

Good Governance as a Strategy to Curb Public Sector Corruption: A Bibliometric analysis

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ABSTRACT

Corruption is a global issue that affects countries across the world. Efforts to combat corruption can be undertaken through various means, one of which is the implementation of good governance. This study aims to examine the role of governance in anti-corruption efforts and to explore other contributing factors.. To identify relevant articles, this study employed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) approach, following the four framework stages: identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion, based on articles retrieved from the Scopus.com database. The authors adopted a bibliometric analysis approach, which has gained popularity in recent years, and utilized VOSViewer software to analyze author networks and keyword co-occurrences. The findings of this study indicate that governance, when optimally and effectively implemented in public sector institutions and supported by the application of public sector accounting, plays a significant role in enhancing the quality of governance, thereby contributing to the reduction of corruption in the public sector. This research provides an overview of how good governance can contribute to efforts in reducing corruption within public sector institutions.



By Authors

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1. INTRODUCTION

Corruption is a serious global problem and affects all countries in the world (Malaguen et al., 2010). Corruption is a problem not only in developed countries but also in developing countries. Corruption cases that often occur in the community are certainly a serious threat, especially in terms of economic

growth and development (Trabelsi, 2024). Corruption is a problem that always exists and continues to occur so that it hinders economic development in various sectors and of course has adverse consequences for all circles, both individuals, organizations, and society (Ghazwani et al., 2023 ; Previtali & Cerchiello, 2023 ; Salem et al., 2023). Corruption can occur in various ways, such as giving or receiving bribes, embezzlement of funds, or nepotism (Kingsley, 2015 ; Shah et al., 2023). Corruption can occur in various sectors and institutions.

The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) 2024 report found that 48% of fraud occurred in the form of corruption with an average loss of \$200,000. Corruption can occur in various institutions and 56% of fraud in government institutions is corruption with 65% occurring in national government institutions. The quality of public institutions will be damaged if there is corruption in them (Bauhr & Charron, 2020). Public institutions are places where people depend on the management of a government or state. Corruption that occurs in the government will erode public trust in public institutions and also the legitimacy of the government in the eyes of its citizens (Peerthum & Luckho, 2021 ; Tu, 2023). Government officials who are concerned with the welfare of the community but only take personal advantage and prosper themselves. Weak trust in government institutions will lead to conflicts within the government itself and also in the wider community, which can lead to financial crises and even economic crises.

The impact of corruption is dangerous for all good groups in the economic and non-economic sectors with the rampant financial crisis and economic crisis, good governance is needed (Canaj et al., 2022), Governance is used to regulate the continuity of the organization so that it can run well. Governance in public organizations encompasses a wide range of activities and practices, including policy-making, regulation, public service delivery, and public resource management (Handoyo, 2023). With the complexity of public governance, it is hoped that it will be able to reduce the occurrence of corruption. Effective public governance plays an important role in improving social welfare and sustainable development, as well as providing opportunities for the community to participate and play an active role in public decision-making, thereby increasing the strength of institutions (Handoyo & Fitriyah, 2018 ; Yang et al., 2019 ; Jäntti et al., 2023). The complex interaction between governance and corruption shows how important it is to properly examine governance structures and how they impact the level of corruption (Koeswayo et al., 2024). Experts have identified the need for a governance model that prioritizes the principles of transparency, accountability, and legal integrity in efforts to combat corruption (Salleh & Heidecke, 2019 ; Ceschel et al., 2022 ; Grundy et al., 2022).

Corruption often occurs in the government sector and corruption is also closely related to the lack of good governance of an organization. In this study,

we want to see how the relationship between corruption, government and governance uses bibliometric analysis. Researchers choose bibliometric analysis to look for relationships between variables because with the use of software, cross-disciplinary methodologies, and increased ability to handle large amounts of data, research with bibliometric analysis has become popular in recent years (Donthu et al., 2021). As seen in (figure 1) taken from the Scopus.com website with the keyword "Bibliometric" there are 28,621 documents in the form of articles and 4,848 articles with the scope of business, management, accounting, economics, econometrics and finance.

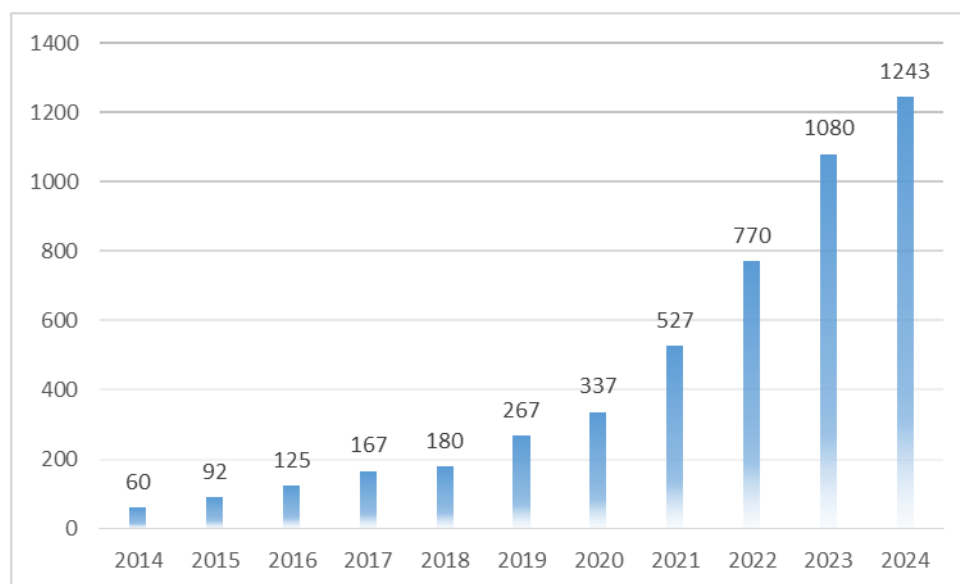


Figure 1. Development of research articles in the fields of business, management, accounting, economics, econometrics and finance

Source : research data processed

Bibliometric research has always increased significantly, bibliometric research on corruption in government has been carried out by (Farikhoh & Chariri, 2022) with data sources from scopus.com and also the VOSviewer application. In line with previous research, this researcher uses scopus.com data sources and also the VOSviewer application in revealing the relationship between variables, but in this study will also focus on how governance emerges as a preventive effort in corruption.

2. METHOD

Pritchard, (1969) suggests bibliometric analysis as a tool for understanding the topic of study thoroughly, outlining its limitations, recognizing significant authors, and proposing new research possibilities. Clearly (Donthu et al., 2021) Provide guidelines on how to conduct research with analysis called bibliometrics. In previous research, bibliometric analysis was

used as an approach as in research that had been conducted by (Nagaratnam et al., 2016) Analyzing fertility trends ,(Khan et al., 2022) Review bibliometric studies in finance, (Sabila et al., 2023) which analyzes the volatility of yields and forecast risks. Meanwhile, studies on corruption have also been conducted by (Farikhoh & Chariri, 2022) Using the keyword "Corruption in the Public Sector" from 2011 – 2020 with the result of 759 articles from the Scopus website.

In conducting the article screening we use the *Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses* (PRISMA) approach, following the four stages of the framework described in identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion. This study used the Scopus database because it was found that Scopus is a better source for bibliometric analysis compared to *the Web of Science* (WoS) database (Cruzara et al., 2020). The Scopus base is used because it is considered to have a wider scope than WoS (Cruzara et al., 2020 ; Prancut, 2021). With a wider scope, it is hoped that it can make the sampling of articles better and more representative of other articles.

In this study, the researcher followed the steps of Garza-reyes, (2015) That is to divide this study into four parts: selecting search terms, generating initial search results, collecting initial data statistics, and data analysis and network mapping to understand the structure of the literature. In network mapping, authors use the VOSviewer application, which allows us to create visualizations in maps or networks by taking into account various things such as citations with authors or journals (Moya-clemente et al., 2021).

In contrast to the previous research, the author added the keyword governance, to find out how the relationship between corruption in government and governance is by searching on *scopus.com website* with the key "corruption AND "public sector" OR government AND "governance" OR "corporate governance". The last search on January 04, 2025 is (TITLE-ABS-KEY (corruption) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ("public sector ") OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (GOVERNMENT) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (governance) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ("corporate governance")) AND PUBYEAR > 1994 AND PUBYEAR < 2025 AND (LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD , "Corruption") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD , "Accountability") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD , "Governance Approach") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD , "Governance") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD , "Transparency") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD , "Good Governance") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD , "Local Government") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD , "Government") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD , "Public Administration")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , "English")) AND (LIMIT-TO (OA , "all")) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "BUSI") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "ECON") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "SOCI")) AND (LIMIT-TO (SRCTYPE , "j"))

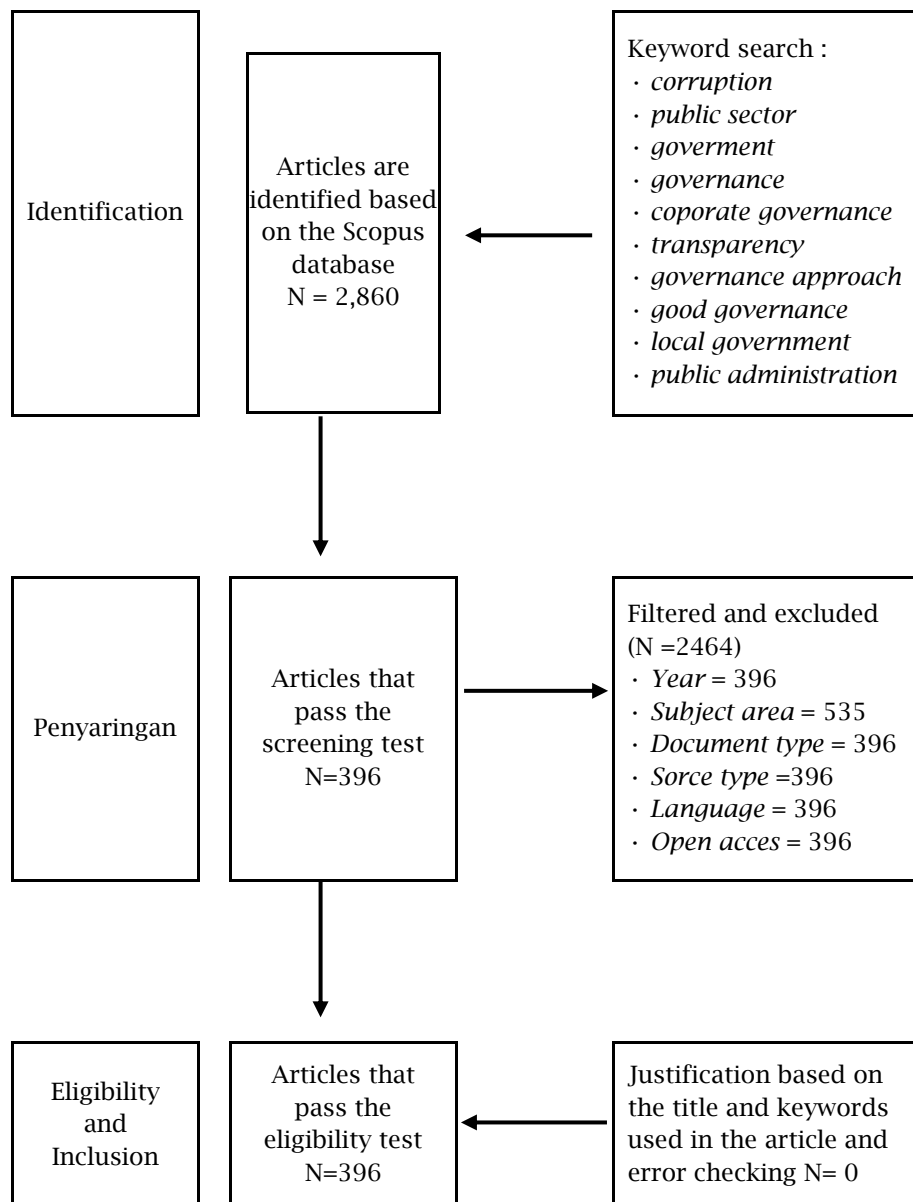


Figure 2. Research Protocol

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research protocol with PRISMA produced 396 articles that will be analyzed in this study. Based on (Figure 2) it can be seen that research on this theme was not very popular between 1995 - 2011 with evidence that only less than 6 articles were published each year. Published articles began to increase since 2012 with 9 articles published and always increased in 2017 from 16 articles then 25 articles in the following year and the peak of publishing the most articles in 2023 with a total of 65 articles published. Articles published in 2023 are the most for the last 30 years because in 2024 the number of articles published will drop to only 47 articles.

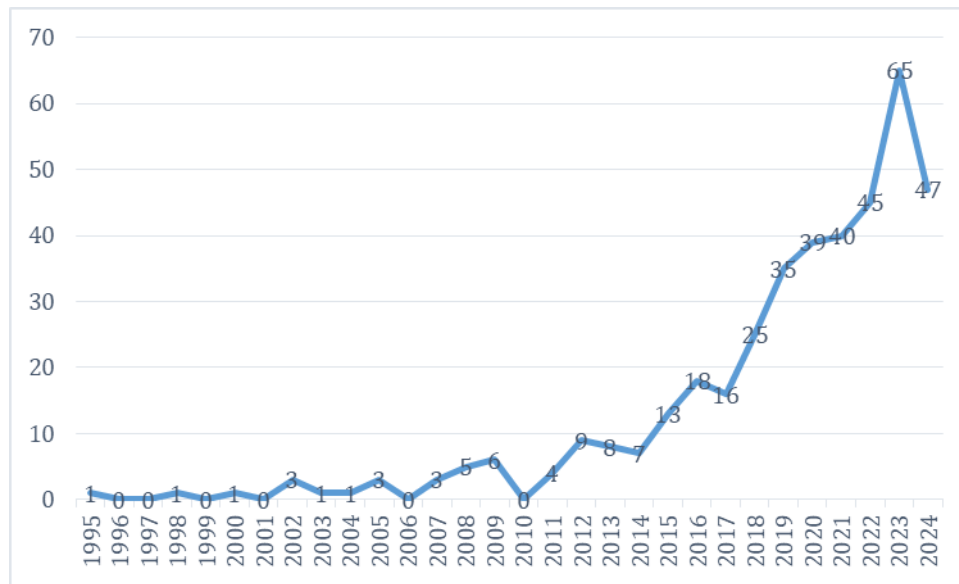


Figure 3. Articles published annually
Source : Research data processed

The number of initial articles found with keywords was 2,860, showing the number of articles published in all fields and themes such as public sector corruption and governance. The number of articles published can indicate that this theme is an interesting theme to be discussed in all sectors. Of the total articles of the journal *Sustainability Switzerland* became the most published with 17 articles, the international scientific journal published by MDPI (*Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute*), a journal based in Basel, Switzerland, is indeed focused on multidisciplinary scientific studies on *sustainability* in various aspects and not only economics. The second most journals are *World Development* with 9 published articles, then the journal *Economies* with 6 published articles and finally the *journal International Review Of Administrative Sciences* and the journal *Technological Forecasting And Social Change* with the same 5 articles published.

Table 1. The 5 most journals

Journal	Number of Articles
<i>Sustainability Switzerland</i>	17
<i>World Development</i>	9
<i>Economies</i>	6
<i>International Review Of Administrative Sciences</i>	5
<i>Technological Forecasting And Social Change</i>	5

Source : Research data processed

In one of the articles in the journal *Sustainability Switzerland* entitled "*Corporate social responsibility and corruption: Implications for the sustainable energy sector*" which is the most quoted article from this journal with a total of 64 citations written by (Lu et al., 2019), argues that the risk of corruption is a very important issue that can hinder the development of sustainable energy, and *that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)* can be applied to reduce this risk in the energy sector. In addition, government policies may be needed to create an environment that supports corruption risk mitigation.

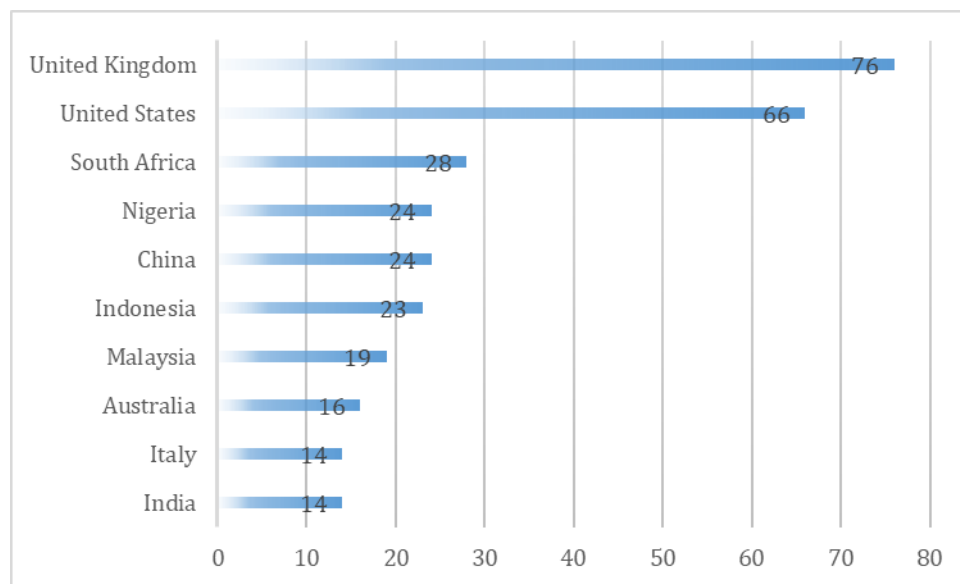


Figure 4. Top 10 most publishing countries

Source : Research data processed

Of the 396 articles published, the United Kingdom became the most country with 76, followed by the United States with 66 articles. These two developed countries, which do have many universities and also good writers, are the most and are far different from the third country with the most, namely South Africa with 28 articles, slightly compared to Nigeria and Chia – the same 24 articles and 1 article different from Indonesia with 23 articles. Apart from the 6 countries above, no one has published more than 20 articles, Malaysia has only published 19 articles, Australia 16 articles, Italy and India with 14 articles. It can be seen that articles with the theme of corruption in government and governance are dominated by the United Kingdom and the United States.

This result is different from the results of the presentation of the risk of corruption based on the region released by ACFE. From Figure 3, it can be seen that the United States and Canada are the lowest with only 35% and Western Europe which includes the United Kingdom is only 53% while the highest index that exceeds 70% are countries in Southeast Asia and also countries in Eastern Europe and Western/Central Asia. This result certainly raises the question of

corruption, not always because there is a lot of corruption in the country, but it can also be because corruption rarely occurs because of good governance.

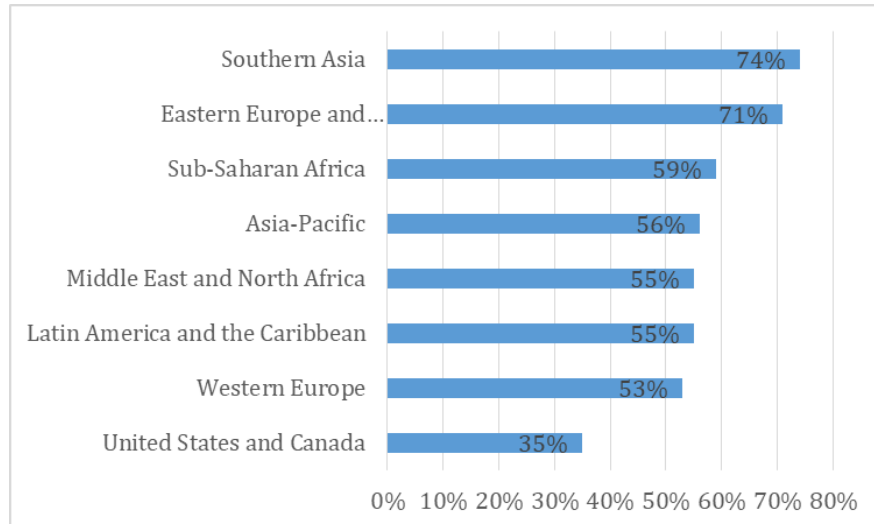


Figure 5. Percentage of corruption by region

Source : Research data processed

The United Kingdom is the most published in articles, but based on the affiliation of countries in Africa, it is the most as shown in figure 4, namely the University of South Africa with 11 articles and the African Governance and Development Institute AGDI with 8 articles. Then one of the affiliates from the United Kingdom, namely the London School of Economics and Political Science, and one of the affiliates from another African country, namely the University of Johannesburg with 7 articles. Coventry University, Göteborgs Universitet, Universiti Teknologi MARA and Universiti Utara Malaysia with 6 articles together then University College London and University of Sussex with 5 articles.

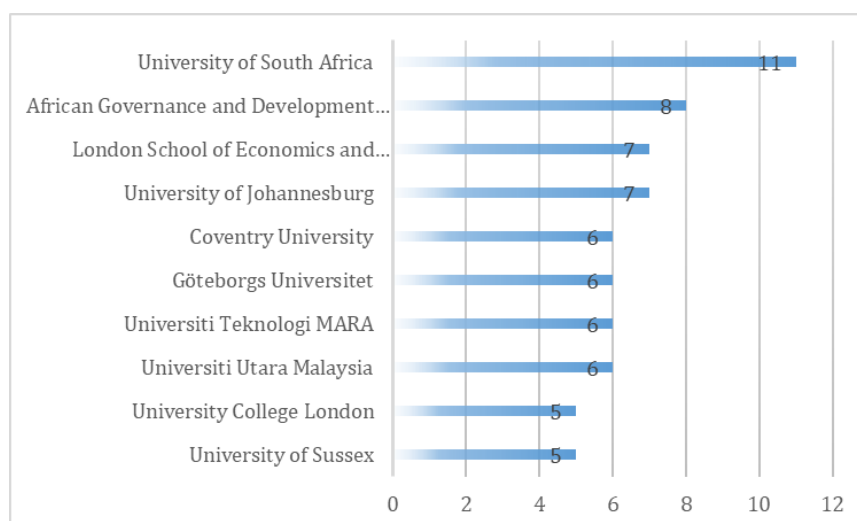


Figure 6. Top 10 Affiliates

Source : Research data processed

Of the 11 articles published by the University of South Africa affiliate, 9 were written by Asongu, S.A who did write many government-themed articles. Asongu, S.A is also the author with 19 writings, as seen in table 2. Asongu, S.A not only highlighted corruption in the government but also about the issue of terrorism that occurs in African countries. from the author Asongu, S.A we found 5 articles with the most citations

- a. (Asongu & Nwachukwu, 2016), The role of governance in mobile phones for inclusive human development in Sub-Saharan Africa, a study that assesses the effects of governance synergy in mobile phone penetration for inclusive human development in Sub-Saharan Africa with data for the period 2000–2012. The study found that the previously seen positive correlation between mobile phones and inclusive development can be extended to positive effects. Although the study also found that political governance was largely insignificant across the estimation model, the average effect of economic governance was higher relative to institutional governance on the interaction between mobile phones and governance variablesa.
- b. (Asongu & Nwachukwu, 2017), The Impact of Terrorism on Governance in African Countries, a study that investigated how terrorism affected governance in 53 African countries during the period 1998–2012. In this study, four indicators of terrorism are identified, namely: domestic, transnational, unclear, and total terrorism, then relate to several governance indicators, namely: political governance (consisting of political stability and voice and accountability), economic governance (including government effectiveness and regulatory quality), institutional governance (including corruption control and the rule of law), and general governance. From the analysis of the data, it was found that, all the dynamics of terrorism selected had a negative impact on political governance and its constituents, then evidence of negative relationships was rarely seen in economic governance and its components, furthermore, there was no confirmed evidence regarding the impact of terrorism and institutional governance with its elements and the last found that compared to domestic terrorism, transnational terrorism was more negative and significantly affected the system political, economic, and general management.
- c. (Asongu et al., 2018), Mobile phones, institutional quality and entrepreneurship in Sub-Saharan Africa. This study investigated whether mobile phone penetration modulates the effects of various governance indicators on several indicators of ease of doing business in Sub-Saharan Africa with data from the period 2000–2012 using the Common Moment Method. The findings of this study are related to the net effects of interactions between mobile phones and governance dynamics. First, a reduction in the cost of procedures in starting a business, then time in the

construction of a warehouse and time to settle bankruptcy and second, an increase in time to enforce contracts, register property and preparation in tax payments

- d. (Asongu, 2013), Fighting corruption in Africa: do existing corruption-control levels matter?, an article that aims to examine whether there are determinants of control in the fight against corruption using panel data from 46 African countries for the period 2002-2010. The results found that high economic prosperity leads to less corruption control and its effects are more important in countries with high corruption fights. The quality of regulation seems to be capital, with the best and worst positive effects in the fight against corruption. There is support for the negative consequences of population growth in countries that have taken the war on corruption seriously compared to countries that are negligent on the issue. Other findings on democracy in general show that the democratization process is increasing efforts to fight corruption on a larger scale and that democratic countries are already more serious about fighting corruption. The relevance of voice and accountability in the fight against corruption declined when corruption control was taken more seriously by the rulers. The dynamics of good governance in the form of political stability, government effectiveness, and the rule of law become more important in the fight against corruption when the existing level of corruption control is already high.
- e. (Asongu & Odhiambo, 2019), Governance and social media in African countries: An empirical investigation, a study that examined the relationship between social media and governance dynamics in 49 African countries in 2012. Several governance dynamics are used, in particular: (i) political governance (involving "voice & accountability" and political stability/non-violence); (ii) economic governance (involving the quality of government regulation and effectiveness); (iii) institutional governance (including the rule of law and corruption control) and (iv) general governance (involving political, economic, and institutional governance). Then social media was measured by Facebook penetration, with the findings showing that Facebook penetration was positively related to governance dynamics and this positive relationship differed in terms of significance and magnitude of significance across the conditional distribution of governance dynamics.

3 out of 5 studies conducted by Asungu, S.A are always together with Nwachukwu, J.C. who is also one of the top 10 main authors as seen in table 2. The second most author is Odhiambo, N.M. who is also one of the authors with affiliations of countries on the African continent.

Table 2. Top 10 Most Authors

Writer	Number of Articles
Asongu, S.A.	19
Odhiambo, N.M.	6
Fazekas, M.	3
Grossi, G.	3
Hopper, T.	3
Lassou, P.J.C.	3
Maitah, M.	3
Malec, K.	3
Nnanna, J.	3
Nwachukwu, J.C	3

Source : Research data processed

Of the 10 most visible authors who are related to the nets that we analyzed using the VOSviewer software, we found that Asongu S.A, which has a total network of 20 links in the results, produced 2 names with the name Asono, one with the name Asongu S.A and the other with Asongu.S, but these two names belong to the same person. It can be seen in figure 5 that the name has two different clusters and has different relationships between authors. In cluster 3, Asongu is red. S.A has a total of 19 strong relationships while Asongu.S has 7 strong relationships between the two who have a strong relationship is with Odhiambo, N.M who is interrelated with the two who have a total of 3 relationships, one of which is with Asongu and the other with Chirwa, T.G. in other nets it is also seen that Asongu, S.A is related to Nwachukwu, J.C, who also has a relationship with Orim, S, in this relationship, Orim, S is also related to Asongu, S.A, so the three are related to each other.

The research from Asongu, S.A and Odhiambo, N.M was the first to be cited with a total of 48 citations as explained in the previous discussion in point 5 while for the second most cited with a total of 36 citations was an article entitled *"Inequality thresholds, governance and gender economic inclusion in sub-Saharan Africa"* (Asongu & Odhiambo, 2020),. A paper that aims to identify the 'threshold' of inequality that should not be exceeded if a governance wants to promote gender in economic participation. In this article, it is seen that in order for good governance to promote gender economic inclusion, the level of inequality must not exceed the threshold that has been analyzed by the researchers. First, the level of inequality in this case is calculated through the Gini coefficient, which makes the negative effect in governance on women's labor force participation 0.708 for political stability, 0.601 for voice & accountability, 0.588 for government effectiveness, 0.631 for regulatory quality, 0.612 for the rule of law, and 0.550 for corruption control. Second, the inequality threshold that causes women's unemployment can no longer be controlled by governance includes: 0.561 for political stability and 0.465 for the rule of law. Third, the level of inequality that negatively affects women's employment is 0.608 for political stability, 0.580 for voice & accountability, 0.581 for government effectiveness, and 0.557 for the rule of law.

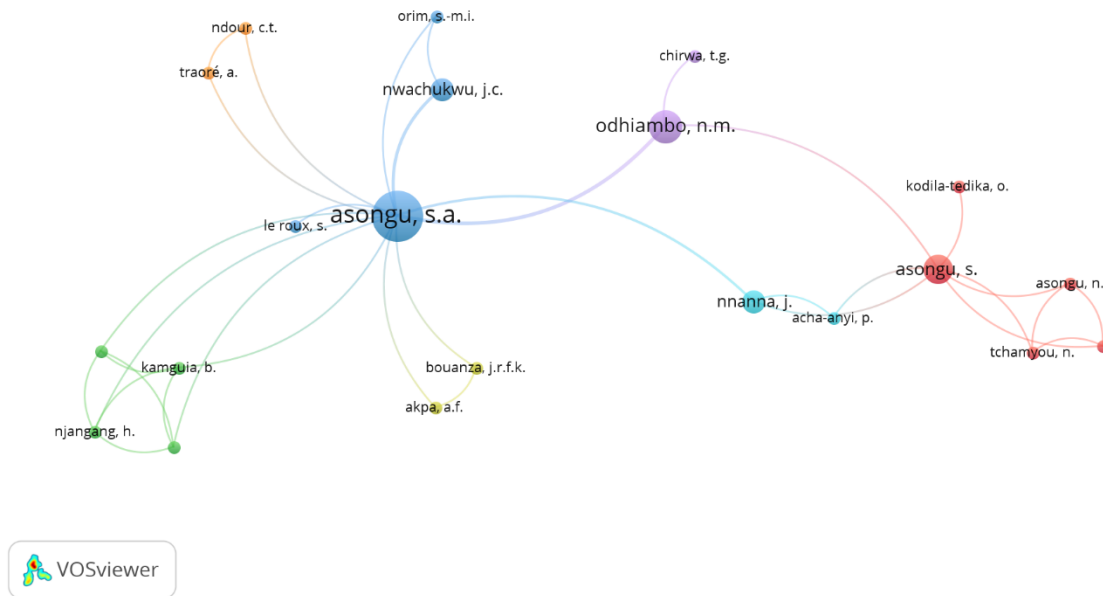


Figure 7. Writer's net
Source : Research data processed

The occurrence of many keywords is corruption with 230 occurrences and has a relationship with 94 and has a strong relationship with 639 other keywords. This result shows that the overall article does discuss corruption. The keyword governance appeared 137 times with a total of 87 relationships with other keywords and had a strong relationship with 352 other keywords in contrast to the governance approach which appeared 118 times but had more relationships than governance which was 92 and a strong relationship of 508. From this, we can see that when the keyword corruption appears, the management system that will appear next or you can say that governance is the key in fighting corruption. In addition to governance and governance approach, there were also 36 good governance with a total of 36 relationships and 68 strong relationships.

Governance issues and corruption do occur a lot in the government, even in the lower level of government, as evidenced by the emergence of the keyword local government 28 times with 47 strong relationships and 94 strong relationships, and also the 23 times government keywords with 46 relationships and 95 strong relationships. It can be seen that the government sector is an interesting material in terms of research related to corruption.

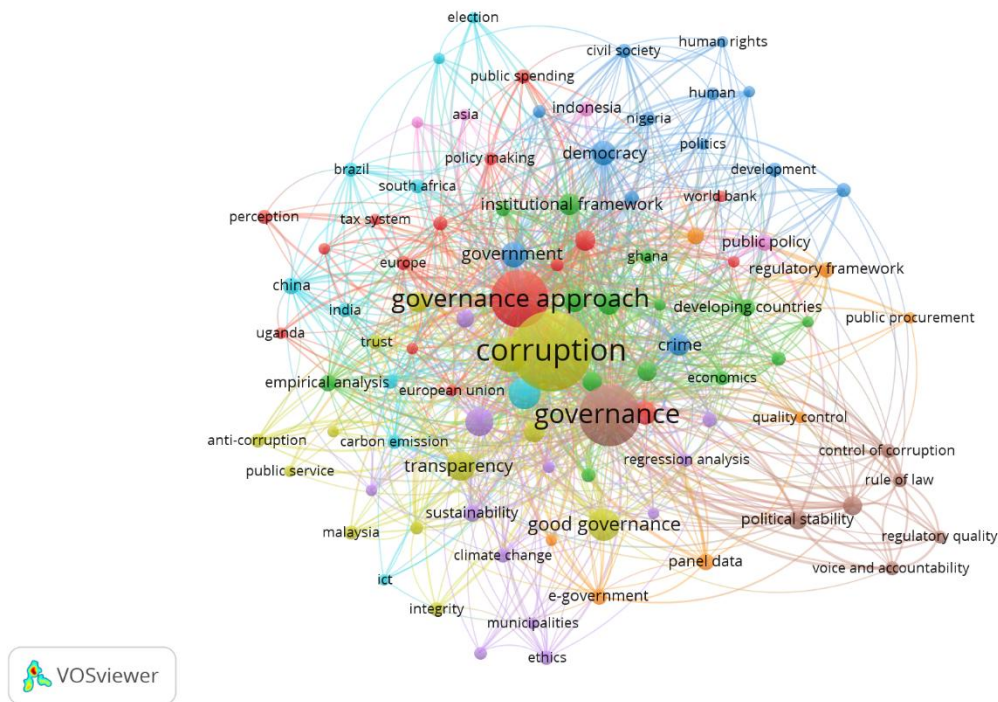


Figure 8. Keyword net
Source : Research data processed

The results of the processing of the same keyword nets as in the research conducted by Lartey et al., (2020) who argue that governance must also be done well in the public sector not only in the private sector and also find that audit committees, leadership, board effectiveness, accountability, and director qualifications are strong determinants of governance in public organizations. Furthermore, there is evidence that the principles of international corporate governance are quite visible without significant deviations.

In good governance there is an audit committee that must control the company's performance, internal audits also play a major role in reducing the level of corruption and assisting companies in the public sector in producing high-quality financial reports (Abdulussein et al., 2023). Good governance must also include good audits in it. In addition to governance, there is a role of public sector accounting in the fight against corruption, because developed countries that have implemented public sector accounting reform in this case the adoption of an accrual-free based accounting system and the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards will have a higher level of governance quality (Cuadrado-Ballesteros & Bisogno, 2021). It is also stated that public sector accounting will improve accountability, the rule of law, government effectiveness, corruption control, and also the quality of regulations.

4. CONCLUSION

Research on corruption in the public sector and corporate governance has often been carried out with search results of 2,860 articles and after filtering into only 397 articles that were researched with a bibliometric approach. Research in this theme is always increasing and the most is published in 2023. Although the United Kingdom and the United States are the largest contributors of countries, the author from the African continent who has the most writings on this theme is Asongu, S.A.

In the effort to fight corruption, it is proven that good governance always comes together and in some of the studies mentioned have found that good governance and also good internal audits help in fighting corruption, especially corruption in the public sector. Not only that, this study also found that with public sector accounting, it will produce governance with an even higher level. Because corruption has occurred all over the world, it is hoped that the implementation of good governance in the government will reduce the spread of corruption because the government environment is an environment that is tasked with striving for the welfare of the people

This research provides the implication that corruption often occurs in the public sector and can be fought with good governance. For further research, the researcher suggests using not only one database in the current bibliometric research if the study is empirical. The author suggests that research be conducted on the concept of governance applied by Asungu, S.A, namely (i) political governance (involving "voice & accountability" and political stability/non-violence); (ii) economic governance (involving the quality of government regulation and effectiveness); (iii) institutional governance (including the rule of law and corruption control) and (iv) general governance (involving political, economic, and institutional governance) and see which is the most important in efforts to fight corruption.

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