and Public Administration Perspectives	2013
244	Isett et al.	Networks in Public Administration Scholarship: Understanding Where We Are and Where We Need to Go	2011
225	Carpenter and Krause	Reputation and Public Administration	2012
218	Grimmelikhuijsen et al.	Behavioral Public Administration: Combining Insights from Public Administration and Psychology	2017
206	Christoper and Lægreid	Complexity and Hybrid Public Administration-Theoretical and Empirical Challenges	2011
195	Painter and Peters	Tradition and Public Administration	2010
189	George and Pandey	We Know the Yin — But Where is the Yang? Toward a Balanced Approach to Common Source Bias in Public Administration	2017
158	Nabatchi	Addressing the Citizenship and Democratic Deficits: The Potential of Deliberative Democracy for Public Administration	2010
139	Wang et al.	Public-Private Partnership in Public Administration Discipline: A Literature Review	2018
138	Aucoin	New Political Governance in Westminster Systems: Impartial Public Administration and Management Performance at Risk	2012
131	Peters et al.	Global Financial Crisis, Public Administration and Governance: Do New Problems Require New Solutions?	2011
118	McGinnis and Ostrom	Reflections on Vinent Ostrom, Public Administration, and Polycentricity	2012
106	Fiorin	Sustainability as a Conceptual Focus for Public Administration	2010

Grouping articles based on publishers, it is known that public administration research is generally dominated by scientific publications originating from publishers under the name of

the journal *Public Administration Review* as much as 17% followed by *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* as much as 7%, *Public Administration* as much as 6% respectively.

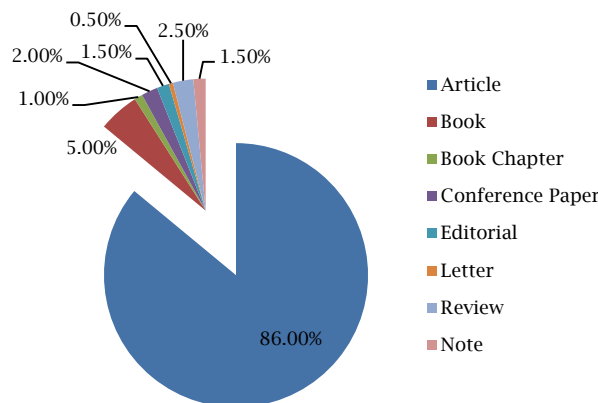
Figure 2. Trend publisher



Based on the results of the systematic mapping, the most frequently used document type is an article, with a total of 86.00% of articles. The minor type of document is the type of

evaluation articles as much as 3 (10%). So, it can be stated that the most common research is in the form of research in journal articles.

Figure 3. Type of documents



Further, this article analyzes co-occurrence based on document titles (Figure 4). The results show various perspectives of research on public

administration, especially in the form of specific research.

Figure 4. The co-occurrence analysis



Based on Figure 4, some occurrences and seven clusters are used, which led to generating 17 items from the output of the VOSviewer application. For example, Cluster 1 consists of the development, drug administration, food, and practice. Cluster 2 consists of China, impact, public administration review, and state. Cluster 3 consists of an application, public administration research, and research. Cluster 4 consists of big data, future, and public administration. Then Cluster 5, 6, and 7 are case, evolution, and efficiency.

4.2. Discussion

A citation matrix has been used based on the research results that seek to answer research questions looking for publication trends related to public administration. The importance of publications about public administration can be explained from the citation metrics discussed in this research with the duration of publication in the field of public administration from 2010 to 2021. From 200 existing documents, there has been an increase in research related to public administration since 2015, while the papers have more than 10376 citations. Bryson et al. (2014) wrote the most cited document with 479 medals.

The majority of cited documents emphasize the development of the new public governance paradigm because this certainly covers various essential aspects of public administration science development. The new public governance paradigm emphasizes the implementation of public policies and the delivery of public services to the community (Suebvises, 2018). This paradigm was born because of criticisms of new general management, among others: new public management (NPM) is not a paradigm but a cluster of only a few countries, and the application of NPM is only limited to China countries; in fact, NPM is part of public administration because it lacks a theoretical and conceptual foundation. Between public administration and the new public management fails to explain the complex design of reality, running, and management of public services in the 21st century. The new public governance paradigm is present in addition to being a new paradigm to replace the public administration paradigm and the new public service paradigm as well as the best way to address the challenges of

implementing public policies and providing public services in the 21st century.

Next, to answer further research questions regarding the most common public administration themes among researchers. VOS viewer's co-occurrence analysis provides insight into this discussion's central argument. For instance, according to Liu et al. (2019), development, drug administration, food and practice, China, impact, public administration review and state, application, public administration research and research, big data, future and public administration, case, evolution, and efficiency are among the most frequently used keywords identified in the database of documents. This result reveals the evolving subjects of the journal's articles.

In most of the articles that developed, many wrote and researched the new public management paradigm as a trend in responding to developments through the internet, applications, development, and big data, which are the center of public administration studies today. The new general management paradigm adopts a private-sector approach in managing its business to administrative processes in the public sector. This approach uses the theory of public choice (public choice) in policymaking supported by managers' professionalism. Under this paradigm, policy analysts are closely related to economics, so they are close to the concepts of market economy, costs and benefits, and rational choice models. In the private sector, business success is supported by the professional quality of its managers to increase efficiency and productivity. Therefore, managers in the public sector must also be given the freedom to manage "the freedom to manage".

The successful application of the new public management paradigm was found in developed countries such as China with the reform of state administration by Cordella and Paletti (2019), then by Lebrument et al. (2021) with "privatization" and Tokasih et al. (2019) with the work of "public sector management" and the United States by Stoffregen and Pawlowski (2018) with the creation of "re-creating government". The focus of this paradigm's attention is on policy implementation, also known as public management. The emphasis from this perspective is on viewing the public as customers of public bodies. Managers of the public sector must discover novel and inventive means to privatize formerly government-managed

operations. Public administrators prioritize consumer responsibility, outstanding performance, the reorganization of public institutions, and the simplification of administrative and privatization procedures.

In addition, based on the above study, we can anticipate that the journal's global recognition will continue to grow in the future. The number of articles and citations will most certainly continue to rise, and the journal's study topics may grow more diverse and in-depth. There is little question that Buildings will continue to serve as a forum for the expression and dissemination of ideas, the deepening of collaboration between authors, institutions, and countries/regions, and the creation of a link between academics and business.

This research only focuses on the co-occurrence aspect. It is possible to conduct further research by looking at other elements, for example, related to keywords, bibliographic coupling, co-citation, and others related to bibliometric analysis studies related to public administration. In addition, further research can also be carried out with search results with other aspects, for example, abstracts and journal publishers, because these searches with these aspects were not carried out in this research.

From the analysis results obtained, it is known that no search produces 100% ideal outputs. Therefore, errors in positive and negative effects should be expected (Sweileh et al., 2017). In addition, this research only uses the Scopus database with Harzing's Publish or Perished application as the primary source of documents.

In addition, in this study, there are limitations related to the search period being limited to years (2010-2021). Further research can consider articles published since the appearance of public administration until now. This will give a broader picture of public administration. In addition, the results are based on data collected from the Scopus database, as it is considered the most authenticated source of quality publications. Future

trials may consider the Web of Science or other databases to contain public administration-related studies.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the research results above, the authors can conclude that publications have begun to increase from the keyword "Public Administration" since 2015. There are 17 keywords divided into 7 clusters. Based on the conclusions above, the authors can describe the advantages and provide suggestions that through this research, in the future for further investigation, there are opportunities that can be utilized for further study; for example, public administration research in Indonesia can be linked to keywords, subjects, other fields or according to the visualization results using VOSviewer related to development, drug administration, food and practice, China, impact, public administration review, and state, application, public administration research, big data, future and public administration, case, evolution, and efficiency.

In this study, there are limitations related to the search period being limited to years (2010-2021), the results are based on data collected only from the Scopus database. Future trials may consider the Web of Science or other databases to contain public administration-related studies. It is important to conduct research with the aim of informing research developments, proving theories, and contributing to developing knowledge in the field of study. Besides that, this research also has practical implications, especially for further research as input or reference related to public administration and also options for using other data and methods. On the other hand, it should also expose public administration researchers to critical thinking and empower them to engage in governance and societal challenges, propose theoretical solutions and build new theory

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