Developing Journalism to Strengthen the Foundations of Democracy

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to evaluate the development of scholarly discussions on the function of journalism within the field of communication studies. The keywords "communication" and "democracy" were used to search the Scopus database, resulting in 1,367 documents relevant to the scope of this research. Then, search criteria were applied by limiting the inclusion of articles to English-language journal publications published between 2013 and 2022. Based on these parameters, 527 documents met the research criteria. The data were subsequently processed using VOSviewer and Bibliometrix software. The outputs from both applications were combined to generate visual graphs that enabled the author to analyze and summarize the research findings. The study concludes that journalism, particularly in areas related to democracy, such as investigative journalism, press freedom, participatory journalism, and political dialogue, plays a significant role in advancing democratic processes. Future research on journalism and democracy may benefit from adopting thematic academic study formats and trending topics as reference points. The establishment of journalism grounded in democratic principles shows strong potential for success.

Keywords: Communication Studies Democracy;; Journalism; Literature Review; VOSViewer and Bibliometroc Analysis

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengevaluasi perkembangan kajian tentang fungsi jurnalisme dalam ilmu komunikasi. Kata kunci "komunikasi" dan "demokrasi" digunakan dalam pencarian basis data Scopus untuk menemukan 1367 dokumen yang memuat informasi yang diperlukan dalam penelitian ini. Penulis kemudian menetapkan kriteria pencarian dengan membatasi inklusi makalah pada jurnal berbahasa Inggris yang diterbitkan antara tahun 2013 hingga 2022. Berdasarkan pembatasan ini, ditemukan 527 dokumen yang memenuhi kriteria penelitian. Data tersebut kemudian diproses menggunakan program VOSviewer dan Bibliometric. Hasil pemrosesan dari kedua aplikasi tersebut digabungkan untuk membuat grafik yang memungkinkan penulis menganalisis dan merangkum temuan penelitian. Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa jurnalisme, terutama dalam bidang yang terkait dengan demokrasi seperti jurnalisme investigatif, kebebasan pers, jurnalisme partisipatif, dan dialog politik, memainkan peran penting dalam perkembangan demokrasi. Penelitian di masa depan mengenai jurnalisme dan demokrasi dapat menggunakan format dan tren studi akademis bertema sebagai panduan. Pembentukan jurnalisme yang berlandaskan demokrasi memiliki potensi untuk berhasil.

Kata Kunci: Ilmu Komunikasi Demokrasi;; Jurnalisme; Literature Review; VOSViewer and Bibliometric Analysis

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INTRODUCTION

Journalism is a critical component of communication science, which studies how people communicate, the tools they use, and the impact of communication on society. Journalism, specifically, involves the collection, analysis, and dissemination of news and information to the public. Its development within the broader field of communication science has been pivotal in understanding how media shapes public opinion, social values, and cultural practices. Over time, journalism studies have expanded to include topics such as media ethics, media law, and the influence of social media on news consumption and distribution (Deuze & Witschge, 2018).

As the media landscape evolves rapidly—driven by digital technologies and the rise of social media platforms—the importance of journalism in communication science continues to grow (Ngoc, 2022). Communication science researchers study the impact of these changes on journalism and assess how journalists contribute to shaping public discourse and sustaining democracy (Kirchhoff, 2022).

Furthermore, the integration of new technologies has given rise to subfields like data journalism, which uses data analysis and visualization to tell stories and investigate issues (A., P.G., S., & O.T., 2023). Multimedia storytelling—blending video, audio, and interactive elements with traditional reporting—has also become a significant innovation in journalism (Fadillah & Huiquan, 2024). These developments underscore journalism's evolving role within communication science. As media technologies continue to advance, researchers will remain essential in analyzing these shifts and their implications for society (Deuze, 2019).

Journalism plays a crucial role in developing and maintaining democracy. In a democratic society, citizens have the right to access information and make informed decisions about the issues that affect their lives (Ukka, 2020). Journalism provides citizens with the necessary information and analysis to make informed decisions and hold their elected officials accountable (Fadilla & Sukmono, 3 C.E.).

Firstly, journalism serves as a watchdog of the government and other powerful institutions. By reporting on the actions of those in power, journalists act as a check on potential abuses of power and corruption. This helps to ensure that those in power are held accountable for their actions and that the public is informed about important issues that affect their lives. Secondly, journalism allows diverse voices and perspectives to be heard. In a democracy, it is essential that everyone has a voice and is able to participate in public discourse (Hannon, 2023). Journalism can provide a platform for marginalized voices to be heard, which can help to promote greater inclusion and social justice.

Thirdly, journalism can facilitate public debate and dialogue. By reporting on important issues and providing analysis and commentary, journalism can foster public debate and dialogue about the issues that matter most to citizens. This can help create a more informed and engaged citizenry, which is essential for a healthy democracy. Fourth, journalism can help to hold businesses and other non-governmental entities accountable. By reporting on the actions of corporations and other non-governmental entities, journalists can shine a light on potential abuses of power and hold these entities accountable for their actions (Brogi, 2020; Goda & Abd Elmagid, 2019). Journalism is an important tool for developing and maintaining democracy. It plays a crucial role in holding those in power accountable, providing a platform for diverse voices, facilitating public debate and dialogue, and holding businesses and other non-governmental entities accountable. A vibrant and independent media is essential for a healthy democracy (Ahmadi & Wohn, 2018; van Krieken & Sanders, 2021).

There has been a significant amount of research on the relationship between journalism and democracy worldwide. Key findings from recent studies highlight several important dimensions of this relationship (Mosco, 2019). First, media freedom is essential for a healthy democracy. Research shows that countries with higher levels of media freedom tend to have stronger democratic institutions. Conversely, limited media freedom is often associated with weak democracies, high levels of corruption, and frequent human rights violations. Second, the quality of journalism plays a critical role in democratic health. Accurate, impartial, and in-depth reporting encourages political engagement and supports informed decision-making among citizens. Third, social media is transforming both journalism and democracy. These platforms create new opportunities for public discourse and citizen participation but also present challenges, such as the spread of misinformation and the formation of echo chambers. Fourth, the relationship between journalism and democracy varies across regions and cultural contexts. In some countries, journalism is embraced as a tool for promoting democratic values, while in others, it is perceived as a threat to social stability and national order.

The role of journalism in promoting democracy is not limited to traditional news media. Citizen journalism, which involves ordinary citizens using social media and other platforms to report on news

and events, can also play an important role in promoting transparency and accountability in government (Masduki, Niu, & Yana, 2022). This research has shown that journalism plays a crucial role in promoting democracy worldwide. Media freedom, quality journalism, and the evolving role of social media are all important factors in this relationship. While the relationship between journalism and democracy is complex and multifaceted, it is clear that a vibrant and independent media is essential for a healthy democracy (Nielsen, 2017).

To enhance the connection between journalism and democracy, it is crucial to pursue innovative research that keeps pace with the rapidly changing media landscape. As new challenges and opportunities arise, scholars must explore emerging areas of inquiry. Pavlik (2000) outlines five key directions for future research. The first focuses on how emerging technologies—such as artificial intelligence and blockchain—are shaping journalism and democratic practices. There is a growing need to understand how these tools can be used to enhance journalistic quality and encourage greater civic engagement. Second, the role of journalism in advancing social justice remains an important yet underdeveloped field. Although existing studies have addressed this issue, there is room for more creative approaches that investigate how journalism can foster inclusivity and equity in media representation. Third, the influence of media ownership on journalism and democratic health warrants deeper examination. Research has shown that ownership structures can significantly affect journalistic integrity and press freedom. However, further study is required to uncover the mechanisms by which ownership impacts media content and democratic functions. Fourth, the global influence of international media on democratic values is an emerging area of interest. As international news organizations grow in prominence, there is a need to examine how they might support democratic principles and provide platforms for diverse voices around the world. Finally, the fifth area of research involves the relationship between journalism, public opinion, and political decision-making. While existing studies have explored this connection, more innovative investigations are needed to understand how various forms of media content and journalistic styles affect public attitudes and policymaking.

There is a growing need for innovative research on journalism and democracy that explores new approaches to understanding the complex relationship between these two critical concepts (Meier & Graßl, 2024). By examining areas such as emerging technologies, social justice, media ownership, international media, and the influence of journalism on public opinion and political decision-making, scholars can generate valuable insights into how journalism may foster democratic engagement and contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society (Mellado et al., 2024). Despite the significance of these themes, no specific research has been conducted on the creation of journalism explicitly grounded in democratic principles (Hanitzsch & Vos, 2018a). To address this gap, the present study combines a systematic literature review (SLR) with bibliometric analysis (BA) to provide a thematic structure and uncover publication patterns. This study analyzes Scopus-indexed journal articles published over the last decade (2013–2022) that explore the link between journalism and democratic development. Through this approach, the research identifies conceptual frameworks and scholarly trends, offering a foundation for future inquiry.

Based on the findings from this analysis, the study proposes five guiding research questions.
RQ 1: Can journalism be improved to strengthen democracy?
RQ 2: Which nation and organization make the biggest contributions to the dissemination of media and democracy?
RQ 3: Which journal produces articles about democracy and journalism?
RQ 4: How are publication themes relating to journalism and democracy faring?
RQ 5: Who does contribute to the publication of journalism and democracy?

The integration of metadata analysis through SLR and BA brings distinct advantages, as the combined approach allows for the identification of current patterns and the projection of future research trends in journalism related to democracy (Zuiderwijk, Chen, & Salem, 2021). While the SLR emphasizes content analysis to explore underlying ideas and arguments, BA incorporates performance analysis, network analysis, and science mapping (Donthu et al., 2021). These methodological components provide the foundation for the formulation of the proposed research questions (Fadillah, Sularso, & Huiqian, 2023).

The first question reflects the SLR's focus on analyzing journalistic practices that can advance democratic values. The second and third questions are rooted in the performance analysis aspect of BA, aiming to map the leading nations, institutions, and journals involved in this field. The fourth question corresponds to the science mapping function of BA, which is used to trace thematic trends in the literature. Lastly, the fifth question utilizes network analysis to highlight influential authors and

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collaborative patterns contributing to the scholarship on journalism and democracy. This study's integrated methodology offers a robust analytical framework that not only deepens the understanding of journalism's role in democratic development but also lays the groundwork for future academic and practical contributions..

METHODS

This study utilized a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) in conjunction with bibliometric analysis to explore the bibliometric landscape of curriculum development grounded in self-esteem. This methodological combination is sometimes referred to as Systematic Literature Network Analysis (SLNA). A number of scholars have adopted SLNA to map research trends by merging systematic literature review techniques (Behairy, Mukherjee, Ertimur, & Venkatesh, 2006) with bibliometric analysis (BA). The SLR process adhered to the PRISMA model, as depicted in Figure 1, which outlines the steps for filtering sources and identifying relevant materials (Donthu, Kumar, Mukherjee, Pandey, & Lim, 2021). The bibliometric analysis was conducted to identify prevailing trends and patterns, as well as to visualize research metadata within this academic domain.
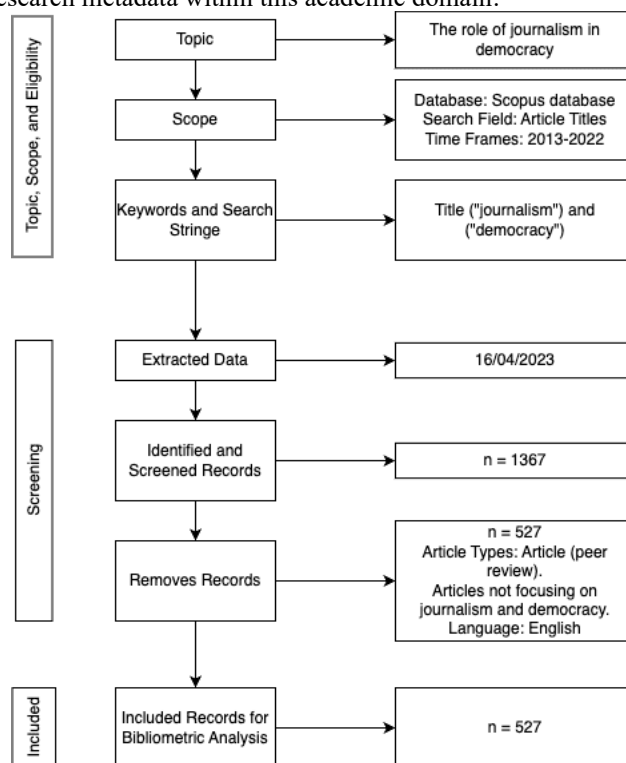

Figure 1. Diagram of PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis)

Data search and identification

The information for this study was obtained from the Scopus database, accessed on April 16, 2023. The data consisted of papers published over the last ten years, from 2014 to 2022, focusing on journalism based on democracy. Scopus, as Elsevier's abstract and citation database launched in 2004, includes a vast collection of reputable scientific journals worldwide. Its strict peer-review process ensures the high quality and reliability of the articles included, making the data in this study dependable. In several countries, Scopus is widely used as a reference for academic publishing. Only journals indexed in Scopus were considered for this research. The search strategy employed keywords such as "journalism," "press," or "news" in combination with "democracy" to identify articles relevant to the study's objectives.

To maintain data quality, inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied, ensuring that only studies directly related to the defined terms were analyzed (Donthu et al., 2021). To avoid unnecessarily

narrowing the initial search results, the keywords were entered broadly into the Scopus search engine within selected topic categories. Additional criteria further refined the scientific literature included, as detailed in Table 1. The terms "democracy" and "journalism" were paired due to their close conceptual relationship. For communication science to effectively serve as a public sphere and guide the achievement of democratic objectives, deliberate planning and development by communication science practitioners and activities are required. This process is broadly understood as "journalism."

Table 1. Inclusion - exclusion criteria.

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Main topics involving journalism and democracy	Not the main theme of the article
Journal article in English	Proceedings paper, book review, book chapter, editorial

Once the research topic was finalized through keyword analysis, the relevant data were exported in CSV format. These CSV files were subsequently analyzed using Microsoft Excel and VOSviewer. In addition to bibliometric analysis, this study also employed content analysis. The findings were presented through various visual formats, including images, graphs, and tables. After data collection, all information was organized, refined, and selected using Microsoft Excel. Several tools were utilized to support the analysis process: VOSviewer was used to generate visualization maps, Scholarcy assisted in content analysis, Publish or Perish was employed to assess citation credibility and metrics, and EdrawMax was used to create illustrative charts.

Data Extraction

This study focused on identifying journals and publications indexed in Scopus that were relevant to the research topic. Only peer-reviewed journal articles were included, while letters, editorials, conference proceedings, and brief communications were excluded from the analysis. The researcher initially identified 300 publications from the Scopus database and, based on their citation scores, selected the top 10 articles for in-depth review. These top articles were then utilized for the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) analysis. While all 300 articles contributed to the broader bibliographic assessment, the top 10 were examined in detail through an independent and rigorous evaluation process. These selected publications were deemed reliable sources for the research. Final results were determined after the researchers reconciled any differing interpretations and reached a consensus.

Statistical analysis

The selection of the top 10 articles in this journalism-focused study was based on their relevance to core themes, key journals, contributing institutions, conceptual frameworks, analytical approaches, research methodologies, and proposed directions for future inquiry. To examine literature spanning multiple disciplines, including education, the bibliometric analysis was informed by well-established bibliometric frameworks (Budd, 1988; Adams, 2009; Diem & Wolter, 2013; Nylander, Crockett, Wooten, & Menser, 2022). The study employed VOSviewer version 1.6.16 to process and analyze bibliographic data. VOSviewer is a freely available software tool specifically designed for building and visualizing bibliometric maps. Unlike many other tools in the field, VOSviewer excels at producing intuitive and visually clear bibliometric networks. Its ability to generate large, easily interpretable maps makes it particularly suitable for bibliometric research (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). The software enables the visualization of various forms of publication metadata, including co-authorship, bibliographic coupling, and co-citation relationships.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The relationship between journalism and democracy is a vital area of research, especially in today's context of rapid technological change and political upheaval (van Kersbergen & Vis, 2022). Some researchers focus on pressing issues such as the rise of misinformation and propaganda, the influence of social media on public opinion, and the challenges that traditional news media face in the digital era (Kaul, 2020). By examining these topics, scholars can illuminate how journalism and democracy interact in the contemporary world. Many draw on interdisciplinary approaches, integrating political science, sociology, communication studies, and information science to better understand this

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relationship (Mocatta, 2020). Collaboration across disciplines allows fresh insights and diverse perspectives (Specht & Crowston, 2022).

Additionally, comparing the state of journalism and democracy across different countries and regions can help identify common patterns and distinct differences. This comparative approach highlights how cultural, historical, and political contexts influence the connection between journalism and democratic governance. Additionally, the role of technology is crucial to consider. Technological advances have fundamentally altered how people consume and share news, simultaneously opening new avenues for propaganda and misinformation (Nothias, 2014). Researchers who examine technological innovation can better understand its impact on journalistic practices and the health of democratic institutions.

Similarly, media ownership and financing significantly affect journalistic independence and integrity (Weaver, Willnat, & Wilhoit, 2019). Investigating ownership structures and funding models reveals how these factors shape the quality and diversity of news coverage and their broader effects on democratic processes. By focusing on these dimensions, research can deepen our understanding of the complex interplay between journalism and democracy in today's rapidly evolving media landscape.

The analysis of democracy-based journalism journals included key themes, journal titles, countries, institutional affiliations, academic thematic trends, methodologies, and directions for future study. This sub-discussion aimed to identify indicators that clarify significant elements influencing research topic choices. The trends in journalism and democracy research, including publications and citation counts from 2013 to 2022, are illustrated in Figure 2.

Table 2. Number of journalism studies published in reputable journals

Year	Total Documents	CitableYears
2013	48	11
2014	36	10
2015	37	9
2016	45	8
2017	58	7
2018	50	6
2019	56	5
2020	68	4
2021	68	3
2022	61	2

The volume of studies published in reputable journals addressing the relationship between journalism and democracy has shown a consistent upward trend over the years. As illustrated in Table 1, this growth is evident in the annual publication data. In 2013, there were 48 publications, followed by 36 in 2014, 37 in 2015, and 45 in 2016. The number rose to 58 in 2017, slightly decreased to 50 in 2018, and increased again to 56 in 2019. The most notable growth occurred in 2020 and 2021, with 68 publications each year, followed by 61 in 2022.
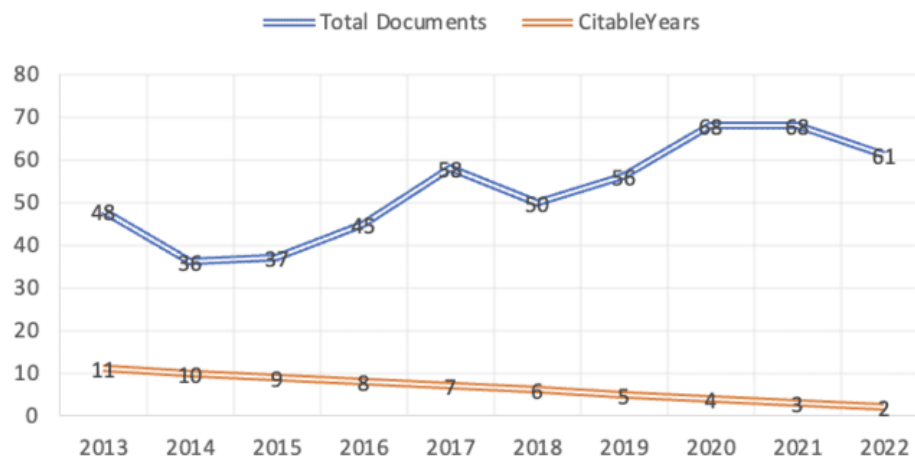

Figure 2. The publication data in 2012–2021, including the number of documents and citations.
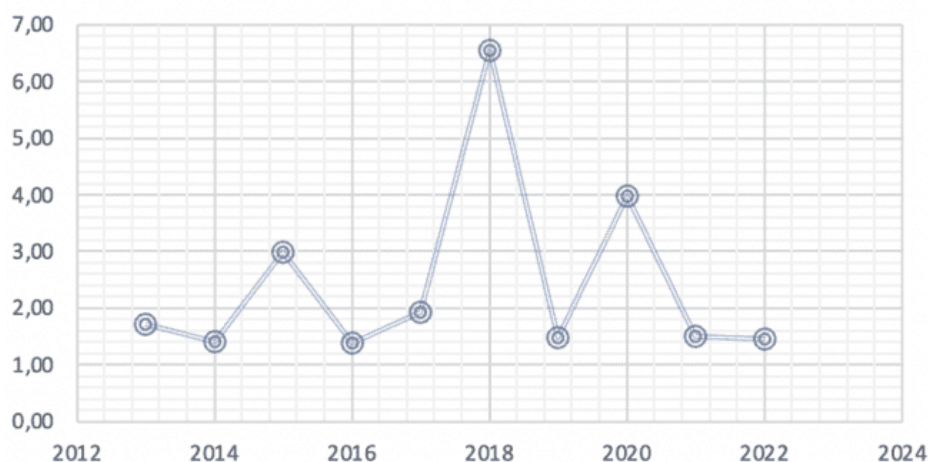
Figure 3. Mean Total citations per year

Figures 2 and 3 illustrate that 2020 and 2021 recorded the highest number of publications on journalism and democracy, each with 68 documents. The annual average number of publications has been calculated, revealing a steady upward trend. Notably, citation counts have also shown a consistent increase since 2013. The year 2018 stands out with the highest mean total citation count—65 citations distributed across 50 articles. From 2013 to 2022, the average number of citations per year was approximately 1.72, indicating a gradual stabilization in citation growth. Given that 2022 data collection has concluded, it is expected that both the number of publications and citations will continue to rise. These findings suggest that this bibliometric insight can be valuable for researchers conducting studies on health journalism within a democratic framework.

Can journalism Improve democracy?

According to numerous studies conducted by scholars worldwide, journalism plays a crucial role in enhancing democratic governance. Serving as a watchdog, journalism holds those in power accountable and provides citizens with the information necessary to make informed decisions (Josephi, 2013). Through coverage of government policies, political campaigns, and public affairs, journalists empower the public to understand political issues and scrutinize their elected representatives.

Extensive research on the relationship between journalism and democracy has identified several key ways through which journalism contributes to democratic improvement (Bennett & Livingston, 2018; Zhou & Zafarani, 2021; Waisbord, 2018; Baack, 2015). First, journalism promotes transparency. Journalism can help promote transparency in government by investigating and reporting on public policy, political campaigns, and government actions. This information can help citizens make informed decisions and hold elected officials accountable. Second, journalism encourages public participation. By reporting on public affairs, journalists can help engage citizens in the political process and encourage them to participate in civic life. Third, journalism provides diverse viewpoints. Journalism can provide a platform for diverse voices and viewpoints, including those that may be underrepresented in mainstream media. This can help foster a more inclusive and informed public discourse. Fourth, journalism uncovers corruption and abuse of power. Investigative journalism can uncover corruption and abuse of power by government officials, politicians, and other public figures. This helps hold those in power accountable and can prevent abuses of power from occurring in the future. Fifth, journalism fosters public debate and discussion: By reporting on issues of public importance, journalism can foster public debate and discussion, allowing citizens to weigh in on important issues and have a say in the direction of their communities and their country. In short, a free and independent press is essential to the health of democracy, and journalism plays a vital role in promoting transparency, accountability, and informed citizen participation.

This research uses at least 10 references for journalism consisting of author (s); cites; title; key concept; type and future research. The references are described as follows:
1. with author (s) (Bennett & Livingston, 2018), number of cites 456. The article entitled The disinformation order: Disruptive communication and the decline of democratic institutions use key

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concept False information is now more widely disseminated through social media and political websites that resemble journalism formats in many democracies. and type of article is Discourse Analysis. Finally, for future research is find a method to ensure the truth of the news.

2. with author (s) (Zhou & Zafarani, 2021), number of cites 337. The article entitled A Survey of Fake News: Fundamental Theories, Detection Methods, and Opportunities use key concept The demand for fake news identification and intervention has increased due to the explosive growth and the damage it does to democracy, justice, and public confidence. and type of article is This study analyses and assesses strategies for identifying fake news from four angles: the inaccurate information it contains, the writing style, the ways it spreads, and the reliability of its source. Based on the review, the poll also suggests a few interesting study projects. To promote interdisciplinary study on fake news, we specifically identify and describe similar core theories across multiple fields.. Finally, for future research is This poll can help professionals in the social sciences, political science, computer and information sciences, and journalism work together to explore false news, which could lead to fake news detection that is not only effective but also, more crucially, explicable.

3. with author (s) (Waisbord, 2018), number of cites 269. The article entitled Truth is What Happens to News On journalism, fake news, and post-truth use key concept According to the author, the "fake news" issue reflects the contested status of news and the dynamics of belief creation in modern cultures. and type of article is Discourse analysis, news coverage. Finally, for future research is The traditional ideas of news and truth that form the basis of normal journalistic activity are more difficult to attain and uphold in light of the breakdown of the previous hierarchical structure.

4. with author (s) (Casero-Ripolles, 2020), number of cites 235. The article entitled Impact of COVID-19 on the media system. Communicative and democratic consequences of news consumption during the outbreak use key concept COVID-19 is a phenomenon of enormous magnitude and relevance. Its impact has affected various social domains, including the media and journalism. and type of article is This study aims to examine how the new coronavirus has affected how people consume news, how much trust they place in the media, and how adept they are at spotting fake news. The author has performed an exploratory and preliminary study based on secondary data from the online surveys of the American Trends Panel of the Pew Research Center in the United States, comparing data before and after the outbreak to address these questions. The effects of COVID-19 on the media system are supported by the data.. Finally, for future research is The results point to the emergence of significant phenomena, including the comeback of legacy media's role, particularly on television, and the reconnecting of individuals with news who typically stay disconnected from the information. As a result, some of the disparities in news consumption among residents have been reduced. Potential advantages for democracy in terms of equity and accessibility concerning public affairs result from this.

5. with author (s) (Hanitzsch & Vos, 2018b), number of cites 202. The article entitled Journalism beyond democracy: A new look into journalistic roles in political and everyday life use key concept The majority of journalism scholars have a Western framework for their research that emphasizes the importance of the media in promoting democracy and citizenship. and type of article is We view journalistic jobs as discursive constructs of journalism's identity and place in society within the context of discursive institutionalism. These roles are susceptible to discursive (re)creation, (re)interpretation, appropriation, and contestation since they have become entrenched in the institutional norms and practices of journalism.. Finally, for future research is Journalists play roles in daily life that correspond to three concepts: consumerism, identification, and emotion.

6. with author (s) (de Vreese, Esser, Aalberg, Reinemann, & Stanyer, 2018), number of cites 199. The article entitled Populism as an Expression of Political Communication Content and Style: A New Perspective use key concept An outline of populist political communication research and its current areas of focus are provided by the author. and type of article is Discourse analysis. Finally, for future research is To move the research agendas and designs toward a more interactive, systematic, and, in particular, comparative approach to the study of populist political communication, the authors provide a framework for ongoing research and establish the boundary conditions for a new generation of populist political communication research.

7. with author (s) (Quandt, 2018), number of cites 170. The article entitled Dark Participation use key concept Since the 1990s, encouraging promises have been made about citizen involvement in news production. Observers desired a revival of both democracy and journalism. However, a lot of the optimistic theoretical ideas about user engagement did not hold up to in-depth empirical analysis. and type of article is Discourse analysis. Finally, for future research is According to studies, this kind of user interaction appears to be escalating in tandem with the recent populist trend in Western countries.

Some crucial facets of dark participation will be differentiated during a systematization. The advantages of (including) considering the negative aspects of things will next be covered.

8. with author (s) (Lewis & Westlund, 2015), number of cites 156. The article entitled Big Data and Journalism Epistemology, expertise, economics, and ethics use key concept A complex mixture of digital data abundance, cutting-edge analytical tools, the mythology around data-driven insights, and growing skepticism over the long-term effects of big-data activities on democracy and society, big data is a social, cultural, and technological phenomenon. What are the specific consequences for journalism, even if media and communication scholars have started to study and think about big data in the context of media and public life generally? and type of article is In order to examine both current and possible uses of big data for the professional logic and industrial production of journalism, this study introduces and utilizes four conceptual lenses: epistemology, expertise, economics, and ethics.. Finally, for future research is Ultimately, this article outlines future directions for journalism studies research in the context of big data.

9. with author (s) (Baack, 2015), number of cites 154. The article entitled Datafication and empowerment: How the open data movement re-articulates notions of democracy, participation, and journalism use key concept This article demonstrates how open-data activists reframe concepts of democracy, participation, and journalism by incorporating the practices and ideals of open-source culture into the production and use of data. and type of article is This process prompts activists to come up with fresh justifications for datafication that might promote the agency of the digitized public database, with a particular emphasis on the Open Knowledge Foundation Germany and drawing on a combination of content analysis and interviews. Open source is modified in three ways: First, activists expand the sharing of source code to include the sharing of raw data by viewing data as a requirement for creating knowledge. By distributing raw data, people could interpret data regarding public concerns in their own ways and end the government's monopoly on interpretation. Second, by adapting the open-source participation model to political involvement, activists link this idea to a free and adaptable version of representative democracy. Third, activists realize that intermediaries are required to make raw data available to the general public.. Finally, for future research is The article's conclusion makes the argument that open data activists' practices and ideologies are important because they show how datafication and open source culture are related and aid in understanding how datafication might support the agency of people and actors outside of big business and government.

10. with author (s) (Peters & Witschge, 2015), number of cites 95. The article entitled From Grand Narratives of Democracy to Small Expectations of Participation Audiences, citizenship, and interactive tools in digital journalism use key concept The language surrounding audience participation in digital journalism is critically examined in this article. We compare and contrast the audience conceptualizations within these and discuss how digital technologies impact these relationships rather than simply restating the familiar grand narratives that traditionally described journalism's function for democracy (information source, watchdog, public representative, mediation for political actors). and type of article is This article argues that digital journalism, which lays less emphasis on citizen engagement, aims to connect with audiences or users rather than engage them through news. We must make a distinction between minimal and maximalist forms of participation through interactive tools because there is a significant difference between technologies that allow people to control and personalize content (basic digital control) and entire platforms that make it simple to tell stories and distribute citizen journalism within public discourse (integrative structural participation).. Finally, for future research is To conceptualize digital journalism, this article considers what is gained and lost when lofty notions of journalism's functions for democracy are seized or abandoned in favor of a participation paradigm.

High-performance journalism is crucial for supporting a robust democracy. Accurate, impartial, and ethical journalism plays a key role in informing citizens and holding those in power accountable. According to several studies (Peters & Witschge, 2015; Quandt, 2018; de Vreese et al., 2018), high-performance journalism strengthens democracy through several important functions: (1) delivering accurate and trustworthy information based on facts and thorough research, which empowers citizens to make well-informed decisions about their lives and governance; (2) holding authorities accountable by uncovering corruption, misconduct, and abuses of power, thereby promoting good governance; (3) offering a platform for diverse and marginalized voices, which helps advance social justice and equality; (4) encouraging public debate and discourse on critical issues, fostering an informed and active citizenry essential for democracy; and (5) educating the public on complex policies and issues, enhancing their understanding of government operations and enabling more informed public decision-making. In

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summary, high-performance journalism is indispensable for nurturing a healthy and thriving democracy by fulfilling these vital roles.

The analysis of the most contributive countries and institutions with the highest number of publications on journalism and democracy

In Table 3, Figure 4 (countries), and Figure 5 (institutions), we investigated and presented the topic trend emerging in the top 10 nations contributing to the journalism and democracy articles in detail and independently.

Table 3. Rankings of countries with a total number of publications and citations.

Country	Documents	Citations
United States	145	3102
United Kingdom	82	1298
Australia	40	238
Spain	28	492
South Africa	27	287
Netherlands	23	677
Sweden	19	513
Germany	17	911
India	16	84
Norway	16	345

Table 3 reveals that numerous countries show strong interest in research trends related to journalism and democracy. The top 10 countries by number of publications and total citations are: the United States leading with 145 publications and 3,102 total citations; followed by the United Kingdom with 82 publications and 1,298 citations; Australia with 40 publications and 238 citations; Spain with 28 publications and 492 citations; South Africa with 27 publications and 287 citations; the Netherlands with 23 publications and 677 citations; Sweden with 19 publications and 513 citations; Germany with 17 publications and 911 citations; India with 16 publications and 84 citations; and Norway also with 16 publications and 345 citations. This data highlights the global scope of scholarly interest in the intersection of journalism and democracy.

Figure 4. Co-occurrence network of the most contributive countries.

Figure 4 displays the network of countries that have contributed to this field of study. Research funding has come from 68 different nations. The United States leads with 42 international research collaboration networks. The United Kingdom follows with 36 networks. In contrast, only 10 networks involve researchers from other countries. Several countries—including South Korea, Egypt, Kenya, Malaysia, Romania, Slovakia, Iran, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Qatar, Ukraine, and Zambia—do not yet have many emerging international research collaborations in this area. These results demonstrate

that U.S. researchers have made a significant contribution to the study of journalism and democracy. American research in this field greatly benefits both domestic and international academic communities.

Why is this finding important? The study identified a publication that discusses the intersection of journalistic research and political theory. Although the article focuses on populism as a form of political communication, it provides fresh perspectives on the interdependence of journalism and politics (Carroll, 1965). To address ongoing issues related to journalism and the press, campaigns can be launched that build on these insights. Furthermore, a well-integrated multi-disciplinary approach can open new directions for resolving these challenges. In this context, "new directions" often refer to proposed research agendas that encourage collaboration between scholars in media and democracy. A more comprehensive understanding can be achieved by drawing from both political theory and communication science. These findings suggest that this is a timely and valuable opportunity for researchers in journalism and democracy to collaborate and advance knowledge in both fields.
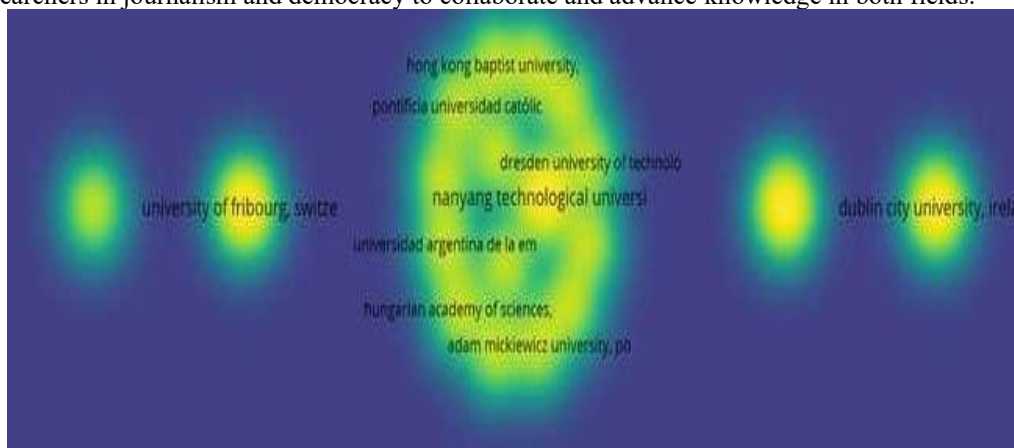

Figure 5. Density visualization map of the most contributive institutions.

Figure 5 shows that out of the 527 articles identified, 706 associations are documented in the VOSviewer tool, organized into 3 clusters and 138 links. The top five contributor affiliations in this field, based on the number of articles, are the University of Oxford, United Kingdom (n = 4), the University of Oslo, Norway (n = 4), the University of Melbourne, Australia (n = 4), the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, United States (n = 4), and the University of Vienna, Austria (n = 3). These results support the argument that institutions in Western countries play a leading role in the development and execution of research on journalism and democracy.

Table 4. Most Contributing Institutions

organization	documents	citations
University of Oxford, United Kingdom	4	74
University of Oslo, Norway	4	45
University of Melbourne, Australia	4	30
Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, United States	4	79
University of Vienna, Austria	3	54
School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies, Cardiff University, United Kingdom	3	104
Pontificia Universidad Católica De Valparaíso, Valparaíso, Chile	3	61
Pacific Media Centre, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand	3	17
Department of Journalism, Film and Television, University of Johannesburg, South Africa	3	11

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Research on journalism and democracy is critically important because journalism plays a key role in shaping the quality and sustainability of democratic societies. It provides citizens with the information they need to make informed decisions on political, social, and economic matters and holds those in power accountable. Journalism also serves as a platform for diverse voices and encourages public debate and civic engagement.

However, journalism today faces numerous challenges, including the rise of misinformation and disinformation, the decline of traditional news outlets, and increasing audience polarization. Understanding these challenges and identifying effective strategies to overcome them is essential to maintaining a vibrant and functional democracy.

Academic research helps illuminate the complex relationship between journalism and democracy while also examining how technological, economic, and political developments shape the media landscape. It also provides guidance on best practices for producing high-quality journalism and increasing its influence on democratic governance. Due to the urgent need to revitalize journalism studies, leading universities around the world have invested in this research area in recent years. As a result, studies involving scholars from top institutions globally have generated valuable insights into the evolving field of media and communication.
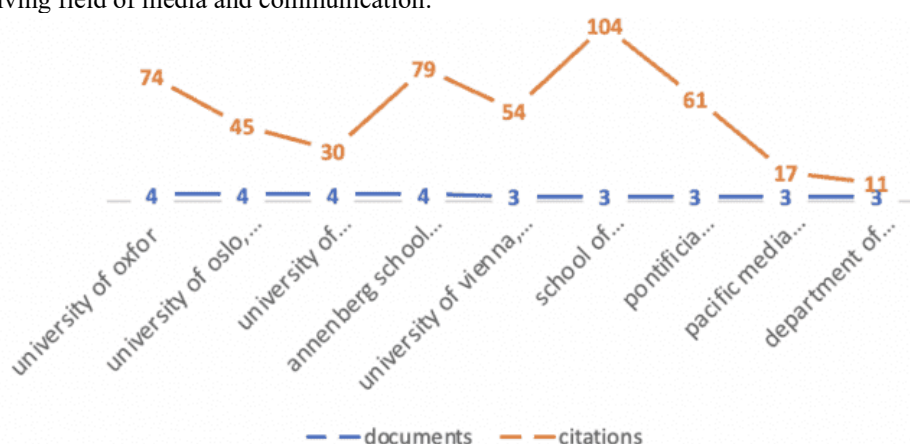

Figure 6. The most contributive institutions

Figure 6 illustrates that the number of documents an institution produces does not necessarily correlate with the number of citations received. For example, the School of Journalism, Media, and Cultural Studies at Cardiff University has received 104 citations from just three publications; the University of Oxford has garnered 74 citations from four publications; and the Department of Journalism, Film, and Television at the University of Johannesburg has received only 11 citations from three publications. These publication trends highlight how research on journalism and democracy impacts institutional recognition and unintentionally positions certain affiliations as focal points within this area of study.

A contribution analysis of the journals publishing articles that examine the relationship between Journalism and Democracy

International publications that publish journalism and democracy research with their debate branch are a key factor in this study's explanation. Journalism and democracy research is published in 196 journals. From these figures, it can be inferred that research on journalism and democracy is intriguing when seen in the context of other disciplines and in light of the objectives and areas of focus of each journal.

Table 5. Distribution of journals that publish articles on curriculum and self-esteem from 2013 to 2022.

Source	Documents	Citations	JIF	SJR
Journalism Studies	59	976	2.026	1.764
Journalism	52	1175	2.310	1.802
Journalism Practice	24	444	1.462	1.187
International Journal of Press/Politics	22	578	3.191	3.096
Pacific Journalism Review	19	39	0.600	0.317
Digital Journalism	17	399	3.302	3.480
International Journal of Communication	12	157	1.115	0.745
Communicatio	11	100	0.364	0.187
Media and Communication	11	213	1.236	0.897
International Communication Gazette	10	46	1.548	0.774

Table 5 shows that while some articles are published in journalism publications, the bulk are published in journals devoted to journalism studies. There are 59 publications in total from the Journalism Studies, which is now in first place. The journal's current status has not been removed from Scopus since 2001. On the other hand, the Communicatio and Media and Communication have the same number of publications today (n = 11). Journalism journal now holds the top spot (TC n = 1175) and has a highly regarded quality journal (SJR: 1,802 and JIF: 2,310), assuming the number of citations becomes the norm. Journalism Studies (TC n = 976), which has a well-regarded journal (SJR: 1,764 in 2021 and JIF: 2,026), is ranked second. Table 5 also shows that 10 journals have excellent SJR and JIF reputations. None of them have been removed from Scopus; however, every journal still has JIF and some of them are included in the Web of Science's ESCI (Emerging Sources Citation Index). Future studies should take into account the publication venue for their article on curriculum and self-esteem. However, the substantial effects of academic society and the dissemination of research are applicable globally.

Analysis of thematic trends of publications on the relationship between Journalism and Democracy
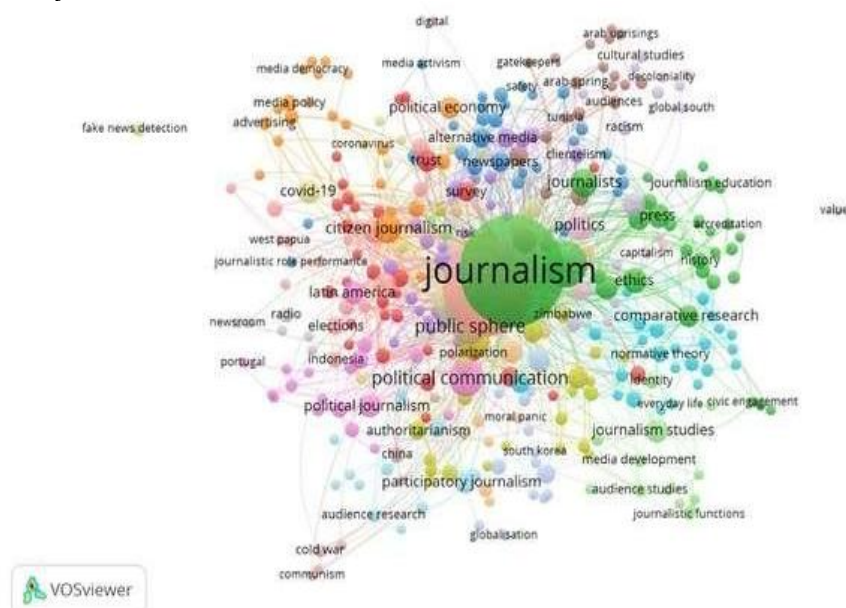

Figure 7. Co-occurrence networks of research themes based on author keywords.

46 Since analyzing thematic trends of publications on journalism and democracy enables researchers to explore research opportunities and novelty to connect two different disciplines, the publication themes are a crucial topic of discussion in this study. The capacity to investigate keyword networks will enable researchers to acquire appropriate study ideas and objects, provide blatant uniqueness, and advance science. The keywords that emerged from this investigation are summarized in Figure 7. The study is based on author keywords because it takes into account how the writers honed their expertise by using keywords associated with the subject under investigation. The study found that the author's keywords are distributed throughout 2371 networks and 20 clusters. There are 31 terms in Cluster 1 with a red background; the most frequently occurring ones are democracy, narrative, media freedom, survey, elections, etc. The most often occurring keywords in Cluster 2, which is colored green, are journalism, ethics, journalism education, norm, post-truth, watchdog journalism, power, etc. The most commonly occurring keywords in Cluster 3's blue color include "newspaper," "alternative media," "audience research," "media activism," etc.

This analysis concludes that integrating journalism and democracy does not have many networks, and it is potentially developed because this study is novel for communication (journalism) science. Journalism and democracy are indeed associated with a wide range of interesting research themes, such as (1) Media ownership: Who owns the media, and how does this influence the way news is reported and presented? Does media ownership impact media bias and the quality of journalism? (2) Media and democracy: How does the media contribute to the functioning of democratic societies? What role does the media play in holding government and other institutions accountable? (3) Fake news and disinformation: How can we identify and combat fake news and disinformation in the media? What are the effects of fake news on public opinion and political decision-making? (4) Digital media and democracy: How has the rise of digital media (social media, online news, etc.) impacted democracy? What are the implications of digital media for issues like privacy, free speech, and media regulation? (5) Journalistic ethics: What are the ethical responsibilities of journalists? How can we ensure that journalists maintain high standards of accuracy, fairness, and impartiality?
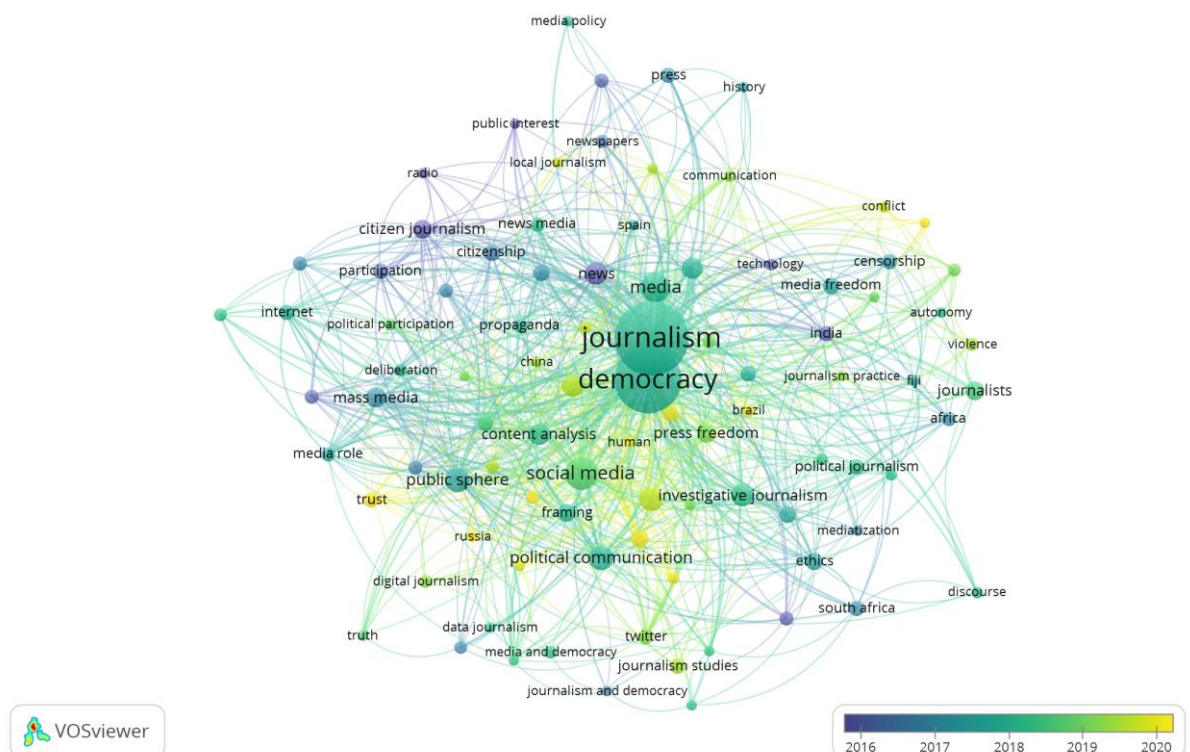

Figure 8 . Co-occurrence networks of research themes based on index keywords.

Figure 8 presents an analysis of the keywords used in publications related to journalism and democracy. The size of each node indicates the frequency of the keyword's occurrence, while the color

represents the average publication year. In 2018, the keywords "journalism" and "democracy" appeared with a pale green tint. A second cluster of keywords appears in a brighter yellow, suggesting that these terms became more prominent in recent publications. Keywords shown in blue are characteristic of articles from around 2016, focusing on themes such as citizen journalism, public interest, radio, and newspapers. Topics like trust, conflict, misinformation, freedom of expression, and COVID-19 dominated articles published in 2020.

The rising prominence of journalism and democracy in 2018 reflects the academic community's growing interest in addressing the post-truth era. Journalism research plays a crucial role in combating this phenomenon—defined as the manipulation of facts and the spread of false information to influence political or social outcomes. Through initiatives such as fact-checking, media literacy, ethical reporting, investigative journalism, and collaborative practices, journalism can help counter the post-truth crisis. By upholding these principles, journalists contribute to a well-informed and active citizenry and support greater transparency and accountability in public discourse.

The chronological evolution of keywords indicates a growing research focus on conflict, disinformation, and trust, all of which are essential to the democratization of communities. Continued research in journalism is vital for advancing the field, especially in adapting to emerging technologies, refining best practices, reinforcing ethical standards, and enhancing journalistic training. Ultimately, such research supports the development of a more informed and engaged public.

Analysis of the author's contributions to publications on the relationship between journalism and democracy
As presented in Figure 8. Co-authorship-link has 8 clusters that show the researchers' networks. Five of them are as follows: Cluster 1: Amado, Davydov, Humanes, Mick, Mothes, Olivera, Panagiotu, Roses, Stepinska, Szabo, Tandoc, Wang; 2: Aalberg, Albaek,. Andersen, De Vreese, Jebril, Reinemann, Skovsgaard, Stanyer, Van Dalen; Cluster 3: Curran, Esser, Hallin, Hayashi, Lee, Levy, Nielsen, Song; Cluster 4: Arroyave, Benitez, De Beer, Garces, Hughes, Lang, Marquez-Ramirez; and Cluster 5: Lagos, Mellado, Rafter.
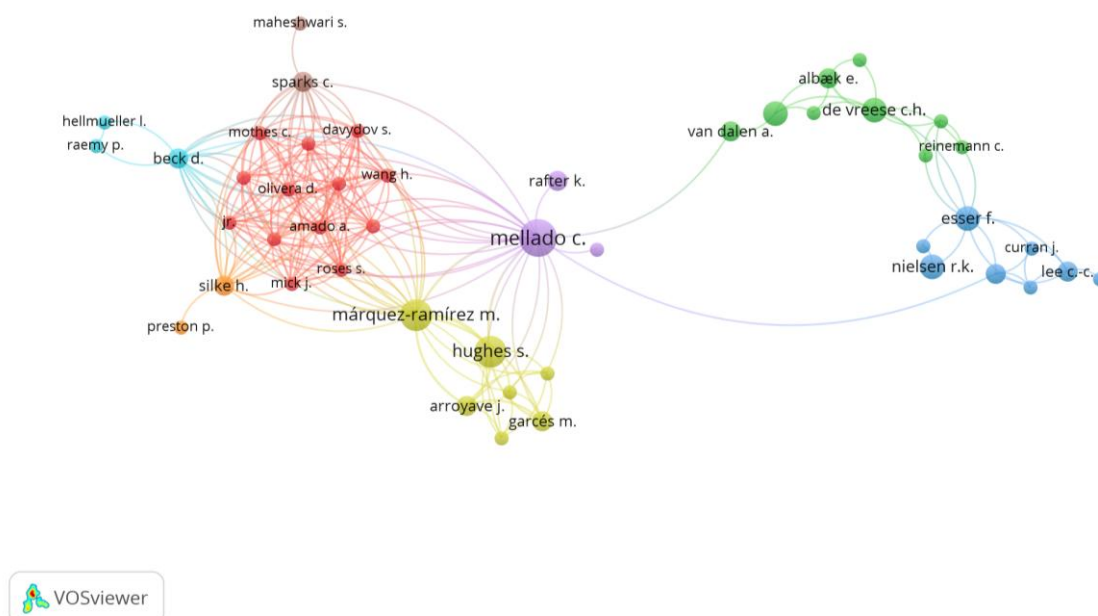

Figure 9. Co-authorship and the contribution of authors.

The analysis of co-authorship documents in Table 6 shows that Mellado has seven papers, while other researchers have six, five, three, two, and one papers.

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Table 6. Top ten co-authorship-document	
Author	**Documents**
Mellado C.	7
Thomas R.J.	6
Daniels G.	6
Waisbord S.	5
Márquez-Ramírez M.	5
Hughes S.	5
Kelling K.	5
Robie D.	5
Wasserman H.	4
Chadha K.	4

Table 7. Top ten co-authorship-citation	
Author	**Citations**
Bennett W.L.	457
Livingston S.	457
Zafarani R.	341
Zhou X.	341
Waisbord S.	315
Casero-Ripollés A.	269
De Vreese C.H.	266
Esser F.	238
Vos T.P.	217
Lewis S.C.	203

Bennett and Livingston are in first place for the examination of co-authorship citations with 457 citations. Waisbord has 315 citations, Zafarani and Zhou have 341 citations, and casero-ripollés have 269 citations.
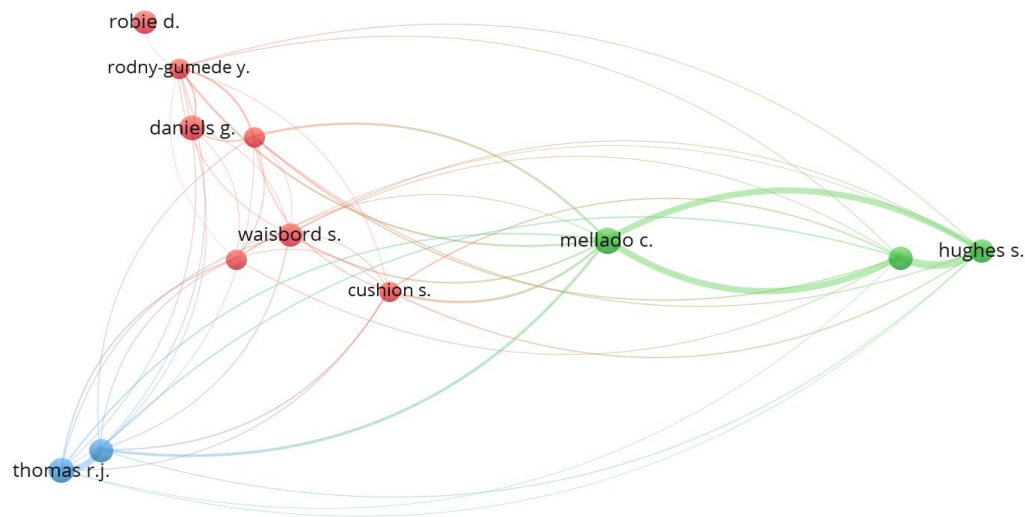

Figure 10. Author contribution to publication on the relationship between journalism and democracy

This analysis concludes that to establish a new educational paradigm—especially one that maximizes democracy through the integration of journalism perspectives—the networks among authors writing about journalism and democracy must be strengthened as a scientific imperative. The advancement of democracy through journalism will ultimately influence the teaching approaches employed by mass media organizations, fostering improved methodologies. Key research topics in journalism and democracy include investigative journalism, political communication, populism, and political communication. Therefore, communication and journalism scholars should actively link political communication to their field to successfully develop journalism grounded in democratic principles.

CONCLUSION

This article presents a systematic literature network analysis of studies on journalism and democracy, offering a research roadmap based on data from the Scopus database. Although some previous studies have conducted systematic literature reviews and bibliometric analyses, relatively few have focused specifically on the relationship between journalism and democracy. The systematic review of the top 10 publications highlights the diversity of research approaches, methodologies, and thematic

emphases. Nonetheless, these studies share a unifying theme: the integration and interconnection of science, journalism, and democracy to address the challenges of public democratization.

Keyword co-occurrence networks provide valuable insight into the central themes of journalism and democracy research. In contrast, author-based bibliographic coupling networks reveal clusters that illustrate the development of knowledge networks among researchers in the field. These patterns help trace the historical and thematic evolution of research collaborations. By employing structured network analysis and bibliographic mapping, this study enhances our understanding of how journalism and democracy research have developed over time.

Despite its contributions, this study has two key limitations. First, it relies exclusively on the Scopus database, omitting potentially relevant literature indexed in other databases such as Web of Science or ERIC. Second, its scope is limited to the study of journalism and democracy alone. Future research is encouraged to explore this relationship further, considering additional dimensions and interdisciplinary perspectives. Ultimately, the insights gained from this analysis can support the development of strategies and practices that strengthen democratic processes through media and journalism.

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