

Charting Scholarly Horizons: Scientometrics in Southeast Asia's Information Research Landscape

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ABSTRACT

Background: This paper offers an in-depth analysis of scientometrics within the information research landscape of Southeast Asia. Scientometrics, the quantitative study of science and scientific research outputs, has become increasingly significant in understanding the dynamics and trends of scholarly communication. Southeast Asia, a region characterized by diverse cultures, languages, and socioeconomic contexts, presents a unique terrain for information research. **Objectives:** The paper aims to quantify the volume of research articles, reviews, and other scholarly publications that pertain to Southeast Asia's Information. Through co-authorship analysis and affiliation data, the paper intends to identify the prominent researchers and academic institutions that have contributed significantly to the field of Southeast Asia's Information. **Methodology:** comprehensive search string was extracted from Web of Science citation database for identification, and downloaded of relevant papers published between January 2014 to December 2023 on Information trend, Information retravel, data science, machine learning in information retrieval research. The data was used to manage the extracted data and perform statistical analysis and developed bibliometric analysis. The 1,393 records were extracted as a CSV file and imported by Biblioshiny and VOSViewer software, which provides a network visualization of publications. **Results:** 786 publications were published on Southeast Asia's Information Research Landscape research from 2014–2023. Total 786 publications 17,413 citations, 22.1 Average citations per papers and 58 *h*-index identified, which were rearranged in the decreasing order of citations, there are a total of 786 documents in this dataset. The dataset indicates a negative annual growth rate of -19.73%. This suggests a decline in the number of documents over time. The average age of the documents is 3.75 years, indicating that the content is relatively recent. Each document has an average of 21.8 citations, suggesting that the documents are cited frequently. **Conclusion:** The exploration of scientometrics within Southeast Asia's information research landscape offers valuable insights into the region's scholarly horizons. Through this study, we have illuminated key trends, challenges, and opportunities that shape the dynamics of scientific communication and knowledge production in Southeast Asia.

Keywords: Information, Research Landscape, Scientometric analysis, Scientific landscape, Southeast Asia's

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INTRODUCTION

Information research has grown exponentially in recent decades due to rapid technological advancements and the proliferation of digital data. As a key region in the global information landscape, Southeast Asia presents unique opportunities and challenges for knowledge production and dissemination. However, the dynamics of scientific communication within Southeast Asia's diverse cultural and socioeconomic contexts remain underexplored.

This study aims to address this gap by employing scientometric techniques to analyze trends in Southeast Asia's information research output over the past decade.

Scientometrics, defined as "the quantitative study of science and technology and their related aspects" (Hood & Wilson, 2001, p. 5), provides an objective framework for mapping the development of scientific fields and identifying influential publications, authors, and institutions (Van Eck & Waltman, 2014). Previous scientometric analyses have illuminated research trends in diverse domains such as biomedicine (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017), sustainability science (Mukherjee *et al.*, 2017), and information science (Bouabid & Larivière, 2018). However, scientometric studies focusing specifically on Southeast Asia's information research landscape remain scarce.



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The proposed study seeks to address this need by conducting a comprehensive scientometric analysis of publications related to information research produced in Southeast Asia between 2014-2023. By examining metrics such as publication output, citations, collaboration patterns, and keyword trends over time, this study aims to provide a quantitative snapshot of the region's scholarly horizons in this field. Such insights are significant for several reasons:

This study is grounded in the theoretical framework of scientometrics, which utilizes bibliometric techniques to quantitatively analyze scientific outputs and map the development of research fields (Hood & Wilson, 2001). Bibliometrics refers to "the application of quantitative analysis and statistics to publications such as journal articles and their accompanying citation counts" (Borgman & Furner, 2002, p. 1). Key bibliometric indicators that will be examined in this study include publication counts, citation analysis, co-authorship networks, keyword analysis, and institutional collaboration patterns.

Previous scientometric studies have established theoretical and methodological frameworks that will inform the current analysis. For example, Van Eck and Waltman's (2014) work on visualizing the structure of science through citation network analysis provides a model for mapping collaboration patterns and research clusters. Aria and Cuccurullo's (2017) large-scale bibliometric analysis of biomedicine demonstrates techniques for identifying influential publications, authors, and journals. Additionally, Mukherjee *et al.*'s (2017) examination of keyword trends in sustainability science offers insights into tracking emerging research areas over time.

By applying established bibliometric techniques within the theoretical framework of scientometrics, this study aims to quantitatively profile Southeast Asia's information research landscape and identify key trends, opportunities, and gaps. The results will contribute new knowledge about the dynamics of scientific communication within this unique regional context.

By triangulating quantitative bibliometric techniques with qualitative network analysis and thematic coding, this study aims to develop a nuanced understanding of Southeast Asia's information research landscape over the past decade. The mixed-methods approach strengthens the validity and reliability of results (Johnson *et al.*, 2007).

This proposed study is significant for several reasons. First, it will address the dearth of scientometric analyses focusing specifically on Southeast Asia's information research landscape. By mapping trends, networks, and influences over the past decade, the study aims to provide the first comprehensive profile of this scholarly domain within the region.

Second, the results will offer valuable insights for policymakers, research administrators, and funding bodies seeking to better

understand and support the region's knowledge production dynamics. Key indicators such as publication output trends, institutional collaboration patterns, and emerging areas of study can inform strategic decision making and resource allocation.

Third, the study contributes new knowledge that advances scientometric theory and methodology. By applying established bibliometric techniques to analyze Southeast Asia's diverse scholarly contexts, novel indicators or analytical approaches relevant to the Global South may emerge. This can enrich the theoretical and methodological toolkit of scientometrics.

Finally, the results have implications for capacity building within Southeast Asia's information research community. By identifying influential publications, authors, and institutions, the study highlights expertise that can be leveraged for networking, mentorship, and collaborative opportunities. Knowledge gaps may also be addressed through targeted training or research initiatives.

In summary, this proposed scientometric analysis of Southeast Asia's information research landscape over the past decade is significant for addressing current gaps in the literature, informing policy and practice, advancing scientometric theory, and strengthening regional research capacity. By mapping trends, networks and influences through quantitative bibliometric techniques and qualitative network analysis, the study aims to provide novel insights into the dynamics of scientific communication within this context.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Methodology

A statistical analysis technique called bibliometrics is used to evaluate a subject's features and key developmental patterns by examining published research articles. It is a tried-and-true technique for gathering and spotting important research in a variety of scientific and medical domains. Scholars can give both objective and subjective results about the most significant works in a field by carefully analysing TC count, since it is believed to be predictive of an article's overall influence.

On Wednesday 17, 2024 a comprehensive search string was extracted from Web of Science citation database for identification, and downloaded of relevant papers published between January 2014 to December 2023 on Information trend, Information retravel, data science, machine learning in information retrieval research. The keyword related to information trend was used in TS=("Information retrieval" OR "publication trends" or "data science" OR "machine learning in information retrieval" OR "research impact assessment" or "bibliometrics" OR "citation analysis") and 2014 or 2015 or 2016 or 2017 or 2018 or 2019 or 2020 or 2021 or 2022 or 2023 (Publication Years) and SINGAPORE or MALAYSIA or THAILAND or VIETNAM or BRUNEI (Countries/Regions). Total 786 publications 17,413

citations, 22.1 Average citations per papers and 58 h index identified, which were rearranged in the decreasing order of citations. The data was used year wise, subject area, source type, organisations, authors, journals, country wise, and keywords. The data was used to manage the extracted data and perform statistical analysis and developed bibliometric analysis. The 1,393 records were extracted as a CSV file and imported by Biblioshiny and VOSViewer software, which provides a network visualization of publications, including bibliographic coupling, co-authorship, Co-occurrence analysis, countries, organisations, authors, Journals and keywords.

Main Information for the Study

The data covers a period of 10 years from 2014 to 2023. There are 419 sources, which could include journals, books, or other document repositories. There are a total of 786 documents in this dataset. The dataset indicates a negative annual growth rate of -19.73%. This suggests a decline in the number of documents over time. The average age of the documents is 3.75 years, indicating that the content is relatively recent. Each document has an average of 21.8 citations, suggesting that the documents are cited frequently. There are 2353 Keywords Plus (ID) and 3058 Author's Keywords (DE) in the documents. There are 3112 authors in total. There are 22 authors who have single-authored documents. There are 27 single-authored documents, and on average, each document has 4.96 co-authors. This suggests a high level of collaboration. International collaboration is at 71.25%, indicating a significant proportion of collaboration across borders. The document types include articles (545), data paper (1), early access articles (16), proceedings papers (7), corrections (1), editorial materials (13), editorial materials with early access (1), letters (1), meeting abstracts (1), reviews (192), and early access reviews (8).

Annual Publication growth

Tables 1 and 2 illustrate the upward trend in the total number of publications. The total publications seem to be rising steadily over time, suggesting expansion or advancement of some kind. For each year, the percentage of the total 786 is given. The fact that the percentages add up to just over 100% is an intriguing observation. The total publications increased significantly between 2019 and 2020, from 70 to 98, and this growth is also seen in the publications 100% of the total. Although the publications values rise annually, the rate of increase varies. For instance, there is a significant growth in both publications and percentage terms from 2018 to 2019, while the increase in publications terms from 2022 to 2023 is lower, even though the percentage grows.

Publication types and impact

The distribution of document types in a publication dataset is shown in the Table 4 and Figure 1. With 569 instances, articles

are the most common document type in the sample. Original research findings, analyses, or investigations are usually presented in articles. With 200 records, review articles rank as the second most popular document type. Documents with an Early Access TP of 25 are those that are made available prior to the official publishing date. Editorial materials (TP=14) frequently consist of viewpoints from the editorial team, commentary, and opinion pieces. Research presented at conferences is usually presented in procedural papers (TP=7), which are developed from conference proceedings. Errors in previously published works are corrected in correction (TP=1) documents. The description of datasets, techniques, and data gathering procedures is the main focus of the data paper (TP=1).

Table 1: Main information of the Data.

Description	Results
MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT DATA	
Timespan	2014:2024
Sources (Journals, Books, etc.,)	419
Documents	786
Annual Growth Rate %	-19.73
Document Average Age	3.75
Average citations per doc	21.8
References	0
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	2353
Author's Keywords (DE)	3058
AUTHORS	
Authors	3112
Authors of single-authored docs	22
AUTHORS COLLABORATION	
Single-authored docs	27
Co-Authors per Doc	4.96
International co-authorships %	71.25
DOCUMENT TYPES	
Article	545
Article; data paper	1
Article; early access	16
Article; proceedings paper	7
Correction	1
Editorial material	13
Editorial material; early access	1
Letter	1
Meeting abstract	1
Review	192
Review; early access	8

Research areas profile

According to Web of Science (WoS), the cited publications in publications trend in data science, bibliometrics were selected most productive research area. The research contributions in these subfields varied widely, Computer science 306 (38.931%) publications, followed by Engineering 167 (21.247%) publications, Information Science Library Science 86 (10.941%) publications, Environmental Sciences Ecology published 82 (10.433%) publications, Science Technology Other Topics 81 (10.305%) publications, Telecommunications 56 (7.125%) publications, Business Economics 52 (6.616%) publications, Physics 30 (3.817%) publications etc., (Table 3).

Most collaborative countries

The most collaborative countries network shows the performance of research collaboration between each other's. Table 4 and Figure 3 shows the intensity of the relationship, i.e., Malaysia and Singapore have the highest values in the "TP" column, indicating they may be leading in the metric being measured. Countries

like China, USA, Thailand, and Vietnam also have relatively high values, suggesting they are significant in the analysis. Countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Nigeria have lower values, indicating they may have less influence or impact according to the metric. The distribution of values varies widely, indicating a diverse range of performances or contributions among the listed countries. Without knowing what "TP" represents, it's hard to draw specific conclusions. It would be helpful to understand the context and purpose of this analysis (Table 5).

Institutional collaboration

It appears that you've provided a Table 6 related to institutional research output analysis, with columns for "Affiliations," "TP" (presumably standing for some form of output), and "% of 786." Here are some observations (Table 6):

Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, and University Malaya are among the top contributors ($n=100$, 12.723%) each having a significant percentage of the total output. The Table 5 includes a diverse range of institutions

Table 2: Year wise publication distribution.

Sl. No.	Year	TP	% of 786
1	2014	27	3.435
2	2015	32	4.071
3	2016	38	4.835
4	2017	39	4.962
5	2018	51	6.489
6	2019	70	8.906
7	2020	98	12.468
8	2021	124	15.776
9	2022	158	20.102
10	2023	149	18.957
		786	100.00

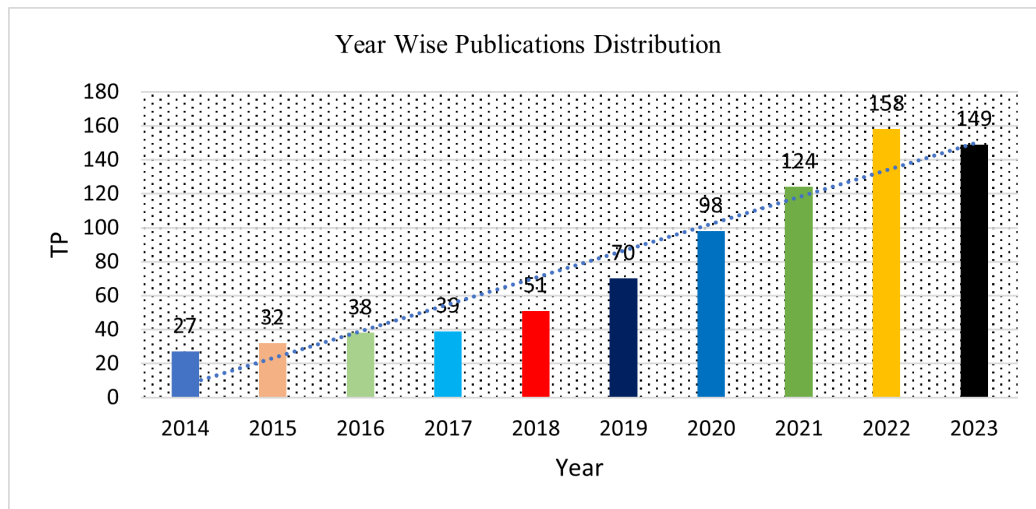


Figure 1: Publication types and impact.

Table 3: Top 20 most prolific research areas.

Sl. No.	Research Areas	TP	% of 786
1	Computer Science	306	38.931
2	Engineering	167	21.247
3	Information Science Library Science	86	10.941
4	Environmental Sciences Ecology	82	10.433
5	Science Technology Other Topics	81	10.305
6	Telecommunications	56	7.125
7	Business Economics	52	6.616
8	Physics	30	3.817
9	Education Educational Research	29	3.69
10	Chemistry	28	3.562
11	Materials Science	27	3.435
12	Energy Fuels	14	1.781
13	Psychology	14	1.781
14	Public Environmental Occupational Health	14	1.781
15	Social Sciences Other Topics	14	1.781
16	Health Care Sciences Services	13	1.654
17	Mathematics	13	1.654
18	Biochemistry Molecular Biology	10	1.272
19	General Internal Medicine	10	1.272
20	Medical Informatics	10	1.272

Table 4: publications type of documents.

Sl. No.	Document Types	Record Count	% of 786
1	Article	569	72.392
2	Review Article	200	25.445
3	Early Access	25	3.181
4	Editorial Material	14	1.781
5	Proceeding Paper	7	0.891
6	Correction	1	0.127
7	Data Paper	1	0.127
8	Letter	1	0.127
9	Meeting Abstract	1	0.127

from various countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and others. Several institutions have the same output ("TP") values, indicating that they contribute equally to the research output. The "% of 786" column provides the percentage contribution of each institution to the total research output. It seems to be based on a total count of 786, and the values reflect the proportion of each institution's output relative to this total. Institutions like the University of California System and the Chinese Academy of Sciences suggest an international collaboration or research presence. The percentages vary widely, ranging from over 12% to around 1.5%, highlighting the diversity in the contributions of different institutions. Further analysis

could involve looking for trends over time, comparing the performance of institutions within the same country, or exploring the types of research being conducted.

Most Productive and Most Impactful authors

Table 7 presents the profile of the top 20 highly productive authors and top 20 most impactful authors. The most productive authors in data science, bibliometrics publication trends are listed in Table 5 and Figure 4, along with their average citation with publications, the total number of citations, and the total number of publications. Table 5 and Figure 4 shows that the most productive 414 authors participated in 786 Asian countries. Data science,

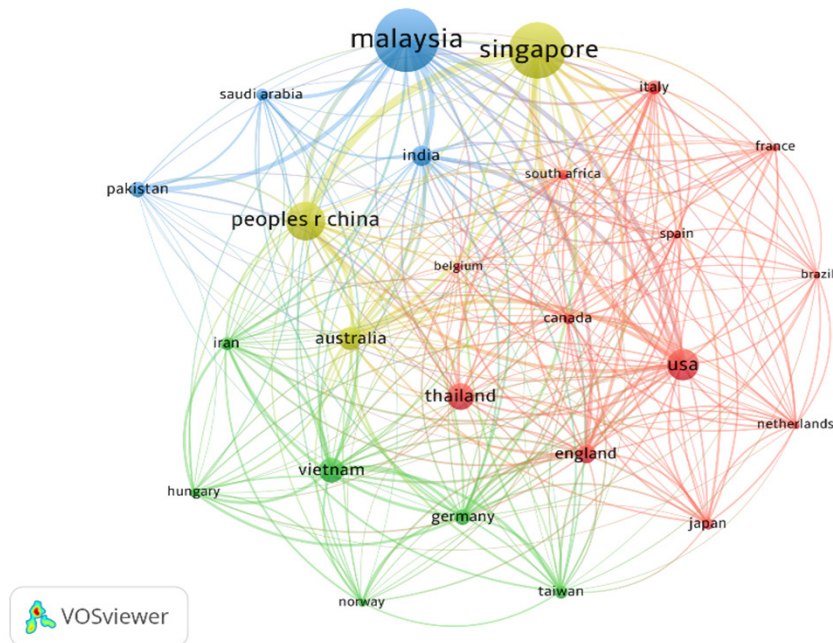


Figure 2: Top 29 countries collaboration network map.

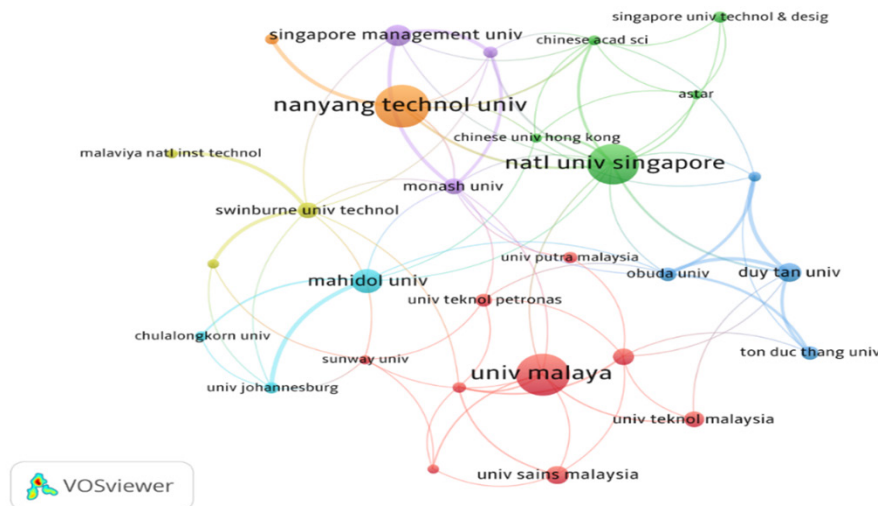


Figure 3: Most collaborative institutions.

machines learning, publications trends, of which 88 authors published 1 article each, 524 authors published 2 papers each, 164 authors published 3 papers each, 34 authors published 4 papers each, 11 authors published 5 papers each, 42 authors published 5 papers each, 6 authors published 6 papers each, 4 authors published 7 papers each. Mosavi, Amir, Obuda University leads the Table 5 and Figure 2 highest i.e., 54 (3.053%) publications, 796 citations, followed by Kumar, Satish, Indian Institute of Management Nagpur, published 23 (2.926%) publications, 2072 citations and 156.87 average citation per papers, Hallinger, Philip,

Mahidol University published 16 (2.036%) publications, 2072 citations and 156.87 average citations per papers.

Network of Keywords Co-occurrence

Figure 5 shows the most frequent indexing keywords and their frequency of occurrence in Southeast Asia's Information Research. The keywords that appeared at least 1900 times in 786 publications were listed. 50 keywords 4 clusters, 700 links and 1900 total link strength, i.e., bibliometrics 190 occurrences with 189 total link strength followed by data science 84 occurrences

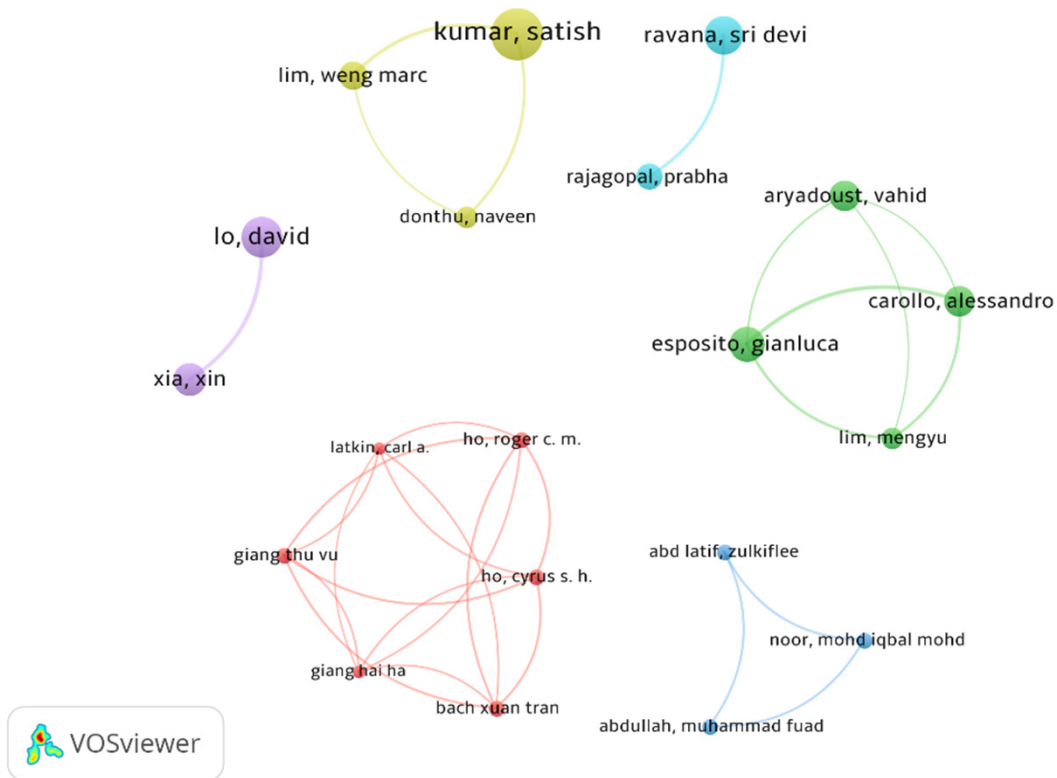


Figure 4: Most productive and impactful authors.

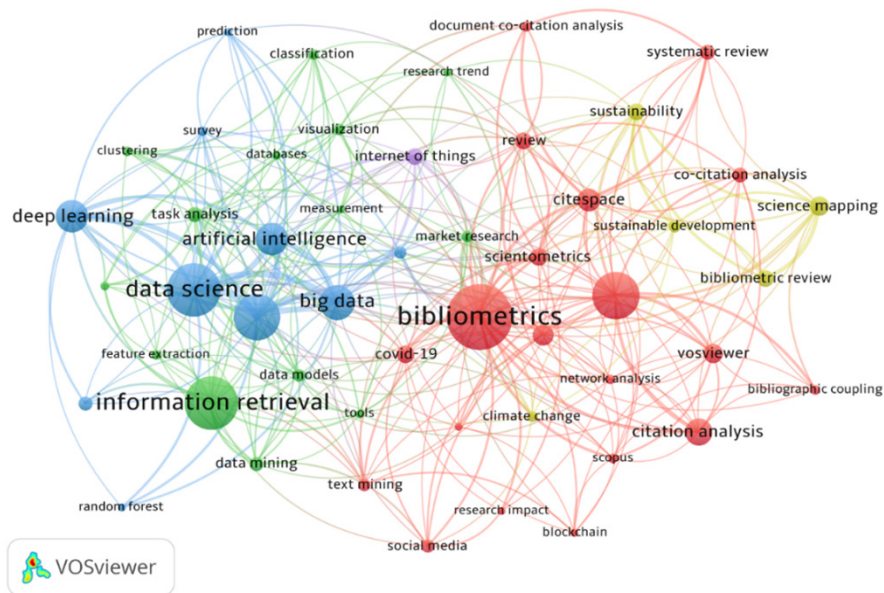


Figure 5: Network of Keywords Co-occurrence.

Table 5: Countries collaboration.

Sl. No.	Countries	TP	% of 786
1	Malaysia	332	42.239
2	Singapore	282	35.878
3	Peoples R China	163	20.738
4	USA	122	15.522
5	Thailand	98	12.468
6	Vietnam	89	11.323
7	Australia	81	10.305
8	India	68	8.651
9	England	58	7.379
10	Pakistan	48	6.107
11	Germany	46	5.852
12	Italy	39	4.962
13	Taiwan	36	4.58
14	Iran	34	4.326
15	Saudi Arabia	32	4.071
16	Canada	30	3.817
17	Japan	29	3.69
18	South Africa	26	3.308
19	Hungary	22	2.799
20	South Korea	21	2.672
21	Spain	20	2.545
22	Norway	18	2.29
23	France	16	2.036
24	Netherlands	16	2.036
25	Denmark	14	1.781
26	Belgium	13	1.654
27	Nigeria	13	1.654
28	Bangladesh	12	1.527
29	Indonesia	12	1.527

with 190 total link strength, information retrieval 77 occurrences with 44 total link strength bibliometrics analysis 77 occurrences 159 total link strength respectively.

DISCUSSION

The scientometric analysis conducted in the study "Charting Scholarly Horizons: Scientometrics in Southeast Asia's Information Research Landscape" offers valuable insights into the scholarly dynamics of Southeast Asia's information

research landscape. The study utilized bibliometric techniques to quantitatively analyze the research output in the region over the past decade. Scientometrics, as defined by Hood and Wilson (2001), involves the quantitative study of science and technology and their related aspects. By examining metrics such as publication output, citations, collaboration patterns, and keyword trends, the study aimed to provide a comprehensive profile of the scholarly horizons in Southeast Asia's information research field (Ahmed & Sab, 2024).

Table 6: Most Productive Institutions .

Sl. No.	Affiliations	TP	% of 786
1	Nanyang Technological University	100	12.723
2	Nanyang Technological University, National Institute of Education NIE, Singapore	100	12.723
3	National University of Singapore	100	12.723
4	University Malaya	94	11.959
5	Mahidol University	44	5.598
6	Singapore Management University	35	4.453
7	University Technology Malaysia	32	4.071
8	University Sains Malaysia	31	3.944
9	Duy Tan University	30	3.817
10	University Kebangsaan, Malaysia	30	3.817
11	Monash University	27	3.435
12	National Institute of Technology NIT System	25	3.181
13	Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak	24	3.053
14	Swinburne University of Technology	23	2.926
15	Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur	21	2.672
16	University Technology Mara	20	2.545
17	Ton Duc Thang University	19	2.417
18	Agency For Science Technology Research A Star	18	2.29
19	Obuda University	18	2.29
20	University Technology Petronas	17	2.163
21	Singapore University of Technology Design	16	2.036
22	Vietnam National University, Hochiminh City	16	2.036
23	National Institute of Education Nie, Singapore	15	1.908
24	University Putra, Malaysia	15	1.908
25	University of California System	15	1.908
26	University of Johannesburg	15	1.908
27	Zhejiang University	15	1.908
28	University of Trento	13	1.654
29	Chinese Academy of Sciences	12	1.527

The findings of the study revealed a significant volume of publications focusing on various aspects of information research, including trends, retrieval, data science, and machine learning. Despite a negative annual growth rate, the average citations per paper and the calculated h-index indicated substantial engagement and impact within the scholarly community (Ahmed & Sab, 2024). The study also identified prominent researchers and academic institutions contributing to Southeast Asia's information research, highlighting collaborative networks and expertise clusters. The relatively recent age of the documents emphasized the dynamic nature of scholarly communication in the region (Ahmed & Sab, 2024).

The study's conclusions underscored the importance of continued research and collaboration to advance knowledge and address the challenges in Southeast Asia's information landscape. By understanding the trends, challenges, and opportunities highlighted in the analysis, stakeholders can navigate and contribute to the evolving scholarly horizons of Southeast Asia effectively (Ahmed & Sab, 2024).

In conclusion, the scientometric analysis presented in the study sheds light on the scholarly dynamics of Southeast Asia's information research landscape. The study's findings provide a

Table 7: Top 20 Most productive and impactful authors.

Sl. No.	Authors	Affiliation	TP	%	TC	ACP
1	Mosavi, Amir	Óbuda University	24	3.053	796	36.38
2	Kumar, Satish	Indian Institute of Management, Nagpur	23	2.926	2072	156.87
3	Hallinger, Philip	Mahidol University	16	2.036	570	35.63
4	Lo, David	Singapore Management University	14	1.781	367	24.47
5	Band, Shahab S.	National Yunlin University Science & Technology	14	1.781	565	43.46
6	Esposito, Gianluca	University of Trento	12	1.527	150	16.67
7	Xia, Xin	Huawei Technologies	11	1.399	318	35.33
8	Aryadoust, Vahid	National University of Singapore	10	1.272	234	23.4
9	Carollo, Alessandro	University of Trento	10	1.272	103	10.3
10	Lim, Weng Marc	Sunway University	10	1.272	331	47.29
11	Abrizah, Abdullah	Universiti Malaya	9	1.145	91	10.11
12	Rajagopal, Prabha	Monash University	8	1.018	12	1.5
13	Band, Shahab S.	National Yunlin University Science & Technology	7	0.891	565	43.46
14	Cambria, Erik	Nanyang Technological University	7	0.891	305	43.57
15	Ebrahim, Nader Ale	Alzahra University	7	0.891	167	27.83
16	Lim, Weng Marc	Sunway University	7	0.891	332	47.43
17	Azra, Mohamad Nor	Universiti Malaysia Terengganu	6	0.763	6	1
18	Biljecki, Filip	National University of Singapore	6	0.763	233	38.83
19	Donthu, Naveen	Georgia State University	6	0.763	2,091	348.5
20	Goyal, Kirti	Manipal University, Jaipur	6	0.763	114	19

foundation for further research and collaboration in the region to foster academic excellence and address societal needs effectively.

CONCLUSION

The scientometric analysis of Southeast Asia's information research landscape provides valuable insights into the region's scholarly dynamics. The study revealed a notable volume of publications focused on various facets of information research, including trends, retrieval, data science, and machine learning. Despite a negative annual growth rate, the average citations per paper and the calculated *h*-index indicate significant engagement and impact within the scholarly community. Through co-authorship analysis and affiliation data, prominent researchers and academic institutions contributing to Southeast Asia's information research were identified, highlighting collaborative networks and expertise clusters. The relatively recent age of the documents underscores the dynamic nature of scholarly communication in the region. This study underscores the importance of continued research and collaboration in advancing knowledge and addressing the challenges inherent in Southeast Asia's information landscape.

By understanding the trends, challenges, and opportunities highlighted in this analysis, stakeholders can better navigate and contribute to the evolving scholarly horizons of Southeast Asia. Further exploration and interdisciplinary approaches are warranted to harness the full potential of information research in addressing societal needs and fostering academic excellence in the region.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

ABBREVIATIONS

TP: Total Publications; **TC:** Total citations; **ACP:** Average citations per paper.

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