A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF GLOBAL RESEARCH TRENDS IN POLITICAL LITERACY USING WEB OF SCIENCE DATABASE

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Abstract: The objective of this study is to provide a bibliometric analysis on political literacy using one of the indexed journal databases which are Web of Science (WOS). This study analyzed the development trend and literature published in the study field of political literacy. The citation, bibliographical, and author keywords information of the related articles were exported to VOSviewer. The VOSviewer was used for the analysis that involved 122 documents related to political literacy studies. The findings showed that increasing trends of publications related to political literacy globally especially after 2007. Most of the documents of political literacy published in the WOS database between 1979 and 2021 were original research articles, which were mainly written in English. The findings of the present study are hoped to provide useful insights and information for the researchers to determine future directions related to the field of political literacy studies.

Keywords: bibliometric analysis, political literacy, Web of Science

Introduction

The political landscape continuously changing from time to time. The world is facing unexpected circumstances in the political arena due to several factors such as the advancement of information and communication technology (ICT). Due to this, political literacy is urgently needed to face these days' phenomenon. As seen, society is overwhelmed by the flood of political information in social media and is uncontrollable. The government nowadays is facing the challenges to deal with the perception of the society that is flooded with political information and news that is supposed to be clarified and cross-checked to ensure the validity of the information disseminated in the media.

Political literacy consists of three aspects namely cognitive, attitude/affective, and behavioral aspects. It can be simplified as the society must have sufficient information about the political situations that surround them to be cognitive so that they can create a specific attitude of view on certain political topics or events such as the formation of government and elections. Having a political idea and opinion, as well as taking part in particular political actions such as voting, supporting, or criticizing the ruling government, monitoring the performance of public services (Lailiyah et al., 2018). The author agreed that political literacy comprises political knowledge, political awareness, and participation. Amer (2009) stated that political awareness is having facts and information about politics. To illustrate, voters cast a vote is some sort of having political awareness. Hence, the study presents a bibliometric analysis of the studies related to political literacy. It is important to provide a piece of information for the researchers to understand the current trends of political literacy globally and forecast for future studies in this field of study.

Methodology

The bibliometric methodology captures the application of quantitative tools on bibliometric data by assessing units of publishing and citation analysis. The goal of the bibliometric analysis is to gain a better understanding of worldwide research trends in a certain field of study based on the findings of academic literature databases, allowing academics to analyze the most recent trends, knowledge gaps, and future goals for that field of study.

Data source and search strategy

Data mining was conducted on September 1, 2021, using the Web of Science (WOS) database. The WOS database is reliable for Bibliometric studies and used widely in previous studies in different fields of study (Boshoff & Akanmu, 2018; Pede & Saini, 2021; Sánchez et al., 2017; Yu et al., 2020). Since 1945, WOS owned by Thomson Reuters has amassed a vast collection of bibliographic databases, citations, and references to scientific publications in all fields of knowledge, including scientific, technological, humanistic, and sociological. It has over 12,000 live journals, 23 million patents, 148,000 congress proceedings, over 40 million, and 760 million referenced references (Sánchez et al., 2017).

The main theme for the articles containing the term "political literacy" was used as the keyword in the title. The oldest publication dates to 1978 and the more recent ones are from 2021. The information for the documents that meet the requirements contained year of publication, language, journal, title, author, affiliation, keywords, document type, abstract, and counts of citation which were exported into CSV format. VOSviewer (version 1.6.7, Centre for Science and Technology Studies, Leiden University, The Netherlands) was used to analyze the co-authorship.

Result and Discussion

Bibliometric analysis of publication output

The citation, bibliographical, and author keywords information of 122 articles were exported to VOSviewer. The analyses in this study using VOSviewer include the co-authorship. To be exact, with a limited number of data, minimum of two (2) citations of a document in analyzing the citation relationship with the authors. Totally 122 publications on the topic of political literacy were identified in the WOS database between 1979 and 2021 which included 91 (74.5%) original research articles, 22 (18%) conference proceedings, 12 (9.8%) book chapters, 8 (6.6%) book review, 2 (1.6%) letters, and 1 (0.8%) review article and early access respectively. Most of the publications (116, 95.1%) were written in English, followed by Russian, Portuguese, Slovenian, Spanish, and Swedish.

Analysis of co-authorship

Totally 190 authors have participated in the publication of the political literacy papers. Among them, Gibson, Luke from the University of Derby, United Kingdom has 3 papers that mostly focus on the importance of political literacy towards organizational change. The main collaborators with him are Groom, Ryan from Manchester Metropolitan University. The total link strength is 3.

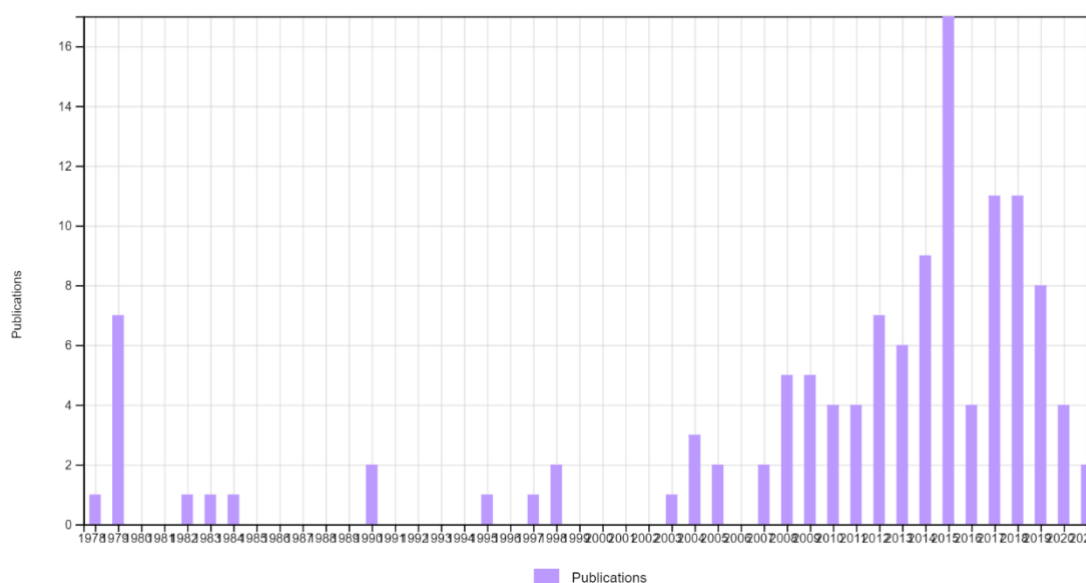### Yearly distribution and growth trend

Figure 1: The number of publications yearly

The graph showed the research trend on political literacy from the year 1979-2021 as illustrated in Figure 1. Among them, 17 (13.9%) papers were published before the year 2000 which is between 1978-1988 and 99 were published between 2013-2019. Only 6 (5%) papers were published in the year 2020 and 2021. Based on the analysis, it showed that the publications of the political literacy studies are growing in a widening scope. The current studies of political literacy are focusing on participation whereby political literacy is necessary for the planning process and institutional decision-making (Kamols et al., 2021). Besides, this field of study is concerned with geo-politics conflicts. The studies found that a politically literate nation enables them to fight for imbalance socio-economic in the country (Apostolidis, n.d.; Graden, 2020).

Authors and co-authors relationship

The analysis of the author's and co-author's relationship helps to identify the major research groups that are working in a particular field. This can be achieved easily by mapping the author's and co-author's relationship as shown in Figure 2. Figure 2 shows the mapping process that provides a visual representation of the relationship, which makes it easier to study the activity of an author and the interconnectivity with the other research groups. The analysis (as shown in Figure 2) found that there were four (4) groups that are working in the field of politics. The research groups of the authors Gibson, Luke; Normore, Anthony, H; Carr, Paul R.; and Alkindi, Salim Said. were the prominent groups in the field. Among all the researchers, Gibson, Luke; Normore, Anthony, H; Carr, Paul R.; had the highest number of documents which is 3.
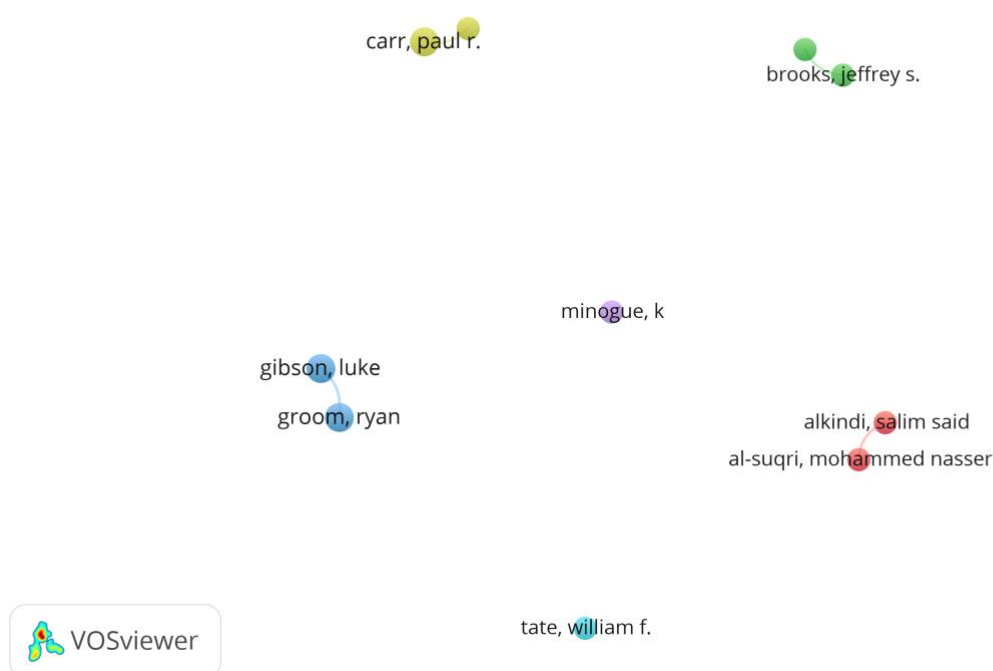

Figure 2: Authors and co-authors relationship of the researchers who are working on political literacy

The number of documents published by the authors and the citation metrics received by the authors enables the identification of the most active researchers in the field of research, political literacy as stated in Table 1. As stated earlier, Gibson, Luke; Normore, Anthony, H; Carr, Paul R. had the highest number of documents. However, the number of citations of Brooks, J.S. was the highest, followed by Macfarlane, b.; Galheigo, S.M.; O'Toole, T; and McAllister, I. This indicated that these top (5) authors are the most active researchers across the globe. However, the average citations per document provide information about the most impactful researchers. In other words, a good quality paper would receive a higher number of citations, which can be identified by calculating average citations per document. It

can be observed that Brooks, J.S. (6.25 citations per year) has the highest average citations per document. This is suggestive of the fact that the document of Brooks, J.S. was more impactful as compared to others.

Table 1: Top five (5) authors

Id	Author	Year	Journal	Citations	Average Citations per Year
1	Brooks & Normore	2015	Education Policy	75	6.25
2	Macfarlane	2005	Higher Education Quarterly	71	4.18
3	Galheigo	2011	Australian Occupational Therapy Journal	59	5.36
4	O'Toole et al.	2003	Political Quarterly	59	3.11
5	McAllister	1998	Australian Journal of Political Science	49	2.04

Journal publication

Table 2: Top active journals and conference proceedings in political literacy

Id	Source	Documents	Percentage (%)
1	JCMS Journal of Common Market Studies	9	7.38
2	Advances In Social Science Education and Humanities Research	7	5.74
3	International Journal of Political Education	4	3.28
4	British Journal of Educational Studies	3	2.46
5	Encounter	3	2.46
6	Parliamentary Affairs	3	2.46
7	Proceedings Of the Annual Civic Education Conference ACEC 2018	3	2.46
8	Advances In Education Research	2	1.64

Table 2 showed the journal databases that published articles in the field of political literacy studies. It is indicated that 25 journals on political literacy are in the WOS database. The highest number of documents published in JCMS Journal of Common Market Studies is 9 (7.38%).

Country and publication relationship

The most active countries and organizations of political literacy publications are listed in Table 3. The WOS database showed that 25 countries contributed to a publication on political literacy studies. It was found that 27.87% (34 documents) were from England followed by the USA (15.57%) and Indonesia (6.56%). In terms of organization distributions, it was found that the University of London ranked first out of 25 organizations that published articles on political literacy.

Table 3: Top countries and organizations of political literacy publications

Id	Country	Documents	%	Organization	Documents	%
1	University of London	10	8.20	England	34	27.87
2	London School Economics Political Science	4	3.28	USA	19	15.57
3	Manchester Metropolitan University	4	3.28	Indonesia	8	6.56

No	Institution	Count	%	Country	Count	%
4	Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia	3	2.46	Canada	7	5.74
5	University of Derby	3	2.46	Australia	6	4.92
6	University of York UK	3	2.46	Peoples Republic China	6	4.92

Conclusion

This study used bibliometric analysis to provide an understanding of the status and development trends of the political literacy works of literature in the Web of Science (WOS) database. Based on the analysis, the first document which is a book review was published in 1978 and the number of publications on political literacy is gradually increasing since 2007. It showed that the scope of the political literacy study is not only limited to democratic or citizenship education. The researchers also focused on leadership whereby political literacy is one of the main attributes for an individual especially leaders to determine the direction and achievements of the vision and mission of the organizations.

However, the limited number of publications on political literacy is a limitation of this present study that has been identified. This study is limited to publications in the indexed journal namely WOS. Therefore, the publications of political literacy studies in the WOS database were inadequate because there were still documents on political literacy published in the unindexed journal. This bibliometric study on political literacy is important to be explored and it may provide insight into the current trends of research on political literacy globally.

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