West Science Accounting and Finance
Vol. 4, No. 02, July 2026, pp. 236~246

Bibliometric Analysis of Local Government Financial Reporting

Loso Judijanto[1], Yendri Deswin[2]
[1] IPOSS Jakarta, Indonesia
[2] STIE Triguna Tangerang

Article Info

Article history:

Received July, 2026
Revised July, 2026
Accepted July, 2026

Keywords:

Local Government Financial Reporting
Public Sector Accounting
Financial Transparency
Government Accountability
Bibliometric Analysis

ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the development, intellectual structure, and emerging research trends in the field of local government financial reporting through a bibliometric analysis approach. The study utilizes scientific publications indexed in the Scopus database and applies bibliometric techniques using VOSviewer to analyze publication trends, citation performance, keyword co-occurrence, co-authorship networks, institutional collaboration, and country contributions. The findings indicate that research on local government financial reporting has experienced significant development, with major research focuses centered on financial reporting, public sector accounting, transparency, accountability, and government financial management. Citation analysis identifies influential studies that emphasize voluntary financial disclosure, governmental accounting reform, IPSAS adoption, and e-government as important foundations in strengthening public sector accountability. The keyword analysis reveals that recent research directions have expanded toward sustainability, risk management, earnings management, and digital transformation, demonstrating a shift from conventional reporting practices toward broader governance and accountability perspectives. Furthermore, collaboration analysis shows that research activities are dominated by countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, Australia, and Indonesia, although international collaboration remains concentrated among specific research networks. This study contributes to the existing literature by providing a comprehensive mapping of knowledge development and identifying future research opportunities in local government financial reporting, particularly regarding technological innovation, sustainability-oriented reporting, and institutional reform in public sector financial governance.

This is an open access article under the [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) license.

Corresponding Author:

Name: Loso Judijanto
Institution Address: IPOSS Jakarta, Indonesia
e-mail: losojudijantobumn@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

Financial reporting by local governments is vital in promoting transparency, accountability, and proper governance in public management. With increased public expectations in different parts of the world, the financial report not only acts as a guide in decision-making within the organization, but it is also used as an avenue for showing fiscal responsibility to the public [1], [2]. Financial reporting enables local governments to present information on how public money has been used, thus enhancing trust among the population and helping them make informed decisions regarding policies [3], [4]. Financial reporting is also tied closely to the concepts of good governance.

The increasing intricacy of local government financial reporting in recent decades can be attributed to the adoption of changing accounting practices, accrual accounting, and IPSAS [5]. Local governments are now obliged to prepare financial statements that not only indicate the performance of the organization but also provide information related to the assets, liabilities, and budgeting of the entity. The aforementioned changes have led to the emergence of a need for advanced approaches of analysis in assessing the efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility of financial reporting of local governments. Thus, there emerges an ever-growing necessity for empirical research in the area.

The process of bibliometric analysis is increasingly being recognized as an important approach to assessing scientific literature and trends in research, identifying important research papers, and networks of collaboration within a given area of study [6]. Applying bibliometrics in respect of financial reporting in local government will help one to see how research was developed in this area, the important topics in it, and where additional research needs to be done.

In addition to its use for identifying trends in financial reporting for the public sector, bibliometric analysis can also shed light on cross-national differences, methodology, and new areas. As an example, it has been noted that studies on local government financial reporting tend to be concerned with such issues as accountability processes, performance measures, public sector auditing, and the effects of regulatory reform [7], [8], [9]. However, these papers are scattered in various journals, fields of study, and locations. This makes it hard to draw conclusions without conducting a systematic review, which is where bibliometric analysis comes into play.

Apart from discovering research trends, bibliometrics is useful in assessing the maturity level of a particular discipline by policy makers and practitioners. Local government administrators, for instance, will be able to establish the issues that have been researched extensively as well as those that lack research attention so that they can determine their financial management policies, trainings, and the use of reporting systems. In addition, researchers will be able to identify potential collaborative research areas and focus on high-impact research topics [6].

Even though local government financial reporting is essential, there is still a lack of information about how research on this subject has developed through time, what topics are most common, and how researchers cooperate internationally. Current researches are scattered, and there is no bibliometric analysis that has been conducted specifically for local government financial reporting. Therefore, without this kind of research, it would be difficult to identify research gaps, measure productivity and create a road map for further research. The purpose of this research is to conduct a bibliometric analysis of academic articles about local government financial reporting.

2. METHODS

For this study, bibliometric research method is used to carry out a systematic review of the literature available on local government financial reporting. Bibliometric analysis facilitates the identification of research trends, prolific authors, important journals, and collaboration networks in a certain field [6]. The method is quite appropriate to be used in this study due to the fact that it can provide a quantitative view on the development of the research field, its main focuses, as well as its gaps.

This study used the data collected from Scopus database, which is a very large and well-developed database consisting of peer-reviewed documents. A structured search method was applied based on terms like “financial reporting local government,” “public sector accounting,” and “municipal finance.” The search was confined to those documents that were written in English language and appeared in the journals concerning accounting, public administration, and finance. The metadata, such as authors, affiliations, citations, year of publication, key words, and abstracts were selected to be used in bibliometric analysis. To maintain data integrity, duplication and irrelevant articles were excluded.

For the purpose of data visualization and network analysis, VOSviewer software was used. VOSviewer can build co-authorship networks, keyword co-occurrence maps, and impact analysis via citations, thus, representing the relationships between authors, organizations, and research topics graphically (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). With the help of VOSviewer, in this study, it was possible to create maps, which display research clusters, identify the most important papers and authors in the field, and determine the collaboration patterns. The combination of the use of Scopus and VOSviewer ensures thorough research of the literature.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Network Visualization

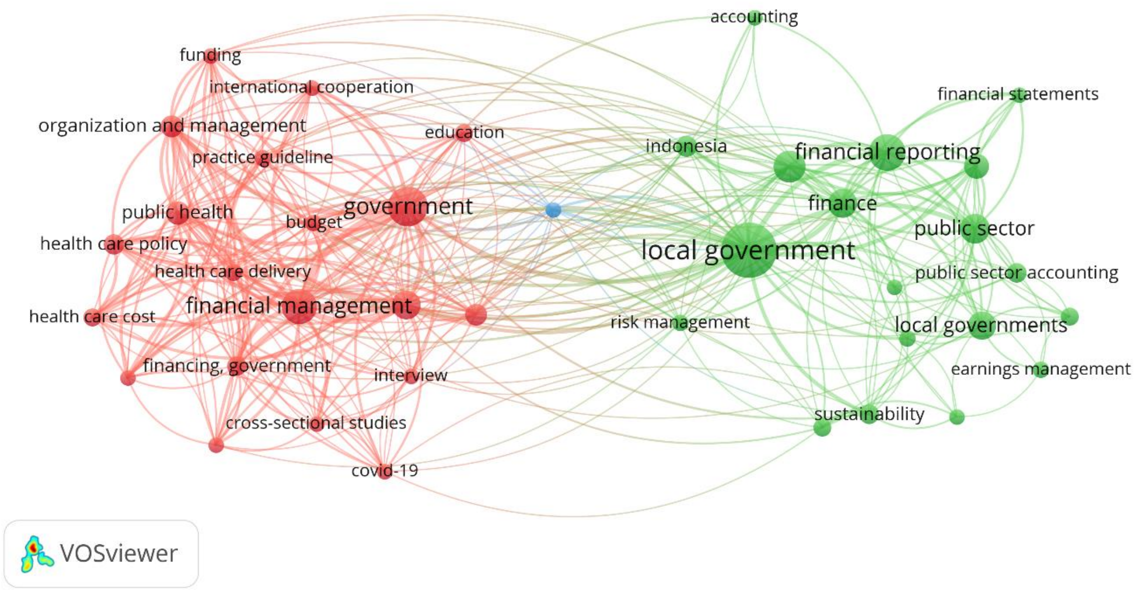

Figure 1. Network Visualization
Source: Data Analysis Result, 2026

Figure 1 illustrates the conceptual structure of research related to local government financial reporting and identifies several interconnected thematic clusters. The dominant node is "local government", which indicates that this topic represents the central research focus connecting various related concepts. The green cluster is primarily associated with financial reporting themes, including financial reporting, financial statements, finance, public sector, public sector accounting, local governments, accounting, and sustainability. This cluster reflects the strong relationship between local government reporting practices and broader public sector accounting issues, particularly concerning transparency, accountability, financial information quality, and sustainable public financial management.

This red cluster denotes a wider view on governance and public management which comprises such keywords as government, financial management, budget, public health, healthcare policy, financing government, organization and management, and international cooperation. Such a cluster reveals that the issue of local government financial reporting is not only related to accounting operations but is also associated with government decision making, budget allocation, and the efficiency of its administration. The fact that the terms of financial management and budget are included in this list proves that the earlier researches have considered the process of financial reporting as an instrument for managing government resources, whereas associations with public health and other COVID-19-related aspects illustrate the function of government financial systems in times of crisis.

From the analysis of the relationships between the clusters, we can see that the study of local government financial reporting has become an interdisciplinary area comprising the fields of accounting, governance, public administration, and sustainability. The presence of a strong relationship among local government, financial reporting, and public sector accounting suggests that the improvement of the reporting quality is a tool through which government accountability could be improved. Moreover, sustainability, risk management, and financial governance driven by innovations might be future research areas related to local government reporting.

3.2 Overlay Visualization

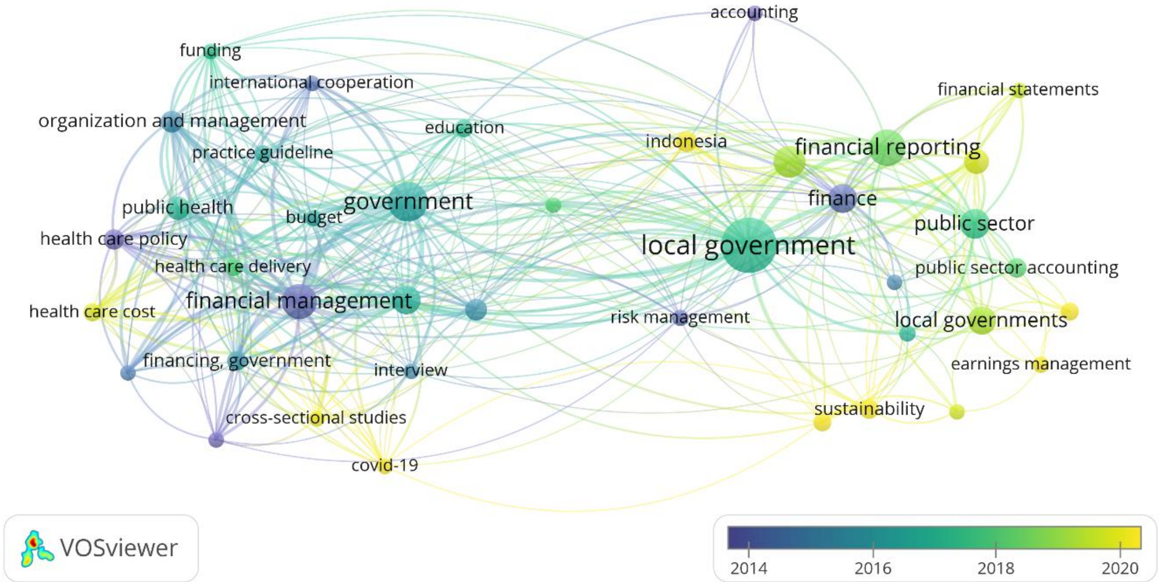

Figure 2. Overlay Visualization
Source: Data Analysis Result, 2026

Figure 2 The second figure shows the time line of research areas in relation to local government financial reporting in terms of years of publications. The color coding is used to show the evolution of research areas; that is, the blue color symbolizes early research work (about 2014), green color is for intermediate development of research areas (2016-2018), while the yellow color shows recent trends in research. From the center of the picture, it is clear that “local government” is the main theme of all researches that connects accounting, financial management, governance, and public sector. In addition, the early research work seems to be concerned with fundamentals such as government, financial management, budget, financing government, and public sector administration.

In the years that followed, focus on research areas narrowed down to accounting and financial reporting-related concepts as indicated by the presence of the green highlighted themes such as financial reporting, finance, accounting, public sector accounting, and financial statements. This implies a move from research on broad government management concepts to enhancing the accuracy, disclosure, and accountability of the financial reports prepared by local government. The growing link between local government and financial reporting implies that researchers have increasingly looked at financial reporting as an essential tool for assessing performance, complying with accounting standards, and being accountable. The presence of Indonesia as one of the linked keywords also reflects the rising importance of local government financial reporting in developing countries.

Yellow-colored keywords which represent the most recent research trends include sustainability, financial statements, local governments, and earnings management. This shows that there are new directions emerging in the field of accounting research. In this case, there is an indication that the current research is focusing on areas other than just financial reporting. For example, the area of sustainable governance, financial reporting quality, and possible financial misstatement are some of the key areas that have emerged recently.

.

3.3 Citation Analysis

Table 1. Top Cited Research

Citations	Authors and year	Title
242	[10]	Determinants of voluntary Internet financial reporting by local government authorities
236	[11]	Progress in tuberculosis control and the evolving public-health system in China
215	[12]	Determinants of corporate social disclosure in Spanish local governments
209	[2]	Risk reporting: An exploratory study on risk management disclosure in Malaysian annual reports
197	[13]	The effect of fiscal performance on local government election results in Israel: 1989-1998
184	[14]	Second wave COVID-19 pandemics in Europe: a temporal playbook
178	[15]	Non-financial reporting formats in public sector organizations: a structured literature review
165	[16]	The effect of IPSAS on reforming governmental financial reporting: an international comparison
153	[17]	Is e-government promoting convergence towards more accountable local governments?
136	[18]	Food insecurity among inuit women exacerbated by socioeconomic stresses and climate change

Source: Scopus, 2026

Table 1 presents the most cited research articles related to local government financial reporting, demonstrating the intellectual foundations and influential contributions within this research field. The most highly cited article by [10], with 242 citations, examined the determinants of voluntary internet financial reporting by local government authorities, highlighting the importance of digital disclosure mechanisms in improving transparency and public access to government financial information. Other influential studies, such as [12] and [15], further expanded discussions on disclosure practices, social reporting, and non-financial reporting formats in public sector organizations, indicating a growing interest in broader accountability beyond traditional financial statements. Research by [5] on the impact of IPSAS adoption reflects the significance of accounting reforms in enhancing governmental financial reporting systems internationally, while [17] emphasized the role of e-government in promoting accountable local governments. Several highly cited studies also extend beyond accounting-specific issues, addressing governance, fiscal performance, risk disclosure, and public sector resilience, as reflected in works related to local government elections, risk management reporting, and COVID-19 responses.

3.4 Density Visualization

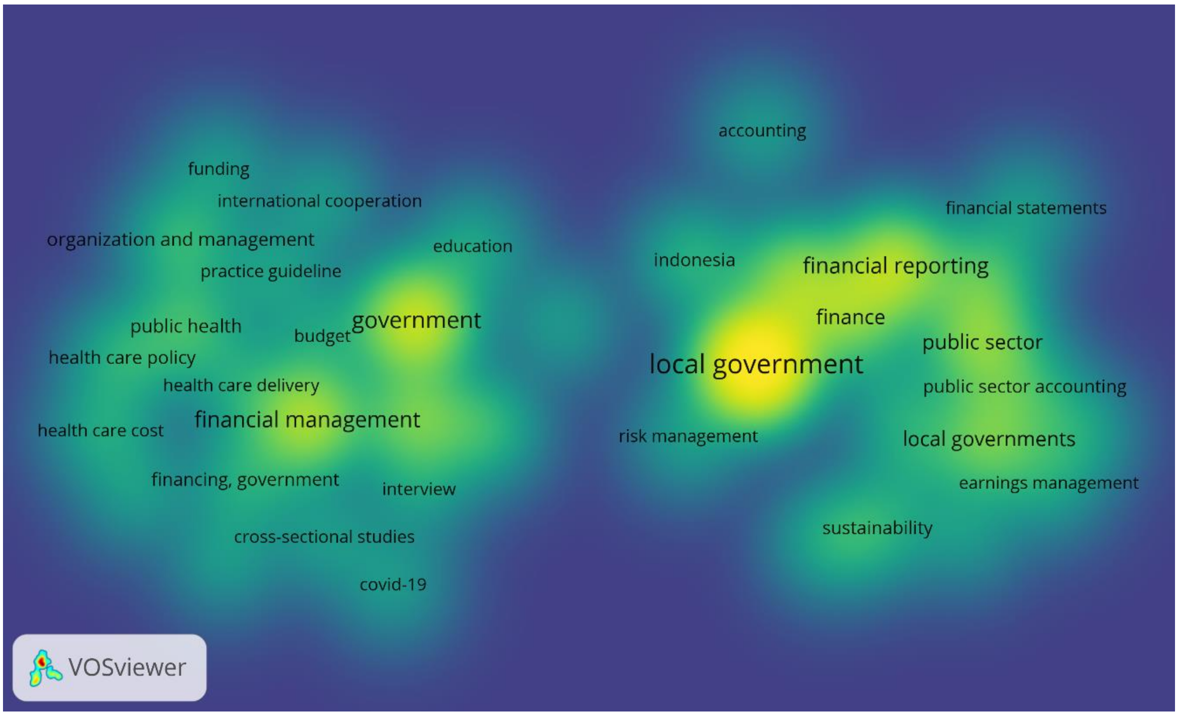

Figure 3. Density Visualization
Source: Data Analysis Result, 2026

Figure 3 illustrates the concentration and intensity of research themes in the field of local government financial reporting. The areas with brighter colors (yellow) represent keywords with higher occurrence frequency and stronger research attention, while darker areas indicate less frequently studied topics. The most prominent research concentration is found around “local government”, “financial reporting”, and “government”, indicating that these concepts form the core knowledge base of the research field. The strong density around financial reporting demonstrates that studies have extensively examined issues related to financial disclosure, reporting quality, and accountability mechanisms within local government institutions. Meanwhile, the connection between local government, finance, public sector, and public sector accounting highlights the importance of accounting practices in supporting transparency and effective public financial management.

Moreover, it becomes clear that there are certain peripheral areas of research, which are emerging, such as sustainability, risk management, earnings management, accounting, and financial statement. Such themes show that the discussion of the issues of the governmental accounting system has been replaced by more modern issues concerning the quality of governance, responsible finance management, and accuracy of information provided. Issues like COVID-19, health care policy, and public management imply that local government financial reporting research is impacted by modern policy issues that involve budget management.

3.5 Author Visualization

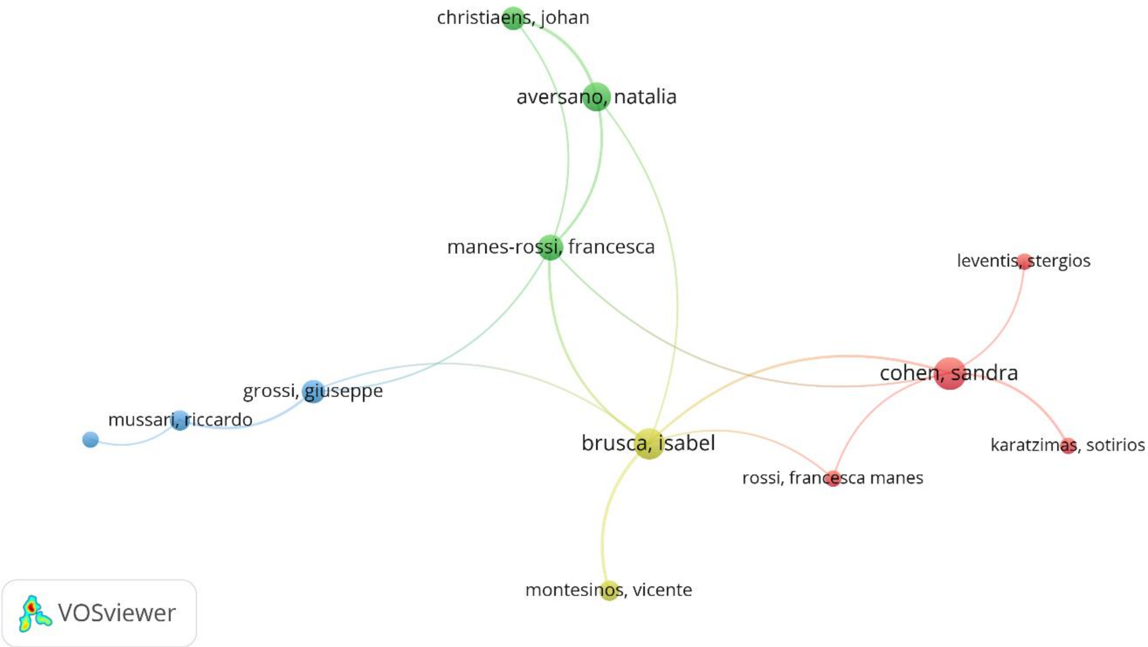

Figure 4. Author Visualization
Source: Data Analysis Result, 2026

Figure 4 provides an overview of collaborative efforts between influential scholars researching local government financial reporting. As the figure depicts, there are many author groups in the network with Brusca, Isabel, Manes-Rossi, Francesca, and Cohen, Sandra identified as central researchers for their high connections with many authors. The collaboration network clearly indicates that the important contribution has been made by European scholars in the areas of public sector accounting, governmental financial reporting reforms, and accountability systems. It should be noted that the link between Christiaens, Johan, Aversano, Natalia, Manes-Rossi, Francesca, and Brusca, Isabel represents one research stream which deals with public sector accounting standards, IPSAS adoption, and government reporting practices. On the other hand, the link between Cohen, Sandra, Rossie Francesca Manes, Leventis, Stergios, and Karatzimas, Sotirios can be considered as another research stream concerned about disclosure, transparency, and financial reporting practices.

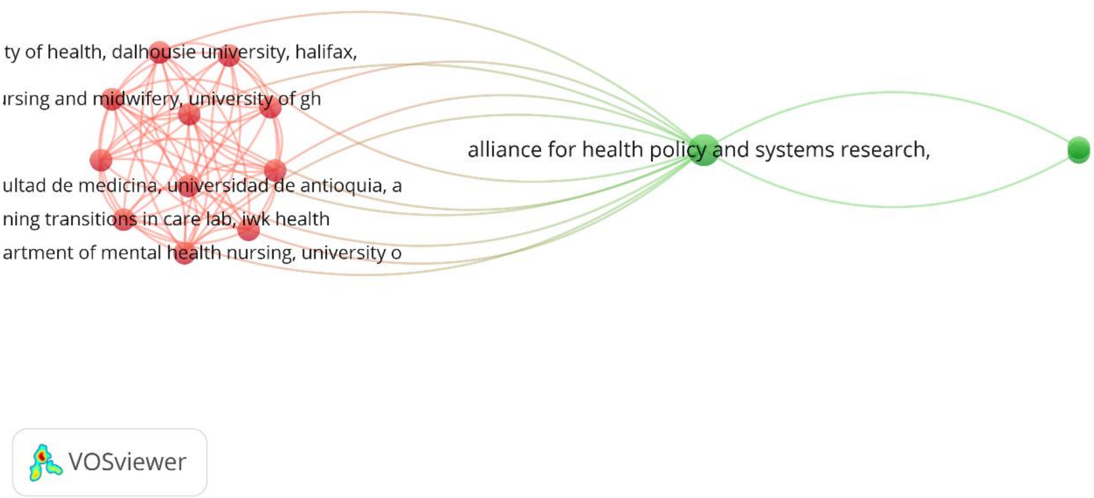

Figure 5. Institution Visualization
Source: Data Analysis Result, 2026

Figure 5 depicts the associations between the organizations involved in the process of conducting research in the field of local government financial reporting and public sector research. One can observe that the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research acts as a pivotal organization which connects other research organizations via cooperation. The red cluster on the left includes a set of organizations with intensive internal collaborations, mainly represented by universities and research centers involved in research activities in the area of health policy, health care management, and public administration research. Some institutions are not directly related to accounting; however, they are connected with accounting issues because of interdisciplinary approach in the sphere of governmental research where financial reporting is linked with public services management, policy making, and resource allocation. The small amount of institutional links depicted means that cooperation is rather limited within certain research networks and not spread all over the world. It opens up an opportunity for cooperation between public sector accounting researchers, government organizations, and universities in different regions of the world.

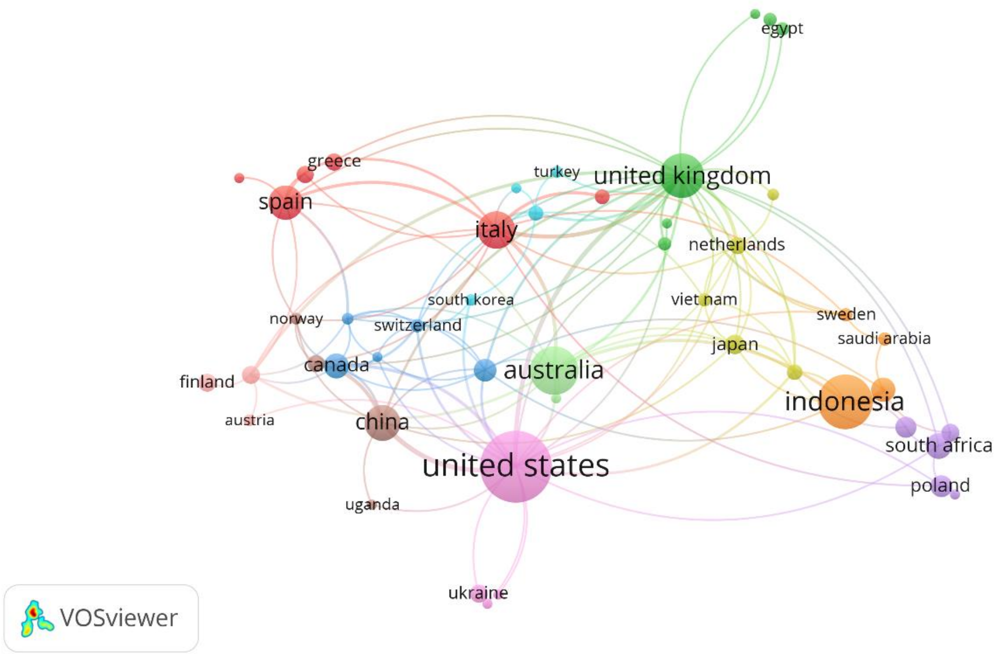

Figure 6. Country Visualization
Source: Data Analysis Result, 2026

Figure 6 shows the geographical distribution and cooperation structure of the research in relation to local government financial reporting. In the network, it is clear that the United States has the largest node size and, hence, is among the most productive and influential countries in this area of research. The country has extensive connections to other countries including Australia, China, Indonesia, and even some European countries. Apart from the United States, other major players in this research field include the United Kingdom, Italy, Australia, and Indonesia, indicating extensive research and cooperation in public sector accounting and financial reporting. Several European countries like Spain, Greece, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Norway also form an interconnected network of research in the public sector accounting.

Additionally, the diagram reveals the emergence of contributions from developing countries, especially from Indonesia, Vietnam, Egypt, and South Africa, that are increasingly part of the global research network. Indonesia is revealed as one of the important nodes in the Asian research network, reflecting the increasing academic interest in issues of local government financial reporting in the developing country context, which includes transparency, accountability, and public financial management. The strong interconnection between the countries implies that the study on local government financial reporting is becoming increasingly globalized and interdisciplinary through collaboration among different regions. On the other hand, collaboration is increasingly concentrated in the important research centers of the world like the USA and European countries.

4. CONCLUSION

This bibliometric study has provided a detailed understanding of the intellectual growth, research trends, and international collaborations of the field of local government financial reporting. From the findings, it is clear that the topic has transformed from the conventional discourse of government accounting systems, budgeting and financial management towards new issues concerning transparency, accountability, sustainability, e-governance, and public sector reform. Based on the keyword analysis, it is clear that local government, financial reporting, public sector accounting, financial statement, and government finance are the key themes in the literature while new topics like sustainability, risk management, earnings management, and digitalization provide an indication for future research areas. In terms of citation analysis, it is apparent that some of the key works in this field include those that have examined the issues of voluntary financial disclosure, IPSAS adoption, e-government, and accountability tools. Collaboration analysis indicates that the intellectual development of the field is dominated by scholars and institutions from the USA, UK, Italy, Australia, and Indonesia among other countries but collaboration remains limited to specific research groups.

REFERENCES

[1] E. Mori, C. Carini, and C. Teodori, "New development: Politicians and consolidated financial statements. The role of accounting information in local government," *Public Money Manag.*, vol. 46, no. 4, pp. 477–481, 2026, doi: 10.1080/09540962.2025.2498121.

[2] A. Amran, A. Manaf Rosli Bin, and B. Che Haat Mohd Hassan, "Risk reporting: An exploratory study on risk management disclosure in Malaysian annual reports," *Manag. Audit. J.*, vol. 24, no. 1, pp. 39–57, 2009, doi: 10.1108/02686900910919893.

[3] N. Hu, Y. Mao, and L. Tan, "An unintended consequence of raising public environmental awareness: Evidence from the release of the environmental documentary 'Under the Dome' on earnings management," *J. Account. Public Policy*, vol. 48, 2024, doi: 10.1016/j.jaccpubpol.2024.107260.

[4] A. Campanaro and J. Masic, "Municipal asset management in China's small cities and towns: Findings and strategies ahead," *J. Infrastructure, Policy Dev.*, vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 142–173, 2018, doi: 10.24294/jipd.v2i1.161.

[5] J. Christiaens, B. Reyniers, and C. Rollé, "Impact of IPSAS on reforming governmental financial information systems: A comparative study," *Int. Rev. Adm. Sci.*, vol. 76, no. 3, pp. 537–554, 2010, doi: 10.1177/0020852310372449.

[6] N. Donthu, S. Kumar, D. Mukherjee, N. Pandey, and W. M. Lim, "How to conduct a bibliometric analysis: An overview and guidelines," *J. Bus. Res.*, vol. 133, pp. 285–296, 2021.

[7] I. Suhardjo, M. Suparman, and P. Rahman, "Double materiality and stakeholder engagement: JALA's sustainability journey," *Emerald Emerg. Mark. Case Stud.*, vol. 15, no. 3, pp. 1–17, 2025, doi: 10.1108/EEMCS-05-2024-0216.

[8] H. Yu, "On the determinants of internet-based disclosure of government financial information," in *2010 International Conference on Management and Service Science, MASS 2010*, Department of Accounting, School of Accounting, Nanjing University of Finance and Economics, Nanjing city, China, 2010. doi: 10.1109/ICMSS.2010.5576822.

[9] S. Linton, A. Clarke, and L. Tozer, "Strategies and governance for implementing deep decarbonization plans at the local level," *Sustain.*, vol. 13, no. 1, pp. 1–22, 2021, doi: 10.3390/su13010154.

[10] F. Laswad, R. Fisher, and P. Oyelere, "Determinants of voluntary Internet financial reporting by local government authorities," *J. Account. Public Policy*, vol. 24, no. 2, pp. 101–121, 2005, doi: 10.1016/j.jaccpubpol.2004.12.006.

[11] L. Wang, J. Liu, and D. P. Chin, "Progress in tuberculosis control and the evolving public-health system in China," *Lancet*, vol. 369, no. 9562, pp. 691–696, 2007, doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(07)60316-X.

[12] I.-M. García-Sánchez, J.-V. Frías-Aceituno, and L. Rodríguez-Domínguez, "Determinants of corporate social disclosure in Spanish local governments," *J. Clean. Prod.*, vol. 39, pp. 60–72, 2013, doi: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2012.08.037.

[13] A. Brender, "The effect of fiscal performance on local government election results in Israel: 1989-1998," *J. Public Econ.*, vol. 87, no. 9–10, pp. 2187–2205, 2003, doi: 10.1016/S0047-2727(02)00045-2.

[14] G. Cacciapaglia, C. Cot, and F. Sannino, "Second wave COVID-19 pandemics in Europe: a temporal playbook," *Sci. Rep.*, vol. 10, no. 1, 2020, doi: 10.1038/s41598-020-72611-5.

[15] F. Manes-Rossi, G. Nicolò, and D. Argento, "Non-financial reporting formats in public sector organizations: a structured literature review," *J. Public Budgeting, Account. Financ. Manag.*, vol. 32, no. 4, pp. 639–669, 2020, doi: 10.1108/JPBAFM-03-2020-0037.

[16] J. Christiaens, C. Vanhee, F. Manes-Rossi, N. Aversano, and P. van Cauwenberge, "The effect of IPSAS on reforming governmental financial reporting: an international comparison," *Int. Rev. Adm. Sci.*, vol. 81, no. 1, pp. 158–177, 2015, doi: 10.1177/0020852314546580.

[17] V. Pina, L. Torres, and S. Royo, "Is e-government promoting convergence towards more accountable

local governments?," *Int. Public Manag. J.*, vol. 13, no. 4, pp. 350–380, 2010, doi: 10.1080/10967494.2010.524834.

[18] M. C. Beaumier and J. D. Ford, "Food insecurity among inuit women exacerbated by socioeconomic stresses and climate change," *Can. J. Public Heal.*, vol. 101, no. 3, pp. 196–201, 2010, doi: 10.1007/bf03404373.