

Global Trends and Emerging Themes in Public Sector Innovation Research: A Bibliometric Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Public sector innovation has become an increasingly important topic in public administration due to the growing demand for adaptive governance, digital transformation, and improved public service delivery. However, the rapid expansion of the literature has made it difficult to identify the intellectual structure, major trends, and emerging themes within the field. This study aims to map the evolution of public sector innovation research through a bibliometric analysis of 534 Scopus-indexed publications published between 2015 and 2025. The analysis was conducted using VOSviewer to examine publication trends, influential authors, countries, affiliations, citations, and keyword networks. The results reveal a substantial growth in public sector innovation research over the last decade, with significant contributions from the United States, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia. Co-creation, collaborative innovation, governance, and digital transformation emerged as the most influential themes, while recent studies increasingly focus on digital governance, technology adoption, transparency, and collaborative approaches. This study contributes by providing a systematic overview of the field's intellectual landscape and identifying emerging research directions that can inform future studies and public sector innovation policies.

Keywords: Public Sector Innovation, Bibliometric Analysis, Governance, Digital Transformation.

I. Introduction

Public sector innovation has increasingly become a major issue of concern in public administration and governance studies in recent years. Rapid environmental changes require governments to operate in a more adaptive, responsive, and effective manner in addressing diverse societal needs (Nalau et al., 2015). Governments are no longer expected merely to perform routine administrative functions, but also to generate innovative breakthroughs in public service delivery, policymaking, and organizational management. This condition has become even more significant amid the emergence of global challenges such as digital

transformation, social change, demands for transparency, and rising public expectations regarding the quality of public services (Srivastava, 2025). The development of digital technology has also driven significant changes in innovation practices within the public sector (Scupola & Zanfei, 2016). The adoption of technologies such as digital government, artificial intelligence, big data, and various electronic service platforms has transformed the way governments interact with citizens (Wibisono et al., 2026). Nevertheless, public sector innovation is not solely associated with the use of technology. It also encompasses changes in organizational culture, patterns of inter-organizational collaboration, citizen involvement in policymaking processes, and efforts to establish more effective and participatory governance systems (Lopes & Farias, 2022). Consequently, public sector innovation has evolved into a broad field of study that incorporates multiple disciplinary perspectives, including public administration, public management, public policy, governance, and information systems.

Several previous studies indicate that public sector innovation is a continuously evolving field of research with an increasingly broad scope. Growing economic and social challenges have encouraged the public sector to pursue innovation in a more systematic manner, although limitations still remain in the conceptual understanding and measurement of public sector innovation (Bloch & Bugge, 2013). In addition, national context is considered to have a significant influence on the characteristics and forms of public sector innovation across countries. In their study, Cinar et al., (2024) explain that differences in national environments shape variations in innovation patterns within the public sector. On the other hand, universities are regarded as strategic sources of knowledge capable of stimulating innovation activities within public organizations, including efforts to improve public service quality and inter-organizational collaboration (Demircioglu & Audretsch, 2019). Other studies also demonstrate that the process of innovation adoption within public organizations is not always perceived uniformly by all organizational actors. This is reflected in differing perceptions between managerial groups and organizational members regarding the implementation of innovation (Hanna de Vries et al., 2018). Meanwhile, leadership, external networks, and organizational factors are considered key determinants influencing the innovation capacity of local governments (Lewis et al., 2018). Collectively, these previous studies demonstrate that public sector innovation has developed into a multidimensional field encompassing organizational, leadership, collaboration, governance, as well as institutional and national contextual dimensions.

Although research on public sector innovation has developed rapidly, most previous studies have focused only on particular aspects in a partial manner, such as organizational innovation capacity, leadership, technology adoption, and the influence of national contexts on public sector innovation. In addition, earlier studies have generally been conducted within specific countries, organizations, or thematic areas, thereby failing to provide a comprehensive overview of the global intellectual structure of public sector innovation research. As a result, the direction of research development, patterns of scientific collaboration, dominant themes, and emerging issues within public sector innovation studies remain insufficiently mapped in a comprehensive manner. Therefore, this study addresses the following research questions: (1) How has public sector innovation research evolved globally over the period 2015–2025? (2) Who are the most influential authors, institutions, countries, and publications shaping the field? and (3) What dominant and emerging themes characterize the current intellectual structure of public sector innovation research? To address these questions, this study employs a bibliometric approach to map the global evolution of public sector innovation research. Unlike previous studies that primarily examined specific dimensions of innovation within particular organizational or national contexts, this study provides a comprehensive overview of publication trends, collaboration networks, influential contributors, and thematic developments within the field. By identifying dominant and emerging research themes, this study contributes to a more systematic understanding of the intellectual structure of public sector innovation and offers directions for future research.

II. Literature Review

Public sector innovation refers to the process of creating and implementing new ideas, policies, processes, and practices within governmental environments aimed at improving the quality of public services and generating public value (Bekkers et al., 2011). In the context of modern governance, innovation is no longer understood merely as the adoption of technology, but also encompasses changes in organizational practices, policy renewal, and transformations in the patterns of interaction between governments and citizens (Weber & Rohraher, 2012). Consequently, public sector innovation has become a crucial element in supporting improvements in bureaucratic performance, service effectiveness, and governmental responsiveness to the continuously evolving needs of society (Supadi Supadi et al., 2025). From a theoretical perspective, public sector innovation can be explained through New Public Governance and Organizational Innovation Theory, which emphasize collaboration, knowledge exchange, and adaptive institutional arrangements as key drivers of innovation in public organizations. These perspectives suggest that innovation emerges not only from technological change but also from the ability of organizations to learn, collaborate, and respond to environmental pressures.

Building upon this perspective, the literature indicates that public sector innovation is shaped by both internal and external factors. Internal factors include leadership, organizational culture, employee creativity, institutional capacity, and resource availability. External factors encompass technological development, stakeholder expectations, regulatory pressures, inter-organizational collaboration, and broader socio-economic changes. The interaction between these factors determines the extent to which public organizations can successfully generate and implement innovative solutions. As the complexity of public challenges continues to increase, studies on public sector innovation have also developed rapidly. Various studies indicate that innovation in the public sector is influenced by a wide range of factors, ranging from internal organizational aspects such as leadership, organizational culture, and institutional capacity, to external factors including environmental pressures, technological developments, and societal demands. In recent years, the advancement of digital technology has further intensified the dynamics of public sector innovation, particularly through the implementation of digital government systems, electronic-based services, and the use of data in decision-making processes (Permana, 2023). Rather than functioning solely as operational tools, these technologies increasingly serve as strategic instruments for enhancing transparency, responsiveness, and citizen engagement. Therefore, public sector innovation should be understood as a multidimensional phenomenon that integrates technological, organizational, and governance dimensions (Mariani & Bianchi, 2023). Furthermore, previous studies demonstrate that innovation outcomes vary considerably across countries due to differences in institutional arrangements and governance traditions. For example, Estonia has become a global benchmark in digital public services through its integrated e-government ecosystem, while Denmark has successfully combined digital transformation with citizen-centered service delivery. These examples illustrate that successful innovation depends not only on technology adoption but also on effective governance structures, organizational readiness, and collaborative mechanisms among stakeholders.

Public sector innovation has become an increasingly prominent theme in the study of public administration and modern governance. Strategic environmental changes, rising public expectations, and demands for more effective public services have encouraged governments to continuously pursue reforms across various aspects of governance. In this context, public sector innovation is understood as the effort to introduce new ideas, policies, processes, and practices capable of improving service quality, organizational effectiveness, and the public value generated by government institutions (Bloch & Bugge, 2013). The development of public sector innovation studies also demonstrates that this field possesses a broad and multidimensional scope, encompassing perspectives from public administration, public management, public policy, and governance. According to Criado et al., (2025), academic attention toward public sector innovation has continued to increase significantly, resulting in increasingly complex analytical frameworks. This condition indicates that public sector innovation is no longer viewed merely as technological change, but also as

encompassing organizational transformation, governance structures, collaborative patterns, and policymaking processes. This development reflects a shift from viewing innovation as isolated organizational change toward understanding it as a systemic process involving governance networks, policy actors, and institutional arrangements. Consequently, contemporary public sector innovation research increasingly focuses on how governments create public value through collaboration, experimentation, and adaptive governance mechanisms. In addition, the creativity of public officials is regarded as a fundamental element in generating innovation within government institutions. Houtgraaf et al., (2023) explain that public sector creativity plays an important role in fostering innovative ideas, although research on creativity within the public sector remains relatively limited.

Public sector innovation has also been characterized by the emergence of more experimental and collaborative approaches in policy-making and public service delivery. Governments in various countries have begun to develop public sector innovation labs as spaces for policy experimentation and more participatory public service design (McGann et al., 2018). On the other hand, the advancement of digital technology has accelerated the transformation of public sector innovation through the implementation of digital government, electronic services, and data-driven technologies in public governance. Nevertheless, the forms and characteristics of public sector innovation are also influenced by the social and institutional contexts of each country. Research by Cinar et al., (2024) demonstrates that national context has a significant influence on the configuration and characteristics of public sector innovation. In addition, public sector innovation is understood as a social process involving the construction of narratives, negotiations, and interactions among actors in driving organizational change within public institutions (Fred & Mukhtar-Landgren, 2026). Meanwhile, Stewart-Weeks & Kastle (2015) emphasize that public organizations need to become more open to experimentation, new ideas, and collaboration in order for innovation to develop sustainably.

III. Research Method

This study employs a bibliometric approach to map the global development of research on public sector innovation. The bibliometric approach was selected because it provides a systematic overview of publication trends, intellectual structures, collaboration patterns, and the evolution of research themes based on scientific publication data (Pessin et al., 2022). In addition, bibliometric analysis is particularly relevant to the objectives of this study because it allows researchers to identify influential authors, countries, institutions, and emerging research themes, thereby providing a comprehensive understanding of the development of public sector innovation research at the global level (Donthu et al., 2021). Compared with traditional literature reviews, bibliometric analysis offers a more objective and reproducible approach by utilizing quantitative techniques to evaluate scientific production and knowledge structures.

The research data were obtained from the Scopus database, which was selected due to its extensive coverage of high-quality international scientific publications and its frequent use in bibliometric studies (Baas et al., 2020). The keyword "public sector innovation" was chosen because it directly represents the core concept investigated in this study and is widely used in the public administration and governance literature. The data collection process was conducted using the keyword "public sector innovation" in the title, abstract, and keywords fields, covering the publication period from 2015 to 2025. The period was selected to capture the most recent decade of research development, including the growing influence of digital transformation and governance innovation within the public sector. This study limited the document types to articles, book chapters, and conference papers published in English in order to ensure academic relevance and consistency. The search query applied was: TITLE-ABS-KEY ("public sector innovation") AND PUBYEAR > 2014 AND PUBYEAR < 2026 AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ch") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "cp")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English")). Based on this search process, a total of 534 documents were retrieved and subsequently used as the dataset for this research. The bibliometric data extracted included publication year, document type, author names, affiliations, countries, citations, keywords, and source titles. These data

were selected because they directly support the research questions related to publication trends, influential contributors, collaboration patterns, and thematic developments.

This study adopts the bibliometric analysis framework developed by Öztürk et al., (2024), which consists of four main stages: (1) defining the aim of the research, (2) collecting data on the relevant literature, (3) analysis and visualization, and (4) interpreting the findings and results. The first stage involved determining the research objective, namely to map the development and evolution of global studies on public sector innovation. The second stage was conducted through the collection of relevant literature data from the Scopus database based on the predefined search criteria. After data collection, the metadata were exported in CSV format and screened to ensure consistency and relevance to the topic under investigation. Subsequently, the third stage involved analyzing and visualizing the data using VOSviewer version 1.6.20. The analyses included co-authorship analysis, co-occurrence keyword analysis, and citation analysis to examine the relationships among authors, countries, institutions, and research themes. Network, overlay, and density visualizations were generated using the full counting method to identify collaboration structures, thematic relationships, and emerging research topics. Finally, the fourth stage focused on interpreting the visualization and bibliometric analysis results in order to understand research trends, intellectual structures, and future directions of public sector innovation studies at the global level. The use of a standardized bibliometric framework and transparent search procedures enhances the reproducibility and reliability of the study, allowing future researchers to replicate or extend the analysis using similar criteria and analytical settings.

IV. Result and Discussion

4.1. Trends in Public Sector Innovation Research

Research on public sector innovation has shown a continuously increasing trend during the 2015–2025 period. Based on data retrieved from the Scopus database, the number of publications on public sector innovation has experienced significant growth over time. In 2015, there were 23 publications recorded, followed by a slight decline in 2016 to 16 publications. However, since 2017, the number of publications began to increase gradually, reaching 26 publications in 2017 and rising further to 35 publications in 2018. This increasing trend aligns with the argument of H. De Vries et al., (2016) in their systematic review, which states that public sector innovation has shifted from being merely an administrative discourse into a strategic instrument for creating more meaningful public value.

In the following period, research on public sector innovation continued to develop relatively steadily. In 2019, a total of 32 publications were recorded, increasing to 41 publications in 2020. This upward trend continued in 2021 and 2022, with each year producing 50 publications. Furthermore, the growth trend became even more evident in 2023 and 2024, reaching 55 and 66 publications respectively. Meanwhile, 2025 demonstrated a very significant surge, with a total of 140 publications. The increasing demand for efficiency has also driven scholarly attention toward how public organizations can become more agile and adaptive. As explained by Demircioglu & Audretsch (2017), factors such as supportive leadership and an open organizational culture are important determinants in fostering successful innovation within the public sector.

The increasing number of publications indicates that public sector innovation has become an increasingly prominent topic in public administration and modern governance studies. This growth may be influenced by the rising demands for bureaucratic reform, digital government transformation, and the need for governments to deliver more innovative and adaptive public services in response to changing strategic environments. In addition, the advancement of digital technologies, the growing use of artificial intelligence in government, and the increasing complexity of public issues have further encouraged the expansion of public sector innovation studies at the global level. Overall, the continuously rising publication trend demonstrates that public sector innovation has evolved into an important and dynamic field within public administration studies. This condition also reflects the expanding academic interest in various dimensions of

public sector innovation, including governance, public service delivery, organizational transformation, and collaborative interactions among actors in the innovation process within government institutions.

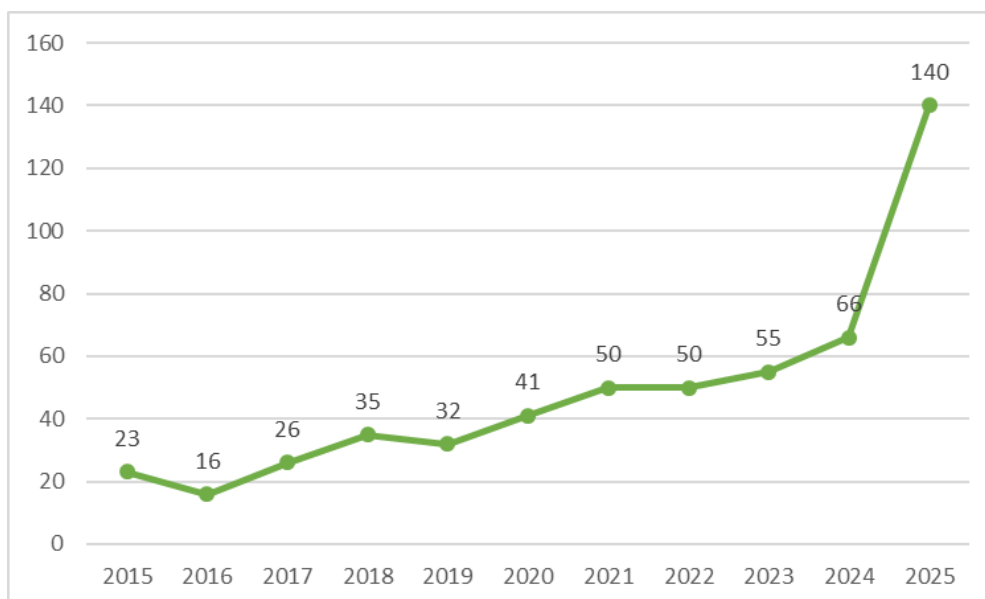


Figure 1. Trends in Public Sector Innovation Research Publications (2015–2025)

Source: Scopus Database, 2026

4.2. Most Productive Authors, Affiliations, and Countries

Based on the bibliometric analysis results, several authors have made significant contributions to the development of public sector innovation research. The most productive author in this field is Mehmet Akif Demircioglu with a total of 26 publications. This dominance indicates that Demircioglu is one of the most active scholars in advancing studies on public sector innovation, particularly in areas related to public organizational innovation, public management, and government transformation. His high level of productivity also demonstrates his important role in shaping the global development of public sector innovation literature. The next author with a considerable contribution is Eren Cinar with 10 publications. In addition, Eleanor D. Glor and Jenny M. Lewis each contributed 9 publications. The contributions of these authors demonstrate that public sector innovation research has evolved through various perspectives, ranging from organizational innovation and public governance to collaboration and public policy. Several other authors have also shown consistent contributions to the development of public sector innovation studies. Catherine Simms recorded 7 publications, while Anthony Arundel produced 6 publications. Furthermore, Gideon Houtgraaf, Maxim Kassen, and Irene Mariani each contributed 5 publications. On the other hand, David B. Audretsch recorded 4 publications in this field. Overall, these findings indicate that the development of public sector innovation research is still dominated by several highly productive authors who continuously contribute to the advancement of this field of study. The dominance of these key authors also highlights the existence of academic actors who play an important role in shaping the intellectual structure and future direction of global public sector innovation research.

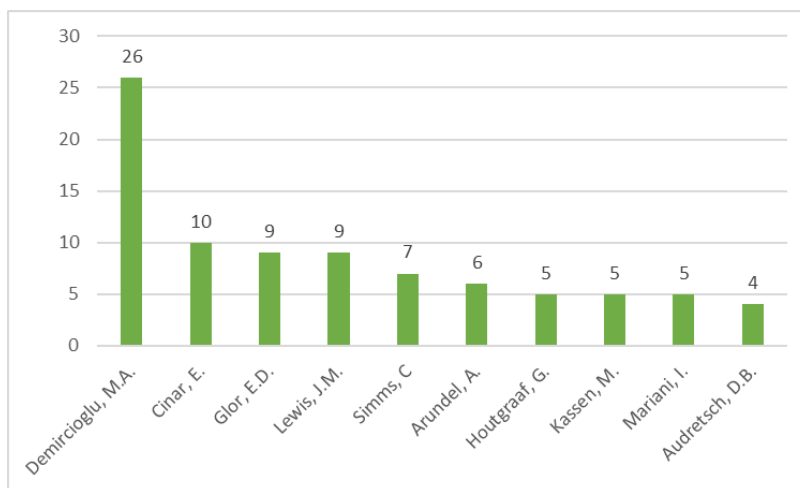


Figure 2. Most Productive Authors in Public Sector Innovation Research

Source: Scopus Database, 2026.

In addition to authors, the bibliometric analysis also identifies institutional affiliations that have made substantial contributions to public sector innovation research. Based on the collected data, National University of Singapore emerged as the institution with the highest number of publications, producing 24 documents. The strong contribution of this institution indicates that research on public sector innovation has developed significantly in Asia, particularly in the context of governance and public sector transformation. Furthermore, Tallinna Tehnikaülikool recorded 16 publications, followed by Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy with 15 publications. The dominance of these institutions demonstrates that public sector innovation studies are highly concentrated within academic environments focusing on public policy, governance, and government transformation. Other institutions that also demonstrated significant contributions include Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam with 13 publications and University of Melbourne with 12 publications. In addition, Politecnico di Milano produced 11 publications, while York University recorded 10 publications. Several other institutions, such as RMIT University, Carleton University, and Roskilde Universitet, each produced 9 publications. These findings indicate that the development of public sector innovation research is largely dominated by universities and higher education institutions with strong interests in public administration, government innovation, and modern governance. Moreover, the distribution of institutional affiliations demonstrates that public sector innovation research has evolved globally, involving substantial contributions from institutions across Asia, Europe, Australia, and North America.

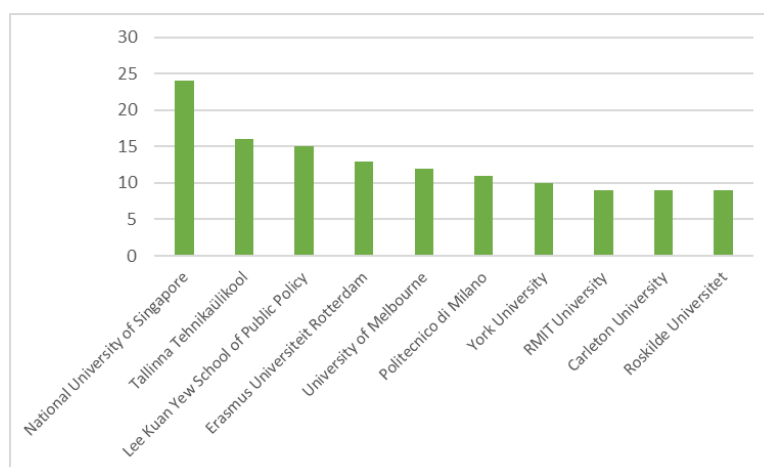


Figure 3. Most Productive Affiliations in Public Sector Innovation Research

Source: Scopus Database, 2026.

The bibliometric analysis also reveals the distribution of research contributions on public sector innovation by country. Based on the analysis results, United States ranks first with a total of 59 publications. This dominance indicates that research on public sector innovation has developed very strongly in the United States, particularly in the fields of public administration, governance, and public sector reform. Furthermore, Netherlands occupies the second position with 47 publications, followed by United Kingdom with 43 publications and Canada with 42 publications. The substantial contributions from these countries demonstrate that studies on public sector innovation are highly developed in nations with strong governmental systems and long-standing traditions in public administration research. In addition, Australia recorded 38 publications, while Italy and Sweden each contributed 30 publications. Other countries such as Norway and Singapore produced 28 publications, whereas Denmark contributed 26 publications. These findings indicate that public sector innovation research is predominantly driven by developed countries with strong interests in government innovation, digital transformation, and public service reform. Moreover, the country distribution demonstrates that the development of public sector innovation research has spread across various global regions, particularly Europe, North America, and the Asia-Pacific region.

Overall, the dominance of these countries indicates that public sector innovation has become a global issue receiving broad attention within public administration and modern governance studies. The high publication contributions from certain countries also reflect their research capacity, institutional support, and strong commitment among governments and academics toward advancing innovation in the public sector.

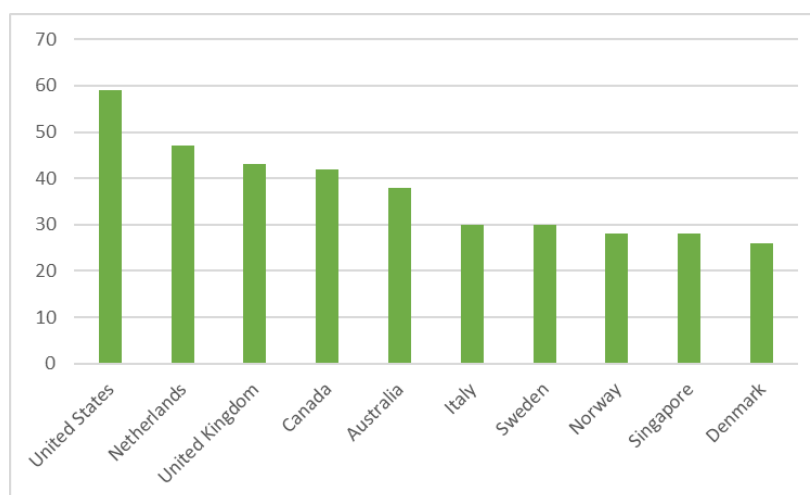


Figure 4. Most Productive Countries in Public Sector Innovation Research

Source: Scopus Database, 2026.

4.3. Most Cited Documents in Public Sector Innovation Research

Citation analysis reveals the documents that have exerted the greatest influence on the development of public sector innovation studies. Based on citation counts, the most highly cited article is the study by W.H. Voorberg, Victor J.J.M. Bekkers, and Lars Tummars entitled *A Systematic Review of Co-Creation and Co-Production: Embarking on the Social Innovation Journey*, published in *Public Management Review*, with a total of 1,839 citations (Voorberg et al., 2015). The exceptionally high citation count indicates that the concepts of co-creation and co-production have become fundamental pillars in the development of public sector innovation research, particularly in relation to citizen participation and the collaborative creation of public value.

The second most highly cited document is the article *Innovation in the Public Sector: A Systematic Review and Future Research Agenda* written by Hester de Vries, Victor Bekkers, and Lars Tummars in *Public*

Administration, which has accumulated 891 citations (H. De Vries et al., 2015). This article has become one of the primary references in public sector innovation studies because it provides a systematic review of the concepts, driving factors, and future research agenda related to public sector innovation. The growing importance of technology and artificial intelligence in the public sector is also reflected in the high citation count of the article AI Governance in the Public Sector: Three Tales from the Frontiers of Automated Decision-Making in Democratic Settings by Maciej Kuziemski and Gianluca Misuraca, published in Telecommunications Policy, with a total of 474 citations (Kuziemski & Misuraca, 2020). The significant attention received by this article demonstrates that the application of artificial intelligence in public governance has emerged as one of the rapidly developing contemporary issues within public sector innovation research. In addition, the article From NASA to EU: The Evolution of the TRL Scale in Public Sector Innovation by Mikael Héder received 390 citations (Héder, 2017). This study discusses the evolution of the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) framework in public sector innovation and highlights the importance of technological approaches in supporting government transformation. Meanwhile, the article Public Value Creation through Collaborative Innovation by Barbara C. Crosby, Paul 't Hart, and Jacob Torfing obtained 345 citations (Crosby et al., 2017). This article emphasizes the importance of collaboration among actors in creating public value through collaborative innovation.

Overall, the most highly cited documents indicate that the development of public sector innovation research has been strongly influenced by issues related to co-creation, collaboration, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and public value creation. The high citation counts of these articles also demonstrate that these themes have become important foundations in shaping the global direction of public sector innovation literature.

Table 1. Most Cited Documents in Public Sector Innovation Research

No	Title	Author	Source	Year	Cited
1	A Systematic Review of Co-Creation and Co-Production: Embarking on the social innovation journey	Voorberg W.H., Bekkers V.J.J.M., Tummers L.G.	Public Management Review , 17(9)	2015	1.839
2	Innovation in the public sector: A systematic review and future research agenda	De Vries H., Bekkers V., Tummers L.	Public Administration , 94(1)	2016	891
3	AI governance in the public sector: Three tales from the frontiers of automated decision-making in democratic settings	Kuziemski M., Misuraca G.	Telecommunications Policy , 44(6), 101976	2020	474
4	From NASA to EU: The evolution of the TRL scale in Public Sector Innovation	Heder M.	Innovation Journal , 22(2), 3	2017	390
5	Public value creation through collaborative innovation	Crosby B.C., 't Hart P., Torfing J.	Public Management Review , 19(5)	2017	345

Source: Scopus Database, 2026.

4.4. Visualization Mapping of Public Sector Innovation Research

Bibliometric visualization using VOSviewer was conducted to understand the structural relationships among research topics in public sector innovation studies. This analysis consists of network visualization, overlay visualization, and density visualization, which are used to examine the interconnections among

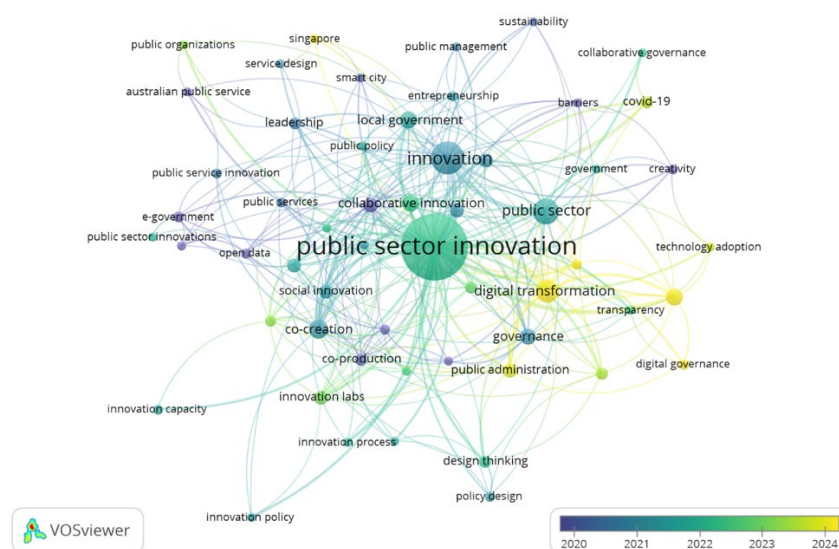


Figure 6. Overlay Visualization of Public Sector Innovation Research

Source: Processed by the Authors Using VOSviewer, 2026.

Meanwhile, density visualization was used to examine the level of density and research intensity across different themes. Based on the visualization results, the brightest areas represent the most frequently occurring and dominant themes in the literature. The keyword public sector innovation appears as the theme with the highest density, followed by innovation, public sector, digital transformation, and collaborative innovation. This indicates that these themes have become the primary focus in the development of public sector innovation literature.

On the other hand, several topics such as innovation policy, innovation capacity, policy design, and digital governance still demonstrate relatively lower density levels. This finding confirms the argument of Meijer & Bekkers (2015) that although the rhetoric surrounding digital innovation has become increasingly prominent, a deeper understanding of the capacity of public organizations to manage and regulate such innovation (innovation policy) still requires further exploration. This gap represents a significant research opportunity (research gap) for future scholars.

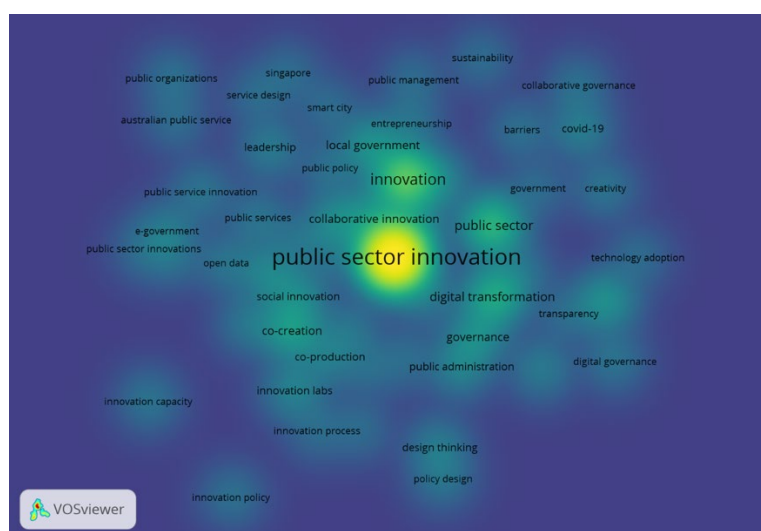


Figure 7. Density Visualization of Public Sector Innovation Research

Source: Processed by the Authors Using VOSviewer, 2026.

Overall, the bibliometric visualization results indicate that public sector innovation research is evolving toward more modern and complex issues, particularly those related to digital transformation, collaboration, governance, and technology adoption within the public sector. In addition, the development of research themes demonstrates a shift from conventional administrative approaches toward more adaptive, collaborative, and digitally driven approaches.

V. Conclusion

This study aims to map the global development of public sector innovation research using a bibliometric approach based on data obtained from the Scopus database during the 2015–2025 period. The findings reveal that publications on public sector innovation have increased significantly over the last decade. This growth reflects the increasing academic attention toward public sector innovation as a response to bureaucratic reform demands, digital government transformation, and changes in the global strategic environment. In addition, the study finds that public sector innovation research is dominated by several authors, institutions, and countries, particularly from North America, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific region. The major themes identified in this field include digital transformation, governance, co-creation, collaborative innovation, technology adoption, and digital governance. The bibliometric visualization results also demonstrate a shift in research focus toward more contemporary issues such as digital transformation, cross-sector collaboration, and the use of technology in governance.

Nevertheless, this study has several limitations. First, the research relies solely on the Scopus database, which means that relevant publications indexed in other databases such as Web of Science, Dimensions, or Google Scholar may not have been included. Second, this study only considers English-language documents, thereby excluding publications written in other languages. Third, the bibliometric analysis mainly focuses on quantitative mapping and therefore does not deeply explore the substance, context, or content quality of individual studies related to public sector innovation.

Based on these limitations, future research is recommended to combine multiple databases in order to provide broader and more comprehensive literature coverage. In addition, future studies may adopt systematic literature review or meta-analysis approaches to develop a deeper substantive analysis of specific themes within public sector innovation research. Future research could also focus more specifically on emerging issues such as artificial intelligence in government, smart governance, sustainability-based innovation, and digital collaboration in public service delivery. Therefore, studies on public sector innovation are expected to continue evolving and contribute more significantly to the development of public administration and modern governance.

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