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Research trend on accountability and government performance: A bibliometric analysis approach

Muhammad Ahyaruddin^{1*}, Mohd Nor Hakim bin Yusoff², Siti Afiqah binti Zainuddin³, and Agustiawan¹



AFFILIATION:

¹ Department of Accounting, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Muhammadiyah Riau, Riau, Indonesia

² Faculty of Entrepreneurship and Business, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Malaysia

³ Department Accounting, Economics and Finance, School of Business Administration, European University Cyprus, Cyprus

*CORRESPONDENCE:

ahyaruddin@umri.ac.id

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Abstract

Research aims: This research aims to analyze the trends, map the conceptual structure, and present the picture of research direction on accountability and government performance topics.

Design/Methodology/Approach: A bibliometric analysis was used to obtain a structured overview and the research trend on accountability and government performance domains. The authors used the Scopus database from 1983 to 2022 and got 214 published documents, which were then analyzed with VOSviewer software and “Scopus Analyze Search Results.”

Research findings: This study uncovered a significant increasing trend in the number of publications on accountability and government performance research, from two documents in 1985 to eighteen documents in 2022. The USA is the most productive country publishing on accountability and government performance research, followed by the United Kingdom, Indonesia, China, Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, and Italy. The keywords that can be used for further research related to accountability and government performance are e-government, transparency, local government, governance approach, performance management, and corruption.

Theoretical contribution/Originality: Based on the best of the authors' knowledge, this is the first paper that analyses the research trend on accountability and government performance with the use of bibliometric analysis. In addition, for exploring and analyzing large volumes of scientific research, the use of bibliometric analysis is a popular and rigorous method.

Practitioner/Policy implication: The use of bibliometric analysis is essential to identify research gaps and look for themes or terms and become a potential direction to explore the relationship of each term.

Keywords: Bibliometric Analysis; Accountability; Government Performance, VOSviewer; Scopus Database

Introduction

Accountability and performance are concepts that organizations always desire to improve, especially in the public sector. Moreover, since public sector organizations implemented the concepts of new public management (NPM), accountability and performance have become hot topics for discussion by many scholars and researchers, particularly in the field of public administration and public governance (Akbar et al., 2015; Aswar, 2019; Christensen & Lægheid, 2015; Ahyaruddin & Akbar, 2018; de Almeida Lopes Fernandes et al., 2020; Ji, 2022; Kurniasih et al., 2019;

Mizrahi & Minchuk, 2019; Sabet & Khaksar, 2020). In the public governance context, accountability and performance play an important role in ensuring the continuity of government and increasing public trust in government (Aziz et al., 2015; Khotami, 2017; Pratolo et al., 2022). As a public sector organization, the government is required to be responsible, participatory, and professional in carrying out its functions so that it can provide more efficient and effective as well as responsible public services (Rahakbuw & Firdausy, 2018).

A study by Christensen and Lægreid (2015) revealed that increasing accountability will enhance organizational performance. However, this assumption created an “accountability paradox” because it has not been studied carefully and thoroughly (Dubnick, 2005). Accountability has many multifaceted meanings, and the possible effect of accountability on performance is still debatable (Demirag & Khadaroo, 2011). Therefore, recent studies by scholars have tried to explore in more detail the concept of accountability from a specific form (Ahyaruddin & Akbar, 2016; Akbar et al., 2012; Rajala & Kokko, 2022; Reddick et al., 2020).

Like the concept of accountability, the concept of performance is also difficult to define because it has several meanings. Dubnick (2005), in his study, asserted, “Outside of any specific context, performance can be associated with a range of actions from the simple and mundane act of opening a car door to the staging of an elaborate re-enactment of the Broadway musical “Chicago.” In all these forms, performance stands in distinction from mere “behavior” in implying some degree of intent.” Performance in the context of government organizations differs from performance in the private sector, which emphasizes aspects of financial performance. Government organizations are more likely to be non-profit and have diverse goals to provide public services to the broader community. As such, the assessment of government performance is not only to measure efficiency and financial aspects. Performance measurement in government is related to how to measure the results (outcomes) of government programs as well as the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery (Hatry, 2007).

Studies on the topics of accountability and government performance have been conducted by many scholars in different fields and have dramatically grown in the last decades. Nevertheless, from the best of the authors’ literature search, no such studies have been conducted on the topics of accountability and government performance using a bibliometric analysis approach that can handle large amounts and a wide range of data. Hence, the use of bibliometric analysis is crucial because the authors can map the conceptual structure and research patterns or trends of the accountability and government performance topics (Cuccurullo et al., 2016; Donthu et al., 2021; van Nunen et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2014). In addition, bibliometric analysis can also identify current research gaps that can be carried out for future research work by scholars, and it can be a consideration for policymakers and funding agencies to allocate research funds (Gall et al., 2015; Ugolini et al., 2015). Therefore, the questions that need to be answered are: What are the trends in the picture of research direction on the topics of accountability and government performance that have been studied? What are the

certain topics that can be conducted by scholars in their future study regarding accountability and government performance?

For the reasons above, this paper aims to analyze the trends, map the conceptual structure, and present the picture of research direction on accountability and government performance topics. Additionally, the authors performed the analysis by showing productive authors, the most active journals, productive countries, and cluster topics in accountability and government performance research to provide important insights and potential direction for future research. This study has made a significant contribution to the prospective scholars conducting research in the fields of public administration and public governance. Scholars with different backgrounds and disciplines may have different research questions and theoretical and methodological bases that can impede having a shared body of knowledge (Cuccurullo et al., 2016). A deep understanding of the conceptual structure of accountability and government performance and its trend has added value for scholars as well as reduced the gap in the practice that often considers the concept of accountability paradox.

Literature Review

The Concept of Accountability

Bovens et al. (2014) argue that accountability is a form of conveying the image of transparency and trust, so it is widely used in political discourse and policy documents. In the era of democratic systems and public governance, accountability is vital to be adopted in the implementation of public services. This is based on the argument that the existence of a country depends on its citizens, and therefore, the state should provide good and responsible services (Rahakbuw & Firdausy, 2018). Accountability refers to the obligation of each individual, group, or institution to fulfill the responsibilities of their mandates, i.e., ensuring the realization of public values (Mardiasmo, 2009).

Accountability and Government Performance

Many scholars in the field of public administration and public governance have discussed the concept of accountability and performance over the 30 years of running NPM, and it is still popular discussed in many countries in the world (Christensen & Laegreid, 2015; Kurniasih et al., 2019; Mizrahi & Minchuk, 2019; de Almeida Lopes Fernandes et al., 2020). Accountability and performance are terms that are difficult to define because they have a special discipline of meaning depending on each perspective (Sinclair, 1995; Ingraham, 2005). In the context of the Indonesian government, accountability is a form of obligation to account for the success or failure of implementing the organization's mission in achieving predetermined goals and objectives through a medium of accountability carried out periodically (Rahakbuw & Firdausy, 2018). This definition is closely related to performance, so the concept of government bureaucratic reform has changed the mindset from implementing work-

oriented bureaucracy (output) to performance-oriented bureaucracy (outcome). The main objectives are to create a bureaucracy that is free from inefficiency and wastefulness and produces quality public services (Rahakbuw & Firdausy, 2018).

Accountability can be realized and enhanced through various forms of different control systems in each country. For example, in Malaysia, there is the Malaysian Institute of Integrity (IIM), whose role is to coordinate the implementation of the National Integrity Plan (NIP) as a way to increase the accountability of public sector institutions (Said et al., 2015). In the Indonesian government context, accountability can be realized through a “work contracts system” between government officials who receive the mandate and the community or citizens as recipients of public services to report their activity through Performance Reports (*Laporan Kinerja*). This performance report is a form of accountability and the embodiment of transparency in the implementation of tasks, activities, and programs of government agencies to report its performance to the public or wider stakeholders (KemenpanRB, 2019). This performance report is also a formal obligation regulated by the Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 29 of 2014 concerning the Performance Accountability System of Government Agencies.

Much research on NPM is based on the assumption that increased accountability will enhance organizational performance (Chistensen & Laegreid, 2014). However, Dubnick (2005) expresses a different view that accountability increases performance, which is an assumption that has not been studied carefully and thoroughly; thus, he claims that there is an “accountability paradox.” Therefore, many recent studies have tried to explore in more detail the concept of accountability from specific forms or types. This is because accountability is a multifaceted concept, so the possible effect of accountability on performance is still debatable and inconclusive (Demirag & Khadaroo, 2011).

Based on the public organizations' context, the influence of the institutional environment is also highly dominant, so the definition of accountability will be broader and more complex based on the influence of the institutional environment. In institutional theory, the influences of institutions within an organizational environment will shape organizational behavior because the institutions have interests, identities, and appropriate practice models, so they pressure the organizations to change (Dobbin, 1994; Scott, 1987). Accordingly, along with heterogeneity and complexity of interest parties in public institutions, accountability is no longer like the agency relationship but becomes broader because it involves a broader spectrum of stakeholders, and public officials can provide information to various parties of the organization, both internal and external (Andre, 2010; Sinclair, 1995; Barberis, 1998). That accountability can be divided into various forms, such as internal and external accountability (Romzek, 2000; Romzek & Dubnick, 1987), direct and indirect accountability (Polidano, 1998), and vertical and horizontal accountability (Hodges, 2012; Mardiasmo, 2009; Bovens, 2009; Mulgan, 2000; Barberis, 1998).

Research Method

This study used a database publication from Scopus, which was accessed on September 8, 2022. The Scopus database was chosen in this study because it is a database with many reputable and internationally recognized article publications and provides wider content coverage and more convenience for practical use (Pranckutė, 2021; Idris et al., 2023). The keywords used in this study were ("accountability" AND "government performance" OR "local government performance" OR "public performance"). Searching for this keyword resulted in 214 publication documents from 1985-2022. All publication document types and subject areas were selected in this search. If it is viewed in detail in Table 1 based on the type of publication document, the majority of publications were articles with a total of 159, followed by book chapters, as many as 27, conference papers, as many as 12, reviews, as many as 10, and books, as many as 6.

Table 1 Type of document publication

Document Type	Number of documents
Article	159
Book Chapter	27
Conference Paper	12
Review	10
Book	6

The data taken from the Scopus database contained much information and was then exported to CSV file format. The information included citation information, bibliographical information, abstract and keywords, funding details, and other information (tradenames and manufacturers, accession numbers and chemicals, conference information, and references). Analysis and visualization of data in this study utilized "Scopus Analyze Search Results" and VOSviewer software (www.vosviewer.com). VOSviewer is a software tool for constructing and visualizing bibliometric networks (Islam et al., 2020; van Eck & Waltman, 2010). These networks may, for instance, include journals, researchers, or individual publications. The types of analysis used in VOSviewer included co-authorship, co-occurrence, bibliographic coupling, and co-citation. Meanwhile, the counting method used was full counting.

Result and Discussion

Number of document publications and growth trend

The number of publications is an important indicator to measure the development of research trends in a particular field (van Nunen et al., 2018). Figure 1 depicts that the development of the number of publications in the field of accountability and government performance research continues to increase. In 1985, the number of published articles on accountability and government performance was only two published documents. Twenty years later, in 2005, the number of publications continued to increase, with five published documents. Furthermore, in the last three

years, the era of public governance has become increasingly open, and the number of publications related to the topic of accountability and government performance has increased significantly to 18 documents in 2022. This indicates that the topic of accountability and government performance is increasingly being discussed by scholars, and it is still a hot topic in the era of public governance (de Almeida Lopes Fernandes et al., 2020; Mizrahi & Minchuk, 2019).

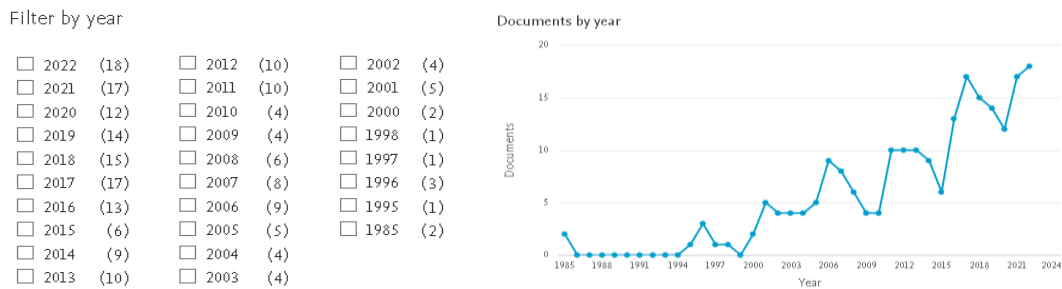


Figure 1 Number of document publications on accountability and government performance by year

Authors and their number of publications

Based on 214 published documents from search results on the Scopus database related to the topic of accountability and government performance, the researchers present the six most productive authors who have been studying this topic. The ranking in Table 2 is based on the number of articles published. Kim, Singer, and Van Ryzin are the authors with the highest number of publications; each of them published three publications, followed by Bayona, Charbonneau, and Cucciniello with two publications. Based on the average citation per publication, Kim is the author with the highest number of citations, with 121 citations, followed by Van Ryzin with 24.67 citations, and Cucciniello with 13 citations.

Table 2 Top-6 of most productive authors publishing on accountability and government performance

Author name	Country of author	Number of Publication	Average citations per publication
Kim, S.	South Korea	3	121
Singer, M.M.	USA	3	1.33
Van Ryzin, G.G.	USA	3	24.67
Bayona, S.	Peru	2	8.5
Charbonneau, É.	Canada	2	2
Cucciniello, M.	Italy	2	13

Journal publishing on accountability and government performance

Table 3 provides information about the top 10 most active journals publishing on accountability and government performance. These five journals (or 3.8% of the total of

all journals publishing on accountability and government performance) contributed 11.26% (n = 24/213) of all published documents. "Public Administration Review" became the top journal with the highest ranking and percentile in the field of "public administration," with the most published documents on the topic of accountability and government performance with seven publications, followed by "International Journal of Public Administration," which had the lower rank and percentile with five publications. In general, as can be observed in Table 3, it can be concluded that accountability and government performance research were mostly published in journals with the subject category of social science in the fields of "sociology and political science" and "public administration" with six and five appearances, respectively.

Table 3 Top-10 of most active journals publishing on accountability and government performance

Journal title	Number of publication	Rank and percentile	Impact factor	Subject category of the journal
Public Administration Review	7	5 & 97th	2.788	Social Sciences: Sociology and Political Science; Public Administration; Business, Management and Accounting; Marketing
International Journal of Public Administration	5	64 & 6th	0.586	Social Sciences: Public Administration; Business, Management and Accounting; Business and International Management
International Review of Administrative Sciences	4	32 & 83rd	0.678	Social Sciences: Sociology and Political Science; Public Administration
Public Management Review	4	7 & 96th	1.974	Social Sciences: Public Administration
Public Performance & Management Review	4	42 & 78th	1.122	Social Sciences: Public Administration; Business, Management and Accounting; Strategy and Management
American Journal of Political Science	3	5 & 99th	4.913	Social Sciences: Political Science and International Relations; Sociology and Political Science
American Political Science Review	3	6 & 99th	5.816	Social Sciences: Political Science and International Relations; Sociology and Political Science
Electoral Studies	3	131 & 78th	1.252	Social Sciences: Political Science and International Relations;
Journal of Politics	3	108 & 91st	3.027	Social Sciences: Sociology and Political Science
Public Choice	3	306 & 77th	0.844	Economics, Econometrics and Finance: Economics and Econometrics Social Sciences: Sociology and Political Science

In Figure 2, It also can be seen that the subject area of “social science” contributed 48.8% to publishing documents on accountability and government performance research. Then, it was followed by the subject areas of “business, management and accounting” and “economics, econometrics and finance” with 18.7% and 9.3% publications, respectively. The other subject area contributed below 5% in publishing documents about accountability and government performance.

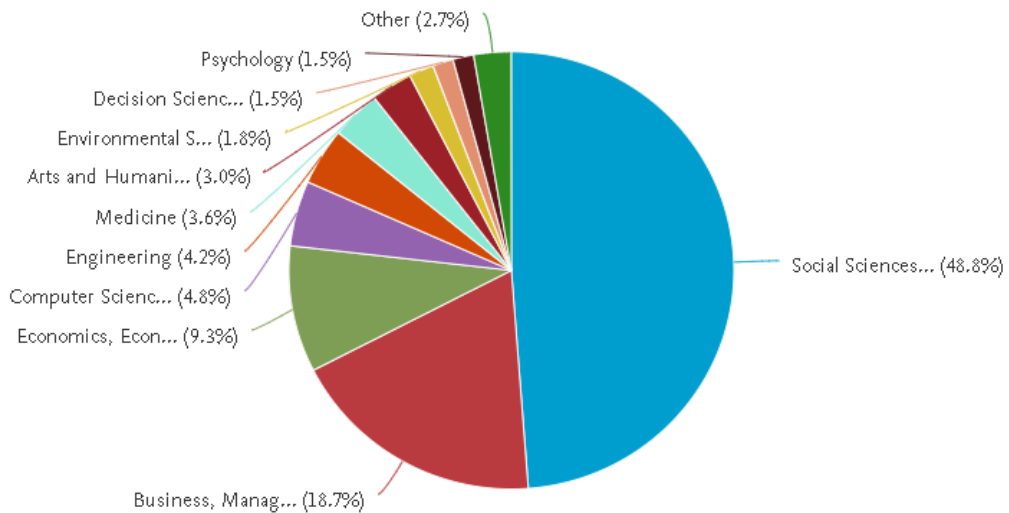


Figure 2 Documents by subject area on accountability and government performance research

Furthermore, to see the relationship or interaction between two publications cited together in other publications (Donthu et al., 2021), it can be analyzed using co-citation in VOSviewer. Figure 3 illustrates a co-citations analysis based on cited sources related to accountability and government performance research. It revealed three clusters based on the sources cited: red cluster (right), green cluster (bottom left), and blue cluster (upper left). The greater the size of the circle, the greater the number of citations.

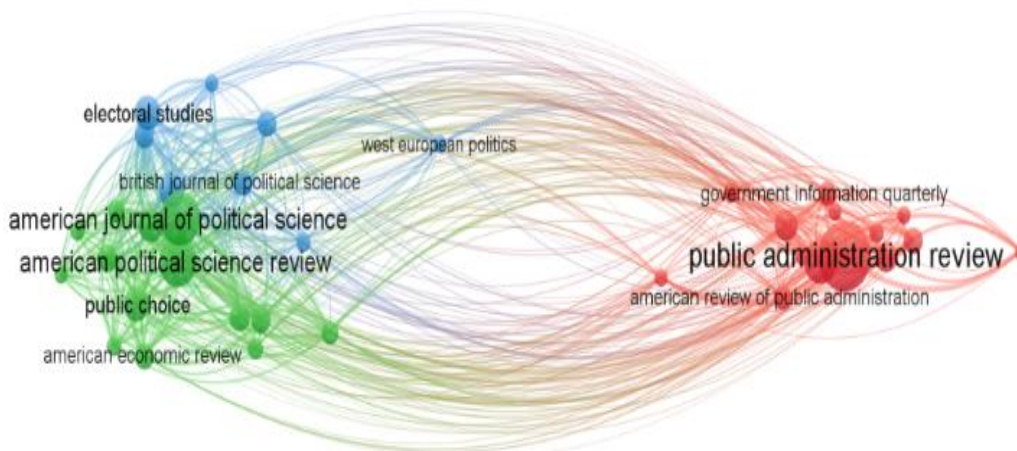


Figure 3 Co-citation analysis based on cited sources

The red cluster denotes that “public administration review” was the most cited source of publication in research on accountability and government performance. In the green cluster, there were "American Journal of Political Science" and "American Political Science Review," with the highest number of citations on this topic. Moreover, the last, in the blue cluster, “electoral studies,” was the more a publication cited in the accountability and government performance publications. In addition, a smaller distance between two publications indicates a stronger connection and greater similarity between them, and circles of the same color reflect a similar topic between these publications (van Nunen et al., 2018). The green and blue clusters are closer together, while the red cluster is more alone.

Geographical and institutional distribution and cooperation

Based on 214 publication documents, ten countries or territories were most productive in publishing topics on accountability and government performance (see Figure 4). These ten countries contributed 88.31% (n = 189/214) of the total of all publications on accountability and government performance. Of these ten countries, five were in Europe continent, two in North America continent, two in Asia continent, and one in Australia continent. The United States had the greatest number of published documents on accountability and government performance research, with 93 publications, and contributed 49.20% (n = 93/189) of the total ten most productive countries, followed by the United Kingdom and Indonesia, with 10.05% (n = 19/189) and 8.46% (n = 16/189), respectively.

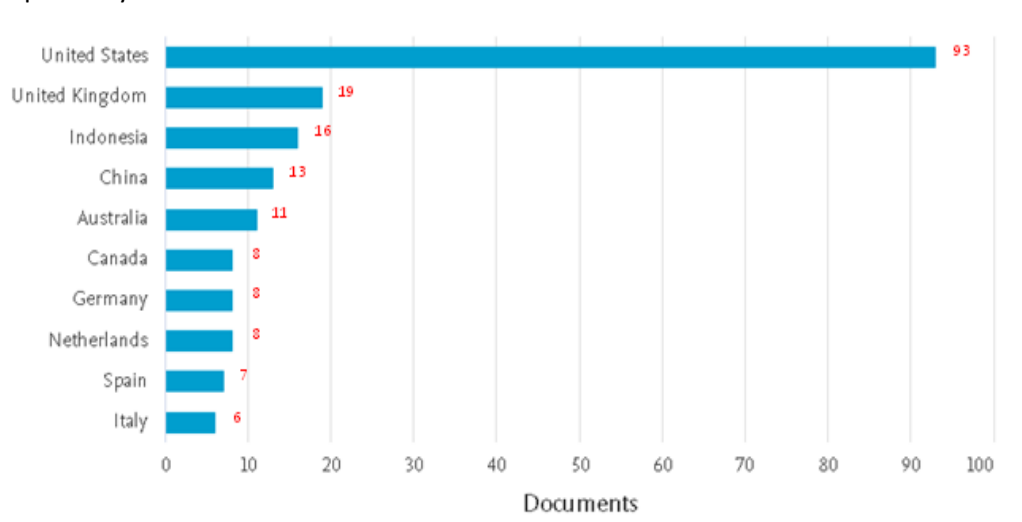


Figure 4 Top-10 of most productive countries or regions publishing on accountability and government performance research

Further, VOSviewer was used to analyze the collaborative network (i.e., bibliographic coupling) between countries and regions publishing on accountability and government performance. The result of the collaborative network between countries and regions is shown in Figure 5. The size of the circles indicates the number of publications, and the thickness of the links denotes the strength of cooperation. The colors represent the

collaboration clusters, and there are four clusters in Figure 6 (green cluster, red cluster, blue cluster, and yellow cluster). One major cluster could be distinguished based on the number of publications and strength of collaborations, i.e., the green cluster (USA). There were five other major contributors around the USA cluster: the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, China, and the Netherlands. Meanwhile, in the red clusters, there was Indonesia, the third one of most productive countries publishing on accountability and government performance but had less strength of collaborations.

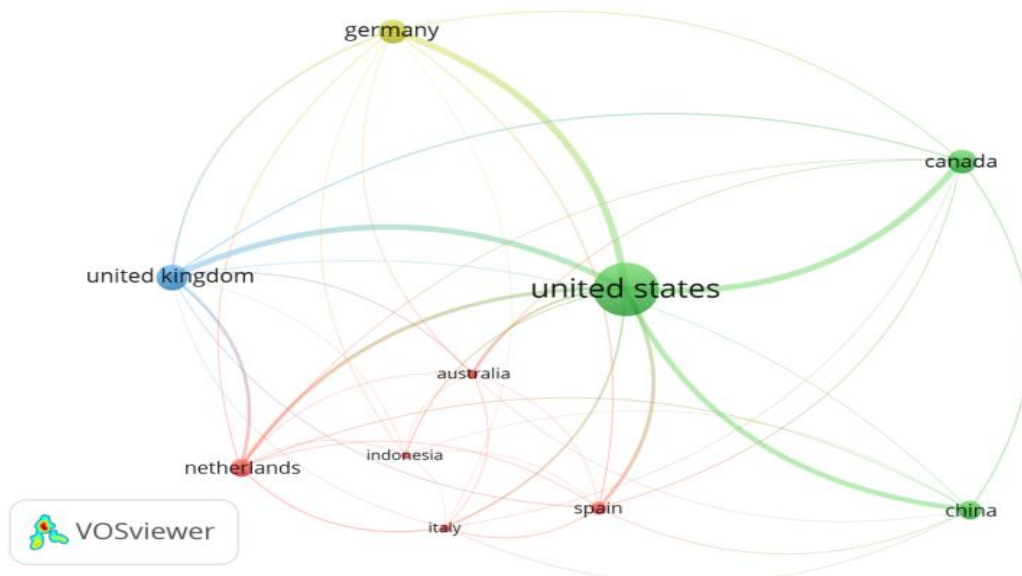


Figure 5 Collaborative network (bibliographic coupling) between countries and regions in accountability and government performance research

Terms Analysis

Table 4 Cluster topics of accountability and government performance

Clusters	Topics
Cluster 1 (green color)	e-government, performance management, performance, performance measurement, transparency
Cluster 2 (red color)	corruption, election, democratic accountability, voting behavior, party politics
Cluster 3 (yellow color)	local government, governance approach, public sector, leadership
Cluster 4 (blue color)	Governance, government, human, female

Figure 6 displays the analysis of terms reflecting interaction topics of accountability and government performance. The size of the circle indicates the occurrence of a term. The larger the size, the more frequently the term appears in abstracts, titles, and keywords related to the publication of accountability and government performance. The term analysis in publications on accountability and government performance could be distinguished into four clusters (green, red, yellow, and blue clusters) (see Table 4). The most popular keywords in the green cluster were accountability and government performance, which were used as a focus of this study. The most popular keywords in

the red cluster were voting behavior and corruption. The most popular keywords in the yellow cluster were local government and governance approach. The most popular keywords in the blue cluster were human and government.

Furthermore, the strength of the relationship between terms is determined by how short or long the distance between terms is in the circle. If the distance is shorter, it indicates the relationship between the terms is stronger. The analysis results with VOSviewer on accountability keywords revealed that accountability had a strong relationship with government performance, e-government, transparency, local government, and governance approach. In comparison, the analysis results of government performance keywords demonstrated that government performance had a strong relationship with accountability, e-government, transparency, performance management, and corruption.

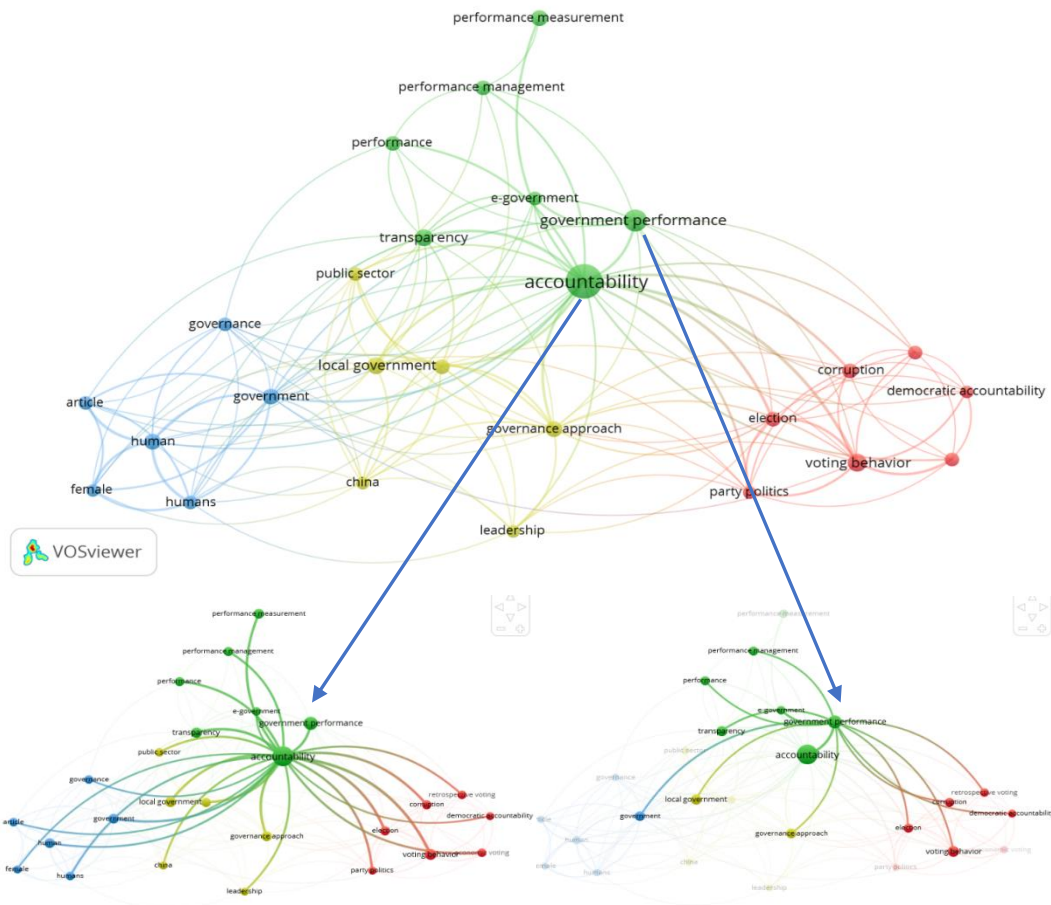


Figure 6 Terms analysis of accountability and government performance publications

Citation Analysis

Citation analysis is science mapping that citation reflects intellectual interrelationships between publications that are formed when one publication cites another (Appio et al., 2014). In this study, Harzing's Publish or Perish (PoP) software was utilized to determine

the citation index of the retrieved data. Data collected from the Scopus database were imported into this software to generate the citation metrics and total citation counts for each document based on Google Scholar citations. Table 5 summarizes the citation metrics for documents retrieved as of September 8, 2022. The summary included the total number of citations per article and its citations, the number of citations per year, and the number of citations per author.

Table 5 Citation matrix

Description	
Publication Years	1985-2022
Citation Years	37 (1985-2022)
Papers	214
Citations	4089
Years	37
Cites_Year	110.51
Cites_Paper	19.11
Cites_Author	2860.89
Papers_Author	138.96
Authors_Paper	2.03
h_index	31
g_index	59

Table 6 provides the top 15 cited articles on accountability and government performance research published in the highest-ranking journal. An article written by S. Kim with the title *“Participative Management and Job Satisfaction: Lessons for Management Leadership”* resulted in the highest number of citations, with a total of 325 citations (16.25 citations per year) (based on the Scopus database). This article was published in *“Public Administration Review,”* which is the top journal rank and percentile (Q1) in the field of public administration (a part of the social science subject area). This author (S. Kim) is also the most productive author who has published articles about accountability and government performance topics. His study focused on participative management from the perspective of strategic planning that can improve the accountability and performance of local government agencies. Therefore, based on this analysis, the authors can conclude and suggest for future research that accountability and government performance are still interesting and hot topics to study, and the article in this area has high potential to be published in the highest-ranking journal.

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Table 6 Top 15 cites articles on accountability and government performance

Authors	Titles	Year	Source	Cites by	Cites Per Year	Cites Per Author
S. Kim	Participative management and job satisfaction: Lessons for management leadership	2002	Public Administration Review*	325	16.25	325
V. Braithwaite, M. Levi	Trust and governance	2003	Trust and Governance	280	14.74	140
A. Healy, N. Malhotra	Retrospective voting reconsidered	2013	Annual Review of Political Science*	236	26.22	118
J.D. Fearon	Self-enforcing democracy	2011	Quarterly Journal of Economics*	151	13.73	151
A.M. Goetz, R. Jenkins	Hybrid forms of accountability: Citizen engagement in institutions of public-sector oversight in India	2001	Public Management Review*	149	7.1	75
S. Grimmelikhuijsen	Linking transparency, knowledge, and citizen trust in government: An experiment	2012	International Review of Administrative Sciences*	143	14.3	143
S. Kosack, A. Fung	Does transparency improve governance?	2014	Annual Review of Political Science*	126	15.75	63
I.F. De Wolf, F.J.G. Janssens	Effects and side effects of inspections and accountability in education: An overview of empirical studies	2007	Oxford Review of Education*	124	8.27	62
J. Alt, E. Bueno De Mesquita, S. Rose	Disentangling accountability and competence in elections: Evidence from U.S. term limits	2011	Journal of Politics*	117	10.64	39
M.B. Sanger	From measurement to management: Breaking through the barriers to state and local performance	2008	Public Administration Review*	103	7.36	103
K. Strom	Party Goals and Government Performance in Parliamentary Democracies	1985	American Political Science Review*	86	2.32	86
M. Dull	Results-model reform leadership: Questions of credible commitment	2009	Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*	85	6.54	85
R. Harding	Attribution and Accountability: Voting for Roads in Ghana	2015	World Politics*	76	10.86	76
M.W. Svulik	Learning to love democracy: Electoral accountability and the success of democracy	2013	American Journal of Political Science*	72	8	72
O. James, G.G. Van Ryzin	Motivated reasoning about public performance: An experimental study of how citizens judge the affordable care act	2017	Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*	69	13.8	35

*The highest-ranking journal (1st percentile) based on cite score ranking in Scopus database

Discussion

Formerly, studies on accountability and government performance were rare. Since the emergence of the NPM concept, especially in the public sector, accountability and performance have become a concern for many parties. Scholars in the field of social science have begun to study accountability and performance because society's demands for public organizations are increasing and becoming stronger. From 1982 to 2022, this study's analysis revealed some interesting findings that can be concluded in the following points:

The authors found that research on accountability and government performance showed an increased and positive trend. In 1985, there were two documents published on accountability and government performance. This number increased significantly during the era of public governance, where in 2022, there were 18 published documents. This indicates that the topic of accountability and government performance is interesting and continues to grow in the era of public governance. The authors also uncovered that studies on accountability and government performance are mostly published in journals with the subject category of social science in the fields of "sociology and political science" and "public administration", followed by the subject area of "business, management and accounting" and was published in the top journal rank (Q1), namely "Public Administration Review." This finding indicates that research on accountability and government performance in the future can be collaborated by scholars from different fields to get global and wider perspectives. The contextual perspective from the combination of public administration and public governance field will be more valuable in explaining the concept of accountability and government performance. In addition, these topics have the potential to be published in the highest-ranking journals.

Furthermore, this study demonstrated that the most productive country publishing on accountability and government performance research is the United States (USA), followed by the United Kingdom, Indonesia, China, Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, and Italy. The USA, as the largest democratic country, contributed 49.20% of the total published documents in the ten most productive countries related to the topic of government accountability and performance. As the largest democratic country, this finding is commonplace because, since 1970, the USA has implemented public perceptions and level of satisfaction with public service delivery as indicators for measuring the performance of public organizations (Imbaruddin, 2016). Therefore, accountability and performance have become interesting topics for scholars to discuss and discourse.

This study also revealed four cluster topics related to accountability and government performance. This cluster grouping is very useful for scholars to map conceptual structure and direction that will be conducted in their future studies. E-government, transparency, local government, governance approach, performance management, and corruption are the keywords that may be included or examined by scholars in their future research about accountability and government performance.

Conclusion

Studies on the topic of accountability and government performance were growing and always an increasing trend to discuss from 1982 to 2022, which was covered in this paper. This research concluded that before the emergence of issues regarding the NPM concept in the management of public organizations, studies on accountability and government performance were rare. In the 1980s, some scholars began to discuss this topic, and it has continued to grow up until now. Many scholars have studied accountability and government performance in different fields and from diverse perspectives. This research contributes to the future study that collaborating in different fields and combining different perspectives would be more valuable in explaining the concept of accountability and government performance. In addition, future scholars can conduct collaborative research from each productive country to get a common understanding of the concept of accountability and performance. Practically, this research suggests to prospective scholars that in future studies, they can examine several keywords that can influence accountability and government performance, as the authors discussed in the previous part.

Finally, this research has some limitations. First, the database searched in this study only covered Scopus, so it did not cover all publications on the topics of accountability and government performance research. For future research, the authors suggest using other international databases, such as Web of Science or PubMed. Nonetheless, Scopus is one of the most important international publishers, with a comprehensive, professionally curated abstract and citation database uniquely combined with a wealth of data and linked scholarly literature in a variety of disciplines. Combined, it makes sense to use the Scopus database in this study (elsevier.com). Second, the use of bibliometric analysis cannot interpret the content or quality of publications because the method is quantitatively based (Dunk & Arbon, 2009; van Nunen et al., 2018). The use of bibliographic analysis is a common and rigorous method for investigating and analyzing large volumes of scientific research (Donthu et al., 2021). In the future, researchers are encouraged to perform more detailed content analyses.

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About the Authors

Muhammad Ahyaruddin (M.A.) is a senior lecturer at department of accounting, faculty of economic and business, Universitas Muhammadiyah Riau, Indonesia. His research interests cover government accounting, performance measurement system, public governance, and public accountability. Email address: ahyaruddin@umri.ac.id

Mohd Nor Hakim bin Yusoff (M.N.H.b.Y) is a professor at the faculty of entrepreneurship and business, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Malaysia. His research interests cover behavioural accounting, entrepreneurship, and business management. Email address: hakimin@umk.edu.my

Siti Afiqah binti Zainuddin (S.A.b.Z) is a adjunct research lecturer at department accounting, economics and finance, School of Business Administration, European University Cyprus, Cyprus. She is interested in critical paradigm in accounting, social accounting, and management accounting. Email address: sitiafiqah@umk.edu.my

Agustiawan (A.) is a senior lecturer at departement of accounting, faculty of economic and business, Universitas Muhammadiyah Riau, Indonesia. His research interests cover public sector accounting, auditing, and fraud accounting. Email address: agustiawan@umri.ac.id

Author Contributions

Conceptualisation, M.A. and S.A.b.Z.; Methodology, M.A. and S.A.b.Z.; Investigation, M.A.; Analysis, M.A.; Original draft preparation, M.A.; Review and editing, M.A.; Visualization, M.A.; Supervision, M.N.H.b.Y. and S.A.b.Z.; Project administration, A.; Funding acquisition, M.A. and A.

Conflicts of Interest

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