Khizanah al-Hikmah : Jurnal Ilmu Perpustakaan, Informasi, & Kearsipan
p-ISSN: 2354-9629
e-ISSN: 2549-1334
Volume 14 Issue 2, June, 2026

Bibliometric Analysis of Public E-Participation in Indonesia's Local Development Agendas Through Social Media

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Notes

Submitted: 16-01-2026
Revised: 05-05-2026
Accepted: 26-05-2026

How to cite: Aliffia Puspita Sari, & Abadi, T. W. (2026). Bibliometric Analysis of Public E-Participation in Indonesia's Local Development Agendas Through Social Media. Khizanah Al-Hikmah : Jurnal Ilmu Perpustakaan, Informasi, Dan Kearsipan, 14(2). https://doi.org/10.24252/kah.v14i2a3

DOI: 10.24252/v14i2a3

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ABSTRACT

Background: With advances in information technology, e-participation has become an important tool for strengthening transparency and accountability in government. However, its effectiveness remains limited because public participation in decision-making processes is not yet optimal, particularly in the context of local development in Indonesia.
Purpose: The study examines the development of public e-participation in the context of local development in Indonesia through the use of social media.
Methods: A bibliometric analysis was conducted on 18,429 journal articles indexed in Google Scholar between 2018 and 2025, using VOSviewer software to map publication trends, researcher collaboration patterns, and emerging themes.
Findings: There was a significant increase in publications related to e-participation, but a gap remains between theory and practice, particularly regarding two-way interaction between government and the community. Key factors supporting success include access to technology, digital literacy, and institutional support.
Originality/Value: This study recommends more effective communication strategies and optimized use of social media, proposing solutions such as social media training, relevant content development, and improvements to technological infrastructure, particularly in remote areas, to encourage community participation in sustainable local development.

Keywords: Bibliometrics; E-Participation; Social media; Publication trends

1. INTRODUCTION

E-Public participation refers to the active involvement of citizens in the decision-making process and implementation of development programs through digital platforms, particularly social media (Wibowo, Sasanti & Nurabiah, 2023; Sari & Prasetyo, 2021). The dependence of

local development agendas in Indonesia on the digital information environment continues to increase along with the development of information and communication technology in governance (Nayoan & Prasetyo, 2020; Rahman, 2023). The planning, implementation, and evaluation processes of policies are now increasingly influenced by the rapid and open flow of digital information (Hafrida et al., 2023). This transformation is not only changing the way the government works but also how the public engages in development through digital information practices (Syahruddin, Mardiana, & Sari, 2021). Information has become a strategic resource that determines the quality of public participation, especially in the context of public information behavior (Wibowo, Setia, & Putri, 2023). In this context, the community's ability to access and utilize information is a crucial factor in supporting inclusive and meaningful participation (Setiawan & Hidayati, 2023). Therefore, local development today cannot be separated from the dynamics of the ever-evolving digital information ecosystem (Yulianto & Ginanjar, 2020; Sartik & Pusung, 2024).

Despite its promise, the implementation of e-participation in Indonesia faces significant challenges. Many regions still struggle to access information, resulting in low and passive public participation, with citizens acting primarily as recipients of information rather than active contributors (R, Haris, & Hassandi 2023) . The phenomenon of "viral-based policy" emerges when formal channels are inadequate, prompting people to turn to social media to voice their aspirations (Judijanto, Rizani, & Supriandi 2024). Regulations such as Presidential Regulation No. 95 of 2018 concerning SPBE and Law No. 13 of 2022 concerning public participation have not been fully effective, often resulting in "tokenistic" participation without any real impact on policy (Hafiz et al. 2022; Prabowo and Komara 2020) . Furthermore, e-participation can simplify bureaucratic processes and expedite decision-making (Harpinsyah and Kusuma 2021) . Communities also become more empowered in voicing their aspirations and contributing to development that is appropriate to local needs (Mubarrok, A., & Rahmawati 2021) .

Social media has evolved as a primary channel for civic information, mediating the relationship between the public and the government (Judijanto, Rizani, & Supriandi, 2024). These platforms serve not only as a means of participation but also as a space for the production, distribution, and exchange of public information (Nugraheni, 2023). People use social media to obtain policy information, express their aspirations, and even build public opinion (Kusuma, Raka, & Sumada, 2022). This situation demonstrates a shift from one-way communication to more interactive and participatory communication (Rahman, 2023). Furthermore, social media often serves as an alternative when formal channels are ineffective (Asmaria, Dewi, & Akbar, 2022). Thus, social media plays a crucial role in shaping patterns of public participation in development (Majid, 2022).

From a Library and Information Science perspective, this phenomenon can be analyzed through an information behavior approach, which highlights how individuals and groups interact with information (Case & Given, 2022). This study encompasses how people search for, use, and disseminate information in a digital context. In e-participation, information behavior is key to understanding the level and quality of public engagement. However, integration between e-participation and information behavior studies is still relatively limited in the literature. Most studies emphasize policy or technology aspects rather than information practices. This suggests the need for an interdisciplinary approach to enrich analysis in this field.

E-participation itself refers to the active involvement of the public in the decision-making process through digital platforms (Wibowo, Sasanti, & Nurabiah, 2023). This concept

developed as part of the implementation of e-government, including within the framework of Smart Cities and Electronic-Based Government Systems (Sartik & Pusung, 2024). Normatively, e-participation is expected to increase transparency, accountability, and government effectiveness (Hafiz et al., 2022). However, in practice, various challenges remain that hinder the optimization of digital participation (Prabowo & Komara, 2022). Some of these include limited access to information, low digital literacy, and passive participation (R, Haris, & Hassandi, 2023). This situation indicates a gap between the potential and reality of e-participation in Indonesia (Sutrisno & Akbar, 2022).

Various previous studies have shown that social media can increase community involvement in local development (Satria, 2023). However, other studies have also revealed that participation is often tokenistic and does not significantly impact decision-making (Hafiz et al., 2022). Phenomena such as "viral-based policy" indicate that communities are more active in digital spaces than in formal forums (Judijanto et al., 2024). Furthermore, several local case studies have found that community attendance in participatory forums does not necessarily reflect substantive involvement (Asmaria et al., 2022). These studies tend to be descriptive and focus on specific contexts (Rahman, 2023). Consequently, there is still no comprehensive understanding of the development of e-participation studies as a whole (Hafrida et al., 2023).

Therefore, there is a significant research gap, particularly in bibliometric approaches, which have not been widely used to systematically study e-participation (Donthu et al., 2022; Aria & Cuccurullo, 2022). Previous research tends not to comprehensively map publication trends, theme developments, and patterns of scientific collaboration in the field of e-participation, so the direction of scientific development remains unclear (Zupic & Čater, 2022). Furthermore, the role of social media as a key variable in local development has also not been widely analyzed through quantitative approaches based on publication data, although theoretically concepts such as the New Public Sphere and Digital Democracy emphasize the importance of social media in creating inclusive participation (Fada, 2022). However, in practice, various obstacles remain, such as the lack of digital platform integration, accessibility gaps, and minimal two-way feedback between the government and the public (About bureaucracy, 2024).

Existing studies on e-participation in Indonesia have predominantly relied on local case studies and qualitative approaches, providing valuable contextual insights but offering limited understanding of the broader intellectual structure of the field (Rahman, 2023; Hafrida et al., 2023; Albarkah et al., 2023). For example, Rahman's (2023) bibliometric study on community empowerment identified research gaps related to community engagement and good governance but did not explicitly examine digital e-participation. Similarly, studies by Hafrida et al. (2023) and Albarkah et al. (2023) highlighted the low level of e-participation in specific local contexts, such as Sidoarjo, yet did not investigate patterns of scientific collaboration or the evolution of research themes within the field.

Consequently, several important gaps remain. First, there is a lack of comprehensive mapping of e-participation research in Indonesia, including publication growth, influential journals, and dominant research themes. Second, limited attention has been paid to collaboration patterns among researchers and institutions, thereby obscuring the extent of scientific networks and potential research silos. Third, the role of social media as a key driver of local development and public participation has not been systematically examined through bibliometric indicators such as citation patterns and keyword co-occurrence. These gaps

hinder the development of an integrated understanding of digital participation and limit the formulation of evidence-based strategies for promoting inclusive governance.

To address these shortcomings, this study employs a bibliometric approach to analyze the development of research on e-community participation in local development agendas in Indonesia. Specifically, the study examines publication trends, patterns of collaboration among researchers and institutions, and the role of social media within this body of literature. It also identifies dominant research themes and emerging areas of inquiry. By providing a comprehensive mapping of the intellectual landscape of e-participation research, this study contributes to the growing literature on digital governance and offers evidence that may inform the design of more inclusive and effective public participation policies in Indonesia.

2. METHODS

This study employed a quantitative approach with bibliometric methods to analyze the scientific literature related to e-community participation in local development agendas in Indonesia through social media (Hakiki & Harahap, 2024). Data were collected from approximately 20,000 articles published between 2018 and 2025, originating from 18,429 journal sources indexed in the Google Scholar database (Safuan et al., 2024). Google Scholar was selected as the primary data source because of its extensive coverage of Indonesian-language publications, including SINTA-indexed national journals. This selection was motivated by the need to capture research dynamics that were more representative of the Indonesian context. Furthermore, its open-access nature and multidisciplinary coverage enabled greater data inclusivity.

Data collection was conducted systematically using a combination of the keywords "*E-Participation,*" "*Social Media,*" "*Agenda Setting,*" "*Development,*" *and* "*Local Government Information System*" with the help of Boolean operators (AND, OR) to increase the relevance of search results (Pearce & Gaffney, 2020). The search process was carried out on the title, abstract, and keywords of the articles. All bibliographic data obtained was then exported in RIS format to facilitate further processing. The collected metadata included the title, author name, year of publication, abstract, keywords, and publication source. This stage aimed to build a comprehensive initial dataset. Transparency in the data collection process was maintained by documenting all search stages and the parameters used.

The data cleaning process was carried out through several systematic stages. The first stage is automatic deduplication using the Biblioshiny feature by identifying similarities in DOIs, titles, and abstracts. The second stage was manual verification to remove undetected duplications due to differences in writing formats or incomplete metadata. The third stage included standardization of author names (author disambiguation), normalization of institutional affiliations, and consistency of publication year and source formats. Furthermore, metadata completeness checks were performed to ensure there are no missing data that could affect the analysis results. This process aimed to improve the quality and accuracy of the dataset before analysis is carried out.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria were clearly defined to ensure data relevance. Inclusion criteria included: (1) peer-reviewed scientific articles, (2) available in full-text form, (3) relevant to the topic of e-participation in the Indonesian context, as indicated by the appearance of at least one main keyword in the title or abstract, and (4) published in Indonesian or English. Meanwhile, exclusion criteria included: (1) non-scientific documents such as books, non-peer-reviewed reports, unindexed proceedings, and editorials, (2) duplicate articles, and (3) irrelevant articles, such as those not discussing the digital context or not related to Indonesia. The selection process

was carried out in stages to minimize bias. After this stage, the number of data was reduced from 20,000 to approximately 5,000 articles that met the criteria.

Keyword refinement was performed to improve the quality of the co-occurrence analysis. The initial stage involved keyword normalization using stemming and lemmatization techniques with the help of the NLTK library in Python. Next, term harmonization was performed by combining synonyms and variations of terms, such as "e-participation" and "electronic participation." Irrelevant or generic keywords (noise) were removed to improve the clarity of the thematic analysis. This process also included manual validation to ensure the contextual appropriateness of each keyword. Thus, the refinement results in a more consistent and representative keyword structure.

The cleaned data was then analyzed using VOSviewer and Biblioshiny software. The analysis included mapping the author collaboration network (co-authorship), analyzing keyword co-occurrence, and identifying publication trends over time. The visualization results show 42 authors connected in the collaboration network, divided into six main thematic clusters, covering community participation, information technology, and development planning (Kammerer, 2021). Furthermore, the analysis also identified factors influencing the effectiveness of e-participation, such as technology accessibility, digital literacy, and institutional support (Hamurdani & Kholik, 2024). This approach allows for quantitative and visual mapping of knowledge structures. With the transparency of the applied methodology, this research is expected to have a higher level of credibility and replication (Nurlaila et al., 2024).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Bibliometric analysis results show a significant increase in publications related to e-public participation through social media in local development in Indonesia, with the number of articles increasing year by year (2018-2025), reflecting post-pandemic interest in digital platforms as a substitute for face-to-face participation. However, the gap between theory (inclusive dialogue via social media) and practice (e-participation portals are often one-way) reduces the effectiveness of public engagement, thus hampering a responsive local development agenda (Hakiki and Harahap 2024) . Furthermore, this study also highlights the need for better communication strategies and the use of social media to increase public involvement in the decision-making process to ensure that community voices are heard and considered in the local development agenda (Ismail and Yahya 2024).

Of the 18,429 articles explored using keywords such as *E-Participation, Social Media, Agenda Setting, Development, and Local Government Information Systems*, 42 authors were found to be actively collaborating. The publication trend peaked in 2021 (2,956 articles), followed by a decline in 2024-2025 due to citation lag, indicating rapid evolution of the e-participation topic but a lack of sustained impact on social media-based local policies. The citation analysis follows Lotka's Law, with the top five articles contributing >3% of total citations, indicating a concentration of influence on key works, such as studies on e-government, while the majority of research is under-cited, reflecting fragmentation in the e-participation literature that hinders its holistic application for inclusive development.

Bibliometric Research

Bibliometric research is a method involving the statistical analysis of academic publications to evaluate trends, relationships, and characteristics within a particular field. This approach is divided into two main categories: evaluative bibliometrics, which assesses the impact and quality of published work using metrics such as citation counts and journal impact

factors, and relational bibliometrics, which focuses on the relationships between publications and authors (Ninkov, Frank, and Maggio 2022). By analyzing large publication datasets, researchers can identify key contributors, emerging topics, and the overall picture of a discipline. This allows for a deeper understanding of scholarly communication and collaboration patterns across fields, including public administration and the social sciences.

Table 1. Publications by Gender

Gender	Amount	%
Man	16,487	89.5%
Woman	1,942	10.5%
Total	18,429	100 %

Source: Results of Gender Publication Data Analysis 2018-2025

Table 2. Publications by Country

Country	Amount	%
Indonesia	17,912	97.2%
United States	1,942	1.6%
Malaysia	18,429	0.6%
China	49	0.3%
Other	27	0.1%
Total	18,429	100%

Source: Results of Country Publication Data Analysis 2018-2025

This distribution shows the dominance of Indonesian (97.2%) and male (89.5%) researchers in the e-participation literature, which indicates the potential for gender bias and the need for greater inclusivity in digital-based local development research, such as in East Java (e.g. Surabaya), to reflect the diversity of social media user communities, in line with the technology accessibility gap that is the study's objective.

Publications Based on Author (Co-Author)

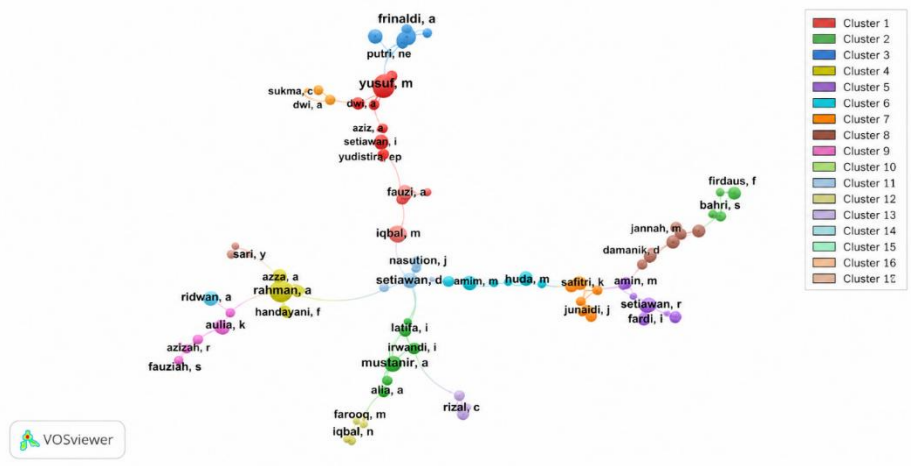


Figure 1. Publications based on author/co-author
(Source: VOS Viewer Results Based on Keywords, 2025)

Co-authorship analysis (minimum 2 documents and 1 citation per author) identified 42 authors. formed six collaboration clusters: the largest blue cluster (11 authors, led by Mustanir A, Latif A, Setiawan D); green (9 authors, Rizal C, Huda M); red (6 authors, Rahman A, Rahayu S); and three smaller clusters (purple, brown, yellow). This pattern highlights the fragmentation of e-participation research in Indonesia, where the blue cluster (technology) dominates but lacks integration with the social cluster (community participation), which hinders holistic development for social media-based local development, such as the integration of digital the Development Planning Consultation (*musrenbang*), and supports the study's objective of mapping collaborations to address this gap.

Publication by Author (Journal Title)

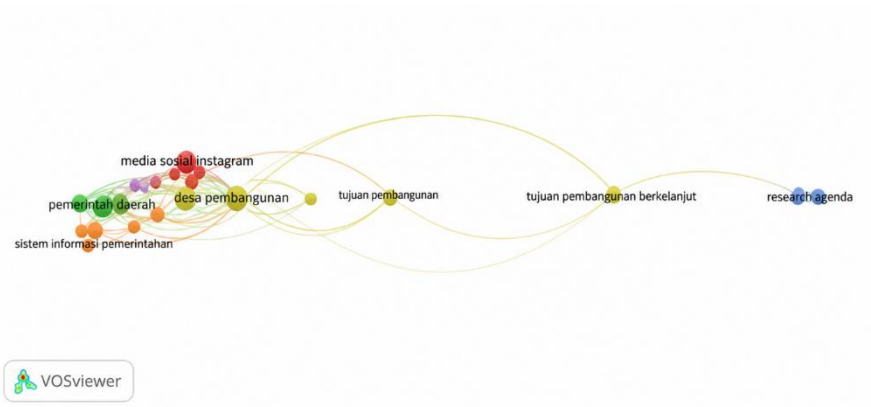


Figure 2. Publication titles
(Source: VOS Viewer Results Based on Keywords, 2025)

This bibliometric visualization displays a term co-occurrence mapping generated using VOSviewer software, depicting the thematic structure of a research domain. On the left, there is a dense, closely interconnected cluster, encompassing central terms such as "*development,*" "*village,*" "*local government,*" "*government information systems,*" and "*Instagram social media.*" The closeness and intensity of the relationships between these terms indicate that these topics are the main pillars dominating the discourse in the analyzed research, with a focus on the application of information technology in local governance.

The connecting lines extending from the main cluster to the terms "*development goals*" and "*sustainable development goals*" demonstrate how the operational and technical issues discussed previously are integratively linked to the broader development framework. This indicates that the research goes beyond the technical aspects of information system implementation but also seeks to link the role of government digitalization in achieving sustainable development targets, both at the national and global levels.

On the other hand, the isolated "*research agenda*" cluster on the right side of the figure reflects a thematic separation or dichotomy between ongoing research practices and theoretical reflections on the future of research. This cluster indicates that the direction of future research development appears to form a separate entity from the current operational topics, which can be interpreted as a space for new theoretical or methodological explorations that have not yet been fully integrated into current research practices.

Overall, this map provides a comprehensive overview of the research roadmap that connects digital-based governance practices in rural areas to the global development

agenda. By separating the focus between current technical implementation and future research agendas, this visualization serves as a strategic tool for researchers to identify research gaps and understand how elements from various clusters can complement each other to strengthen the framework for inclusive and sustainable development in the future.

Table 3. Correspondence between the Publication by Author Cluster (Journal Title) and the Keyword Cluster (Keyword Co-occurrence)

Publication Cluster by Author (Color & Size)	Dominant Field of Science (based on journals)	Keyword Clusters (Keyword Co-occurrence)	Main Keyword Theme	Harmony
Cluster 1 (Yellow/Light Green – largest)	Educational Sciences, Social-Humanities, Public Administration	Cluster 1	Effectiveness of Village Information System (SID)	Very strong
Cluster 2 (Blue – medium)	Informatics Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Information Technology	Cluster 2	Digitalization of the Local Economy	Very strong
Cluster 3 (Turquoise/grey & separate dots)	Public Management, Public Administration, Law & niche fields	Cluster 3	Community Digital Literacy	Strong

The results of the publication analysis *by author* based on *journal title* indicate the existence of three main clusters that align with the results of the *co-occurrence analysis* of the author's keywords. The yellow cluster, as the largest cluster, represents the dominance of studies in the social-humanities field, particularly those related to community participation, local politics, and the Development Planning Consultation (*musrenbang*). Meanwhile, the blue cluster reflects the dominance of the field of informatics engineering and information technology, characterized by a focus on e-government, e-participation, and information systems. A separate small cluster shows the focus of studies on the themes of public management, *critical success factors,* and accountability. These findings confirm that the scientific community in Indonesia is still segmented by scientific field and publication channels, and show that the keywords that emerge clearly reflect the researchers' research specializations.

In this context, academic discourse also highlights the effectiveness of the Village Information System (SID) as an instrument to improve the efficiency of public services while strengthening the transparency of village government administration. Meanwhile, the digitalization of the local economy is gaining increasing attention through the use of e-commerce and social media, such as Instagram, to promote superior village products, from agricultural products to crafts. Accordingly, the issue of community digital literacy is becoming increasingly important, as the focus of research is no longer limited to providing technological infrastructure but also to increasing the capacity of human resources, both village officials and the community, so that technology can be adopted and utilized optimally.

An analysis of the existing literature reveals several significant research gaps. First, there is a striking disparity in implementation between regions with adequate digital infrastructure, concentrated on Java, and other underdeveloped regions. This necessitates in-depth studies of technology adaptation models contextualized to local geographic and topographical conditions. Second, although village information systems have been widely implemented, research on village data security governance and the technical-political barriers to achieving financial transparency remains very limited. Third, many studies highlight that the effectiveness of Village Information Systems (VIS) is often eroded by a lack of ongoing post-implementation support, necessitating exploration of institutional models to ensure the system's continued operation.

In line with the identification of these gaps, future research can focus on several strategic directions. First, the development of a collaborative governance model involving synergy between the government, the private sector, and academia to address the digital divide, which has been a major obstacle to village digital transformation. Second, the utilization of quantitative or *mixed methods methodologies,* such as *Instrumental Variables,* to generate more accurate empirical evidence regarding the contribution of digitalization to improving the Village Development Index (IDM). Third, a systematic analysis of how local digitalization initiatives can be integrated with the global agenda, particularly the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), opens up opportunities for extensive theoretical exploration.

DISCUSSION

The sustained growth in publication output suggests that public e-participation has evolved into an increasingly important area of inquiry within governance and public administration research. From a bibliometric perspective, this upward trend reflects growing scholarly interest in the transformation of public participation in the digital era. Beyond merely quantifying scientific output, bibliometric analysis provides insights into the evolution of knowledge, patterns of scientific collaboration, and shifts in thematic research priorities within a particular field. The increasing volume of publications suggests that public engagement in development processes through digital platforms has become an increasingly prominent topic in contemporary governance research, particularly within the broader discourses of digital government and smart cities.

Within the context of bibliometric theory, analysis of author networks and research theme clusters can be used to uncover the structure of knowledge within a discipline. This method allows researchers to observe how ideas, techniques, and research focus evolve through interactions between researchers and scholarly publications. The analysis's findings indicate that e-participation studies in Indonesia are still at a relatively limited development stage compared to global research. This is evident in the limited collaborative networks and the interconnectedness of research themes, which have not yet been fully integrated into the broader framework of digital governance studies. Therefore, the results of bibliometric analysis not only reflect academic production but also reflect the progress of a research field among scholars.

Compared with international studies, research on e-participation in developed countries has generally experienced more significant development, with an emphasis on the integration of digital technology into public decision-making processes, government transparency, and improving the quality of democracy through participation. Various global studies indicate that social media not only serves as a communication tool between the

government and the public but also serves as a platform for public discussion, enabling the public to actively participate in policy discussions. On the other hand, in the Indonesian context, the majority of research still focuses on the use of social media as a tool for conveying information or one-way communication. This discrepancy illustrates that the implementation of e-participation in Indonesia still faces obstacles in creating a more interactive and collaborative digital participation model.

Bibliometric analysis reveals a discrepancy between the concept of e-participation in academic literature and its implementation in the field. In theory, e-participation highlights the importance of two-way dialogue between government and citizens in the development process. However, the digital platforms used by local governments tend to provide information rather than encourage active participation. This situation indicates that digital transformation in government has not been fully matched by changes in the way public engagement is managed. Therefore, a more comprehensive approach is needed to integrate digital technology with citizen participation strategies so that e-participation can effectively support local development.

Furthermore, factors such as access to information technology, the community's digital skills, and support from government agencies also significantly influence the success of e-participation. This study revealed that digital infrastructure challenges and gaps in technological skills remain key obstacles to increasing public participation through social media. Therefore, enhancing citizens' digital skills through digital education programs, strengthening the quality of public information content, and developing technological infrastructure are crucial to fostering more comprehensive public participation. These efforts aim not only to increase technology use but also to deepen community involvement in local development processes.

Through bibliometric analysis, this study also identified 42 authors connected within six research clusters. These clusters represent diverse research themes, such as citizen participation in public policy, the use of social media for government communication, and the application of information technology in digital government. This cluster pattern indicates that research related to e-participation is interdisciplinary and encompasses various academic perspectives. By understanding the structure of existing research networks, researchers can identify key players in the development of e-participation studies and opportunities for collaboration in future research .

The novelty of this research lies in its integrative approach, combining bibliometric mapping with an information behavior perspective, positioning social media as a civic information infrastructure rather than simply a participation tool. Unlike previous studies, which were largely case-based or qualitative, this research provides a systematic and large-scale mapping of the knowledge structures, collaboration patterns, and thematic evolution of e-participation studies in Indonesia.

The main contributions of this study are threefold: (1) providing a comprehensive bibliometric mapping of e-participation research trends in Indonesia, (2) identifying structural gaps in scholarly collaboration and thematic integration, and (3) highlighting the crucial role of information behavior in shaping effective digital participation. These contributions strengthen the relationship between e-participation studies and the field of Library and Information Science. Practically, these findings offer insights for policymakers to design more inclusive and interactive digital governance strategies by optimizing the use of social media, improving digital literacy, and strengthening institutional responsiveness.

4. CONCLUSION

This bibliometric study demonstrates that research on community e-participation in local development through social media in Indonesia has grown substantially between 2018 and 2025, attracting strong domestic scholarly attention. The findings identify three dominant research themes: community and political participation at the local level, web-based information systems and e-government, and public management and development planning. Co-authorship analysis further reveals an emerging pattern of scholarly collaboration, although research networks remain relatively limited. The study also highlights a gap between the conceptual development of e-participation and its practical implementation, as many governments digital platforms have yet to facilitate effective two-way interactions between governments and citizens. By mapping publication trends, thematic structures, and collaboration patterns, this study contributes to a better understanding of the intellectual landscape of e-participation research in Indonesia. The findings suggest that the field remains fragmented, with limited integration between technological, socio-political, and public governance perspectives.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Aliffia Puspita Sari: Writing oiginal draft preparation. Ideas; formulation or evolution of overarching research goals and aims. **Totok Wahyu Abadi:** Supervision.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

We state that there are no known conflicts of interest linked with this publication, and that there has been no significant financial assistance for this work that could have influenced its outcome.

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