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Anti-Corruption Advocacy in Building Inclusive and Accountable Institutions (SDG 16): A Global Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract

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Abstract: Corruption continues to pose a major challenge in achieving inclusive and accountable governance as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. Although numerous anti-corruption initiatives have been implemented globally, systematic and comprehensive analyses of academic research on advocacy efforts to strengthen transparent and responsible institutions remain limited. This study aims to examine global publication trends, patterns of scholarly collaboration, and thematic developments in anti-corruption advocacy research. Employing a quantitative descriptive approach through bibliometric analysis, data were collected from the Scopus database for the 2020–2025 period. The metadata were processed and visualized using VOSviewer software to identify publication patterns, key authors, contributing countries, institutions, and keyword relationships. The results reveal a significant rise in global publications on anti-corruption advocacy, dominated by contributions from China, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Institutional analysis indicates that universities with strong research capacity—particularly in East Asia—play a central role in advancing this field, while developing nations remain underrepresented. Thematic mapping identifies three main areas of focus: institutional transparency and accountability, civil society advocacy and participation, and digital governance and integrity. These findings suggest a paradigmatic transition from punitive legal approaches toward preventive, participatory, and technology-based strategies in addressing corruption. The study emphasizes that strengthening anti-corruption advocacy requires global academic collaboration, inclusive research partnerships, and the application of innovative, data-driven governance models to effectively advance the objectives of SDG 16.

Introduction

Corruption remains one of the most persistent challenges in public governance across the world. The abuse of power for personal or group gain not only hinders economic growth and social justice but also erodes political legitimacy and undermines public trust in state institutions (Alamro, 2024; Amagnya, 2025; Refakar & Cárdenas, 2023). This condition demonstrates that corruption is not merely a legal issue but a governance problem that affects

social stability and bureaucratic effectiveness (Celik & Kostekci, 2025; Montes & Paschoal, 2016). In global development, corruption has been identified as a major barrier to achieving the goals set by the United Nations through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Hope, 2020a; Lyeonov et al., 2023).

Among the 17 goals, SDG 16 occupies a strategic position as it emphasizes the need to build peaceful, inclusive, and accountable institutions as the foundation for sustainable development in all sectors (Hope, 2020b; Milton, 2021). Sustainable development cannot be achieved when public institutions remain plagued by corrupt, discriminatory, and non-transparent practices (Qazi, 2025). Therefore, efforts to create clean and accountable governance have become a universal agenda that bridges political, social, and economic dimensions simultaneously. In this sense, eradicating corruption is a prerequisite for building effective and equitable governance (Chen et al., 2025).

Growing global awareness of the systemic impacts of corruption has given rise to various forms of public advocacy aimed at curbing corrupt practices at different levels of government. Anti-corruption advocacy is now carried out not only by state institutions such as anti-corruption commissions but also by civil society organizations, media, academics, and international agencies. This shift marks a paradigmatic transformation from a repressive, law-enforcement approach to a collaborative model that actively engages the public in policy oversight. Within this framework, advocacy serves a dual function: as a mechanism of social control over power and as a catalyst for institutional reform toward more transparent and accountable governance.

Research on corruption and governance has expanded significantly over the past two decades. Classical studies primarily focused on identifying the causes and economic consequences of corruption (Kaufmann et al., 2007; Mauro, 1995), while more recent research emphasizes preventive mechanisms, institutional reform, and public participation in strengthening accountability (Heywood, 2018; Persson et al., 2019). Nevertheless, despite the rapid growth of the literature, systematic analyses that map the global landscape of anti-corruption advocacy research within the context of public institution development remain limited. Most studies are normative or case-based at the national level, failing to capture how global research trends are connected and evolving over time.

Previous studies have demonstrated that public advocacy plays a crucial role in curbing corruption through watchdog functions, public education, and policy reform initiatives (Ishikawa, 2025; Manna & Palumbo, 2019). Meanwhile, research on open government and transparency initiatives indicates a positive correlation between citizen participation and the success of anti-corruption policies (Ambituuni, 2025; Fox, 2015; Montero Caro, 2024). However, few studies have systematically examined how these themes intersect within global academic literature, particularly in relation to the targets and indicators of SDG 16. Such an analysis is essential to identify research directions, detect existing knowledge gaps, and design more targeted strategies for collaborative scholarship.

Methodologically, bibliometric analysis provides an effective and objective approach to mapping the development and interconnection of research fields. Through this method, patterns of publication, collaboration networks, and thematic clusters can be identified based on internationally indexed bibliographic data such as Scopus. This approach has been widely applied in studies of public governance (Bartz et al., 2021), public transparency (Yamane &

Kaneko, 2021), and anti-corruption (Boğa-Avram, 2024). However, to date, no bibliometric analysis has specifically focused on anti-corruption advocacy within the framework of building inclusive and accountable public institutions as mandated by SDG 16.

This research gap highlights the need for a comprehensive mapping of global studies on anti-corruption advocacy. Such mapping is not only relevant for advancing the body of knowledge in public administration but also for providing empirical insights to policymakers and anti-corruption institutions seeking to enhance global collaboration toward clean governance. By understanding the trajectory of research, this study can identify dominant topics such as governance transparency, civil society participation, and digital advocacy, which are directly aligned with the pillars of SDG 16.

The scientific novelty of this research lies in its integration of three key perspectives: public advocacy, anti-corruption governance, and sustainable development. This approach extends beyond traditional analyses that treat corruption as an isolated phenomenon by providing a comprehensive overview of global research networks and thematic linkages. Accordingly, this study contributes theoretically to public administration scholarship and normatively supports the realization of transparent, participatory, and accountable governance as envisioned by SDG 16.

In addition to its theoretical significance, this study holds practical relevance for the Indonesian policy context. The government's commitment to achieving the SDGs, including SDG 16, requires strong collaboration among state institutions, civil society, and academia in promoting evidence-based advocacy and policymaking. By understanding global research trends, Indonesia can learn from international best practices and strengthen its academic position in the global discourse on anti-corruption governance. The findings are expected to provide a foundation for developing data-driven public policy research that supports national bureaucratic reform.

Based on the above background, this study seeks to answer the following key questions: how has global research on anti-corruption advocacy evolved over the past two decades, who are the leading academic actors, and what themes dominate the existing literature? These questions form the basis for understanding the structure and direction of global knowledge in the field of anti-corruption advocacy and institutional development.

Therefore, this study aims to (1) analyze global publication trends on anti-corruption advocacy in the context of SDG 16, (2) identify the most productive authors, institutions, and countries, (3) map dominant keywords and thematic clusters, and (4) visualize global scientific collaboration networks contributing to the development of inclusive and accountable public institutions.

Method

This study employs a quantitative descriptive approach using bibliometric analysis to illustrate the global research development on anti-corruption advocacy in building inclusive and accountable institutions, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. This approach was chosen because it enables a systematic and measurable examination of publication patterns, author collaborations, and emerging research themes (Passas, 2024).

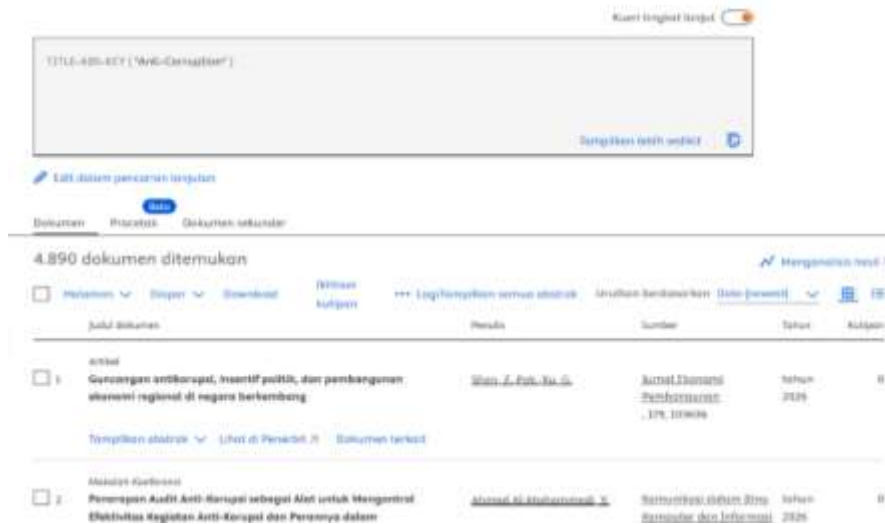


Figure 1. Metadata Search Results Through the Initial Scopus Database
Source: Processed from the Scopus Database (2025)

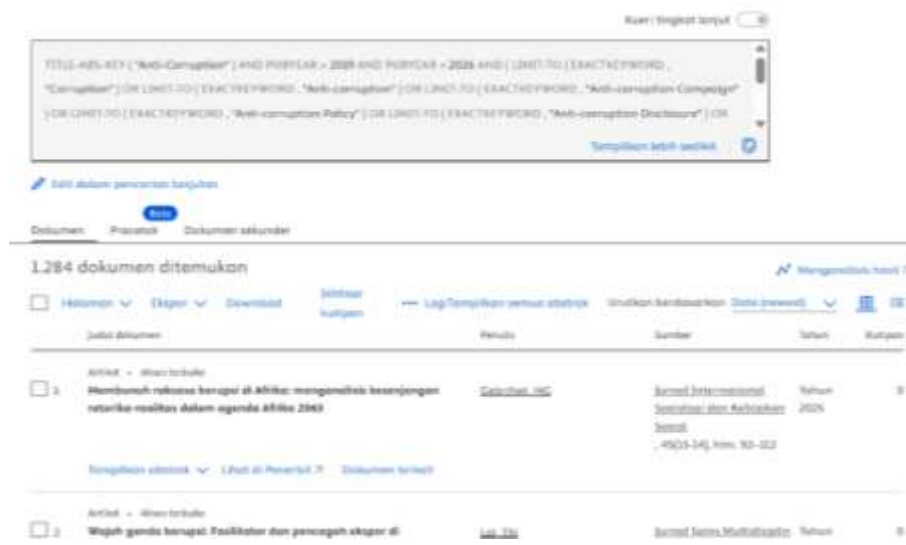


Figure 2. Metadata search results through the Scopus database after filtering
Source: Processed from the Scopus Database (2025)

The research data were collected from the Scopus database, which holds a strong reputation for indexing international scientific publications (Baas et al., 2020). Data collection was conducted in October 2025 using the keywords: "anti-corruption". Inclusion criteria were limited to English language journal articles published between 2020 and 2025. Meanwhile, the criteria for selected sources include articles, book chapters, books, and conference papers. Furthermore, the keywords that often appear are filtered only those related to anti-corruption. All retrieved data were downloaded in RIS (.ris) and CSV format and imported into the

VOSviewer software for further analysis. The RIS and CSV format was chosen due to its compatibility with various reference management tools and bibliometric analysis software, facilitating the integration of metadata such as author names, affiliations, article titles, keywords, and citation counts.

Next, the analysis was conducted in three main stages using VosViewer, include: (1) data cleaning to eliminate duplicates and ensure metadata consistency; (2) quantitative analysis to identify publication trends, the most productive authors and countries, and collaboration patterns; and (3) visualization of scientific networks through co-authorship, co-occurrence, and citation mapping to identify the relationships among topics and researchers. This approach provides a comprehensive overview of global knowledge development on anti-corruption advocacy and its connection to the establishment of transparent and accountable public institutions. The findings are expected to serve as a reference for understanding international research trends and identifying new research opportunities in public administration and governance studies.

Result And Discussion

1. Publication Trends

Bibliometric analysis reveals that research on anti-corruption advocacy has grown significantly from 2020 to 2025. A total of 1,279 publications were identified, indicating an increasing scholarly focus on issues of institutional integrity and transparent governance. This trend aligns with the global commitment to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which emphasizes strong, accountable, and inclusive institutions. It also reflects a shift from treating corruption merely as a legal issue to addressing it as a complex governance problem that requires empirical evidence and policy innovation (Olasolo et al., 2025).

The annual distribution of publications is presented in Table 1, showing growth patterns during the study period.

Table 1. Number and Percentage of Publications

No	Year	Number of Publications	Percentage (%)
1	2025	269	21,03%
2	2024	260	20,32%
3	2023	211	16,50%
4	2022	202	15,79%
5	2021	159	12,43%
6	2020	178	13,92%
Total		1.279	100%

Source: Process Researcher (2025)

As shown in the table, 2025 recorded the highest number of publications (269 or 21.03%), followed by 2024 (20.32%) and 2023 (16.50%). Earlier years such as 2020 and 2021 recorded fewer studies. This upward trajectory illustrates increasing scholarly collaboration and interest in governance-related topics. It also supports Heywood (2018) observation that political dynamics and policy reform often stimulate academic production in areas of public accountability and integrity. The trend is further illustrated in Figure 3, which displays a steady increase in publication output.

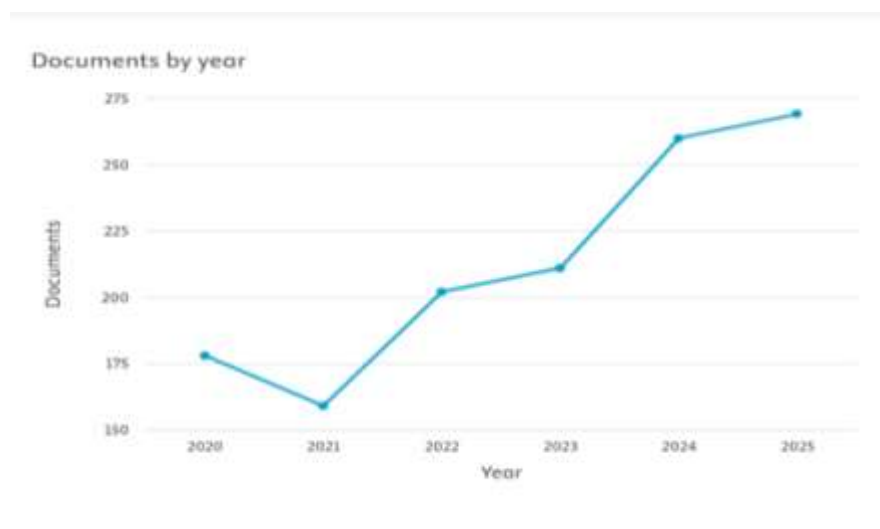


Figure 3. Number of Publications

Source: Processed from the Scopus Database (2025)

The graph indicates a marked surge after 2022, suggesting heightened academic attention to governance reform following the COVID-19 pandemic. This pattern aligns with Peters' (2019) theory of governance institutionalism, which posits that social and institutional change is typically followed by intensified scholarly exploration of governance systems. These findings address the first research question by confirming a continuous global rise in anti-corruption advocacy research, accompanied by broader disciplinary integration and theoretical development.

2. Country Collaboration

The bibliometric mapping of country collaboration demonstrates that research on anti-corruption advocacy is global in scope but remains concentrated within a small group of countries that dominate scholarly output and influence. The dataset shows that China, the United States, and the United Kingdom are the top three contributors, both in publication volume and citation impact. These findings suggest that countries with established academic infrastructures and strong research funding mechanisms lead the global discourse on governance and anti-corruption. This observation supports Yamane & Kaneko (2021), who emphasize that nations with comprehensive research policies and international partnerships tend to produce higher-quality outputs in public governance studies.

The spatial representation of publication distribution is illustrated in Figure 4, which maps global research productivity across countries.

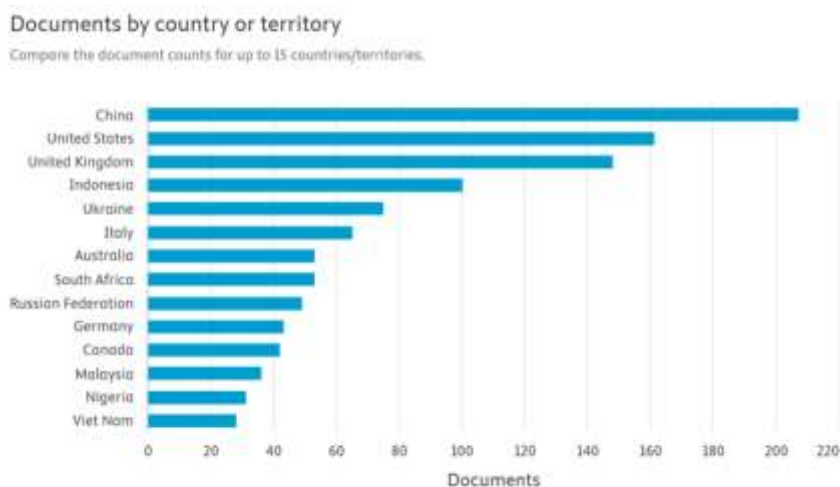


Figure 4. Number of publications by Country or Territory

Source: Processed from the Scopus Database (2025)

As shown in the figure, East Asia, North America, and Western Europe emerge as the main hubs of academic activity. China leads with over 200 indexed publications, followed by the United States with 163 and the United Kingdom with 147. In contrast, regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia exhibit limited publication output, often fewer than 20 documents. The uneven distribution demonstrates that global knowledge production on anti-corruption remains geographically imbalanced. These findings align with Shih & Forsberg (2023) governance inequality theory, which argues that the global research landscape reflects underlying disparities in institutional capacity and government support for science. The intensity of international cooperation is visualized in Figure 5, which presents the network of co-authorship between countries.

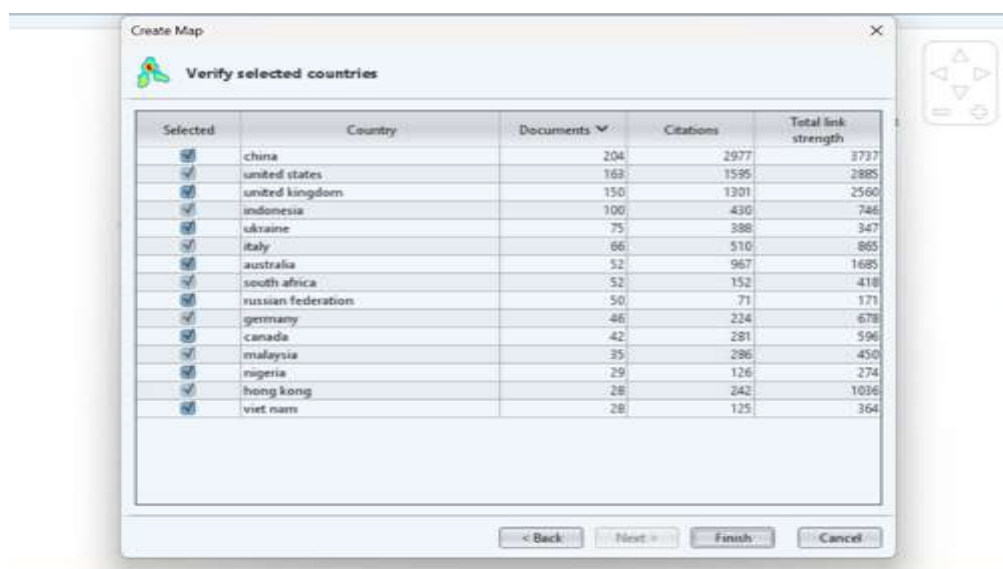


Figure 5. Countries with the Most Documents, Citations, and Total Link Strength

Source: Processed from the VosViewer (2025)

In Figure 5, the proximity and size of nodes indicate the frequency and strength of collaborations. China occupies the central position in the network, closely connected with the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the Netherlands. These countries form a dense cluster that accounts for the majority of global publications. Meanwhile, developing nations such as Indonesia, Nigeria, and Bangladesh appear as peripheral nodes with weaker connections, implying limited integration in the international research community. This imbalance illustrates the persistence of North–South gaps in knowledge exchange and highlights the need to encourage collaborative mechanisms that include researchers from emerging economies. Strengthening these partnerships can diversify perspectives and lead to more context-sensitive policy recommendations. A deeper understanding of regional interconnections is presented in Figure 6, which visualizes the cluster density of collaboration networks.

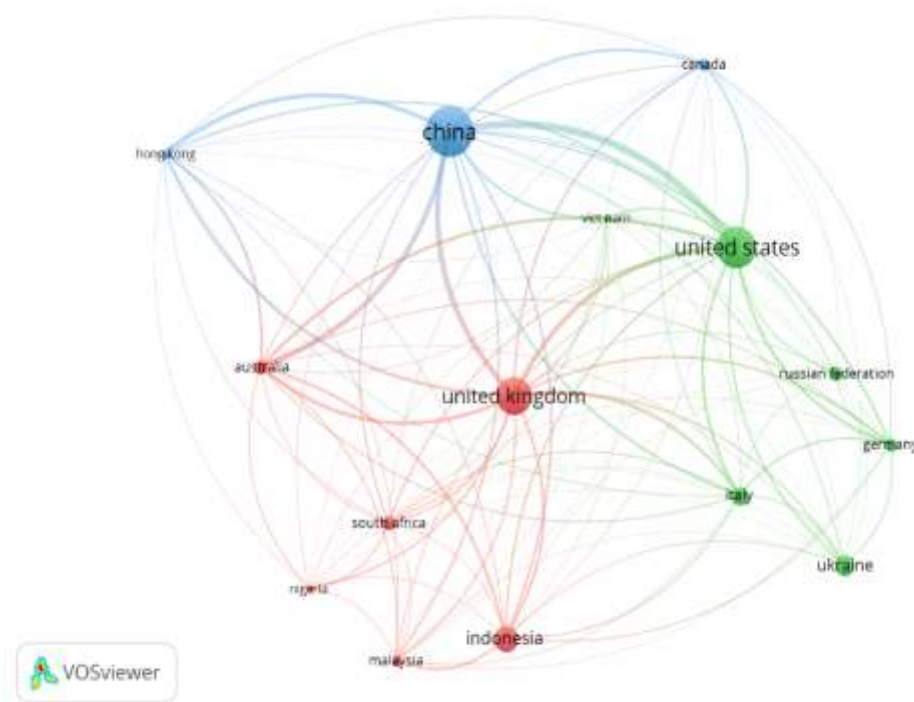


Figure 6. Country Network Patterns

Source: Processed from the VosViewer (2025)

The figure reveals three major clusters. The first, dominated by China and other East Asian countries, focuses on institutional reforms and digital governance. The second cluster, centered on the United States and Western Europe, emphasizes ethical frameworks, policy implementation, and international governance standards. The third, smaller cluster includes nations from Africa and South America that concentrate on corruption prevention through social participation and transparency advocacy. The varying density of connections suggests differences in thematic focus and resource availability among regions. These findings confirm that while global collaboration in anti-corruption advocacy is expanding, it remains unequal and concentrated within specific academic power centers.

The results of this analysis answer the second research question by demonstrating that country-level collaboration in anti-corruption research reflects global disparities in academic capacity and governance priorities. The evidence supports the argument that sustained progress in anti-corruption advocacy requires inclusive, cross-regional partnerships supported by equitable funding and knowledge-sharing mechanisms. By enhancing collaboration between developed and developing nations, the global research community can foster more balanced contributions to achieving the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.

3. Institutional Affiliation Patterns

Institutional analysis shows that the most productive contributions to anti-corruption advocacy research come from high-ranking universities with well-developed research ecosystems. This indicates a strong relationship between institutional capacity, national research policy, and scholarly productivity. Han & Xia (2025) argue that institutions that promote transparency and research integrity tend to achieve greater impact in governance-related studies. The leading institutions are presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Affiliates with the Highest Number of Documents

No	Affiliate Name	Number of Documents	Number of Citations	Total Link Strength
1	School of Finance, Zhongnan University of Economics And Law, Wuhan, China	5	253	74
2	Huazhong University of Science And Technology, Wuhan, China	5	132	73
3	School of Economics And Finance, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, China	7	30	41
4	School of Economics & Management, Nanjing, China	5	85	36
5	Peking University, Beijing, China	5	40	27
6	Alma Mater Studiorum Università Di Bologna, Bologna, Italy	8	65	21
7	King's College London, London, United Kingdom	5	21	16
8	National University of Singapore, Singapore City, Singapore	7	38	16
9	Göteborgs Universitet, Gothenburg, Sweden	5	106	8
10	Southern University of Science And Technology, Shenzhen, China	5	14	5
11	Universiteit Maastricht, Maastricht, Netherlands	5	14	5
12	Sumy State University, Sumy, Ukraine	7	18	3
13	Department of Building And Real Estate, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, Hong Kong	5	123	1
14	Development Policy Centre, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia	6	27	1
15	University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada	11	62	1

Source: Process Researcher (2025)

As reflected in Table 2, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, and Xi'an Jiaotong University dominate the field, followed by King's College London and the University of Bologna. These universities serve not only as centers of excellence but also as catalysts for international academic collaboration. Their influence illustrates the pivotal role of strong national research policies in advancing governance scholarship, particularly in East Asia.

The disparity between developed and developing institutions indicates a gap in global research participation. Universities in low-resource regions often face limitations in funding, data accessibility, and international cooperation. Addressing these challenges through capacity-building programs and research partnerships is essential for creating a balanced and equitable global research ecosystem. The results reinforce the third research question by demonstrating how institutional affiliation influences productivity and the overall development of anti-corruption research worldwide.

4. Journal Contribution and Thematic Focus

Analysis of publication sources reveals that anti-corruption advocacy research is increasingly disseminated across multidisciplinary journals focusing on business ethics, public policy, and sustainable development. This finding supports Persson et al. (2019), who argue that corruption should be understood not only as a legal violation but also as a socio-economic problem shaped by institutional norms and moral values.

The top journals contributing to this research domain are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Journals with the Highest Number of Documents

No	Journal Name	Documents	Citations	Total Link Strength
1	Journal of Financial Crime	39	199	82
2	International Review of Financial Analysis	7	63	51
3	Journal of Corporate Finance	6	134	50
4	Pacific Basin Finance Journal	8	162	47
5	Journal of Business Ethics	6	205	40
6	Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization	11	176	37
7	Journal of Money Laundering Control	16	100	20
8	Crime, Law and Social Change	12	60	19
9	Public Integrity	23	67	17
10	International Review of Economics and Finance	6	31	12
11	Laws	6	33	10
12	World Development	8	117	9
13	Sustainability (Switzerland)	13	88	8
14	Public Administration and Policy	6	56	2
15	Journal of Contemporary China	8	43	0

Source: Process Researcher (2025)

According to the data, the Journal of Financial Crime has the highest publication and citation rate, followed by the Journal of Business Ethics, Public Integrity, and Sustainability

(Switzerland). The prominence of these journals reflects the integration of ethical, economic, and developmental dimensions in anti-corruption discourse. This trend also aligns with North's (1990) theory of new institutionalism, which emphasizes the role of social norms and institutional design in promoting transparent governance.

The increasing attention to ethics and sustainability demonstrates an academic transition toward preventive and systemic perspectives rather than punitive ones. Scientific publications thus play a crucial role in informing policymakers and strengthening evidence-based reform. These findings respond to the research hypothesis by confirming that academic publications significantly shape global anti-corruption discourse and contribute to policy innovation in pursuit of SDG 16.

5. Author Collaboration

The author collaboration analysis indicates that most studies in anti-corruption advocacy remain individually authored, although several research clusters have begun to emerge. This trend suggests that while academic interest in the topic is rising, cross-disciplinary and international cooperation remains limited. Husted and Wang et al. (2017) emphasize that cross-border collaboration enriches analytical perspectives and enhances the contextual understanding of corruption as a multifaceted issue.

Connections among authors are visualized in Figure 7.

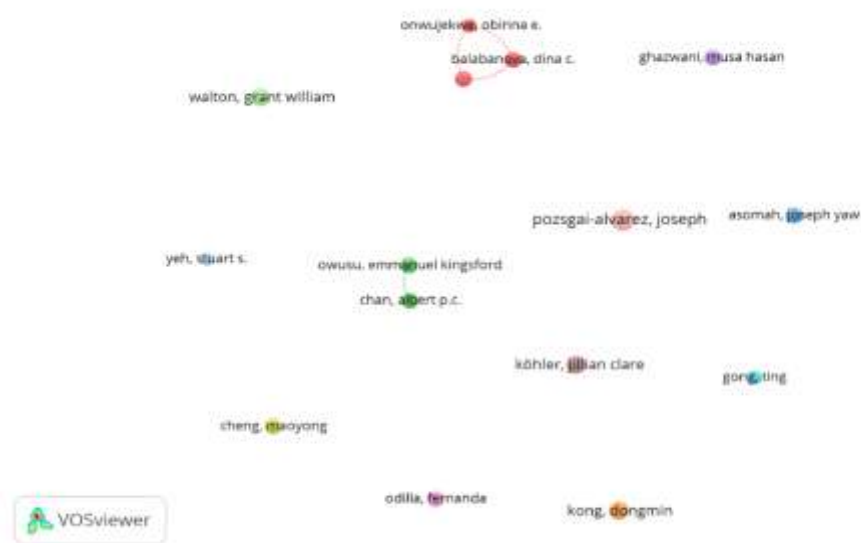


Figure 7. Most Productive Authors

Source: Processed from the VosViewer (2025)

The figure reveals several active clusters, including collaborations between Dina C. Balabanova and Obinna E. Onwujekwe in health governance, and between Albert P.C. Chan and Emmanuel K. Owusu in public sector ethics. However, most collaborations remain regional and fragmented. This fragmentation reflects the absence of a well-integrated global research community in anti-corruption studies.

Expanding collaborative networks is therefore essential to improve research quality and policy relevance. Joint research initiatives can facilitate data sharing, methodological innovation, and cross-national learning. The findings reinforce the framework of collaborative governance proposed by Ansell & Gash (2008), which underscores the importance of cooperation among diverse actors to address complex governance challenges.

6. Citation and Document Network

Citation network analysis highlights the most influential scholarly works in anti-corruption advocacy. The studies of Pan (2020), Adam (2021), and Wang (2022) are the most frequently cited, each focusing on transparency, institutional reform, and digital innovation. These works collectively affirm Bovens' (2007) concept of public accountability, which positions transparency as a cornerstone of effective governance.

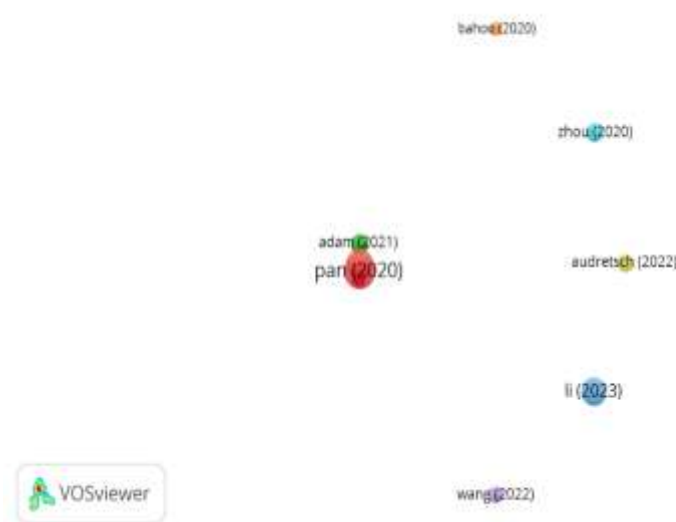


Figure 8. Documents with the Highest Number of Citations

Source: Processed from the VosViewer (2025)

The citation network illustrates the intellectual relationships among key authors, with Pan (2020) serving as a central reference point for digital governance research. This pattern supports Chasokela & Ncube (2024) digital governance framework, which argues that technology can strengthen institutional efficiency and public trust when properly implemented.

The growing influence of technology-oriented studies demonstrates a methodological shift from traditional institutionalism to digital governance paradigms. The increasing adoption of blockchain, open data, and e-government mechanisms shows that anti-corruption advocacy is becoming more evidence-driven and adaptive. These findings confirm the study's hypothesis that the field has evolved toward a data-informed, technology-supported approach to governance integrity.

7. Keyword Network and Thematic Evolution

The analysis of keyword co-occurrence provides a comprehensive understanding of the conceptual structure and thematic evolution of global research on anti-corruption advocacy. The results reveal that the most frequently used keywords include corruption, anti-corruption,

transparency, governance, and accountability. These terms dominate the field, indicating that studies continue to focus on the foundational dimensions of integrity and institutional reform. However, in the past two years, new keywords such as participatory governance, digital integrity, and policy advocacy have emerged, demonstrating a thematic shift from legal enforcement toward preventive and participatory approaches. This evolution reflects Kotukov et al. (2025) argument that modern anti-corruption discourse increasingly integrates civic engagement and digital innovation as mechanisms for accountability.

The structure and interrelationships among keywords are visualized in Figure 9, which presents the co-occurrence network generated using VOSviewer.

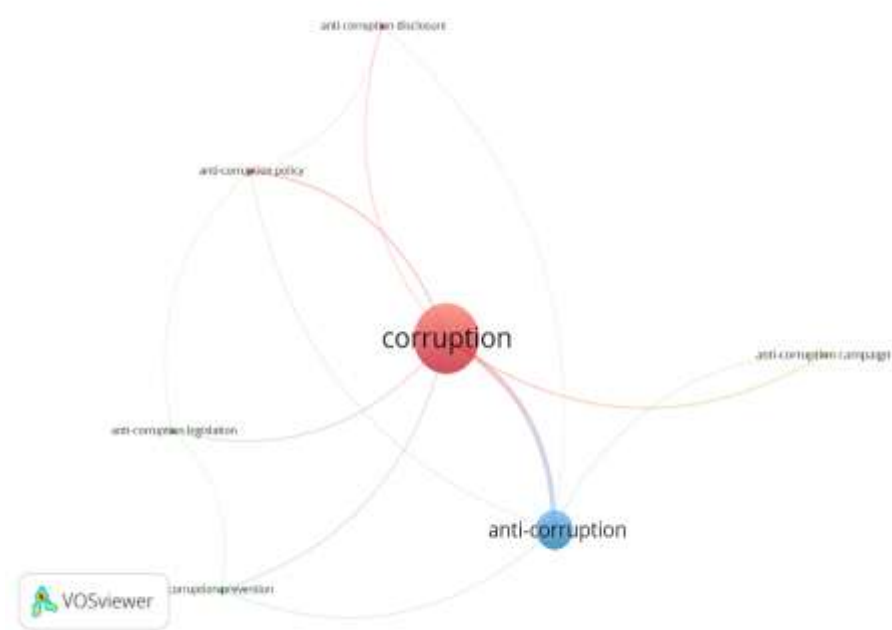


Figure 9. Network Visualization of the Emergence of Shared Keywords

Source: Processed from the VosViewer (2025)

As shown in the figure, several interconnected clusters illustrate the conceptual diversity of the field. The largest cluster, marked in red, includes terms such as corruption, transparency, accountability, and good governance, representing the core themes of institutional reform and policy evaluation. The second cluster, in green, centers on advocacy, civil society, participation, and policy implementation, reflecting a social-mobilization perspective emphasizing the role of public involvement in anti-corruption initiatives. The third cluster, colored blue, contains emerging concepts such as digital integrity, e-government, open data, and technology, showing that digital transformation has become a crucial element in improving transparency. The interconnections among clusters confirm that anti-corruption advocacy is no longer confined to traditional governance studies but extends to digital governance and participatory development. Temporal changes in keyword prominence are presented in Figure 10, which maps the chronological evolution of research themes.

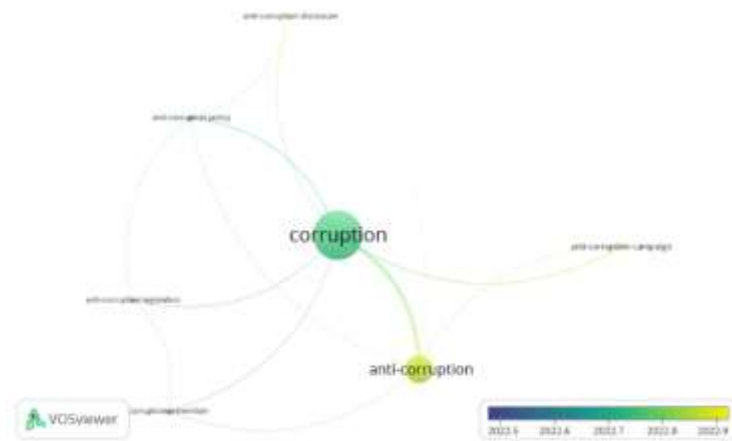


Figure 10. Overlay Visualization of Shared Keyword Occurrence
Source: Processed from the VosViewer (2025)

The visualization indicates that between 2020 and 2021, the research primarily focused on definitions, legal frameworks, and anti-corruption legislation. During this period, keywords such as bribery, public sector, and ethics appeared most frequently, reflecting an emphasis on compliance and legal deterrence. From 2022 onwards, there was a noticeable thematic transition toward broader governance concepts, with keywords like participatory governance, social accountability, and citizen engagement gaining prominence. By 2024–2025, the research landscape had evolved further, integrating digital and technological dimensions such as blockchain, data transparency, and digital ethics. This progression supports Monsivais-Carrillo (2019) integrity systems theory, which asserts that corruption prevention becomes more effective when supported by both institutional mechanisms and societal innovation. The time-based trend thus confirms a continuous movement toward adaptive, technology-driven, and people-centered governance models. The distribution of keyword intensity is visualized in Figure 11, which illustrates the density of conceptual associations in the field.

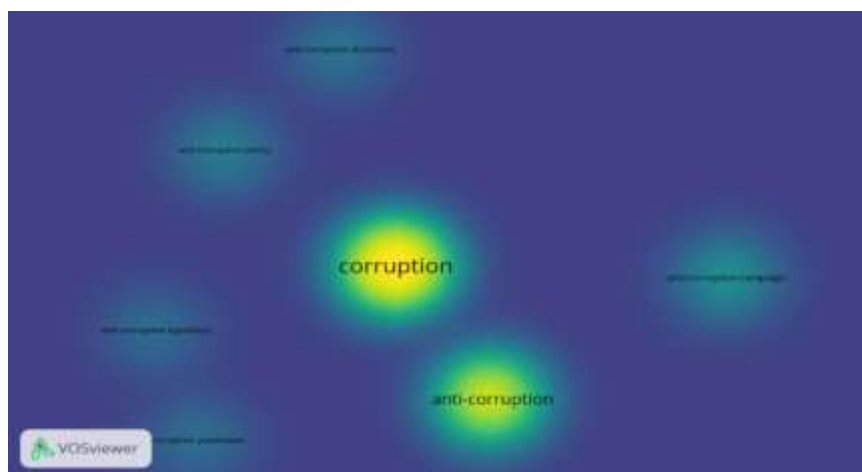


Figure 11. Density Visualization of Shared Keyword Occurrence
Source: Processed from the VosViewer (2025)

In Figure 11, areas with warmer colors such as red and orange indicate high keyword frequency, whereas cooler colors represent less frequent terms. The dense concentration around corruption, transparency, and accountability signifies their sustained importance as the theoretical backbone of the discipline. Meanwhile, peripheral zones with increasing brightness highlight emerging concepts like digital governance and policy advocacy, showing a gradual thematic expansion. This distribution demonstrates that while the core focus of research remains rooted in institutional reform, new thematic directions are gaining strength and shaping the future trajectory of anti-corruption advocacy. The visualization provides empirical support for the hypothesis that global anti-corruption research is diversifying and evolving to include innovation, civic participation, and cross-sector collaboration.

The findings from these three visualizations collectively illustrate that anti-corruption advocacy research is undergoing a paradigmatic transformation. The integration of technological, social, and ethical perspectives shows a shift from reactive enforcement to proactive prevention. This transformation corresponds to the increasing complexity of governance in the digital era, where transparency and accountability must be sustained through collaboration between governments, civil society, and technology-driven systems. These results directly address the research question concerning how thematic developments in global scholarship contribute to more inclusive and data-informed approaches to combating corruption, aligning with the broader goals of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.

8. Discussion and Policy Implications

Synthesizing all findings, this research successfully addresses the three main research questions outlined in the introduction: the evolution of anti-corruption scholarship, the identification of leading actors, and the mapping of dominant themes. The global trend reveals a steady expansion of academic attention, stronger institutional involvement, and a growing convergence around governance reform and digital transparency.

From a theoretical standpoint, these results reaffirm that anti-corruption advocacy functions as both a governance mechanism and a social accountability process. The field has evolved from descriptive analyses of corruption to proactive explorations of policy innovation, technology adoption, and participatory monitoring. This transformation aligns with Integrative Governance Theory, which highlights interdependence among government, private actors, and civil society in achieving ethical governance. In practical terms, the findings carry several policy implications.

1. First, governments should strengthen academic partnerships and fund cross-border research projects to ensure balanced knowledge production and equitable participation from developing nations.
2. Second, technological innovations such as open data systems and digital reporting tools should be institutionalized to enhance transparency and facilitate real-time public oversight.
3. Third, capacity-building programs in higher education are essential to empower universities in the Global South to contribute meaningfully to global anti-corruption discourse.

For Indonesia and other developing countries, these insights provide valuable guidance for designing data-driven policies and strengthening bureaucratic reform initiatives. By aligning national strategies with global academic trends, governments can develop more adaptive, evidence-based approaches to integrity and accountability.

Ultimately, the success of anti-corruption advocacy depends on continuous collaboration between academia, government, and civil society. Building transparent, participatory, and accountable institutions requires not only regulatory frameworks but also a sustained commitment to learning, innovation, and global cooperation. Through such synergy, the goals of Sustainable Development Goal 16 can be achieved more effectively, ensuring that governance systems worldwide uphold justice, inclusion, and public trust.

Conclusion

This research offers a detailed bibliometric mapping of global scholarship on anti-corruption advocacy in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 16. The overall pattern shows a consistent rise in publications between 2020 and 2025, reflecting the growing consensus that corruption represents a structural governance problem rather than merely a legal or moral deviation. The predominance of contributions from China, the United States, and the United Kingdom, alongside leading universities in developed economies, underscores persistent inequalities in research capacity and international collaboration.

The results further reveal that contemporary studies increasingly adopt cross-disciplinary perspectives that integrate issues of governance, digital transformation, and sustainable development. The identified clusters—transparency, accountability, and institutional reform—illustrate a conceptual shift from reactive, enforcement-oriented strategies toward preventive and participatory governance approaches. This change indicates a broader understanding of anti-corruption as a shared responsibility among government institutions, academic actors, and civil society organizations.

From a policy standpoint, the findings suggest the importance of fostering stronger institutional partnerships, broadening open-data initiatives, and promoting equitable global research cooperation, particularly among developing regions. Policymakers and academic communities are encouraged to prioritize data-driven advocacy, transnational training, and collaborative platforms that facilitate inclusive and transparent policy innovation. Future research should also explore how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and big data analytics can be leveraged to enhance integrity and accountability in governance systems.

Ultimately, advancing anti-corruption advocacy through sustained academic collaboration and technological innovation is central to realizing the aspirations of SDG 16. The development of inclusive, transparent, and accountable institutions depends not only on regulatory enforcement but also on continuous learning, cross-sector engagement, and the global exchange of knowledge and best practices.

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