

Understanding the Interplay of Prison Policy and Prisoner Intervention: A Bibliometric Approach 1968-2023

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KEYWORDS

Prison Policy, Trends,
Bibliometric Analysis.

ABSTRACT:

This study presents a bibliometric analysis of prison policy research trends in the treatment of inmates from the Scopus database from 1968 to 2023. **Background of the Problem:** Prison policy will be greatly influenced by the reform of the criminal justice system. What are the trends, current circumstances, current publication citation patterns and the most popular authors and themes in prison policy research. **Novelty:** To our knowledge, a bibliometric analysis for prison policy terms is not yet available. This paper aims to fill in the gaps by providing a broad overview of the bibliometric analysis of the literature related to this term. **Research Methods:** A bibliometric approach was used to observe 77 documents from the Scopus database for the period 1968-2023 in prison policy research publications. The keyword "prison policy" is used in article titles in search requests. Metadata is analyzed using software, among which, Publish or perish is used for citation matrix analysis, whereas VOSviewer is software that helps researchers visualize bibliometric data by mapping research trends, identifying relationships between publications, and evaluating the impact of research. Research results: research on prison policy grew rapidly from 2000 to 2024. **Conclusion:** research on policy is widely disseminated through academic journals and books, the University of Stirling dominates with 6 documents, the United States in document distribution dominates with 24 documents, Brown, A. and Hunt, K. the most prolific authors with 6 documents, They have both published 6 documents on prison policy, the dominant research trend related to people and prisons, prisons related to health and quality of life, as well as health policies in the context of prisons. Social Sciences dominates with 51.0% of the total documents. This shows that research on prison policy is widely carried out from a social perspective, covering legal, sociological, and criminological aspects. Our findings suggest that studies on Prison policy are mostly conducted in the field of social sciences.

INTRODUCTION

An effective prison policy is very important in achieving criminal goals so that inmates become law-abiding, productive and independent members of society. The public generally supports how prison policies simultaneously support rehabilitation and punishment to promote criminal objectives, such as improving public safety (Vuk et al., 2020). The success of prison policy will also be related to the condition of the crime problem in a country that continues to increase, so Schrag's identification states that in the last fifteen years the prisoner integration system has not really been significantly linked to offender reintegration and there is no correlation with "the use of violence as an instrument of social change" (Chaneles, 1984).. Rehabilitation has been a key structural support in the implementation of the prison system, which is key to success in supporting penal goals. Rehabilitation is a modern policy in prison policy in the treatment of law offenders as the main deterrent to crime, recidivism and violence (Silvestre, 2016).

Good prison policies are carried out to rehabilitate offenders so that they can reintegrate socially properly (Fonseca, 2015), so that the provision of rehabilitation programs in prisons for inmates is important to reduce recidivism rates and support inmates in living a free life after serving their sentences (Heath-Kelly & Shanaah, 2023). Studies on prisoner rehabilitation in Indonesia show that rehabilitation programs for inmates through literacy learning programs in character education, social adaptation and catharsis have a positive impact on inmates (Efendi & Nurjanah, 2019). It becomes compelling to explore the topic of effective prison policies through an objective perspective by reviewing both online and print sources. This approach was similarly applied during a study of the prison system in the United States, which adopted various measures to mitigate the spread of the virus during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Zielinski et al., 2022).

Although somewhat subjective, the study was conducted in a justified way. Unlike the previous research, this research was carried out using an objective approach. Little attention has been paid to prison policy using bibliometric analysis (Naomi, 2020). A bibliometric analysis serves as an effective method for examining research trends, promoting greater transparency and reproducibility in the process (Rodriguez-Lora et al., 2023). In this study, a bibliometric approach is employed to examine the progression of prison policy over time. The primary objective of this research is to explore the patterns and advancements in scholarly work related to prison policy and its application in managing law offenders.

Bibliometric analysis of the literature related to this term is used to answer the following questions.

1. How are prison policy articles classified?
2. What are the trends in prison policy research in prisoner interventions?

This paper consists of the following sections. Part 1 Introduction. Part 2 provides an overview of the prison policy literature based on previous research and research objectives. Section 3 outlines the methodology employed in the bibliometric analysis, including detailed steps for retrieving documents from the Scopus database and utilizing the VOSviewer and Harzing's Publish or Perish software. Section 4 presents the analysis results obtained using VOSviewer and Harzing's Publish or Perish. Conclusions and recommendations are provided in Section 5.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of prison policy is a significant field that reflects social values, governmental structures, and the implementation of the criminal justice system (Sutton, 2013). The system of punishment for law violators is significantly shaped by a country's cultural, political, and economic conditions (Henham, 2022). In addition, the impact of austerity policies on prison health is also influenced by factors such as community values, institutional frameworks, and the implementation of an effective criminal justice system (Ismail, 2020).

The late 1960s and 1970s marked the beginning of a significant change in prison policy research. Early studies focused on the rehabilitation vs. punishment debate, influenced by the civil rights movement and growing awareness of human rights issues (Cloud et al., 2021). During this period, concerns about inhumane detention became a serious concern, so the focus was on efforts to implement humane punishment by seeking prison health care and indecent treatment of inmates (Lennox et al., 2022). The implementation of severe penalties for law violators substantially raises the prison population, highlighting the urgency for reforms within the criminal justice system (Annison, 2018).

Over the past decade, the penal system has undergone a significant shift with a more holistic approach and the use of interdisciplinary scrutiny in researching prison policy (Cloud et al., 2021). Issues surrounding the physical and mental health impacts on inmates due to punitive measures and the use of solitary confinement have served as a foundation for initiating reforms within the prison system (Fonseca, 2015). Like North Dakota, reducing their use of solitary confinement by more than 70% by implementing policies based on the philosophy of alternative penal punishment (Lennox et al., 2022).

The issue of racial and socioeconomic disparities is also an interesting issue due to the disproportionate impact of detention on marginalized groups (Reitz, 2020). The findings from the research highlight the interplay between race, social class, and gender, demonstrating how these factors converge to perpetuate systemic inequalities within the criminal justice system (Cheon et al., 2023). The research findings emphasize the interconnected influence of race, social class, and gender, showcasing how these elements collectively contribute to the persistence of systemic inequalities in the criminal justice system (Saito et al., 2021). This economic status gap also has an impact on the health issues of inmates who tend to experience asthma and need health care (Fedock et al., 2021). The root issue of racial and socio-economic disparities within the criminal justice system underscores the necessity for comprehensive reforms aimed at achieving justice that is free from the influence of offenders' racial, social, or economic backgrounds (Reitz, 2020).

The debate between rehabilitation and punitive approaches is also a major theme discussed in the penal system (Iwai et al., 2023). Recent research highlights the critical role of implementing

evidence-based approaches in rehabilitation while also underscoring the need to foster restorative justice principles in managing offenders (Henham, 2022). The restorative justice approach in handling legal problems has a positive contribution to the recovery of law violators (Henham, 2022). Thus, adopting an evidence-based strategy in rehabilitation plays a crucial role in ensuring the effectiveness of treatments for offenders, as it substantially aids in realizing the objectives of the criminal justice system (Wade, 2020).

Comparative studies of prison policy are growing, offering new perspectives on how each country develops its prison policy (Burciu, 2023). Numerous studies have highlighted the impact of cultural, political, and legal factors on offender treatment. For example, research conducted in Poland and Hungary emphasizes that education significantly contributes to the successful reintegration of prisoners into society (Miklósi et al., 2023). The influence of legal culture in Ireland impacts on pre-trial detention, constitutional protection of bail and detention (Rogan, 2022). Incarceration rates in Western societies are strongly linked to globalisation, resulting in varying incarceration rates influenced by factors such as labour market regulations and political structures (Sutton, 2013), as well as health issues and treatment practices for offenders also influencing prison policy (Tucker et al., 2022).

The treatment of offenders and prison conditions have been widely studied from a human rights perspective (Coretti et al., 2023). With growing attention directed toward them following the spotlight from international human rights organizations and international legal frameworks (Baffour et al., 2024), The prevalence of health issues like HIV, hepatitis C, and tuberculosis within prison settings highlights significant human rights concerns regarding the provision of healthcare services in correctional facilities (Sander & Lines, 2016). This condition makes it more difficult for prisoners from disadvantaged communities to access health care (Armstrong, 2020).

The use of technology in the prison system is currently a widely used field (Zimring & Rosenbloom, 2008). The utilization of technologies like CCTV and data analysis has been widely discussed in various studies, highlighting the intriguing implications these advancements have on prisoners' privacy, security, and rehabilitation (Heath-Kelly & Shanaah, 2023). The integration of technology in prison systems, ranging from the implementation of CCTV to computer-based data analysis, plays a crucial role in enhancing security and supporting prisoner rehabilitation (Tayumi Ishiy & Marcondes Ramos, 2023). The adoption of digital communication tools is evidence that during the COVID-19 lockdown has influenced interactions and practices in the prison system, which requires the prison system to be more careful in the use of technology both for its utilisation and minimising the risk of harm. (Bo & Haixia, 2023) The use of technology in the prison system will certainly have many impacts on access to justice, ethical issues, and human rights, which is where the importance of building a balance between the use of technology and the welfare of prisoners. (Tayumi Ishiy & Marcondes Ramos, 2023)

METHOD AND DATA COLLECTING

The bibliometric approach is applied to analyze all journal articles available in the reputable Scopus database. This method is highly valued for its ability to provide quantitative and objective insights (Lewis & Alpi, 2017). The use of bibliometric analysis can prevent potential subjective bias and can confirm what experts in the field can intuitively conclude (Dulla et al., 2021). The analysis of prison policies requires a multidisciplinary approach, and bibliometric studies can be utilized to identify the most influential scholarly articles (Liu et al., 2019). This study shows research trends, languages used, affiliations, countries of authors, citation searches within articles, identifies how these citations relate to different topics of effective prison policy research, and how patterns of co-citation have evolved.

Bibliometric Analysis

Bibliometrics is a research methodology that involves analysing and mapping research trends by using metadata analysis and processing, 2023) This approach employs statistical analysis to assess the influence of research, organizations, and nations, alongside identifying both national and international networks. By leveraging tools such as VOSViewer and POP software, researchers can map advancements across diverse scientific and technological domains. These tools enable the

visualization and analysis of data sourced from databases like Scopus and Google Scholar, offering insights into growth trends, distribution patterns, and collaborative activities within a specific research area (Velasco-López et al., 2023). Bibliometric analysis is utilized to identify research trends through the use of metadata (Franssen & Wouters, 2019). Trends in publications within the studied articles, along with detailed information about the publications such as author names, citation counts, and keyword frequency, can be analyzed using bibliometric methods (Fu et al., 2023).

Thus, bibliometric methods can reveal and are very useful for analysing the impact of literature on each discipline, as well as useful for determining policies for various research, publisher ranking, literature development, collection development, and other related policies.

Data Collecting

Metadata retrieved from the Scopus database on 3 April 2024, 08.54 WIB. Using a search query (Prison Policy) in the article title, 77 documents on Prison Policy were produced by Scopus for the period 1968-2023. The metadata was exported in CSV and RIS formats. Network visualizations were created using VOSviewer, and citation metrics were generated through Harzing's Publish or Perish. The research process is illustrated in Figure 1

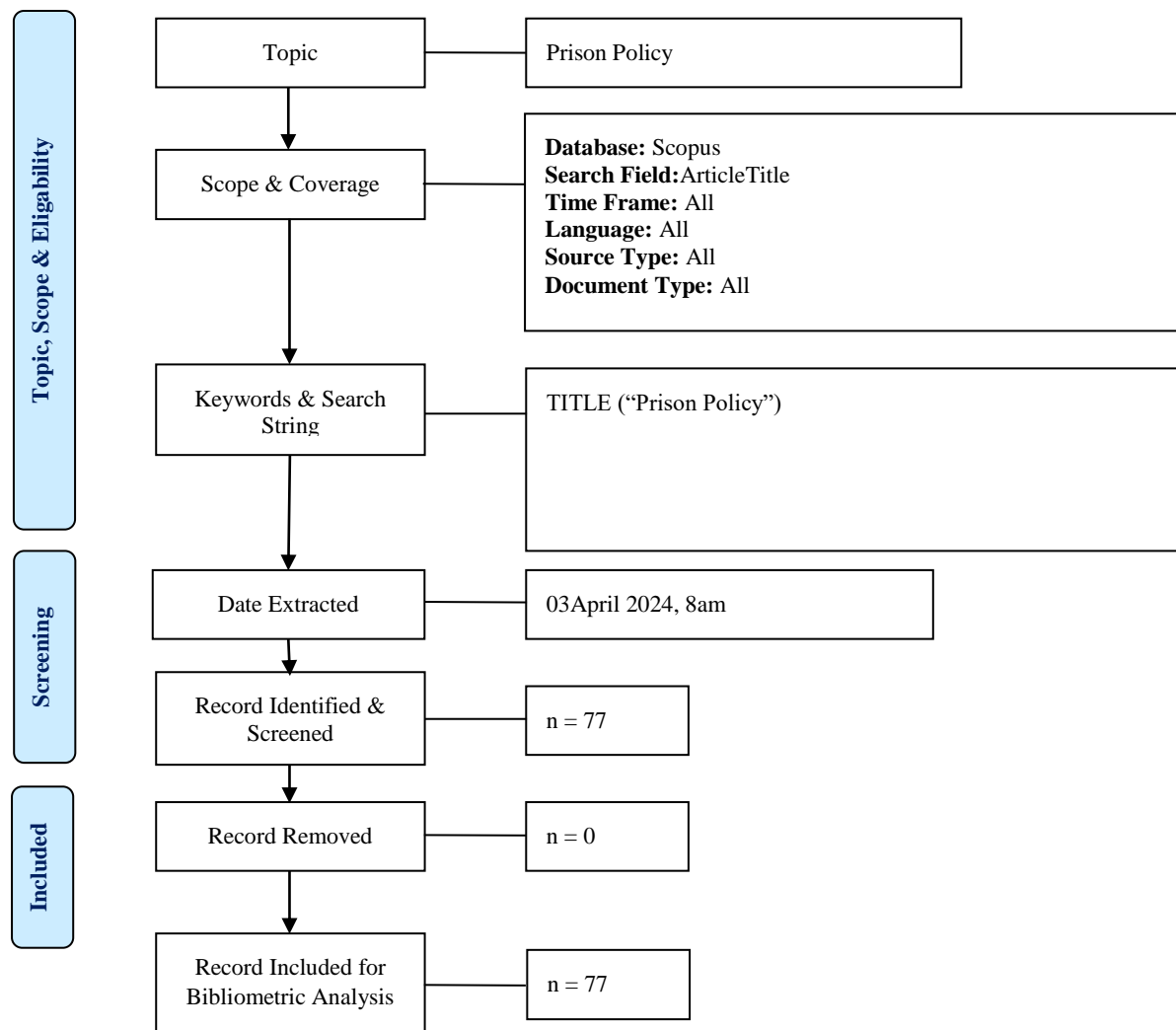


Figure 1. Flow diagram of the search strategy in the Scopus database

Source: Ali et al. (2024)

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Several key statistics from the dataset are highlighted to provide a broad perspective on research related to prison policies. The evaluation covered various dimensions, including the type of documents, yearly distribution by source, source journals, contributing authors, affiliations, countries of origin, subject areas, keyword analysis, examination of literacy networks across multiple sources, as well as a density analysis focusing on research themes, topic relationships, and specific areas of interest.

The majority of findings are expressed using frequencies and percentages. Yearly growth data is illustrated by the annual count of documents produced, along with their corresponding frequency, percentage, and cumulative percentage.

We report a bibliometric analysis of 77 documents on prison policy;

1. Document Type

Document types play a significant role in academia and research, with clear distinctions between types such as articles, conference papers, and book chapters, evaluated based on their authenticity and source (Buckland, 2014). Papers presented at conferences may be categorized differently based on their document type compared to their source classification. For instance, a paper presented at a conference is typically labeled as a "conference paper" under document type. However, its classification under source documents might vary, such as being listed as a journal article, part of conference proceedings, or a book chapter, depending on how and where it is ultimately published.

Table 1. Classification of Document Types

Document Type	Frequency	% (N=77)
Article	53	68.8%
Book Chapter	7	9.1%
Book	6	7.8%
Review	6	7.8%
Editorial	2	2.6%
Confrence Paper	1	1.3%
Letter	1	1.3%
Note	1	1.3%
Total	77	100.00

As summarised in Table 1, publications on prison policy are spread across 8 document types. More than half of the total publications are articles, comprising 53 documents (68.8%). In addition, as presented in Table 2, the documents come from nine journals namely; Prison Journal, Crime Law and Social Change, AIDS Policy Law, BMJ Open, Punishment and Society, Tobacco Control, American Journal of Public Health, and American Psychologist, Based on Table 2, Prison journal is the journal that produces the most prison policy articles as many as 6 articles out of 77 articles produced on prison policy.

This distribution shows that research on prison policy is mainly disseminated through academic journals and books. This is likely due to the fact that these types of publications are considered more rigorous and credible than other types of documents, such as conference papers and letters.

2. Documents per year by Source

The data shows a trend in the number of documents issued per year:

- 1972-1984: Relatively few documents were published, with an average of less than 1 document per year.
- 1984-2000: The number of documents published began to increase, with an average of about 1 document per year.
- 2000-2008: The number of documents published increased significantly, averaging around 2 documents per year.

- 2008-2018: The number of documents published continues to increase, averaging around 3 documents per year.
- 2018-2024: The number of documents issued has decreased slightly, averaging around 2 documents per year.

This trend shows that research on prison policy has grown rapidly in recent decades. This is likely due to increased public attention to issues of injustice, crime and incarceration.

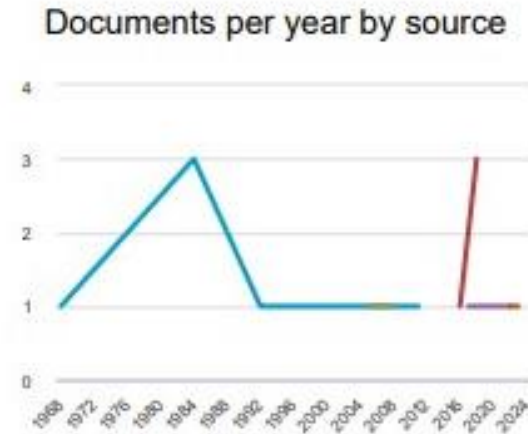


Figure 2. Documents per Year by Source

3. Documents by Source Journal

The distribution of the number of articles shows that most journals (7 out of 9) published 4 or fewer articles. This suggests that research on prison policy is dominated by a small number of journals. Prison Journal is the most prolific journal in this data. It has published 6 articles on prison policy. This suggests that this journal is an important source for research on prison policy.

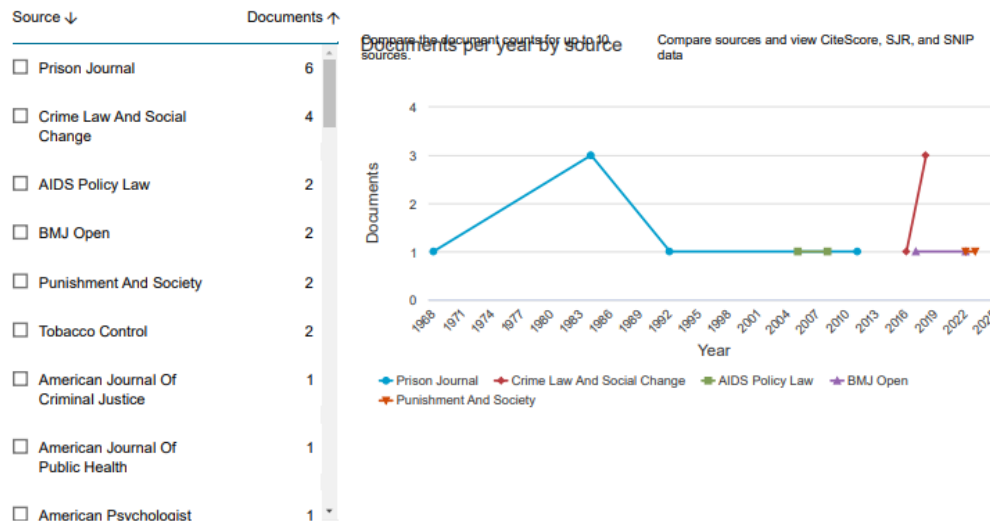


Figure 3. Document Source

4. Documents by Author

The distribution of the number of documents shows that most authors (8 out of 10) published 4 documents or less. This suggests that research on prison policy is dominated by a small number of prolific authors.

Brown, A. and Hunt, K. are the most prolific authors in this data. They have both published 6 documents on prison policy. This suggests that they are leading experts in this field and their research is highly regarded. Analysis of this bibliometric data shows that research on prison policy is dominated by a small number of prolific authors. Brown, A. and Hunt, K. are the most prolific authors in this data and their research is highly influential.

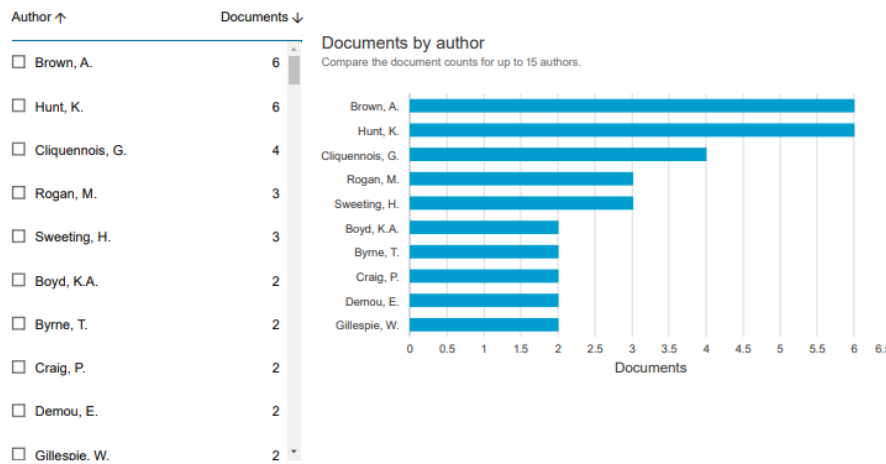


Figure 4. The Number of Authors per Document and the Most Prolific Authors

5. Documents by Affiliation

The University of Stirling dominates with 6 documents, indicating that the institution has a special interest or significant research programme related to prison policy. The University of Glasgow has 4 documents, which also indicates a significant contribution to prison policy research. Institutions such as Technological University Dublin, University of Minnesota Law School, and Université de Strasbourg have 3 documents each, indicating that these institutions also play an important role in prison policy research. Université Catholique de Louvain, College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences, and Hunter College have 2 documents each. The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and the MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit have 1 document each, indicating a smaller but still important contribution.

The dominance of the University of Stirling and the University of Glasgow may reflect the existence of specific research programmes or institutional focus on prison policy. Other institutions with multiple documents show that prison policy research is conducted at a wide variety of institutions, including universities with a focus on law, technology, social sciences and health. The diversity of affiliations suggests that prison policy research is multidisciplinary and involves a wide range of fields of study.

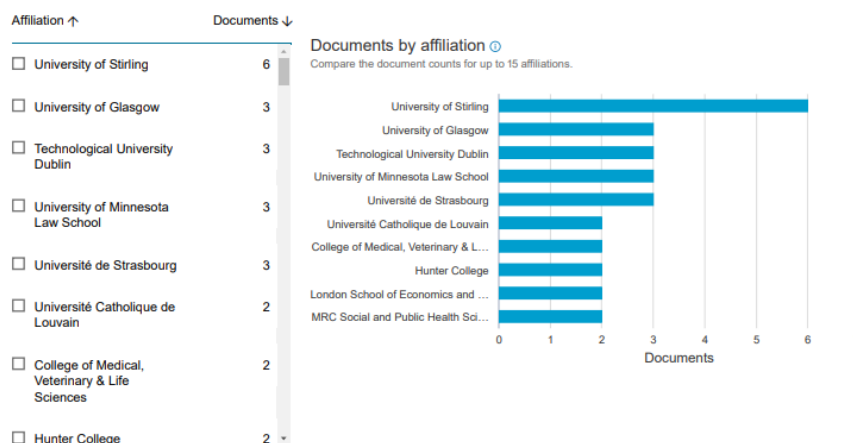


Figure 5. The most impactful institutions with at least ten publications

6. Documents by Country

This bibliometric data shows the distribution of documents by country or region related to prison policy is, the United States dominates with 24 documents. This suggests that much of the research and publications related to prison policy originate from the United States, reflecting significant attention to prison issues in this country. The United Kingdom follows with 16 documents, indicating great attention to prison policy in the UK, which may include prison reform, prison conditions, and rehabilitation programmes. Countries such as Belgium, France, Ireland and Italy have 4 documents each, indicating significant research from these countries. Australia has 3 documents, while Brazil and Norway have 2 documents each, indicating a smaller but still important research contribution and Chile has 1 document.

The significant presence of the United States and the United Kingdom in this context likely stems from their extensive and intricate prison systems, which serve as major focal points for research and scholarly exploration. Other European countries such as Belgium, France, Ireland and Italy also show significant interest in prison policy research, perhaps reflecting reform efforts or the particular challenges faced by their prison systems. Contributions from various nations like Australia, Brazil, Norway, and Chile highlight the global acknowledgment of prison-related challenges, despite the relatively lower volume of research compared to that of the United States and the United Kingdom.

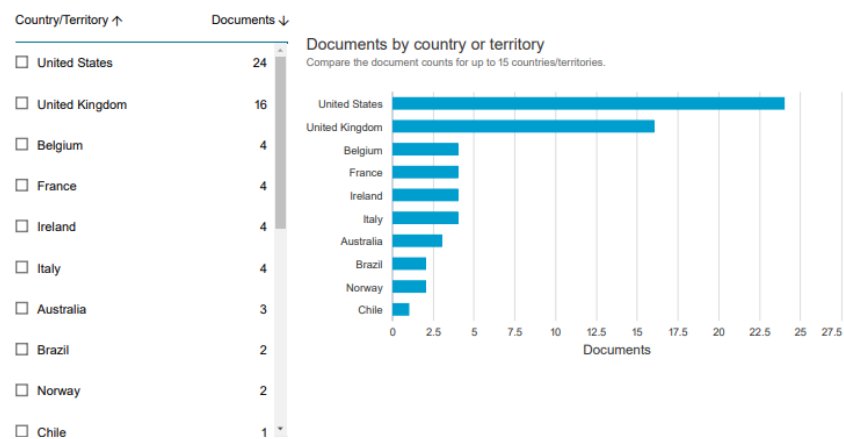


Figure 6. The Top Ten Countries Contributing to Publications

7. Documents by Subject area

Social Science dominates with 51.0% of the total documents. This shows that research on prison policy is mostly conducted from a social perspective, possibly including aspects of law, sociology, and criminology. Medicine has a significant portion of 29.4%. This highlights a strong focus on prisoners' health, the provision of medical care within correctional facilities, and the effects of imprisonment on both mental and physical well-being. Arts and Humanities and Psychology each had a contribution of 4.9%, indicating research that may focus on rehabilitation, the psychological impact of incarceration, and arts-based programmes for prisoners. Other fields such as Management, Economics and Finance, Engineering and Nursing contributed 2.0% each. This suggests there is research that may focus on managerial, financial, infrastructure, and care aspects of prison. Health Professions and Multidisciplinary contributed 1.0% each, suggesting approaches that might combine different disciplines or focus on specific professions in the prison context.

The predominance of Social Sciences indicates that prison policy is heavily scrutinised from a social and legal perspective, which may involve policy analysis, case studies, and quantitative and qualitative research. The high number of documents in the field of Medicine indicates significant attention to health issues in prison, including infectious diseases, mental health, and medical services. The involvement of other fields indicates that prison policy is a multidimensional issue that requires an interdisciplinary approach, encompassing managerial, technical, economic, and treatment aspects.

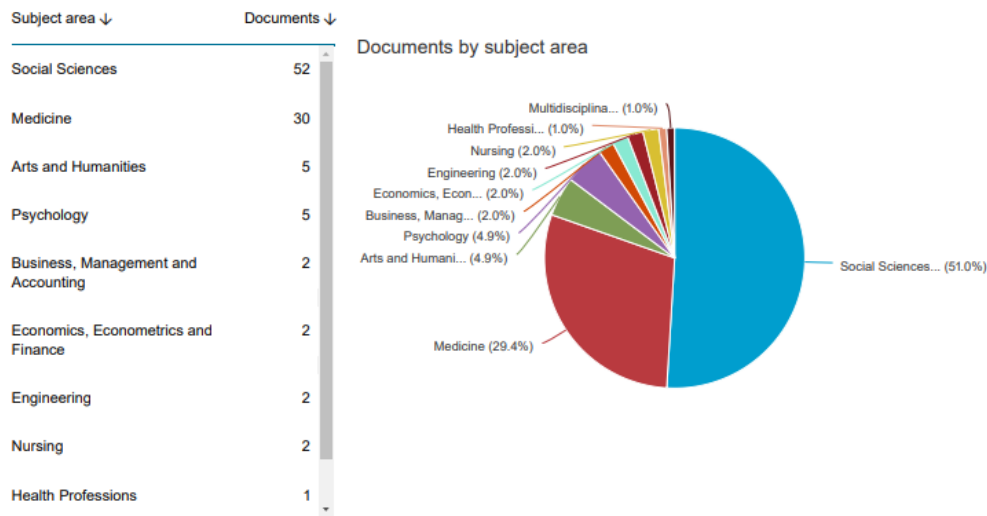


Figure 7. Subject Area

8. Keyword Analysis

Analyzing keywords is essential for gaining insights into the intellectual framework of a research field by effectively identifying and extracting pertinent terms (Alrasheed, 2021). Keyword analysis is also very important to understand the intellectual structure of the research area. (Schwarzenberg & Figueroa, 2023). Figure 8 illustrates the visualisation of the keyword network that has been created by a number of authors, namely the keywords Human, Prison and Policy. The colour, circle size, font size and line thickness can provide clues about the strength of the relationship between keywords from different research articles based on semantic similarity by determining relevant keywords (H.Haggag, 2013).

Based on the keyword analysis conducted, the most or dominating cluster related to Prison Policy is the blue cluster where the keywords are more related to Human and prison, elderly prisoner and policy. The green cluster is more dominated by the issue of prisons, health policy, psychology, child, child parent relation, female and prison policy. While other issues relevant to prison policy are mostly related to health policy, public health, quality of life, criminal, punishment, communication, interview and covid-19. These keywords can be the basis for research development in the Indonesian context so that it will be able to enrich the scientific repertoire and the best practices for implementing the prison system and the state of the art related to prison policy.

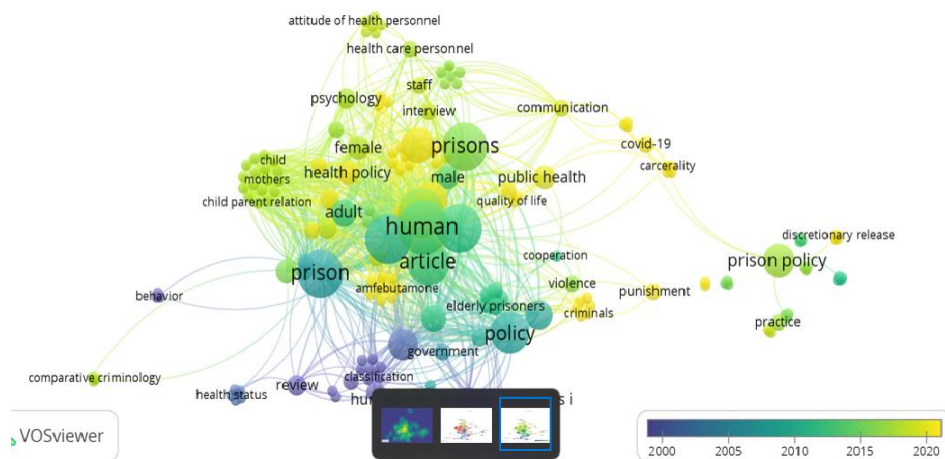


Figure 8. Network Visualisation Map of Keywords

parent relation, female and prison policy. literacy network analysis from various sources the main topic set consists of human and prison, policy and public health. While the sub-topic groups consist of health, prison policy, covid-19 and child welfare, and the theme density analysis of research on prison policy, there are many publications and research related to humans and prisons, prisons related to health and quality of life, as well as health policy and public health in the prison context, Interpersonal relationships and mental health are also indicators of the close relationship of psychology, communication, and prison staff with specific topics. There is a lot of research on family relationships in the prison context, especially involving children and mothers, specific research on elderly prisoners, including research related to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in the prison context.

Despite the special nature of bibliometric analysis, however, this study has limitations that must be addressed to provide a clear understanding for readers, and to improve the quality of future research. Firstly, the keywords used are only specific to prison policy, based on document titles. Thus, the search results in other areas such as Languages of the Documents, The Most Active Source Titles, Title and abstract analysis and citation analysis. So that future research can be expanded with other search queries.

Despite these limitations, this study has contributed to current knowledge by presenting trends in prison policy research. This research also extends and complements previous findings on prison policy literature by using a bibliometric approach and provides meaningful insights into past literature trends.

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