Journal	:	**Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)**
Publisher	:	**Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri**
ISSN	:	**e-ISSN 3026-6505**
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page	:	**4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377**

TRENDS, CONCEPTUAL STRUCTURE, AND THEMATIC EVOLUTION IN FRAUD AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

Nashita Shakila Hendratmo[1]*, Arif Sapta Yuniarto [2]
[1,2]Universitas Ahmad Dahlan, Indonesia
[1]2200012120@webmail.uad.ac.id.
[2]arif.yuniarto@uad.ac.id
*Coresponding Author

Article Information

Submission	:	28-08-2026
Review	:	11-09-2026
Revised	:	21-09-2026
Accepted	:	25-09-2026
Published	:	30-09-2026

Key Words
Fraud; Corporate Governance; Bibliometric Analysis; Conceptual Structure; Thematic Evolution.

Abstract

This study aims to map publication growth, scientific impact, leading contributors, conceptual structure, and thematic evolution in fraud and corporate governance research. A bibliometric analysis was conducted on 500 journal articles indexed in Dimensions and published between 2021 and 2026. The metadata were analysed using RStudio and the bibliometrix package through annual scientific production, citation, source, author, affiliation, country, influential document, keyword co-occurrence, thematic map, and thematic evolution analyses. The results show that annual publications increased from 57 articles in 2021 to a temporary peak of 123 articles in 2024. Earlier publications received higher average citations because of their longer citation windows. PLOS ONE and Heliyon were the most productive sources, Wang Y and Zhang Y were the most productive author names and China made the largest national contribution. However, the dominance of multidisciplinary and environmental journals among the most productive sources suggests that the corpus retrieved is broader than the traditional accounting, finance and corporate governance outlets. This condition may influence the interpretation of thematic patterns, indicating that the results should be interpreted as representing a wider interdisciplinary corpus rather than a narrowly specialised fraud–corporate governance literature. The conceptual structure connects investment, organisational behaviour, auditing, risk management, and technology, while fraud is associated with financial auditing, artificial intelligence, and neural networks. However, corporate governance has not yet emerged as a central theme, while the thematic evolution remains influenced by environmental and health-related issues. Future research should integrate governance mechanisms with artificial intelligence, machine learning, digital auditing, and fraud early-warning systems, while expanding cross-country comparisons and distinguishing among different forms of fraud.

How to Cite *: Hendratmo, N. S., & Yuniarto, A. S. (2026). Trends, Conceptual Structure, And Thematic Evolution In Fraud And Corporate Governance: A Bibliometric Analysis. Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT), 4(1), 360–377. https://doi.org/10.70248/jakpt.v4i1.4748*

DOI : *https://doi.org/10.70248/jakpt.v4i1.4748*
This is an open access article under https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
Copyright© 2026 by Author. Published by Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri

INTRODUCTION

Corporate fraud has become a global concern that threatens the integrity of financial reporting, the efficiency of capital markets, organisational sustainability, and stakeholder trust (Hogan et al., 2008; Kassem, 2022; Rezaee, 2005; Trompeter et al., 2013). Increasingly complex transactions, information asymmetry, pressure to meet performance targets, and the expanding use of digital technologies not only create further opportunities for fraud but also make fraudulent practices more adaptive and difficult to identify through conventional monitoring arrangements (Dorminey et al.,

Journal : Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)
Publisher : Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri
ISSN : e-ISSN 3026-6505
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page : 4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377

2012; Li, 2025; Xu et al., 2023). These conditions place corporate governance at the centre of the control architecture because the effectiveness of boards, audit committees, ownership structures, auditors, and external monitoring shapes an organisation's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to fraud (Abbott et al., 2000; Eugster et al., 2024; Kassem, 2022). Nevertheless, tighter regulation and stronger formal structures have not eliminated fraud, as their effectiveness ultimately depends on implementation quality, organisational culture, incentive structures, and the enforcement environment (Agrawal & Chadha, 2005; Farber, 2005; Kassem, 2022).

Prior studies link corporate governance to fraud risk through both internal and external monitoring mechanisms (Broadstock & Chen, 2021; G. Chen et al., 2006; Md Nasir & Hashim, 2021). Effective governance can strengthen fraud prevention and detection when boards, audit committees, auditors, regulators, and other stakeholders coordinate adequately (Files & Liu, 2022; Kassem, 2022; Mousavi et al., 2022). Board and audit committee size, composition, expertise, and diversity have been associated with lower levels of misconduct, although the effects of individual attributes remain inconsistent across settings (Cohen et al., 2019; Eugster et al., 2024; Schmidt & Wilkins, 2020). State ownership, the reputational concerns of market participants, and institutional configurations also shape responses to fraud (He et al., 2020; Shi et al., 2020). Gender diversity in corporate leadership may reduce financial statement fraud, while investor site visits and employee share ownership extend monitoring beyond the boardroom (Broadstock & Chen, 2021; Wang et al., 2022; Wu et al., 2023). More recently, governance indicators have been combined with machine-learning techniques to improve the prediction and detection of corporate fraud (Li, 2025; Xu et al., 2023).

Although the relationship between fraud and corporate governance has been widely examined, the resulting knowledge remains fragmented across fraud types, explanatory theories, board characteristics, ownership structures, audit quality, national settings, and detection methods (Free, 2015; Lokanan, 2015; Trompeter et al., 2013; Vousinas, 2019). Empirical findings are also inconclusive because mechanisms that are normatively expected to prevent fraud may lose their effectiveness when independence is merely formal or when oversight is not supported by appropriate expertise and incentives (Eugster et al., 2024; Farber, 2005; Md Nasir & Hashim, 2021). Predictive research has moved from financial ratios and misstatement models towards unstructured data, machine learning, and governance indicators; however, model comparisons and explanations of the underlying mechanisms remain uneven (Bao et al., 2020; Dechow et al., 2011; Du, 2020; Skousen et al., 2009). Consequently, the literature has yet to offer an integrated account of the field's intellectual structure, inter-topic relationships, and shifting global research orientation.

This study provides an integrated bibliometric mapping of publications on fraud and corporate governance in the Dimensions database for the period of 2021–2026. Scopus and Web of Science are more commonly used in bibliometric studies because of their selective indexing process and established position in academic evaluation. However, in this study, Dimensions is used because of its wide multidisciplinary coverage. Dimensions offers publication metadata, citation information, author affiliations and research outputs of scholarly literature across many disciplines and sources, including patents, clinical trials, datasets and policy documents relevant to the investigation of fraud and corporate governance as an interdisciplinary topic of research involving accounting, finance, auditing, technology, organisational studies and sustainability. The wider coverage of Dimensions may, however, also increase the risk

Journal : Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)
Publisher : Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri
ISSN : e-ISSN 3026-6505
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page : 4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377

of retrieving documents in related but less specialised fields. Thus, the use of Dimensions may affect comparability with previous bibliometric studies based on Scopus or Web of Science, and the results should be considered in light of the database characteristics and screening procedures applied. Unlike narrative and systematic reviews that concentrate on particular governance mechanisms, the present study combines performance analysis, conceptual-structure mapping, and thematic-evolution analysis to identify publication growth, leading sources and contributors, influential documents, and keyword relationships (Devi, 2024; Donthu et al., 2021; Mukherjee et al., 2022). Its temporal contribution lies in mapping a recent period during which the literature has increasingly engaged with digital governance, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data-driven auditing (Eugster et al., 2024; Fedyk et al., 2022; Li, 2025). Corporate governance is therefore treated as a multidimensional knowledge domain linking internal, external, institutional, and technology-enabled monitoring.

Against this background, the study aims to map the development, knowledge structure, and thematic trajectory of fraud and corporate governance research published between 2021 and 2026 using a bibliometric approach (Donthu et al., 2021). It addresses five research questions: (1) How have the productivity and scientific impact of publications on fraud and corporate governance developed? (2) Which journals, authors, institutions, and countries have made the most significant contributions? (3) Which documents have been most influential in shaping the intellectual foundations of the field? (4) How are its conceptual structure and inter-topic relationships organised within the keyword network? (5) How have its themes evolved, and which emerging themes and gaps can inform a future research agenda? The findings are expected to provide academics, auditors, regulators, and corporate decision-makers with a systematic basis for understanding the development of the field and formulating governance strategies to address increasingly complex fraud risks (Eugster et al., 2024; Kassem, 2022).

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This study adopts a quantitative bibliometric design to map the development, scientific impact, conceptual structure, and direction of research on fraud and corporate governance. Bibliometric analysis can process large volumes of publication metadata and reveal patterns of productivity, influence, social structure, and conceptual relationships that may be difficult to discern through a narrative review (Donthu et al., 2021; Zupic & Čater, 2015). The study proceeded through scope definition, document collection and screening, metadata cleaning, performance analysis, science mapping, and interpretation (Lim et al., 2024; Mukherjee et al., 2022; Öztürk, 2024).

Data Source and Search Strategy

Bibliographic records were retrieved from Dimensions, which provides metadata on publications, authors, affiliations, publication sources, keywords, references, and citation counts. The search was restricted to documents published between 2021 and 2026 to capture recent developments in fraud and corporate governance research. Because the indexing of 2026 publications was incomplete at the time of data collection, observations for that year were treated as partial and were not used in isolation to infer a decline in research productivity.

Journal : Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)
Publisher : Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri
ISSN : e-ISSN 3026-6505
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page : 4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377

The search strategy combined the two main concepts using the Boolean operator AND: “fraud” AND “corporate governance”. The query was used to search titles, abstracts and keywords to ensure that records retrieved explicitly referred to both concepts. The AND operator was chosen to enhance topical specificity by limiting the retrieval of documents that discuss fraud or corporate governance in isolation. However, this strategy may reduce the sensitivity of retrieval because some relevant studies might be about fraud prevention, governance mechanisms, auditing practices, or internal control systems without explicitly using both terms. Hence, this limitation was considered when interpreting results from the bibliometric analysis. This limitation is taken into account in the discussion of the results. The search was conducted on **[24 June 2026]**, as database results and citation counts are dynamic and may change with subsequent indexing updates.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Documents were included when they were English-language journal articles published between 2021 and 2026, contained sufficient bibliographic metadata, and addressed the relationship between fraud and corporate governance. Studies dealing with non-corporate forms of fraud—including consumer fraud, cyber fraud, academic misconduct, healthcare fraud, and other forms of wrongdoing unrelated to corporate governance—were excluded. Editorials, conference proceedings, book chapters, books, corrections, notes, and records with insufficient metadata were also removed to maintain a consistent unit of analysis.

Selection was conducted in stages by examining titles, abstracts, keywords, document types, publication years, and topical relevance. Duplicate records were first identified using the DOI and were then verified through similarities in title, author names, and publication year. This screening procedure was necessary because a search based on the term fraud can retrieve work from healthcare, environmental studies, technology, and other social-science domains that has no direct connection with corporate governance. Following identification, screening, eligibility assessment, and the removal of irrelevant records, 500 articles constituted the final analytical sample. These screening procedures were designed to minimise potential contamination from studies using fraud-related terminology that did not substantially address corporate governance issues. Intermediate screening counts were not separately documented during the initial selection process; therefore, only the final analytical sample of 500 articles is reported.

Data Extraction and Cleaning

Publication metadata were exported from Dimensions in Microsoft Excel format and included titles, abstracts, publication years, author names, affiliations, countries, journal titles, keywords, DOIs, and citation counts. The data were imported into RStudio and analysed using the bibliometrix package, which integrates performance analysis and science mapping within a single computational environment (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017; Moral-Muñoz et al., 2020).

Before analysis, the metadata were cleaned to reduce errors arising from spelling variants, abbreviations, singular and plural forms, and inconsistent terminology. Author and institutional names were reviewed to consolidate variants referring to the same entity. Keywords were also standardised: for example, frauds was merged with fraud; corporate fraud and financial fraud were retained as separate concepts where they

Journal : Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)
Publisher : Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri
ISSN : e-ISSN 3026-6505
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page : 4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377

represented substantively different emphases; and variants caused solely by capitalisation or punctuation were consolidated. Generic words that did not represent research concepts, such as study, article, research, and analysis, were removed from the keyword analysis.

Data Analysis

The analysis was conducted in two stages: performance analysis and science mapping. Performance analysis assessed annual publication growth, total citations, average citations per article, the most productive journals and authors, leading affiliations and contributing countries, and the most highly cited documents. Citation counts were treated as indicators of scientific influence but interpreted cautiously because older articles have longer exposure periods and more opportunities to accumulate citations than recent publications (Donthu et al., 2021).

Science mapping was used to examine the conceptual structure of the literature through keyword co-occurrence analysis. Each node represents a keyword, node size indicates frequency of occurrence, links denote co-occurrence relationships, and colours identify thematic clusters. The thematic map and thematic-evolution analysis were interpreted using centrality and density to distinguish motor, basic, niche, and emerging or declining themes and to trace thematic continuity across periods (Cobo et al., 2011; Donthu et al., 2021). Author, institutional, and country collaboration analyses were included where metadata completeness permitted.

The findings were presented through tables, annual scientific-production graphs, keyword networks, thematic maps, and thematic-evolution visualisations. Interpretation was based not only on the size and visual position of nodes but also on the content of documents within each cluster and on potential biases arising from term normalisation and incomplete metadata (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017; Moral-Muñoz et al., 2020; Zupic & Čater, 2015). Combining performance analysis with science mapping provides a broader account of the field's development, leading contributors, knowledge structure, and future research agenda.

Reliability and Reproducibility

Reliability was supported by documenting the database, search date, search strategy, selection criteria, number of records at each stage, and metadata-cleaning procedures. The R scripts used for the analysis were retained to enable replication. Titles, abstracts, keywords, publication sources, and the most highly cited documents were also inspected manually to ensure that the statistical results represented the fraud and corporate governance literature rather than records retrieved solely because of terminological overlap.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Publication Productivity and Scientific Impact

The first research question concerns the development of publication productivity and scientific impact in fraud and corporate governance research. Scientific production fluctuated over the 2021–2026 period. The annual number of publications increased from 57 in 2021 to 90 in 2022, before declining slightly to 86 in 2023. Output reached a provisional peak of 123 articles in 2024 and subsequently fell to 92 in 2025 and 52 in 2026. This pattern indicates that scholarly attention to the issues captured by the

Journal : Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)
Publisher : Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri
ISSN : e-ISSN 3026-6505
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page : 4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377

corpus strengthened until its temporary peak in 2024. Figure 1 presents the annual development of publication productivity.

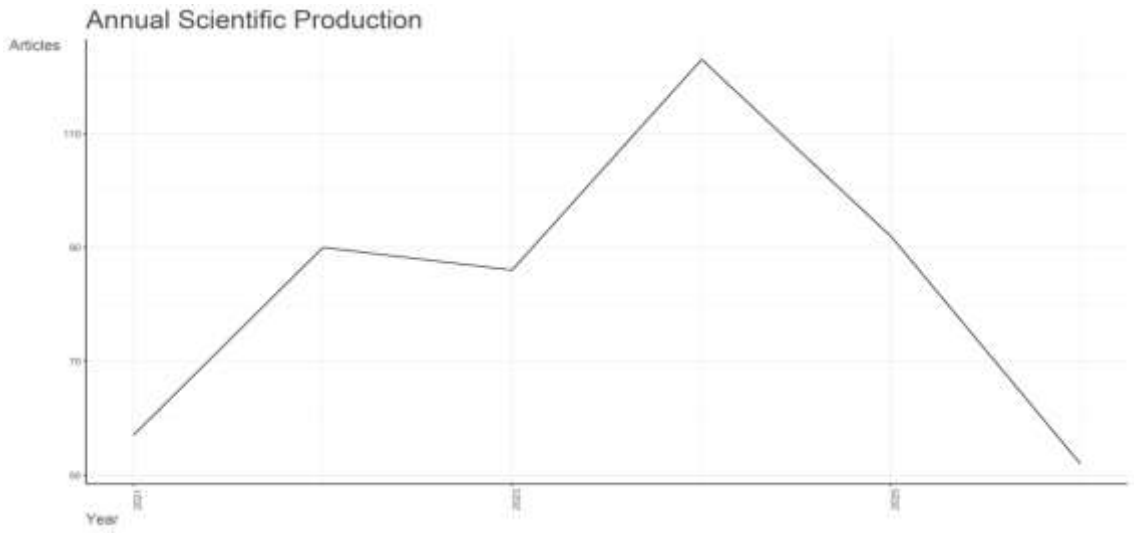


Figure 1. Annual Scientific Production, 2021–2026

The increase in publications through 2024 may reflect the widening scope of research on fraud risk, monitoring mechanisms, organisational behaviour, detection technologies, and corporate governance. Recent scholarship extends beyond boards and audit committees to investor monitoring, employee participation, independent investigations, risk analysis, and the use of artificial intelligence in auditing and fraud detection (Broadstock & Chen, 2021; Fedyk et al., 2022; Files & Liu, 2022; Li, 2025; Wu et al., 2023; Xu et al., 2023). The reduction in output recorded for 2026 should not be interpreted as waning scholarly interest because the year was still in progress when the data were collected and Dimensions indexing was incomplete.

Scientific impact followed a different pattern from publication productivity. Articles published in 2021 received the highest average, at approximately nine citations per year. The figure declined to about 5.4 in 2022, 4.9 in 2023, 3.1 in 2024, 1.4 in 2025, and 0.25 in 2026. Figure 2 depicts the average annual citation rate by publication year.

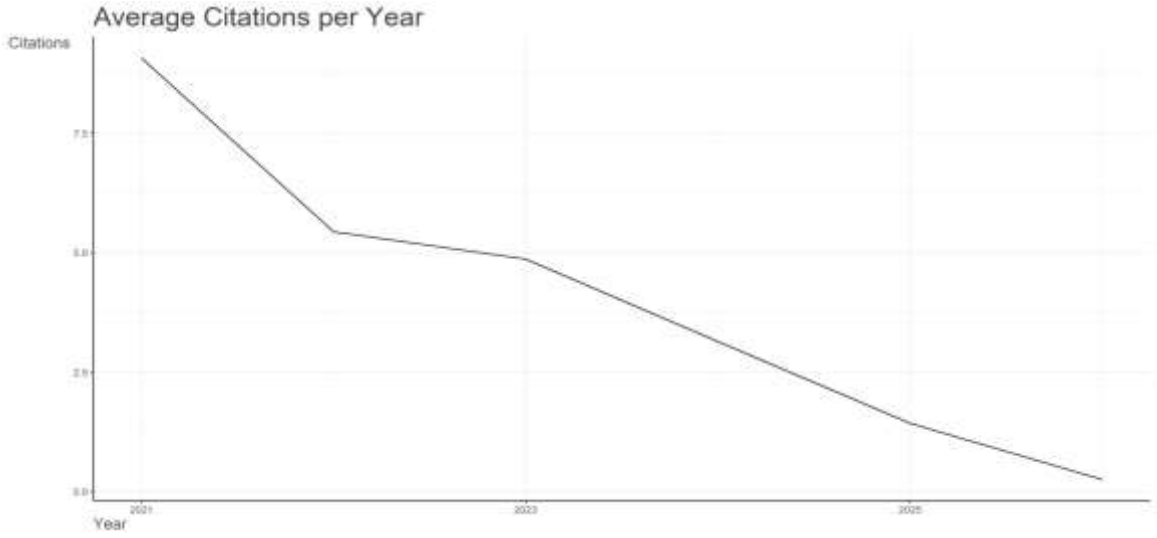


Figure 2. Average Article Citations per Year

Journal : Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)
Publisher : Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri
ISSN : e-ISSN 3026-6505
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page : 4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377

The declining average does not imply that recent articles are of lower quality. It is largely attributable to the citation-window effect, whereby older publications have had more time to be discovered, read, and cited (Donthu et al., 2021; Mukherjee et al., 2022). Thus, productivity increased until 2024, whereas citation impact remained concentrated among articles published near the beginning of the observation period. Impact comparisons should therefore account for both citations per year and document age.

Leading Contributors to the Field

The second research question identifies the journals, authors, institutions, and countries contributing to the development of the field. PLOS ONE was the most productive publication source with 61 documents, followed by Heliyon with 41. Environmental Science and Pollution Research produced 26 documents and the Journal of Environmental Management produced 24. Journals more closely aligned with finance and fraud—namely the Journal of Financial Crime and Finance Research Letters—published nine and eight documents, respectively. Figure 3 compares the output of the most productive publication sources.

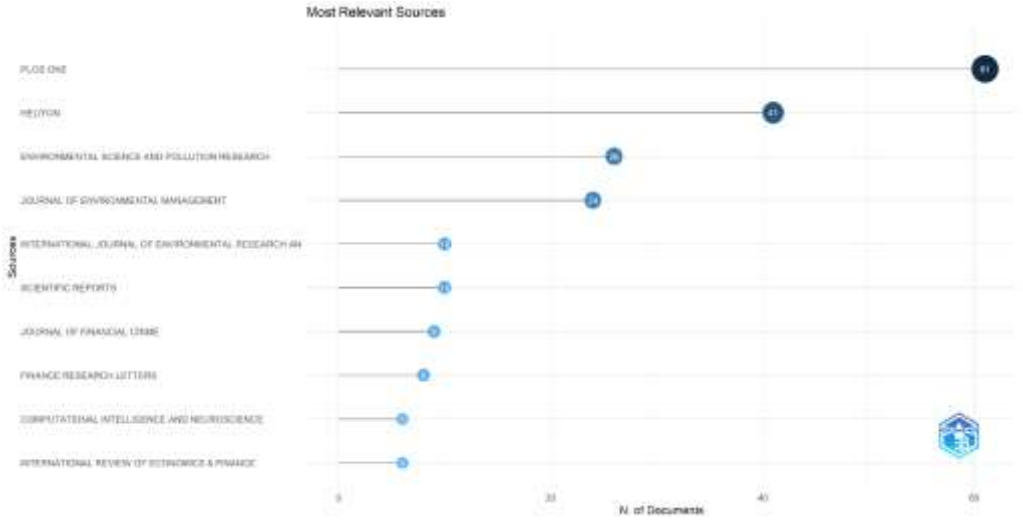


Figure 3. Most Productive Publication Sources

The prominence of PLOS ONE and Heliyon demonstrates the substantial role of multidisciplinary journals in publishing studies captured by the dataset. The strong representation of environmental journals, however, warrants caution. It may reflect the extension of governance debates into environmental and sustainability issues, but it may also indicate that documents without a direct focus on fraud and corporate governance entered the corpus. Publication-source productivity therefore does not, by itself, establish the substantive relevance of every article to the research topic. The dominance of multidisciplinary and environmental journals also has implications for the interpretation of the intellectual structure of the corpus. These journals cover wider research topics and some documents found may be more related to sustainability, environmental management or organisational issues, and not directly studying the mechanisms of fraud prevention and corporate governance. Therefore, the thematic patterns observed should be interpreted as representative of the broader retrieved corpus, rather than the specialised fraud–corporate governance literature.

Journal : Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)
Publisher : Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri
ISSN : e-ISSN 3026-6505
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page : 4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377

This heterogeneity of the corpus is of importance to the interpretation of the results of this study. While the screening process was designed to constrain the inclusion of irrelevant documents, the use of a multidisciplinary database and the keyword-based retrieval may still detect studies where fraud or governance issues are mentioned within the framework of broader discussions on sustainability, environmental management, organisational matters or other related fields. Therefore, the absence of corporate governance as a dominant theme should be taken with caution, as it may reflect the characteristics of the corpus retrieved rather than the overall development of fraud and corporate governance research.

At the author level, Wang Y recorded the largest number of documents (14), followed by Zhang Y (11). Li J, Li Y, and Zhang Z each produced six documents, while Liu J, Liu Y, Sun Y, Wang Z, and Yang Y each produced five. Figure 4 provides a more detailed comparison of author productivity based on document counts.

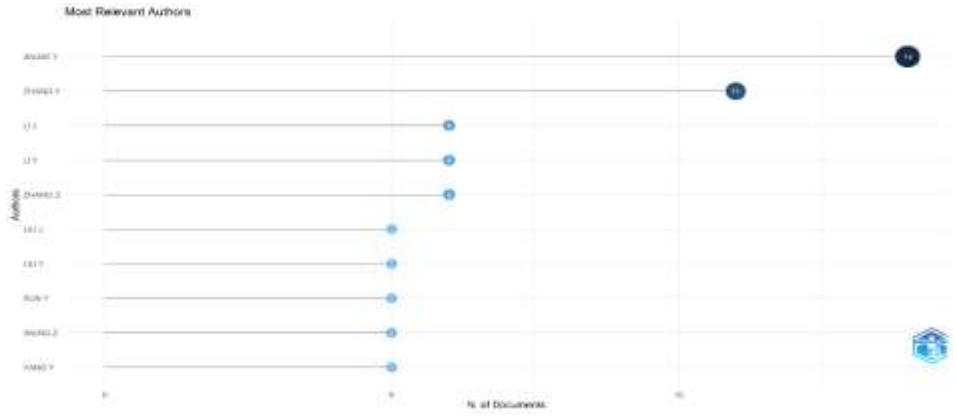


Figure 4. Most Productive Authors

These results suggest a strong contribution from authors affiliated with, or conducting research related to, China. Nevertheless, author names displayed only as surnames and initials do not necessarily identify a single individual. Wang Y, Zhang Y, and Li J, for example, may each refer to several different researchers. Author-productivity results should therefore be supplemented with disambiguation using full names, Scopus Author IDs, ORCID records, affiliations, and collaboration networks before conclusions are drawn about individual scholarly leadership.

Country-level scientific production reinforces this finding, with China displaying the highest publication intensity. Contributions were also distributed across the United States, Canada, several European countries, Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. Figure 5 visualises the geographical distribution of publication output.

Journal : Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)
Publisher : Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri
ISSN : e-ISSN 3026-6505
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page : 4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377

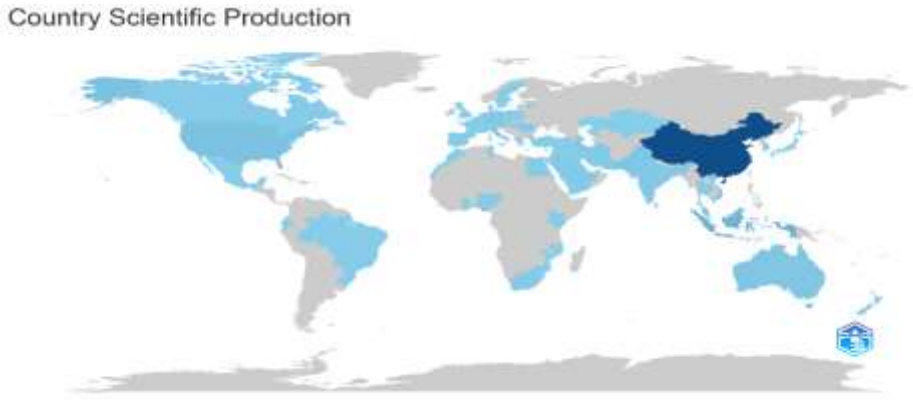


Figure 5. Geographical Distribution of Scientific Production

China's dominance may be associated with the growing body of research on corporate fraud, ownership structures, state-owned enterprises, board characteristics, government intervention, and the application of detection technologies in listed companies (Chen et al., 2006; J. Chen et al., 2020; Shi et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2022), for example, show that the relationship between gender diversity and financial statement fraud is shaped by ownership characteristics and China's institutional environment. Although the map demonstrates a global geographical spread, it does not report the number of documents for each country. It is therefore more appropriate for describing geographical reach than for establishing a precise country ranking.

At the institutional level, the output contained one unnamed affiliation entry associated with 31 articles. Among identifiable institutions, the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies produced ten articles, followed by Bina Nusantara University with eight. Universitas Padjadjaran and Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha each produced seven articles, while the University of Liverpool and Universitas Jambi each produced six. Figure 6 compares institutional contributions by article count.

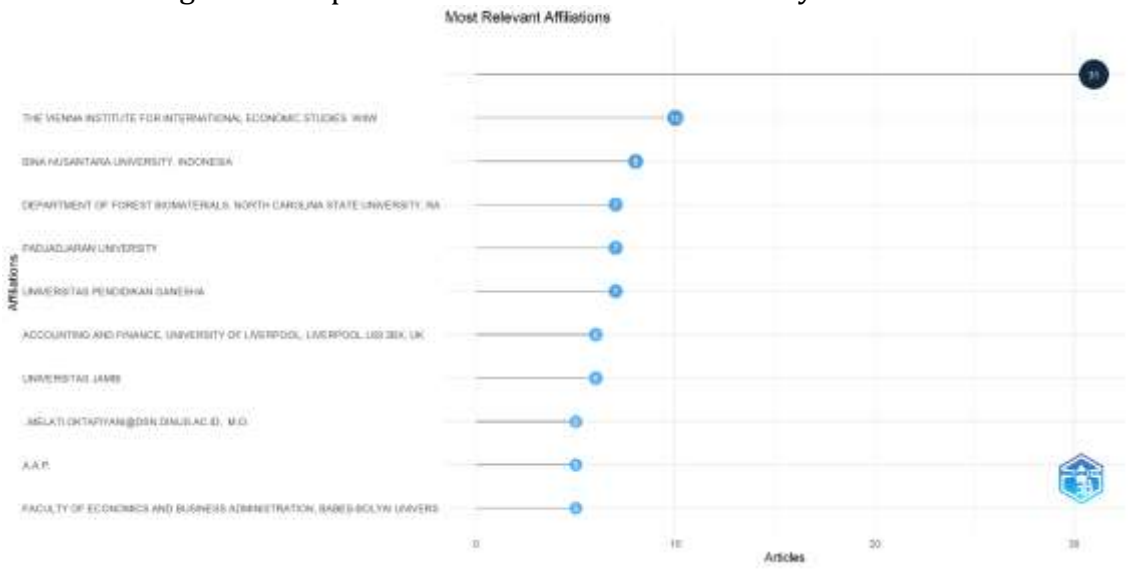


Figure 6. Most Productive Affiliations

The presence of Bina Nusantara University, Universitas Padjadjaran, Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha, and Universitas Jambi demonstrates the contribution of Indonesian institutions to the corpus. The affiliation results are not fully reliable,

Journal : Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)
Publisher : Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri
ISSN : e-ISSN 3026-6505
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page : 4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377

however, because blank entries, email addresses, and initials were sometimes interpreted as institutional names. These errors highlight the need for affiliation standardisation. The answer to the second research question is therefore that the literature is globally distributed and driven particularly by contributions from China and multidisciplinary journals, although author and affiliation rankings require further metadata validation.

Most Influential Documents

The third research question identifies the documents with the greatest scientific influence. Christensen et al. (2021), published in the Review of Accounting Studies, ranked first with approximately 248 global citations per year. Siala & Wang (2022) in Social Science & Medicine followed with about 67 citations per year, while Wirba (2024) in the Journal of the Knowledge Economy received approximately 56. Other highly ranked documents appeared in The Innovation, Economic Change and Restructuring, Environmental Science and Pollution Research, Resources Policy, the Journal of Accounting and Public Policy, and the Journal of Environmental Management. Figure 7 compares document influence based on global citations per year.

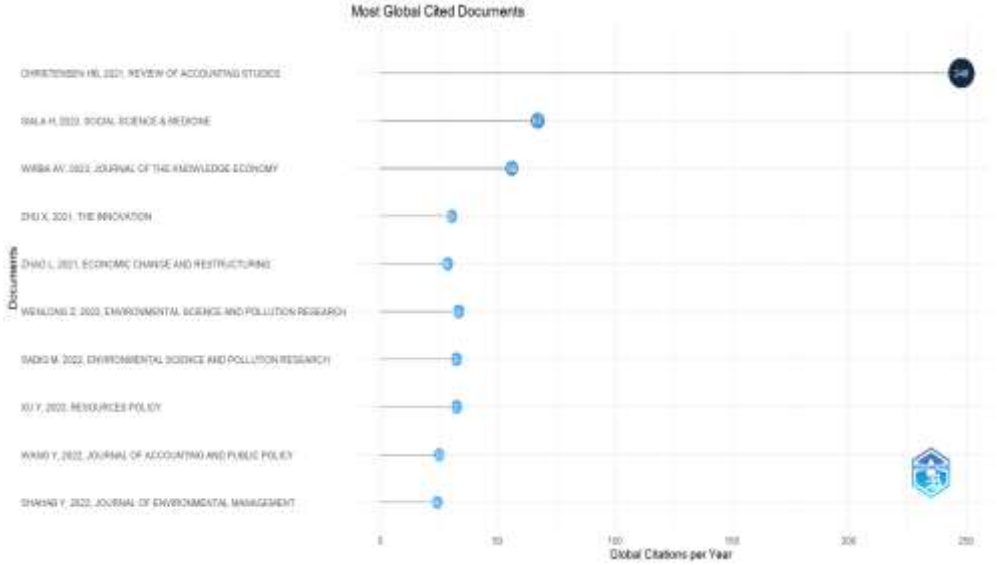


Figure 7. Most Globally Cited Documents

The distribution shows that the documents with the greatest global impact originated in different disciplines. Christensen et al. (2021) examine the economic consequences of mandatory sustainability reporting, while (Siala & Wang, 2022) and Wirba (2024) are situated in the health and energy domains. It implies that the retrieved corpus includes highly cited studies from broader interdisciplinary fields, not only on corporate fraud and corporate governance. Despite being highly cited and making a substantial contribution to the citation impact of the dataset, the citation prominence of these documents does not necessarily imply their relevance to the specific intellectual foundations of fraud–corporate governance research. By contrast, Wang et al. (2022), in the Journal of Accounting and Public Policy, more directly tackles financial statement fraud and governance through the lens of gender diversity.

Global citations do not necessarily represent a document's influence within the fraud–corporate governance domain. Articles in health or environmental research may attract more citations because they serve larger scholarly communities. Globally cited

Journal : Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)
Publisher : Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri
ISSN : e-ISSN 3026-6505
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page : 4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377

documents should therefore be distinguished from the works that form the intellectual foundations of this particular corpus. A stronger assessment of those foundations would require local-citation analysis and a reference co-citation network. Subject to this limitation, the third research question identifies documents with the greatest global visibility but does not yet fully resolve the field's intellectual structure.

Conceptual Structure and Inter-Topic Relationships

The fourth research question examines the conceptual structure and relationships among topics through a keyword co-occurrence network. The network contains several interconnected clusters, with China, humans, and investments forming the largest nodes. Figure 8 visualises the keyword relationships and the resulting thematic clusters.

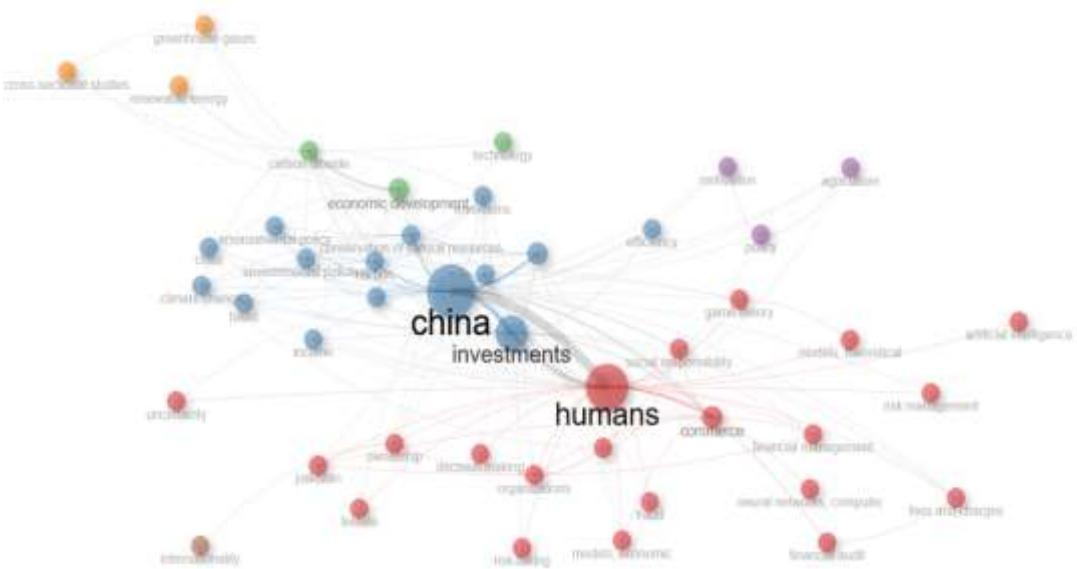


Figure 8. Keyword Co-Occurrence Network

The blue cluster is centred on China and investments, which are linked to economic development, environmental policy, conservation of natural resources, climate change, taxes, income, and environmental pollution. This cluster represents discussions of investment, policy, economic development, and environmental consequences in the Chinese context. The size of the China node reinforces the country-production results, which indicate the country's dominant contribution.

The red cluster is centred on humans and is connected to organizations, ownership, decision making, risk-taking, commerce, financial management, financial audit, fraud, risk management, artificial intelligence, and neural networks. It links organisational behaviour, economic decision-making, auditing, risk management, and detection technologies. The presence of artificial intelligence and neural networks is consistent with the growing use of machine learning, deep learning, and data analytics in fraud detection (Bao et al., 2020; Craja et al., 2020; Li, 2025; Xu et al., 2023).

Other clusters encompass renewable energy, greenhouse gases, agriculture, policy, motivation, and efficiency. Although these themes demonstrate the interdisciplinary breadth of the corpus, they also show that its conceptual structure is not yet centred on fraud and corporate governance. Fraud appears only as a small node, while corporate governance is absent as a major node. The answer to the fourth research question is therefore that the retrieved corpus remains conceptually dispersed

Journal : Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)
Publisher : Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri
ISSN : e-ISSN 3026-6505
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page : 4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377

across investment, environmental issues, organisational behaviour, auditing, and technology. In the corpus retrieved, the main relationship between fraud and corporate governance has not been a dominant theme.

Thematic Evolution, Emerging Themes, and Research Gaps

The fifth research question is addressed through thematic-evolution analysis and the thematic map. During 2021–2022, the literature centred on carbon dioxide, China, and environmental pollution. In 2023–2024, these themes developed into carbon, China, and organizations. The 2025 period shifted towards conservation of natural resources, game theory, and humans, while climate change and humans were visible in 2026. Figure 9 shows the changes, continuity, and connections among themes across the observation periods.

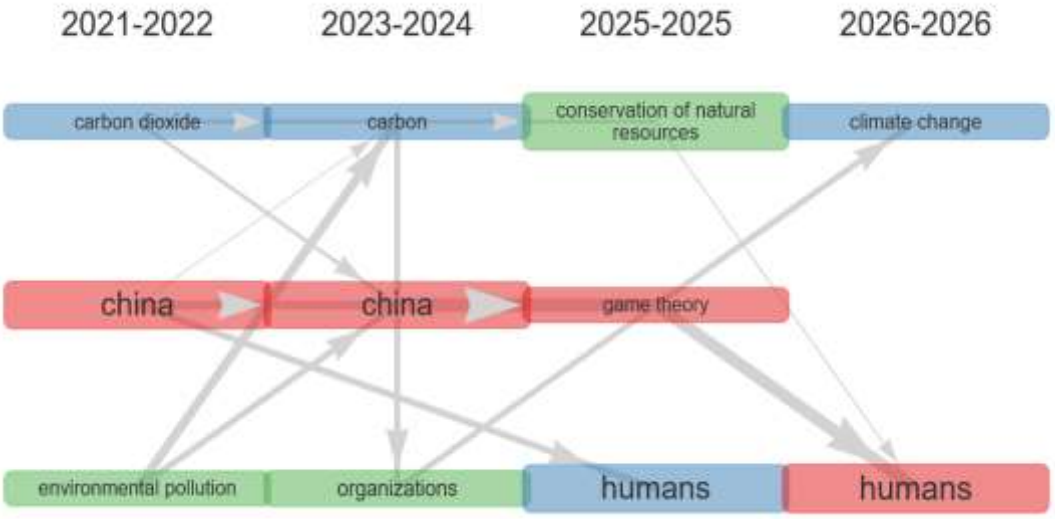


Figure 9. Thematic Evolution, 2021–2026

The thematic links indicate continued attention to environmental issues, progressing from carbon dioxide to carbon, conservation of natural resources, and finally climate change. Meanwhile, the China theme developed towards game theory and humans, suggesting a movement from a geographical context to decision-making behaviour and interactions among actors. This evolution does not clearly reflect the trajectory of fraud–corporate governance research as the retrieved corpus is affected by broader interdisciplinary themes. The scarcity of fraud and corporate governance as dominant themes suggests that their explicit relationship was not a major theme in the analysed dataset, rather than indicating the lack of development in the broader field.

The thematic map provides a more detailed view of the centrality and development of each theme. The upper-right quadrant, representing motor themes, contains game theory, theoretical models, policy, economic development, carbon dioxide, renewable energy, commerce, organizations, and disclosure. These themes combine high internal development with strong connections to the rest of the corpus and thus operate as its principal drivers. Figure 10 maps each thematic group according to centrality and density.

Journal : Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)
Publisher : Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri
ISSN : e-ISSN 3026-6505
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page : 4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377

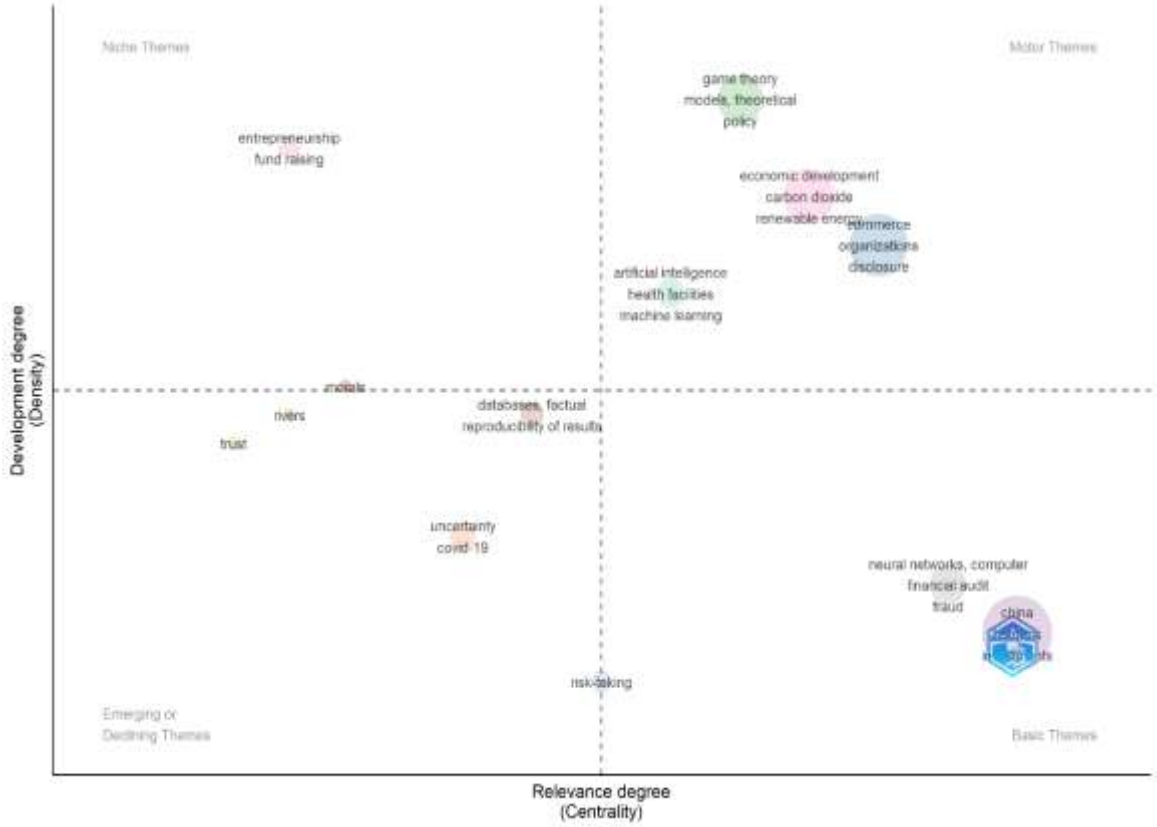


Figure 10. Thematic Map of Fraud and Corporate Governance Research

Artificial intelligence, health facilities, and machine learning occupy a relatively central and developed region, indicating the increasing use of technology in risk analysis and detection. Fraud, financial audit, neural networks, China, and investments appear in the lower-right quadrant as basic themes. Their position indicates that fraud and financial auditing are connected to multiple topics but remain comparatively underdeveloped internally.

Entrepreneurship and fundraising occupy the niche-themes quadrant, which means that they are internally developed but weakly connected to the corpus's main structure. Risk-taking, uncertainty, COVID-19, trust, and morals are located among emerging or declining themes. Their position alone cannot establish whether they are gaining or losing prominence; annual frequency analysis and close reading of the relevant articles are needed to determine their trajectories.

The map points to opportunities for integrating corporate governance with artificial intelligence, machine learning, financial auditing, decision-making, and risk management. Future studies should examine how board effectiveness, audit committees, ownership, transparency, internal control, and audit quality can improve both the accuracy and interpretability of fraud early-warning systems (Bao et al., 2020; Fedyk et al., 2022; Li, 2025). The most important gap is the failure of corporate governance to emerge as a central theme despite being one of the study's core concepts.

Journal : Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, Perpajakan dan Tata Kelola Perusahaan (JAKPT)
Publisher : Yayasan Nuraini Ibrahim Mandiri
ISSN : e-ISSN 3026-6505
Volume / Issue / Year/ Page : 4/ 1 /2026 : September / 360-377

CONCLUSION

This study shows that publication activity on fraud and corporate governance fluctuated between 2021 and 2026. Output increased from 57 articles in 2021 to a provisional peak of 123 in 2024 before declining in 2025 and 2026. The 2026 reduction should not be interpreted as declining scholarly interest because the observation year was incomplete and publication indexing was still under way. Average annual citations were also higher for articles published near the beginning of the period because they had more time to be read and cited.

PLOS ONE and Heliyon were the most productive publication sources, while Wang Y and Zhang Y were the author names associated with the largest numbers of documents. China made the strongest national contribution, although research output was geographically widespread. Indonesian universities—including Bina Nusantara University, Universitas Padjadjaran, Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha, and Universitas Jambi—also contributed to the corpus. Author and affiliation productivity must nevertheless be interpreted cautiously because of author-name homonyms and inconsistent affiliation records.

The conceptual structure links investment, economic development, organisational behaviour, auditing, risk management, and technology. Fraud is associated with financial audit, risk management, artificial intelligence, and neural networks, indicating a movement towards technology-enabled detection. However, fraud was still rather marginal in the retrieved corpus and corporate governance was not emerging as a major theme. Environmental, health and geographical themes also influence the thematic-evolution results and thematic map, indicating that the literature analysed is a more extensive interdisciplinary corpus instead of a completely specialised literature on fraud–corporate governance. Given the possible heterogeneity of the corpus, the thematic patterns and conceptual structure observed should be interpreted with caution.

Future research should integrate corporate governance mechanisms with technologies for fraud prevention and detection. Empirical studies could examine how board characteristics, audit committee effectiveness, ownership structures, internal controls, audit quality, and ethical culture interact with artificial intelligence, machine learning, neural-network analysis, and early-warning systems. Such an approach would ensure that technology is used not merely to predict fraud but within a broader framework of accountability, oversight, transparency, and organisational decision-making.

Cross-country research should also be expanded because scientific production remains dominated by China. Comparisons between developed and emerging economies could clarify how regulatory quality, investor protection, ownership concentration, law enforcement, and technological readiness affect the capacity of corporate governance to reduce fraud risk. In Indonesia, future studies could examine family-controlled firms, state-owned enterprises, banks, public institutions, non-profit organisations, and companies undergoing digital transformation.

Future research should also distinguish among financial statement fraud, asset misappropriation, corruption, occupational fraud, and corporate misconduct. Differentiating these forms would enable researchers to identify the governance mechanisms best suited to each type of wrongdoing. Further investigation is also needed into underexplored issues such as the substantive quality of board

independence, audit committees' digital competence, ethical responsibility in algorithm use, predictive-model transparency, data protection, and potential bias in AI-based fraud-detection systems.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article

Author Contributions

Author 1 contributed to the conceptualization, methodology, data collection, bibliometric analysis, interpretation of findings, visualization, and drafting of the manuscript. Author 2 contributed to research supervision, validation of the methodology, critical revision of the manuscript, and final approval of the submitted version.

Acknowledgments

The authors acknowledge the support and contributions of all parties who assisted in the completion of this research.

REFERENCES

Abbott, L. A., Park, Y., & Parker, S. (2000). The effects of audit committee activity and independence on corporate fraud. *Managerial Finance*, *26*(11), 55–68. https://doi.org/10.1108/03074350010766990

Agrawal, A., & Chadha, S. (2005). Corporate governance and accounting scandals. *Journal of Law and Economics*, *48*(2), 371–406. https://doi.org/10.1086/430808

Aria, M., & Cuccurullo, C. (2017). bibliometrix: An R-tool for comprehensive science mapping analysis. *Journal of Informetrics*, *11*(4), 959–975. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joi.2017.08.007

Bao, Y., Ke, B., Li, B., Yu, Y. J., & Zhang, J. (2020). Detecting accounting fraud in publicly traded U.S. firms using a machine learning approach. *Journal of Accounting Research*, *58*(1), 199–235. https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-679X.12292

Broadstock, D. C., & Chen, X. (2021). Corporate site visits, private monitoring and fraud: Evidence from China. *Finance Research Letters*, *40*, 101780. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.frl.2020.101780

Chen, G., Firth, M., Gao, D. N., & Rui, O. M. (2006). Ownership structure, corporate governance, and fraud: Evidence from China. *Journal of Corporate Finance*, *12*(3), 424–448. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcorpfin.2005.09.002

Chen, J., Ezzamel, M., & Cai, Z. (2020). Corporate governance in China: A survey. *Review of Finance*, *24*(4), 733–772. https://doi.org/10.1093/rof/rfaa012

Christensen, H. B., Hail, L., & Leuz, C. (2021). Mandatory CSR and sustainability reporting: Economic analysis and literature review. *Review of Accounting Studies*, *26*(3), 1176–1248. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11142-021-09609-5

Cobo, M. J., López-Herrera, A. G., Herrera-Viedma, E., & Herrera, F. (2011). An approach for detecting, quantifying, and visualizing the evolution of a research field. *Journal of Informetrics*, *5*(1), 146–166. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joi.2010.10.002

Cohen, S., Eimicke, W., & Heikkila, T. (2019). Board committees in corporate governance: A cross-disciplinary review and agenda for the future. *Journal of Management Studies*, *56*(6), 1138–1193. https://doi.org/10.1111/joms.12444

Craja, P., Kim, A., & Lessmann, S. (2020). Deep learning for detecting financial statement

fraud. *Decision Support Systems*, *139*, 113421. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dss.2020.113421

Dechow, P. M., Ge, W., Larson, C. R., & Sloan, R. G. (2011). Predicting material accounting misstatements. *Contemporary Accounting Research*, *28*(1), 17–82. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1911-3846.2010.01041.x

Devi, P. V. S. (2024). Corporate governance as a detector of financial statement fraud: Systematic literature review. *Asia Pacific Fraud Journal*, *9*(1). https://doi.org/10.21532/apfjournal.v9i1.342

Donthu, N., Kumar, S., Mukherjee, D., Pandey, N., & Lim, W. M. (2021). How to conduct a bibliometric analysis: An overview and guidelines. *Journal of Business Research*, *133*, 285–296. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2021.04.070

Dorminey, J., Fleming, A. S., Kranacher, M.-J., & Riley, R. A. (2012). The evolution of fraud theory. *Issues in Accounting Education*, *27*(2), 555–579. https://doi.org/10.2308/iace-50131

Du, X. (2020). Corporate governance: Five-factor theory-based financial fraud identification. *Journal of Chinese Governance*, *6*(4), 456–482. https://doi.org/10.1080/23812346.2020.1803036

Eugster, F., Isakov, D., & Weisskopf, J.-P. (2024). Corporate governance and corporate misconduct: A meta-analytic review. *International Review of Financial Analysis*, *92*, 103109. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.irfa.2024.103109

Farber, D. B. (2005). Restoring trust after fraud: Does corporate governance matter? *The Accounting Review*, *80*(2), 539–561. https://doi.org/10.2308/accr.2005.80.2.539

Fedyk, A., Hodson, J., Khimich, N., & Fedyk, T. (2022). Is artificial intelligence improving the audit process? *Review of Accounting Studies*, *27*, 938–985. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11142-022-09697-x

Files, R., & Liu, X. (2022). Unraveling financial fraud: The role of the board of directors and external advisors in conducting independent internal investigations. *Contemporary Accounting Research*, *39*(3), 1907–1944. https://doi.org/10.1111/1911-3846.12784

Free, C. (2015). Looking through the fraud triangle: A review and call for new directions. *Meditari Accountancy Research*, *23*(2), 175–196. https://doi.org/10.1108/MEDAR-02-2015-0009

He, L., Conyon, M. J., & Chen, J. (2020). Signaling via earnings downgrades: How reputational concerns shape analyst responses to corporate fraud. *Corporate Governance: An International Review*, *28*(5), 327–348. https://doi.org/10.1111/corg.12322

Hogan, C. E., Rezaee, Z., Riley, R. A., & Velury, U. K. (2008). Financial statement fraud: Insights from the academic literature. *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*, *27*(2), 231–252. https://doi.org/10.2308/aud.2008.27.2.231

Kassem, R. (2022). Elucidating corporate governance's impact and role in countering fraud. *Corporate Governance*, *22*(7), 1523–1546. https://doi.org/10.1108/CG-08-2021-0279

Li, J. (2025). Corporate governance, fraud learning cycles, and financial fraud detection in China. *Research in International Business and Finance*, 102832. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ribaf.2025.102832

Lim, W. M., Kumar, S., & Donthu, N. (2024). How to combine and clean bibliometric data and use bibliometric tools synergistically: Guidelines using metaverse research. *Journal of Business Research*, *182*, 114760.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2024.114760

Lokanan, M. E. (2015). Challenges to the fraud triangle: Questions on its usefulness. *Accounting Forum*, *39*(3), 201–224. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.accfor.2015.05.002

Md Nasir, N. A., & Hashim, H. A. (2021). Corporate governance performance and financial statement fraud: Evidence from Malaysia. *Journal of Financial Crime*, *28*(3), 797–809. https://doi.org/10.1108/JFC-09-2020-0182

Moral-Muñoz, J. A., Herrera-Viedma, E., Santisteban-Espejo, A., & Cobo, M. J. (2020). Software tools for conducting bibliometric analysis in science: An up-to-date review. *Profesional de La Información*, *29*(1), e290103. https://doi.org/10.3145/epi.2020.ene.03

Mousavi, M., Zimon, G., Salehi, M., & Stępnicka, N. (2022). The effect of corporate governance structure on fraud and money laundering. *Risks*, *10*(9), 176. https://doi.org/10.3390/risks10090176

Mukherjee, D., Lim, W. M., Kumar, S., & Donthu, N. (2022). Guidelines for advancing theory and practice through bibliometric research. *Journal of Business Research*, *148*, 101–115. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2022.04.042

Öztürk, O. (2024). How to design bibliometric research: An overview and a framework proposal. *Review of Managerial Science*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11846-024-00738-0

Rezaee, Z. (2005). Causes, consequences, and deterrence of financial statement fraud. *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, *16*(3), 277–298. https://doi.org/10.1016/S1045-2354(03)00072-8

Schmidt, J., & Wilkins, M. S. (2020). Does audit committee accounting expertise help to promote audit quality? Evidence from auditor reporting of internal control weaknesses. *Contemporary Accounting Research*, *37*(2), 1063–1098. https://doi.org/10.1111/1911-3846.12517

Shi, W., Aguilera, R. V, & Wang, K. (2020). State ownership and securities fraud: A political governance perspective. *Corporate Governance: An International Review*, *28*(2), 157–176. https://doi.org/10.1111/corg.12313

Siala, H., & Wang, Y. (2022). SHIFTing artificial intelligence to be responsible in healthcare: A systematic review. *Social Science & Medicine*, *296*, 114782. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.114782

Skousen, C. J., Smith, K. R., & Wright, C. J. (2009). Detecting and predicting financial statement fraud: The effectiveness of the fraud triangle and SAS No. 99. *International Journal of Quality & Reliability Management*, *26*(1), 53–81. https://doi.org/10.1108/02656710910928393

Trompeter, G. M., Carpenter, T. D., Desai, N., Jones, K. L., & Riley, R. A. (2013). A synthesis of fraud-related research. *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*, *32*(Suppl. 1), 287–321. https://doi.org/10.2308/ajpt-50360

Vousinas, G. L. (2019). Advancing theory of fraud: The S.C.O.R.E. model. *Journal of Financial Crime*, *26*(1), 372–381. https://doi.org/10.1108/JFC-12-2017-0128

Wang, Y., Yu, L., & Gao, S. (2022). Gender diversity and financial statement fraud. *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*, *41*(2), 106903. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaccpubpol.2021.106903

Wirba, A. V. (2024). Corporate social responsibility and the Sustainable Development Goals: What is the relationship? *Journal of the Knowledge Economy*, *15*, 7428–7454. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13132-023-01185-0

Wu, W., Cao, J., & Zhang, W. (2023). Non-executive employee stock ownership plans and

corporate financial fraud. *Journal of Business Research*, *163*, 113922. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2023.113922

Xu, Y., Xiong, X., & An, Z. (2023). Using machine learning to predict corporate fraud: Evidence based on the GONE framework. *Journal of Business Ethics*, *186*(1), 137–158. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-022-05120-2

Zupic, I., & Čater, T. (2015). Bibliometric methods in management and organization. *Organizational Research Methods*, *18*(3), 429–472. https://doi.org/10.1177/1094428114562629