

Rethinking Public Sector Innovation in the Digital Era: a Bibliometric Analysis of Digital Transformation Research

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Abstract

Digital transformation has emerged as a critical driver of innovation in the public sector, fundamentally reshaping governance models, service delivery, and administrative processes worldwide. This study employs a comprehensive bibliometric approach to systematically map and analyze the evolution of scholarly research on digital transformation and public sector innovation from 2000 to 2025. Using the Scopus database as the primary data source and VOSviewer for visualization, this research identifies key publication trends, influential authors, prominent institutions, and collaborative networks. The analysis focuses on co-occurrence of keywords, citation patterns, and thematic clusters to uncover the intellectual structure and research frontiers within the domain. Results demonstrate a clear progression from foundational e-government research towards integrated frameworks encompassing smart governance, digital public services, and data-driven policy-making. The study also highlights underexplored areas, including digital innovation challenges in emerging economies and the socio-technical implications of public sector digitalization. By synthesizing existing knowledge and revealing research gaps, this bibliometric analysis contributes valuable insights to academics, policymakers, and practitioners seeking to enhance public sector innovation through digital technologies. The findings underscore the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and call for future research addressing equity, sustainability, and digital inclusion in the context of digital governance.

Keywords: Bibliometric Analysis, Digital Innovation, Public Administration, Public Governance, Vosviewer