
A Bibliometric Study on Entrepreneurship and Institutional Support

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Abstract:

The present study presents a bibliometric analysis of the global university activity dedicated to entrepreneurship and institutional support from 1994 to 2026, based on 1,000 scientific publications in the database Web of Science. The paper deals with the intellectual structure of research, residential area trends, changes over time and the nature of international collaboration along these lines. Through analysis of some descriptive measures, the article shows that academic activity in the field of entrepreneurship is characterized by constant growth of scholarly interest, intensive international cooperation, and increasing interdisciplinary interaction, which is an indication of the maturing of the area. The essential areas of study have been recognized based on the use of bibliometric analysis methods including co-word, bibliographic coupling, co-citation thematic mapping and historiography analysis. One of the findings includes the identification of area key actors, dominating authors, journals and countries, as well as the emergence of new themes of research related to policy support, networks, gender, and contextual entrepreneurship. An in-depth analysis shows a robust theoretical grounding in institutional theory and the study of entrepreneurship, and advancing work towards empirical and policy engagement. By synthesizing the evolution and knowledge framework of this field of study, this research

The Voice of Creative Research

Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

identifies gaps and future directions, which could offer useful insights to researchers, policymakers, and practitioners intending to strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Keywords: *Entrepreneurship Development, Innovation, Institutional Support, Bibliometric Analysis.*

INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship is a creative process; it is the skill to create and construct something new from almost nothing. It is a knack of feeling the opportunity (Honnurswamy, 2024). Entrepreneurship has taken on enormous significance in the wake of global economic challenges (Chhabra, Dana, Malik et al., 2021). Despite various factors that influence economic development, entrepreneurship is believed to be contributing significantly. Therefore, policymakers and academicians should be more concerned with deriving insights into the antecedents of entrepreneurship (Ahlstrom et al., 2019). We conceptualise the significance of institutional support's role in new venture internationalisation by exploring the relationships between institutional support and contextual factors. In emerging markets, despite the tough institutional setting and the lack of institutional resources, new ventures use both internal and external resources to detect opportunities and obtain the resources required for growth. Emerging market entrepreneurs leverage their entrepreneurial alertness to sense, connect, and integrate information for potential business opportunities (Lanivich et al., 2022). In view of the growing number of studies exploring institutional support, government interventions, and entrepreneurship outcomes, a comprehensive bibliometric study is required to chart the course of development, thematic patterns, key contributors, and knowledge gaps in this area. This difference between the motive and unawareness or inaccessibility underlines the importance of a systematic approach to understanding the institutional environment that fosters entrepreneurship. Institutional support, from the government, financial institutions, incubators, innovation and entrepreneurship development centres, and related organisations, serves as a key catalyst that facilitates business setup, innovation, and sustainability. If these support structures are proactive, inclusive, and properly communicated, entrepreneurship development becomes more feasible and plays a significant role in overall economic development. In view of the growing body of research studies on institutional support, government interventions, and entrepreneurship development, a comprehensive bibliometric study is required to identify the developments, trends, key contributors, and knowledge gaps in this area. This study aims to analyse the existing scholarly literature on institutional support and entrepreneurship development, with particular emphasis on the role of government initiatives and support institutions, thereby providing insights for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners seeking to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The primary objectives of this study are to identify research trends, gaps, and future directions that can inform policymakers, educators, and ecosystem stakeholders for further studies. Additionally, to analyse the extent of study taken place to understand the role of institutional support in developing entrepreneurial competencies, and to assess the interlinkages between institutional support and entrepreneurship development.

The Voice of Creative Research

Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

The scope of this study covers the interrelationship between institutional support and the vitality of entrepreneurship development across global and regional contexts. It examines education institution models, policies, and their outcomes on entrepreneurship development, drawing data from a database spanning 1994 -2026 to highlight trends and gaps.

DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF BIBLIOMETRIC RESULTS

Main Information about Data

MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT DATA	
Timespan	1994:2026
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	352
Documents	1000
Annual Growth Rate %	11.95
Document Average Age	6.6
Average citations per doc	46.51
References	57955
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	1911
Author's Keywords (DE)	2946
AUTHORS	
Authors	2609
Authors of single-authored docs	133
AUTHORS COLLABORATION	
Single-authored docs	136
Co-Authors per Doc	2.88
International co-authorships %	41.3
DOCUMENT TYPES	
Article	988
Article; Book chapter	2
Article; Proceedings paper	10

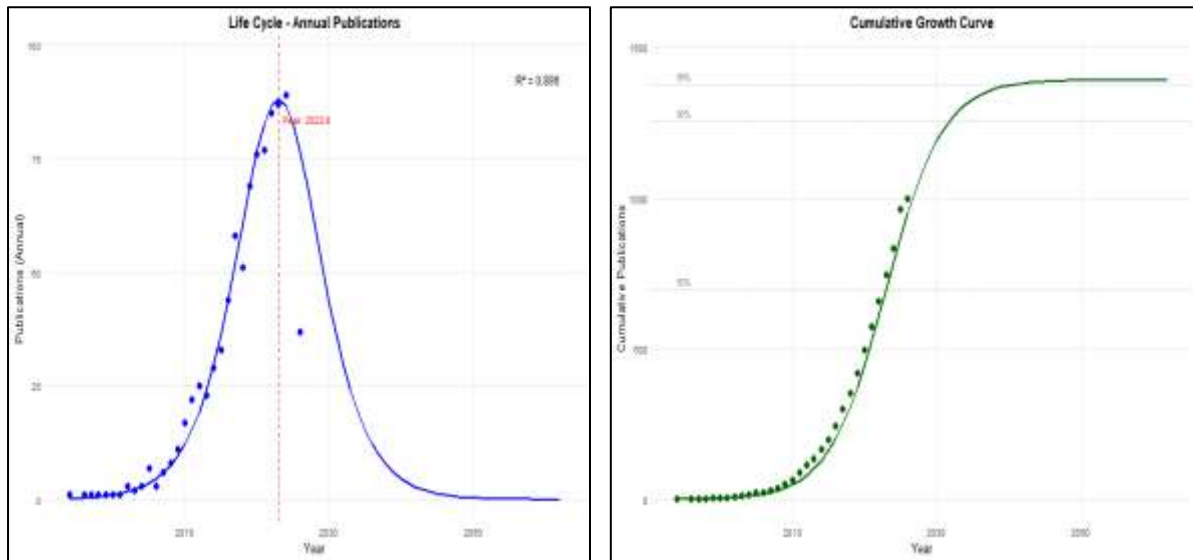
The Main Information gives the over description regarding the dataset. It shows the size, time span, average production, author details and main contents like keyword, citations, etc. The dataset indicates that the area of study is growing steadily, which is understood from the increasing annual scientific production, a diverse authorship base and growing collaboration patterns. Core ratios suggest that the concept of entrepreneurship and institutional support has become matured and internationally networked research domain. There is an increasing level of interdisciplinary engagement, with clear strong co-authorship patterns and a diversified set of publication outlets. The dataset indicates a shift from fundamental

The Voice of Creative Research

Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

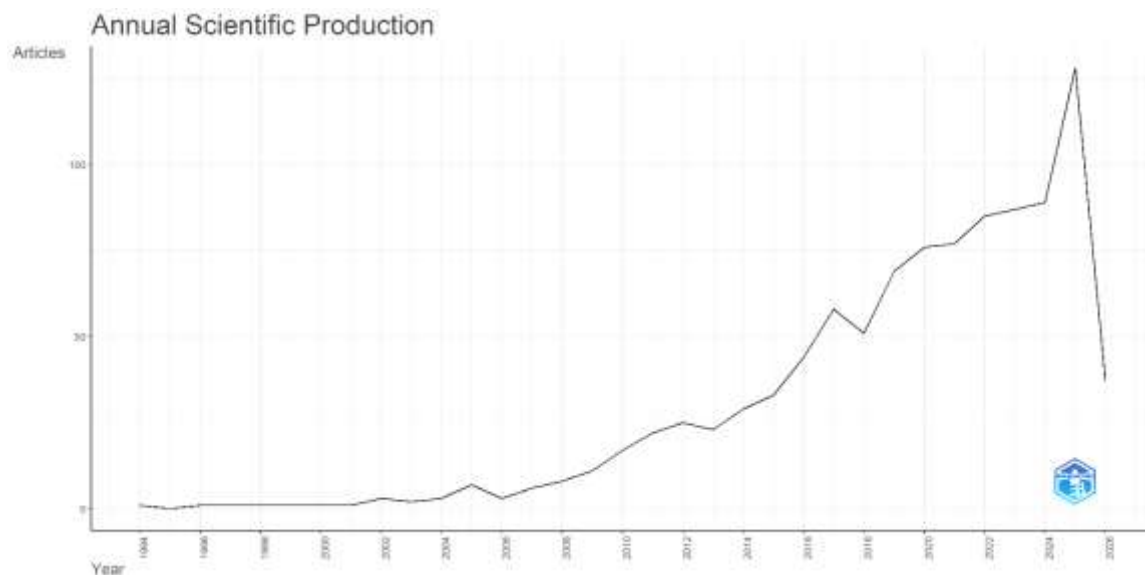
conceptual contributions to a broader empirical and policy-oriented knowledge base, signifying the field's consolidation

Life Cycle



The life cycle, annual publication, and growth curve pattern show a tremendous growth of the subject through its developmental stages, from birth to expansion and maturity. The early publications centred around the basic theoretical knowledge, which was the foundational ideas of the concept. Afterwards, there is rapid growth as topics on institutions, innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems became more popular. The growth trend indicates that the field of study is in a period of maturity and expansion stage rather than decline. Because the pattern maintains sustained momentum and topic diversity. This reflects that the topic entrepreneurship and institutional support is an evolving but stable domain of research.

Annual Scientific Production

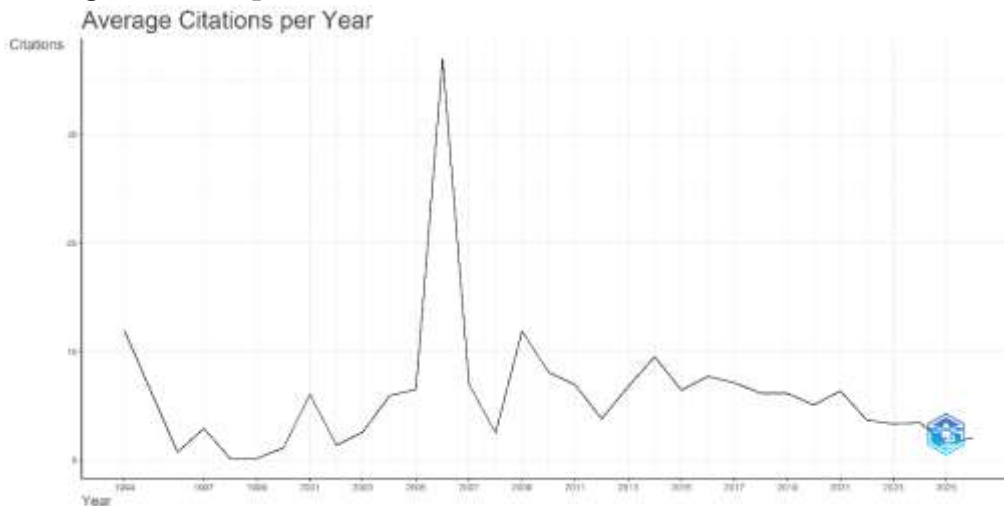


The Voice of Creative Research

Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

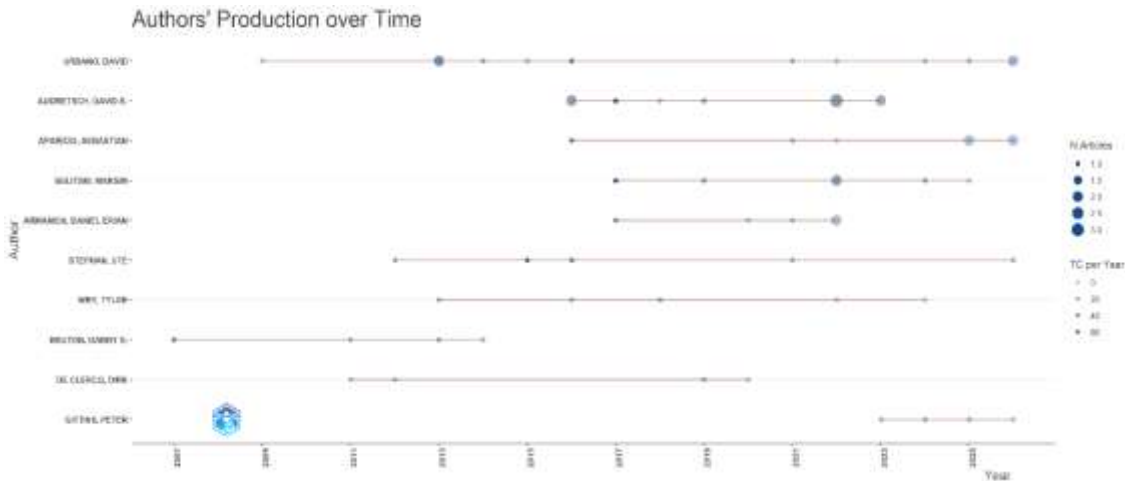
There is a significant growth trend in the publications in the area of entrepreneurship and institutional support, especially after 2010 and an even more peak growth since 2015. These trends reflects that growing interest in the subject matter and maturity in the research field. While the high peak in recent years points to the modernity and rapid expansion of the field. The slight drop in the last year is due to incomplete indexing. In general, the development of research can be attributed to the transformation from a newly emerging field into a mature domain with sustained growth.

Average Citations per Year



The average citations per year show varying but generally strong scholarly impact, with an exceptional citation peak around 2006. It reflects the influence of seminal contributions published during the formative phase of the field. Citation levels in later years remain comparatively stable, suggesting the continued relevance of publications despite growth in publication volume. This pattern implies that foundational studies continue to shape the intellectual structure of the domain, while more recent research contributes to broadening and consolidating the knowledge base.

Authors' Production Over Time



The Voice of Creative Research

Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

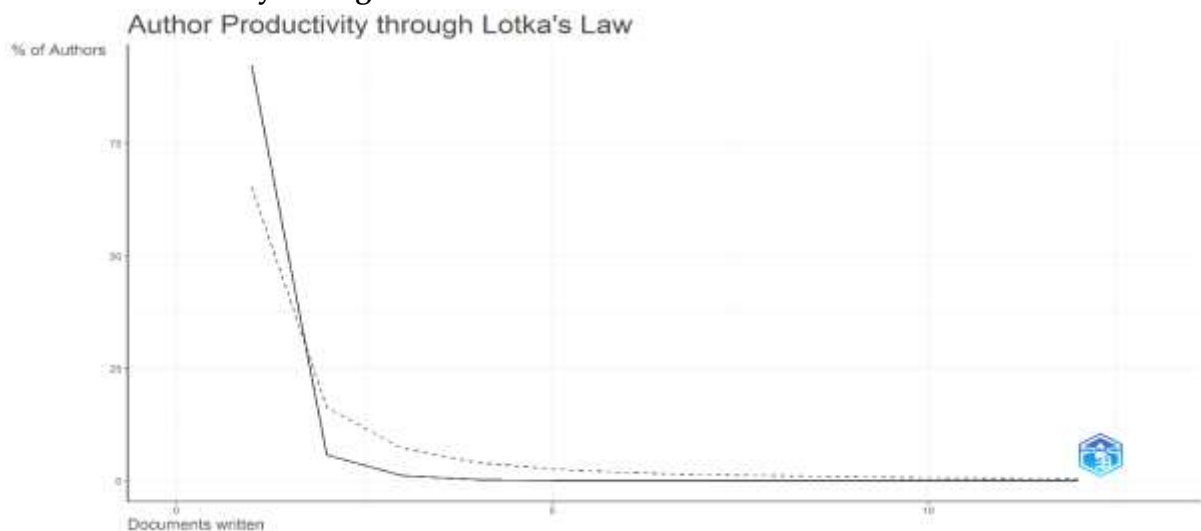
Over the years, a small group of authors such as Urbano, Audretsch and Aparicio have been consistently contributing in the field. The pattern shows both established and new authors entering the field, which shows the research area is very lively. The pattern reflects that the development of the field is driven mainly by a niche of regular influential prolific scholars expanding through broader author participation.

Author Local Impact

Author	h_index	g_index	m_index	TC	NP
AUDRETSCH DAVID B.	10	10	0.90909091	1229	10
URBANO DAVID	9	12	0.5	1081	12
APARICIO SEBASTIAN	5	7	0.45454545	481	7
ARMANIOS DANIEL					
ERIAN	5	5	0.5	346	5
BELITSKI MAKSIM	5	6	0.5	994	6
WRY TYLER	5	5	0.35714286	513	5
BRUTON GARRY D.	4	4	0.2	822	4
DE CLERCQ DIRK	4	4	0.25	238	4
GUERRERO MARIBEL	4	4	0.28571429	405	4
MICKIEWICZ TOMASZ	4	4	0.36363636	746	4

Author impact analysis reveals the presence of a small number of influential scholars whose work has made a disproportionately large contribution to the development of the field. It seems that high-impact scholars serve as intellectual anchors, influencing conceptual development within the field. This phenomenon can be explained by the need for a certain group of contributors to help shape the discussions around entrepreneurship development and supporting systems like institutional support, government support, etc.

Author Productivity through Lotka's Law

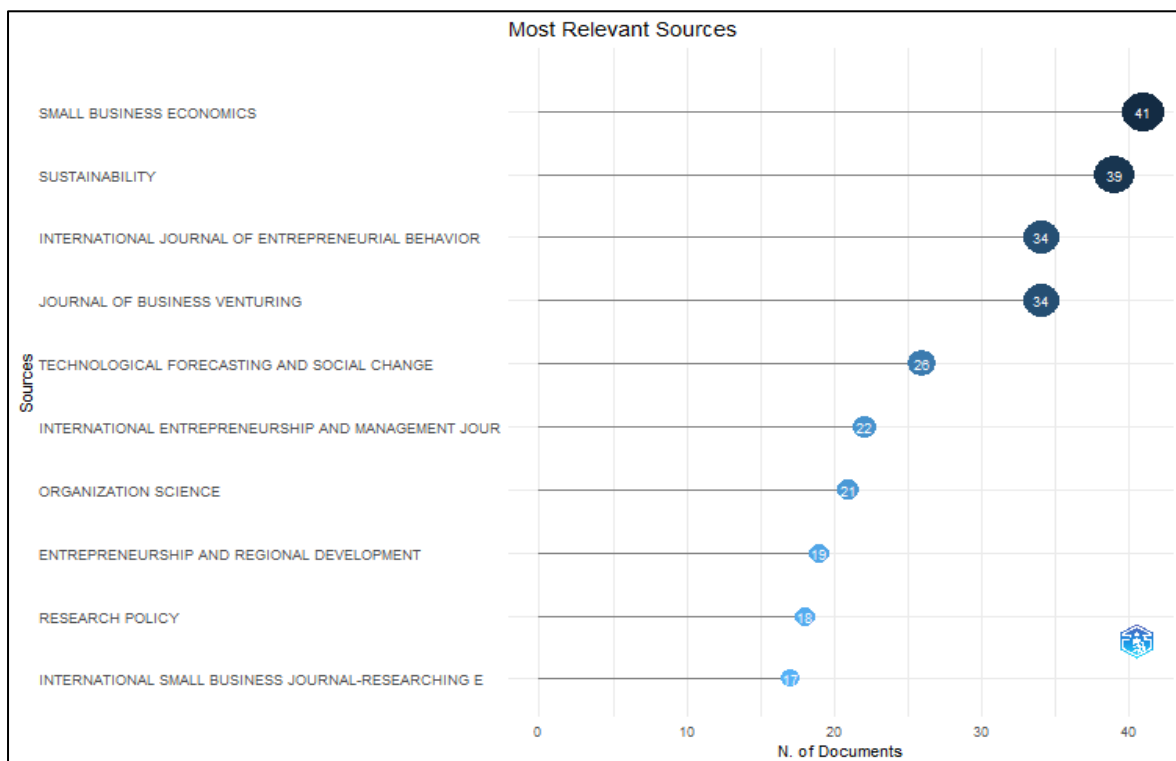


The Voice of Creative Research

Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

Based on Lotka's Law, the distribution suggests a skewed model of productivity, whereby many writers publish just one article, while a very small number publish more than one article. This observation is consistent with the bibliometric expectations, which show that productivity is highly concentrated among a few authors. It is in a domain of advanced research, where the process of knowledge advancement depends on a small group of researchers with a wider periphery of writers.

Most Relevant Sources

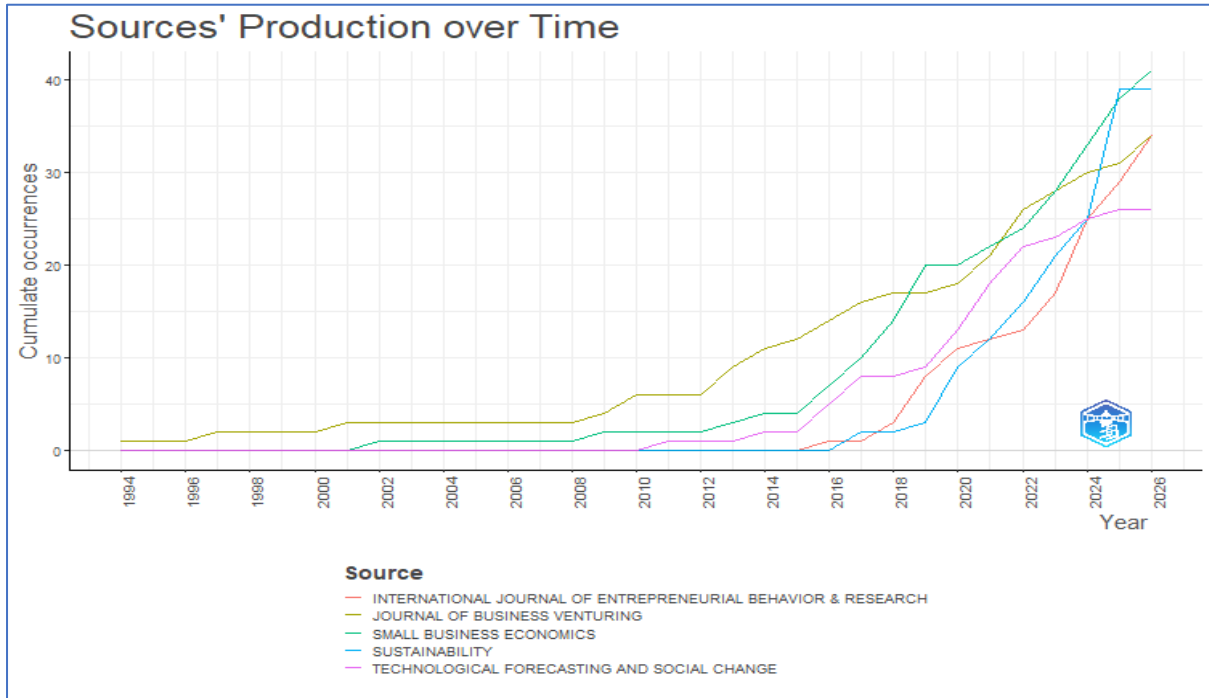


As per the source analysis, the publications are concentrated within a small set of active journals, reflecting the presence of core and outer edge in this research as well. Core journals serve as a principal domain for knowledge diffusion and contribute to shaping intellectual trends in the area. The dominance of speciality journals dedicated to entrepreneurship, innovation and management journals shows the interdisciplinary approaches of the domain. These core sources serve as the primary platforms through which theoretical and empirical researches are developed.

The Voice of Creative Research

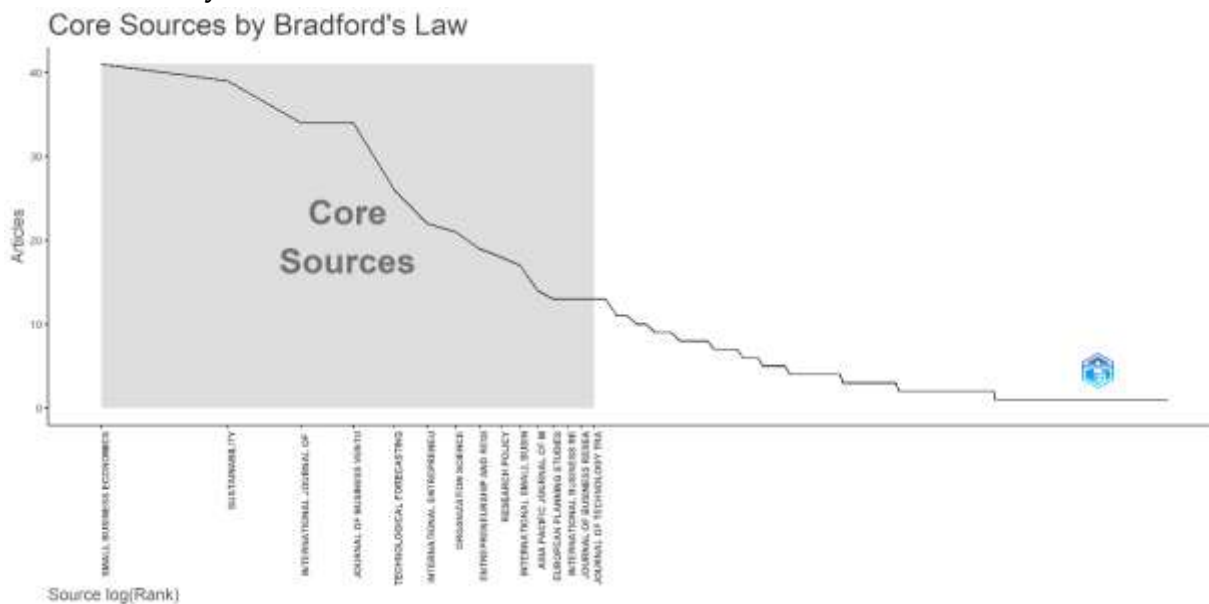
Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

Source Production Over Time



The source production analysis of the literature shows that the top journals is consistent over several years, whereas the new publications appeared with increased diversification of research topics. The persistence of core journals alongside emerging sources indicates the field’s progression from concentrated theoretical development to broader multidisciplinary engagement.

Core Sources by Bradford’s Law



The Bradford Law points to a limited number of central journals contributing to a disproportionately large number of publication outputs, comprising major journals related to

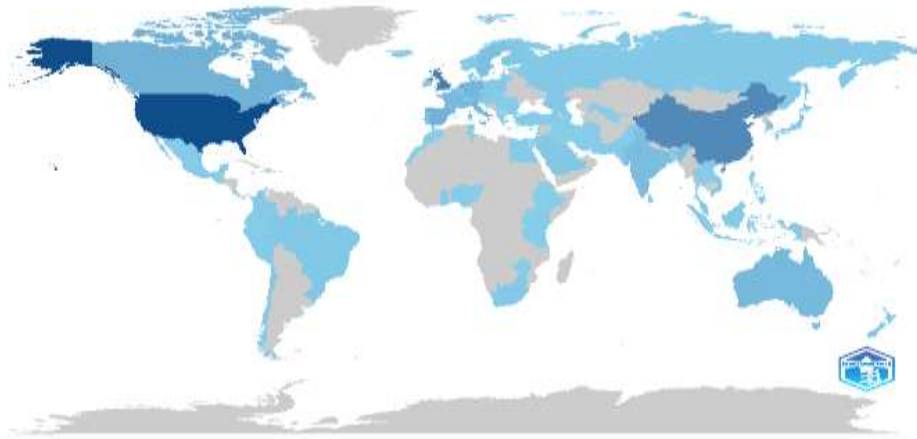
The Voice of Creative Research

Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

entrepreneurship, innovation, and management. This represents the classical model of a core-periphery structure in academic communication. From the dominance of the core sources, it becomes quite clear that the intellectual development of the disciple is very much dependent upon the specialised journals.

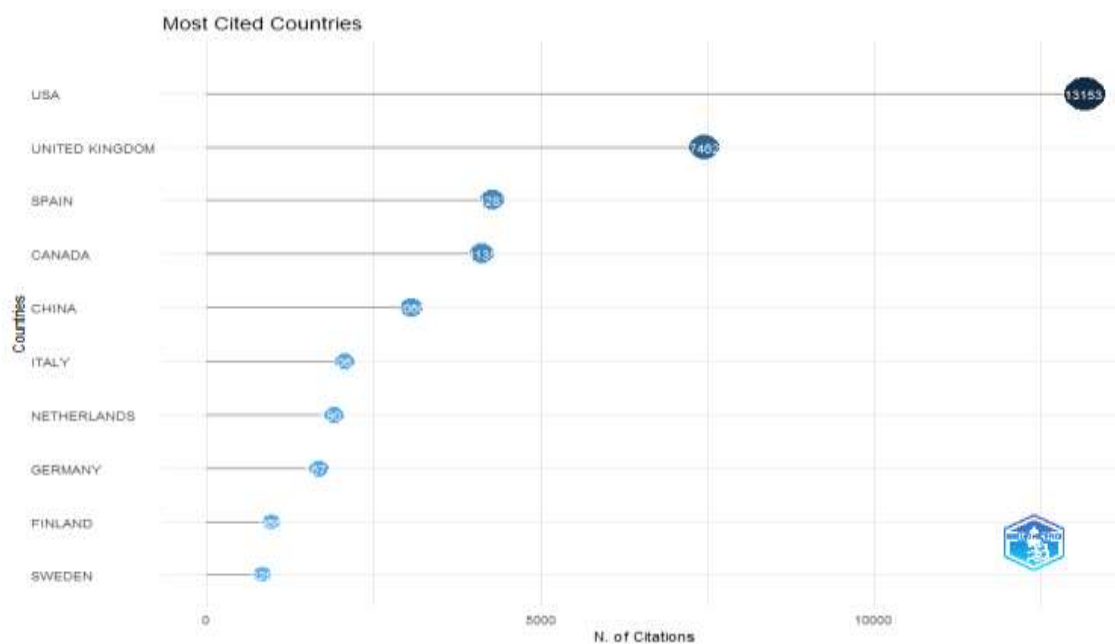
Country Scientific Production

Country Scientific Production



The Country productivity analysis highlights that the developed countries played a major role in creating research outputs, as there is a high level of geographic concentration in the USA, UK and other research powerhouses. However, an increase in contributions by emerging countries points to an increased international focus of the research

Most Cited Countries



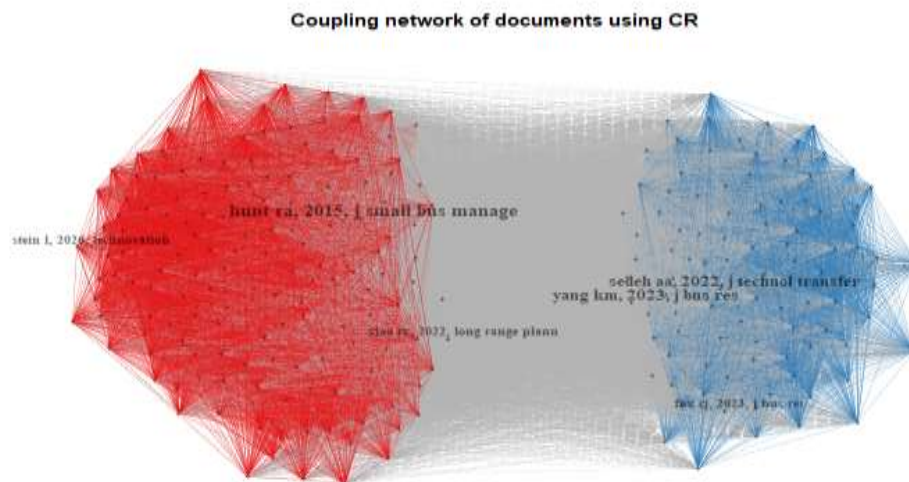
Citation impact by country demonstrates that there are a number of countries making disproportionately larger intellectual contributions to the field, based on their high citation

The Voice of Creative Research

Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

scores. This contrast highlights that impact is determined not only by research output but also by its intellectual quality. The distinction between productivity and citation impact indicates that scholarly influence is shaped not only by output but also by its intellectual quality.

Bibliographic Coupling Map



Bibliographic coupling network shows the clusters of closely associated articles, which possess similar knowledge domains, indicating concept specialization in the field. Such clustering denotes the present research front rather than previous foundations, indicating how recent research is structured around different but interrelated research topics. The coupled

Co-word Network



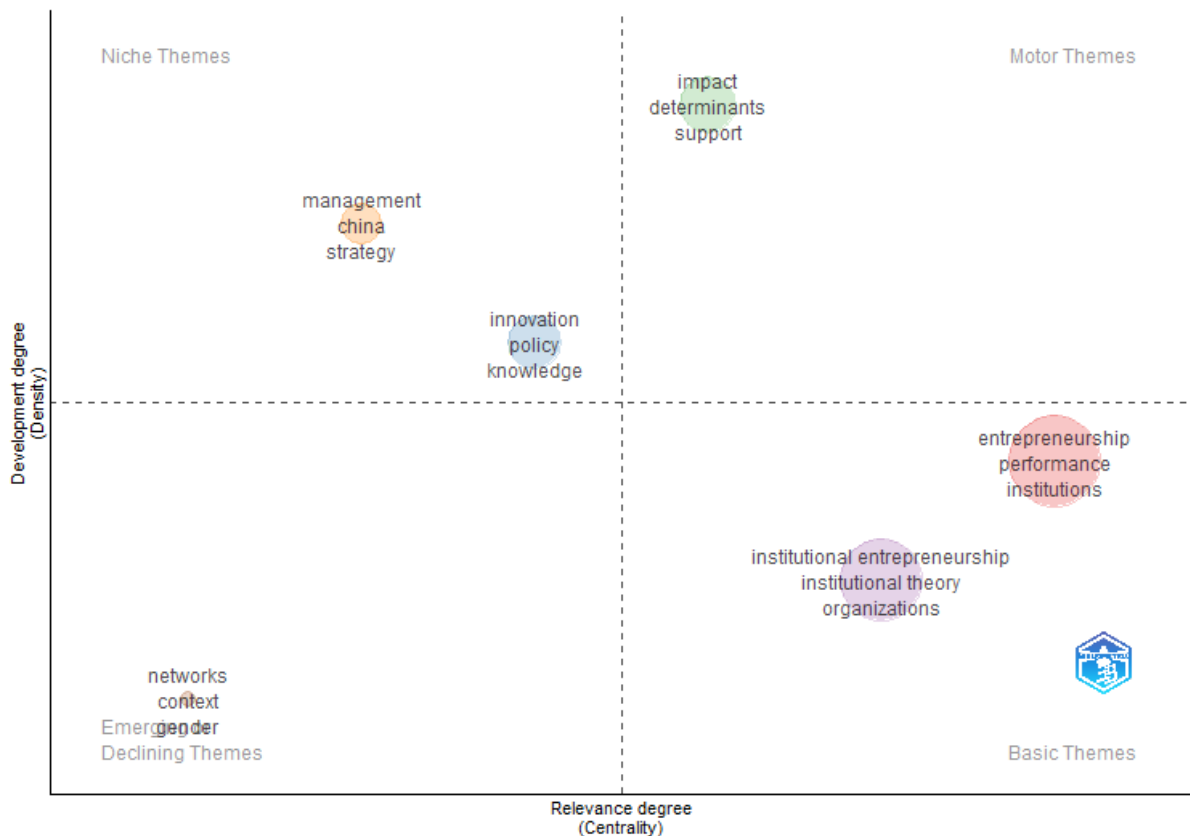
The co-word network reflects entrepreneurship as the root term being strongly coupled with some important terms such as innovation, institutions, growth, performance and policy,

The Voice of Creative Research

Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

demonstrating the conceptual framework of the field. Highly centred words suggest that these topics serve as mediators for linking multiple research discourses. Overall, the network indicates that research has evolved from isolated concepts toward an integrated thematic structure centred on institutional influences and entrepreneurial development.

Thematic Map

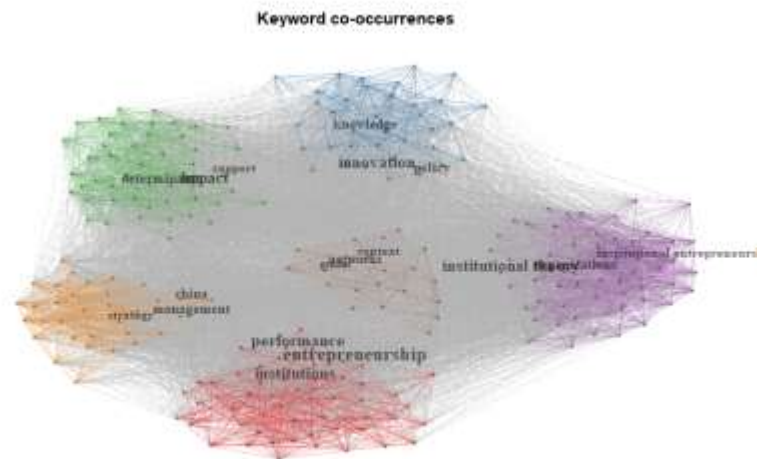


The thematic map reveals the coexistence of mature themes, basic transversal themes, emerging topics and niche areas, demonstrating conceptual diversity in the field. Core themes are entrepreneurship, institutions, and they appear highly developed and central. It proves their importance as foundational aspects of entrepreneurial studies. In addition, support determinants and impact are identified as motor themes representing well-developed and driver themes. Institutional entrepreneurship and institutional theory are presented as important transversal themes. Among emerging themes are networks, context, and gender, while among the niche themes are management and strategy.

The Voice of Creative Research

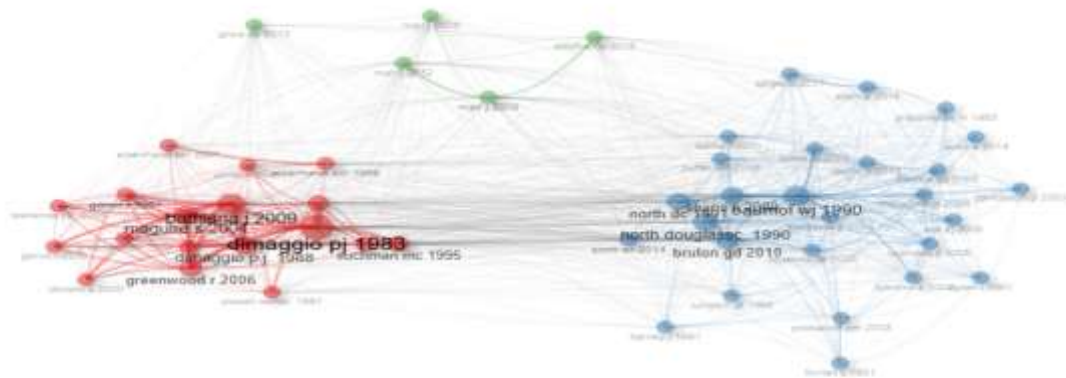
Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

Keyword co-occurrence



The emerging themes point toward evolving interests in ecosystems, policy support and context-specific entrepreneurial development, indicating ongoing thematic evolution and future research opportunities.

Co-citation Network

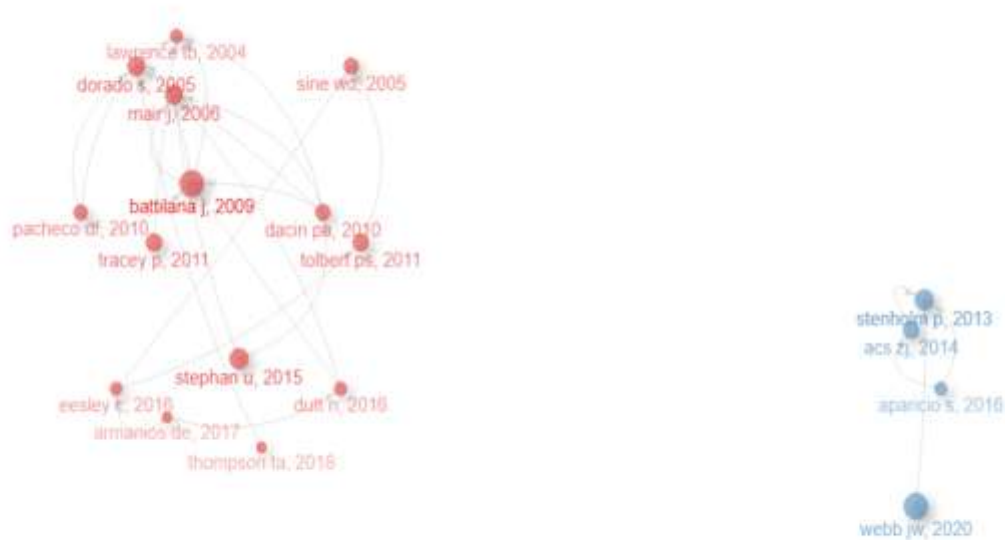


The co-citation network identifies the intellectual foundations of the field, with seminal institutional theory and entrepreneurship scholars occupying highly central positions. Strong co-citation relationships suggest a coherent theoretical base around institutional entrepreneurship, legitimacy and organisational change. The network demonstrates that field development has been strongly grounded in foundational theoretical works that continue to structure contemporary research.

The Voice of Creative Research

Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

Historiograph



The historiograph traces the chronological evolution of influential works and reveals the developmental path of the field through seminal contributions. Early influential studies established institutional entrepreneurship foundations, while later works expanded toward social entrepreneurship, institutional change and multilevel perspectives. This historical citation trajectory shows cumulative knowledge building, where later scholarship extends rather than replaces foundational contributions, reflecting a progressive and interconnected evolution of the research domain.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Notwithstanding the above contributions, this study is also prone to a number of limitations. Firstly, this study relies entirely on the data mined from the Web of Science database, which may not be comprehensive in covering all relevant publications indexed in other prominent databases like Scopus. Secondly, this study only considers journal publications, thus omitting conference proceedings, or policy briefs that may be more pertinent in the field of entrepreneurship and innovation studies. Thirdly, citation metrics may be less favourable to relatively newer publications that have not had the time to garner enough citations, which may result in the underestimation of new but influential research. Fourthly, bibliometric analysis is more geared towards structural and quantitative aspects, which do not involve the quality or theoretical rigor of individual research studies.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this bibliometric study is to provide an overview of the research landscape, as well as the latest developments in the entrepreneurship and institutional

The Voice of Creative Research

Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

support field. Overall, there has been explosive growth in the number of publications and types of research; this area is now seen as both a number of new themes and has become increasingly global in terms of the number of researchers involved. Government policies, entrepreneurial ecosystems, financial support mechanisms, and innovation intermediaries are among the institutional support mechanisms that help to advance entrepreneurship development, which is why they are also seen as the main driving force behind entrepreneurship development. In addition, the theoretical structure of the field is deeply seated in both institutional and ecological perspectives; however, recent shifts in themes are starting to focus on the context-specific mechanisms of support, as well as the creation of sustainable entrepreneurs through innovation.

As illustrated through the work of North (1990) and the examples provided by Stam (2015), this study substantiates that supportive institutional environments play a significant role in shaping entrepreneurial behaviour and performance. Ahlstrom et al. (2019) also confirm this by identifying that effective institutional frameworks create conditions that foster entrepreneurship within the context of broader economic development. Together, the above work shows that in order to develop entrepreneurial competencies, the need to strengthen institutional support structures must be pursued with urgency as a means of helping to create resilient ecosystems of entrepreneurship. Future research can expand upon this by utilising additional databases and exploring new avenues of research, including digital entrepreneurship, inclusive ecological systems and sustainable forms of innovations.

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The Voice of Creative Research

Vol. 8 & Issue 2 (April 2026)

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