

## BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS: TRENDS AND PROSPECT

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### Abstract

This study explores the development and intellectual structure of research on cooperative governance institutions globally through bibliometric analysis of 172 Scopus-indexed publications from 2020 to 2025. Cooperative governance institutions have emerged as a vital framework for addressing complex governance challenges, but systematic mapping of the global structure of this field remains limited. Data were analysed using R Studio and Biblioshiny to identify publication trends, key authors, thematic clusters, and international collaborations. Findings reveal that the United States, Indonesia, and China are dominant contributors, with significant author impact from academics such as Chafik and Salah. Thematic analysis highlights recurring concepts such as "governance approach" and "sustainability" as the most frequently emerging themes. Conceptual mapping identified a fragmentation between the theoretical cluster of "governance approach" and the practical cluster of "governance." Crucially, this analysis exposed a theoretical blind spot: the term "institutional" was significantly absent from the main thematic map, indicating a focus on cooperative behaviour or sectors rather than on the formal design of institutions themselves. This study contributes a comprehensive overview of global research on cooperative governance institutions, bridging fragmented theoretical and practical literature. It underscores the need for future research to shift its focus to the design, formalisation, and effectiveness of institutional models, as well as the need for expanded comparative studies.

**Keywords:** *Bibliometric Analysis, Cooperative Governance Institutions, Governance Approach*

## INTRODUCTION

Cooperative governance institutions play an important role in establishing a collaborative framework that integrates contributions from stakeholders in the public, private and civil society sectors to effectively address complex governance challenges. This framework, often referred to as collaborative governance, serves as a strategic response to the weaknesses of traditional governance structures, especially in situations where interdependence among stakeholders is crucial. Effective collaborative governance models can improve outcomes in various areas such as environmental management, public health, and urban development. Collaborative governance structures are defined as multi-party arrangements that promote consensus-based decision-making through direct engagement between public institutions and non-state actors (Ansell & Gash, 2007). This method allows stakeholders to utilise their unique perspectives and resources in achieving common goals that are often difficult to achieve through conventional top-down governance approaches (Yamin, Hidayat, & Sulmiah, 2024).

The design of a cooperative governance framework must take into account certain contextual factors that influence its effectiveness. In the context of environmental governance, various studies show that collaborative frameworks can enhance consensus building among stakeholders in addressing important issues such as resource sustainability and ecological resilience (Margerum, 2008; Ulibarri, Imperial, Siddiki, & Henderson, 2023). The importance of inclusivity in governance is demonstrated through cases in tourism and community development, where the success of governance is highly dependent on the active involvement and input of diverse stakeholders (Rahmafitria, Sukmayadi, Suryadi, & Rosyidie, 2021; Sumetri, Astawa, Wahyuni, & Rumini, 2022). For example, governance models for inclusive tourism development emphasise the importance of leadership characteristics, institutional design, and collaborative processes as crucial factors driving success (Sumetri et al., 2022).

Institutionalising cooperative governance mechanisms can strengthen the sustainability and effectiveness of collaborative initiatives. A study focusing on inter-organisational projects highlights the importance of establishing clear governance structures and institutional support that underpins collaborative efforts, thereby facilitating better relationships among diverse partners and reducing conflicts (Aaltonen & Turkulainen, 2022). This is particularly relevant in complex projects, where organisational cultural differences require careful management through shared governance conventions and adaptive strategies (Chakkol, Selviaridis, & Finne, 2018). The success of collaborative governance also depends on the ability to identify and overcome collaborative frictions, interpersonal or institutional barriers that can hinder progress. Research shows that government intervention as a facilitator can reduce these barriers by providing the necessary support and resources, thereby creating a more conducive collaborative environment (Zhao, Wang, Cheung, & Xu, 2023). Recognising that collaboration is dynamic, stakeholders must remain flexible and adaptive to changes in the collaborative landscape, ensuring that governance structures can respond to the short-term and long-term needs both short-term and long-term needs of the communities they serve (Koebele, 2015; Thomson, Perry, & Miller, 2007).

The development of studies on Cooperative Governance Institutions has also accelerated in line with increasing global challenges such as economic inequality, environmental degradation, and technological disruption. Historically, cooperative governance practices

emerged as a response to the limitations of traditional governance models, which are hierarchical and centralised. Conventional models often fail to accommodate the social and economic complexities of modern societies that require crosssectoral coordination. Therefore, Cooperative Governance has become a new paradigm in understanding the existence of multi-stakeholders in public affairs, with a focus on each stage of public policy (Luh & Dewi, 2019).

In the context of rural development, cooperative governance institutions have even become an important foundation for the success of community economic empowerment programmes, sustainable natural resource management, and improved social welfare. This concept emerged in response to policy implementation failures, high costs, and the politicisation of public sector regulations (Saleh, Hendrik, Zauhar, & Nuh, 2021). Conceptually, cooperative governance can be understood as a "social coordination institution" based on the logic of co-steering and networks (Lee, 2003). This approach recognises the complexity of relationships between actors in public policy, which gives rise to the need for more collaborative coordination mechanisms (Luh & Dewi, 2019). (Saleh et al., 2021) identify four basic values that form the foundation of cooperative governance institutions:

- a) Context orientation in decision-making (goal aspect)
- b) Collective leadership in institutions (structural aspect)
- c) Multidirectional communication in human relations (interaction aspect)
- d) Resource sharing in implementation (process aspect)

In the context of intergovernmental relations, cooperative governance recognises the interdependence between different but interrelated levels of government, placing an obligation to respect each other's powers, functions and institutions. These principles are based on mutual respect, trust and integrity (Nzimakwe & Ntshakala, 2015).

Various studies show that cooperative institutions have great potential to strengthen community capacity, expand citizen participation, and create social innovation through collaborative mechanisms. However, the implementation of cooperative governance still faces various obstacles, such as weak social capital, lack of coordination between institutions, and low institutional capacity in managing conflicts of interest between actors. Scientific studies on Cooperative Governance Institutions have developed in various fields such as public policy, institutional economics, social development, and local government studies. However, these studies are still scattered and have not been fully mapped systematically. There are not many studies that comprehensively examine the development of themes, research trends, and intellectual structures related to cooperative governance at the global and national levels. This condition necessitates bibliometric analysis-based research that can provide a comprehensive picture of the dynamics of scientific publications, the identification of thematic clusters, and the prospects for future research development. Thus, this study attempts to scientifically map the development and prospects of Cooperative Governance Institutions using bibliometric analysis. This study aims to:

1. identify trends and directions in research related to cooperative governance institutions,
2. map thematic clusters and interrelationships between main topics, and
3. explore the prospects for developing the concept of cooperative governance in the future.

Through this approach, it is hoped that this study can contribute to a more comprehensive

understanding of the role and potential of cooperative governance institutions in realising inclusive, collaborative, and sustainable governance.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Several studies explore the complexity of intergovernmental relationships in the implementation of cooperative governance. (Khangale, Madumo, & Tshiyoyo, 2023) used qualitative research methods with interviews to determine the impact of cooperative governance on water governance. Their research identified complexities related to intergovernmental relationships in the provision of water services to the community, including duplication of interventions, unhealthy intergovernmental relationships, unclear role definitions, and poor coordination.

Research conducted by (Gemane Matlala & Motsepe, 2015) in an exploratory study using a single case study method with data collected through semi-structured interviews to investigate the role of the Gauteng Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) and Economic Development (DED) in supporting the implementation of Local Economic Development initiatives in the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality. They found that the LED support process was characterised by duplication of interventions, unhealthy intergovernmental relations, unclear role definitions, and poor coordination.

The political aspects of cooperative governance institutions received particular attention in several studies (Penny, 2017) using Foucauldian and Gramscian frameworks to critique the theory and practice of participatory network governance, exploring how local authorities in London faced the dual pressures of delivering fiscal savings while engaging citizens in new participatory public service arrangements in an era of 'austerity localism'. Their research shows that forms of participatory governance can be folded into the logic of hierarchy and coercion through various technologies of performance governance and agency (consent), as well as through tactics of administrative domination (coercion).

In their study (Pieterse, 2019), they analysed the first year of multi-party coalition government led by the opposition in three South African cities, focusing on national or provincial attempts to undermine urban governance in opposition-run cities, as well as examples of 'urban assertiveness' – city governments behaving in ways that deviate from, or oppose, regional or national government priorities.

Research conducted by (Adom et al., 2024) used an extensive literature review and triangulation approach to investigate the structural weaknesses and administrative governance of climate change in KwaZulu-Natal Province in the context of institutional constraints 5 institutional and capacity constraints. Their findings reveal that most institutions and organisations mandated to address climate change challenges operate in silos, lack the necessary investment and capacity, and have weak accountability mechanisms with a shallow understanding of climate change governance.

An analysis of the existing literature identifies several significant gaps and limitations. (Zattoni, Dedoulis, Leventis, & Van Ees, 2020) encourages scholars to further explore the relationship between national institutions, corporate governance, and corporate outcomes using theoretical frameworks and methods that enable them to: (1) develop a deeper understanding

of the national institutional context, (2) analyse the influence of powerful stakeholders on these relationships, and (3) better understand the role played by informal institutions.

The research conducted (Jamaluddin et al., 2023) concludes that their study attempts to contribute to the existing literature by highlighting patterns and gaps from past studies on the relationship between cooperative governance and cooperative performance, thereby providing insights for future research. They identify the need for further research to clarify the still inconclusive relationship between cooperative governance and performance.

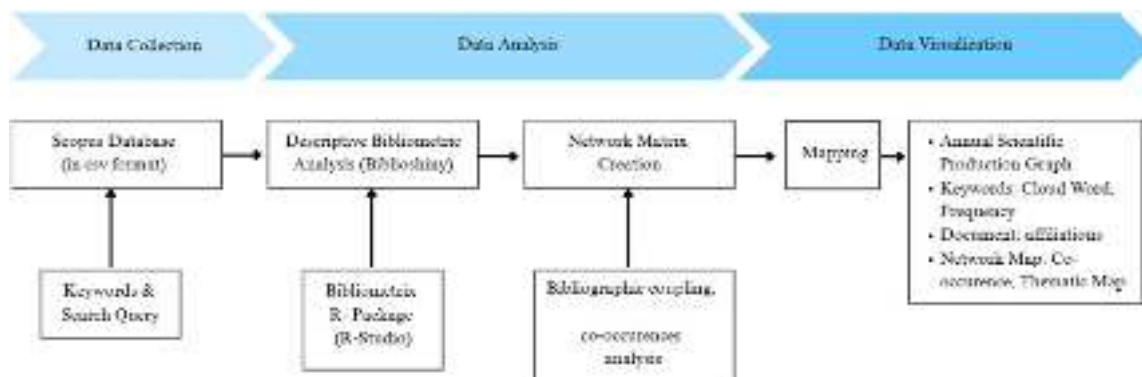
The diversity of methodological approaches in the cooperative governance institutions literature reflects the complexity of the phenomenon under study. This literature review indicates that despite significant progress in the conceptual understanding of cooperative governance institutions, there are still substantial gaps in terms of practical implementation, inter-institutional coordination, and effectiveness in achieving the goals of inclusive and sustainable governance. This reinforces the justification for conducting a bibliometric analysis that can systematically map the developments and trends in research in this domain.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative method for exploring and understanding literature in depth. Through this approach, researchers can identify trends, dominant topics, and scientific collaborations that have formed within a certain period (Donthu, Kumar, Mukherjee, Pandey, & Lim, 2021). This analysis can help identify the latest research trends and emerging areas of study in a field. There are three stages in this research process. The first stage is to determine the Scopus database to be used to explore the research topic. Scopus is a leading global scientific literature database, which compiles more than 87 million academic documents published by more than 7,000 publishers in 105 countries, and records information on more than 17 million author profiles contributing to various disciplines (Elsevier, 2023). Second, the keyword "cooperative governance institutions" was determined, covering article titles, abstracts, and keywords in the Scopus database (accessed on 22 September 2025). In the third stage, data extraction was carried out from the search results for in-depth analysis to determine the pattern of research development on cooperative governance institutions. Data extraction included documents from 2020-2025, documents in the field of social sciences, and documents in English. The query used was TITLE-ABS-KEY (COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS) AND PUBYEAR > 2019 AND PUBYEAR < 2026 AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "SOCI")). AND ( LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE , "English" ) ). Based on the data search using this query, 172 documents were obtained.

The third stage involved converting the entire dataset into CSV format to facilitate the bibliometric analysis process. The dataset is then imported into the Biblioshiny platform and analysed using the R programming language version 4.3.1. In the analysis process, the Bibliometrix and Biblioshiny software packages are used to track publication trends, topic developments, and scientific collaboration patterns related to the study of cooperative governance institutions. The results of this analysis are expected to provide an overview of the direction of scientific development and future research prospects.

Figure 1. Data analysis workflow



(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

Figure 1 presents a systematic research workflow. The process begins with data collection from the Scopus database using specific keywords and search queries. Next, the data enters the Data Analysis stage, which involves Descriptive Bibliometric Analysis using Biblioshiny and RStudio. This stage also includes the creation of a Network Matrix for bibliographic coupling and co-occurrence analysis. Finally, in the Data Visualisation stage, the analysis results are mapped into various graphs, such as annual scientific production graphs, keyword frequency graphs, network maps, and thematic maps.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

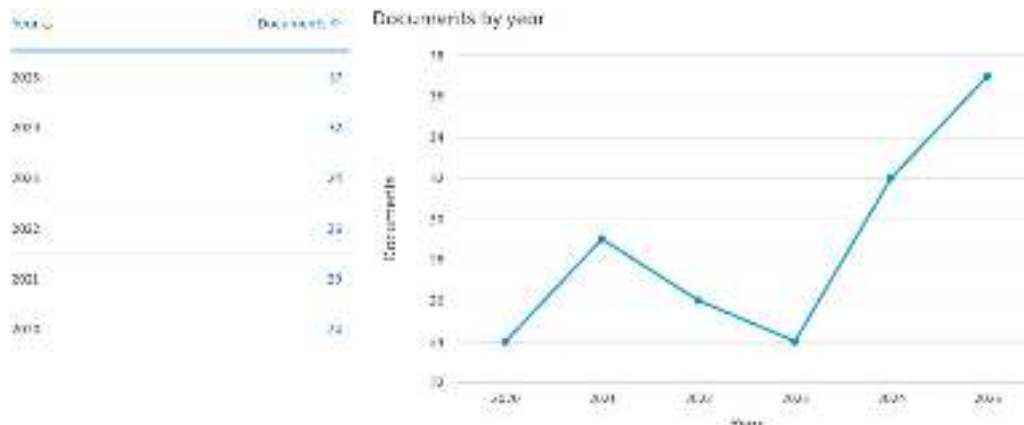
In this section, there are four main types of analysis used, namely Document Analysis, Author Analysis, Conceptual Structure, and Social Structure. Document Analysis includes three sub-analyses, namely the number of documents by year, document type, and affiliation. Author analysis includes two sub-analyses, namely Most Relevant Authors and Scientific Production. Conceptual Structure consists of three sub-analyses, namely word cloud analysis to describe the most frequently appearing words, Word Frequency Over Time analysis to see the development of research topics, and network analysis and co-occurrence density visualisation to map the interrelationships between key concepts in the literature. Meanwhile, the social structure is analysed through a map of collaboration between countries to show the cooperative relationships in scientific publications between researchers from various countries.

### 1. Documents analysis

This analysis aims to understand the general characteristics of scientific publications in this field through three main aspects, namely the number of publications per year, document type, and author affiliation. These three aspects are sub-analyses in this section, which together provide an overview of the trends, forms, and institutional distribution of research focusing on the theme of Cooperative Governance Institutions. These sub-analyses are described as follows.

#### a. Documents by year

Figure 2. Document by year



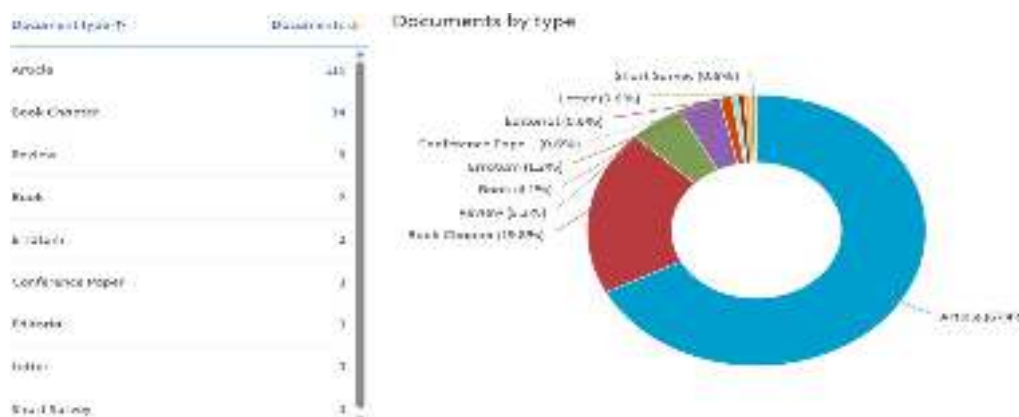
(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

Figure 2 shows the number of research publications on the theme of Cooperative Governance Institutions indexed in the Scopus database during the period 2020 to 2025. Based on the graph, there are fluctuations but with a significant upward trend at the end of the period. In 2020, there were 24 documents, then increased to 29 documents in 2021. However, there was a slight decrease in 2022 and 2023 with 26 and 24 documents, respectively. A sharp increase was seen again in 2024, reaching 32 documents, and increased significantly again in 2025 with 37 documents. This pattern shows an increase in academic interest and attention to the theme of Cooperative Governance Institutions in recent years, especially after 2023.

This increase in publications can be interpreted as a response to the development of collaborative governance issues that are increasingly relevant in facing the complexities of modern governance, such as the challenges of digitalisation, community participation, and the need for cross-sector integration. Thus, this trend reflects the strengthening of the position of research related to Cooperative Governance Institutions as one of the strategic topics in the study of governance and public policy at the global and regional levels.

#### b. Document by Type

Figure 3. Document by type



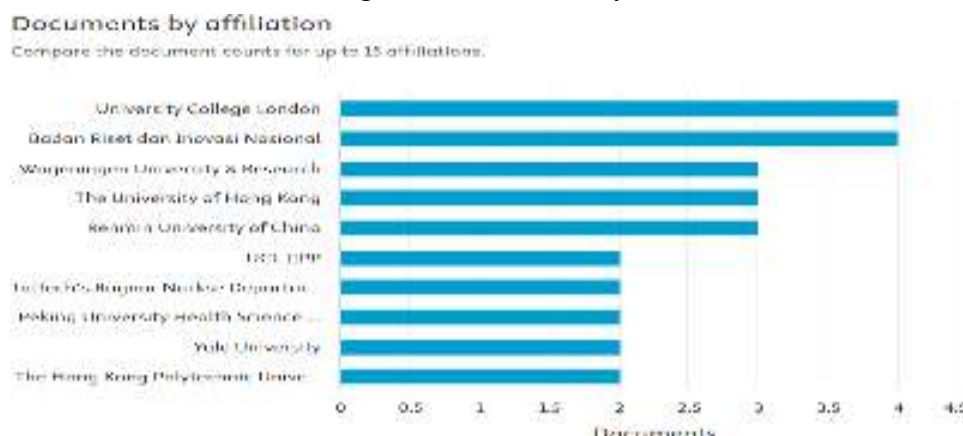
(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

Figure 3 shows the distribution of document types researching the theme of Cooperative Governance Institutions in the period 2020–2025. Most publications were scientific journal articles (67.4%), followed by book chapters (19.8%), reviews (5.2%), and books (4.1%), while other types such as conference papers, editorials, letters, and short surveys accounted for less than 1%.

The dominance of journal articles indicates that this topic has become a major focus in reputable scientific publications and an important forum for the development of collaborative governance theory and practice. Meanwhile, the contribution of book chapters and reviews signifies efforts to integrate knowledge and promote interdisciplinary academic collaboration. Overall, the diversity of document types reflects the dynamic development and increasing attention to the study of Cooperative Governance Institutions in the global arena.

#### c. Documents by Affiliation

Figure 4. Document by affiliatiton



(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

Figure 4 shows the distribution of publications based on the institutional affiliation of authors in research on the theme of Cooperative Governance Institutions. Based on the analysis results, University College London (UCL) and the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) ranked at the top with the highest number of publications, approximately 4 documents each. They were followed by Wageningen University & Research, The University of Hong Kong, and Renmin University of China with 3 documents each.

This distribution shows the active involvement of international and national research institutions in the development of cooperative governance studies. BRIN's involvement confirms the important role of Indonesian research institutions in strengthening the global literature on collaborative governance in developing countries. Meanwhile, the presence of renowned universities such as UCL, Wageningen, and Hong Kong University demonstrates the growing dimension of cross-border and cross-disciplinary collaboration. In general, this pattern of affiliation confirms that the topic of Cooperative Governance Institutions is a strategic global collaboration space between European and Asian academics, reflecting the growing attention to participatory governance practices in diverse social, economic, and institutional contexts.



## 2. Author's analysis

In this analysis, the focus is on previously published research authors, reviewed from two aspects, namely: the Most Relevant Authors aspect, and the Countries' Scientific Production aspect in research on the theme of Cooperative Governance Institutions during the period 2020 to 2025. These two aspects form part of the sub-analysis in this section. The explanation of each sub-analysis is presented as follows

- a. Analysis of the Most Relevant Authors on Cooperative Governance Institutions Theme Research.

Figure 5. Most Relevant Authors



(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

Table 1. Most Relevant Authors

Authors	Articles	Articles Fractionalized
CHAFIK, SALAH	3	1.67
AGINAM, OBIJIOFOR	2	1.09
DRECHSLER, WOLFGANG	2	0.67
KATTEL, RAINER	2	0.67
KONEN, CINDY	2	2.00
LIANG, MING	2	0.45
LIU, JINLONG	2	0.45
MELIÁ-MARTÍ, ELENA	2	0.67
MILANOVA, NADJA	2	2.00
SOLDUGA, GEMMA AUBARELL	2	2.00

(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

Figure 5 and Table 1 show a list of the most relevant authors in research on Cooperative Governance Institutions during the period 2020–2025. Based on the analysis results, Chafik, Salah ranks first with 3 publications and an Articles Fractionalized value of 1.67, indicating his dominant and consistent contribution to this topic.

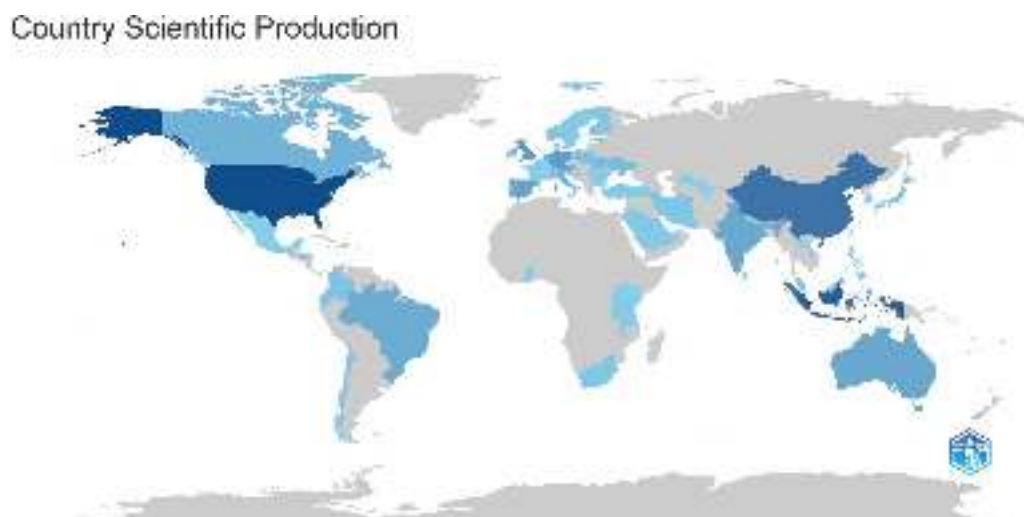
Next, there are ten other authors with two publications each, namely Aginam, Obijiofor, Drechsler, Wolfgang, Kattel, Rainer, Konen, Cindy, Liang, Ming, Liu, Jinlong, Meliá-Martí,

Elena, Milanova, Nadja, and Solduga, Gemma Aubarell. Among them, Konen, Milanova, and Solduga stand out with the highest fractionalised values (2.00), indicating their involvement in co-publications that have had a broad impact in the field of cooperative governance.

This pattern illustrates the existence of a fairly active global scientific network, with equal contributions from European and Asian academics in strengthening the conceptual foundations of Cooperative Governance Institutions. The dominance of authors such as Chafik and Konen signals a research direction that leads to the integration of theory and practice in a cross-sectoral and cross-national context. Overall, this data confirms that the field of Cooperative Governance Institutions is developing through international and interdisciplinary collaboration, focusing on governance innovation and participatory approaches in public policy.

#### b. Analysis of Countries' Scientific Production on Cooperative Governance Institutions Theme Research

Figure 6. Country Scientific Production



(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

Table 2. Country Scientific Production

No	Country	Freq
1	USA	62
2	INDONESIA	52
3	CHINA	43
4	UK	24
5	GERMANY	23
6	SPAIN	21
7	AUSTRALIA	18
8	INDIA	18
9	BRAZIL	16
10	NETHERLANDS	14

(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

Figure 6 and Table 2 show the distribution of scientific output by country contributing to research on Cooperative Governance Institutions during the period 2020–2025. Based on the data, the United States (USA) is the largest contributor with 62 documents, followed by Indonesia (52 documents) and China (43 documents).

The dominance of the United States demonstrates its high research capacity and strategic role in the development of collaborative governance theory and practice globally. Indonesia's position in second place is an important indication of the increasing attention to cooperative governance in developing countries, especially in the context of public policy reform and participatory development. The presence of other European and Asian countries reflects the increasingly broad cross-continental research network on issues of institutional collaboration, digital governance, and sustainability. Overall, this map illustrates a multipolar pattern of scientific production, in which both developed and developing countries actively contribute to strengthening the study of Cooperative Governance Institutions. This confirms a shift in research towards a more inclusive and collaborative model of global governance.

### 3. Conceptual Structure analysis

In this analysis, the focus is on the Authors ' previous research that has been published from two aspects: Conceptual Structure, there are defined in one sub-analysis, and First, the Co-Occurrence Networks and Density Visualization. That aspect becomes a sub-analysis in these parts. The sub-analysis is explained as follows:

#### a. Analysis of Key Word Group

Figure 7. Word Cloud



(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

Table 3. Themes on Wordcloud Analysis of Cooperative Governance Institutions

Terms	Frequency
governance approach	23
governance	18
sustainability	13
china	11
collective action	9
cooperation	9

united states	8
global governance	7
public administration	7
accountability	6

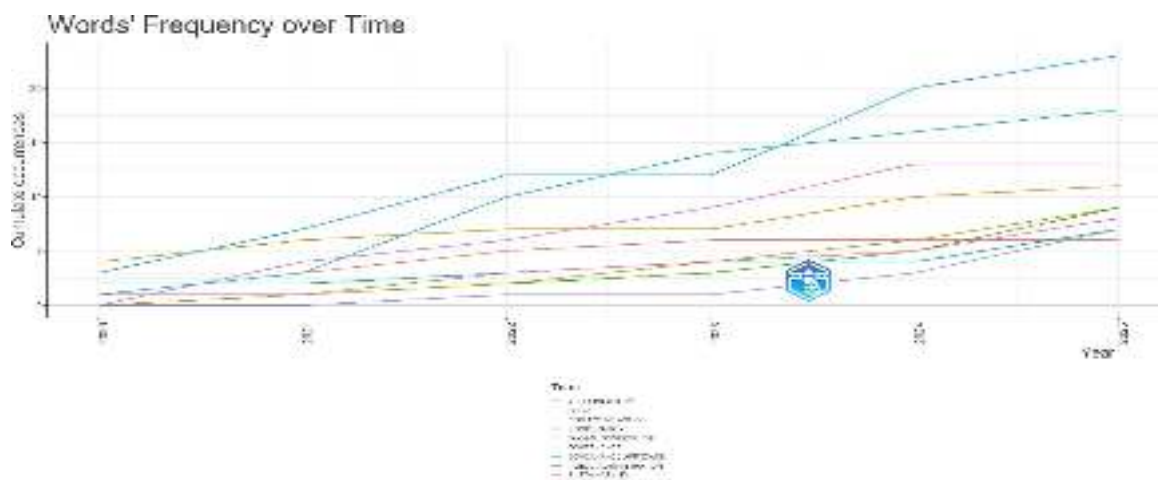
(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

Based on figure 7 and Table 3, the research theme of Cooperative Governance Institutions is dominated by the keywords "governance approach", "governance", and "sustainability". This indicates that the main focus of the study is on developing a governance approach that is oriented towards sustainability and the integration of cross-sectoral actors.

The words "collective action" and "cooperation" emphasise the importance of collaboration between institutions and participatory roles in the implementation of cooperative governance. Meanwhile, terms such as "public administration" and "accountability" highlight the dimensions of governance and accountability as the foundation for managing stakeholder relationships. The emergence of the words "China" and "United States" reflects the dominance of these two countries in the production of literature related to this theme, while also showing a global perspective in Cooperative Governance Institutions research. In addition, the term "global governance" reinforces that the issue of cooperative governance is not only local in nature, but also part of an international discourse that links collaboration, public policy, and sustainability. Overall, this keyword pattern shows that research on this theme has shifted from mere institutional analysis to a broader understanding of collaborative governance as an adaptive strategy to social, economic and environmental complexity in a global context.

#### b. Analysis of Words' Frequency over Time

Figure 8. Words' Frequency over Time



(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

Table 4. Words' Frequency over Time

Year	Gover nance Appro ach	Chi na	Sustai nabili ty	Collect ive Action	United States	Coope rative Behav ior	Institutio nal Framew ork	Cooper ative Sector	Hum an	Internati onal Coopera tion
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<b>2020</b>	3	4	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	2
<b>2021</b>	7	6	2	1	1	1	4	1	1	2
<b>2022</b>	12	6	4	2	3	2	6	2	1	2
<b>2023</b>	12	6	7	3	4	2	6	3	2	2
<b>2024</b>	20	8	9	5	5	3	6	5	3	3
<b>2025</b>	23	9	9	8	8	6	6	5	5	5

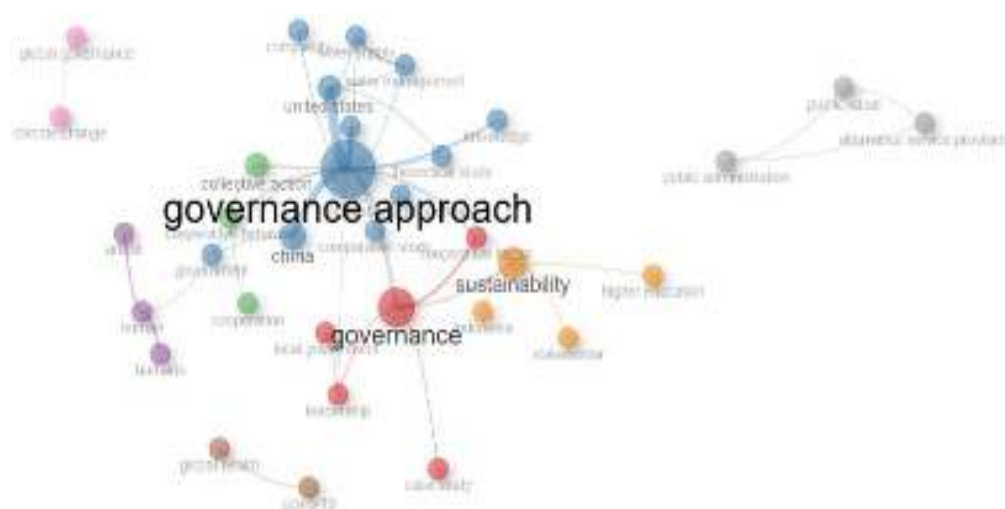
(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

Keyword trend analysis in Figure 8 and Table 3 shows the conceptual development of the Cooperative Governance Institutions theme during the 2020–2025 period. The term “governance approach” shows the most significant increase, from 3 occurrences in 2020 to 23 in 2025, indicating that the governance approach is the main foundation in the development of cross-sector collaborative studies. The words "sustainability" and "collective action" also experienced steady increases, illustrating a stronger research orientation towards sustainability and collective participation as keys to governance effectiveness. Meanwhile, the words "China" and "United States" showed consistently high frequencies, confirming the dominant role of these two countries in contributing to publications and governance institutions practices. In addition, terms such as "cooperative behaviour", "international cooperation", and "institutional framework" indicate that the dimensions of cooperative behaviour and inter-country cooperation have increasingly become the focus of research, especially after 2023. This cumulative upward trend reflects that the issue of cooperative governance has shifted from the conceptual realm to cross-contextual application, including in the fields of public policy, resource management, and sustainable development.

Overall, the dynamics of these keywords confirm the direction of research development towards an adaptive, collaborative, and sustainability-based governance paradigm, which strengthens the position of Cooperative Governance Institutions as a strategic approach in addressing social and institutional complexities at the global level.

#### c. Analysis of Co-Occurrence Networks and Density Visualization

Figure 9. Co-Occurrence Networks



(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

[illegible]

Figures 9 and 10 show that the themes are related to other themes. As in Figure 1, the theme "governance approach" is related to sub-themes such as "water management", "collective action", "international cooperation", and "comparative study". In another theme, "governance" is also linked to several words such as "sustainability," "local government," "Indonesia," and "leadership." In this case, the two major themes are linked to their own theme clusters. In the case of social research, this proves that the relationship between the two major themes (one theoretical, one practical) is related to other more specific themes. In another case, the Density Map shows that the intersection of the themes "governance", "governance approach", and "sustainability" are Hot Spots of research in this field.

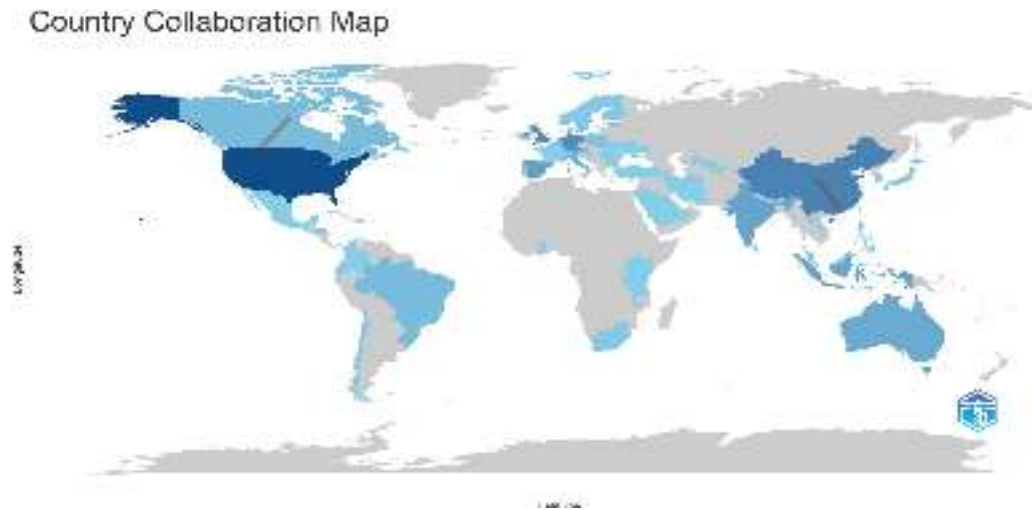
Second, as indicated in the analysis of study density in the governance domain, where the intersection of "governance," "sustainability," and "cooperative sector" functions as a research hotspot, this further demonstrates the centrality of the theme of cooperation in the scientific discourse on this subject. At the same time, this suggests the potential for deeper exploration of institutional components that have not explicitly emerged as major themes in this mapping.

This analysis focuses on the Authors of the previous research that has been published from two aspects: Social Structure, there are defined in one sub-analysis: Countries' collaboration world map. The analysis explains as follows.



a. Country Collaboration Map

Figure 11. Country Collaboration Map



(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

Table 4. Country Collaboration Map

From	To	Frequency
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	AUSTRIA	14,1264761
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	INDIA	79,6119761
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	LAOS	103,7377241
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	ITALY	12,07001339
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	MALAWI	34,28935599
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	UGANDA	32,36907971
<b>BELGIUM</b>	ESTONIA	25,54248537
<b>CANADA</b>	LEBANON	35,88016072
<b>CANADA</b>	MALAYSIA	109,6976228
<b>CANADA</b>	SWITZERLAND	8,208674706

(Source: primary data analysis, 2025)

. From Figure 11 and Table 4, research on Cooperative Governance Institutions has largely shown collaboration led by scholars from major hubs such as the United States, China, Australia, and Canada, with collaborative efforts reaching South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. This is important because it shows that cooperative governance transcends geographical boundaries and serves as a gateway for further research collaboration with Africa and the Middle East, which remain underrepresented. Strengthening these collaborations could enrich the field by providing alternative governance frameworks and developing versatile models that can solve the layered problems of diverse political and institutional orders.

The bibliometric findings of this study offer significant theoretical and practical implications for the evolving discourse on Cooperative Governance Institutions. Theoretically, this analysis reveals that the literature appears to be fragmented into two main clusters, as shown in the Co-occurrence Network. One cluster focuses on conceptual and theoretical "governance approaches", related to themes such as "collective action" and "water

management". The other cluster focuses on practical and applied governance, closely related to sustainability, local government, and case studies in Indonesia.

This fragmentation indicates the need for a more integrated conceptual framework to bridge the two approaches. Further density visualisation highlights the centrality of the keywords "governance approach," "governance," and "sustainability," but also exposes theoretical blind spots. Ironically, although the main focus of this study is "Cooperative Governance Institutions," the analysis in Figures 9 and 10 reveals that the keywords "institutional" do not explicitly appear as a major theme in the mapping. This indicates that existing research may discuss cooperative behaviour or the cooperative sector more than it analyses in depth the design and formal structure of the institutions themselves.

In practical terms, the results of this study underscore the importance of case study context in governance research. The dominance of the United States, Indonesia, and China as the top three producing countries shows that this study is strongly driven by the real governance challenges in large and complex countries. However, these findings also reveal missed opportunities. Indonesia's high productivity, supported by BRIN as one of the top affiliates, indicates a wealth of empirical data. However, collaborative data shows that these contextual findings have not been fully integrated into the global theoretical discourse. Policy makers and practitioners in Indonesia can leverage insights from the dominant US and Chinese case studies to design more adaptive institutional models, while simultaneously sharing lessons unique to the Indonesian context on the global stage.

To advance the field, future research should explicitly bridge the gap between the "governance approach" (theory) and "governance" (practice). The focus should shift from merely identifying the need for collaboration to analysing how cooperative institutions are designed, institutionalised, and evaluated for effectiveness.

The increasing trend of the keywords "sustainability" and "collective action" indicates that the prospects for research lie in the development of institutional models that formally integrate long-term sustainability goals. Furthermore, the dominance of case studies from the USA, China, and Indonesia opens up great opportunities for comparative studies that analyse how different cooperative governance institutional models can be adapted and effectively applied in diverse socio-political contexts.

## CONCLUSION

A bibliometric analysis of Cooperative Governance Institutions literature from 2020 to 2025 highlights the United States (USA), Indonesia, and China as the main hubs of scientific activity, with major contributions from academics such as Chafik, Salah and growing regional involvement from countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany, and Australia. Although this field shows dynamic growth, especially after 2023, certain areas, particularly Africa and the Middle East, appear to be underrepresented in the global collaboration network. Conceptual mapping reveals that the "governance approach" and "governance" (practical governance) are dominant themes often associated with issues of sustainability and local government. However, this analysis also exposes a significant theoretical blind spot: the term "institutional" itself surprisingly does not appear as a central theme in the co-occurrence mapping. This suggests



that the existing literature may focus more on "cooperative behaviour" or "the cooperative sector" than on an in-depth analysis of the structural design and formalisation of these institutions. To advance this field, future research should prioritise bridging the conceptual gap between the theoretical "approach" cluster and the applied governance "practice" cluster. In addition, there is a clear need to develop studies that explicitly analyse the design, formalisation, and effectiveness of various Cooperative Governance Institutions models. The limitation of this study lies in its focus on mapping trends rather than evaluating practical outcomes. Therefore, we recommend that future studies explore the real-world application and effectiveness of these institutional models, particularly through comparative analysis, for example, between the US, China, and Indonesia, to assess how institutional designs can be effectively adapted in diverse socio-political contexts.

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