

A bibliometric analysis of digital era governance research: An overview over the past two decades

*Aleksander Aristovnik, Ljupčo Todorovski, Lan Umek
Faculty of Public Administration, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Abstract: The emergence of digital technologies has profoundly affected and transformed almost every aspect of societal relations. These impacts have also reached public administration, including its governance. Digital technologies' rise has paved the way for the surfacing of a new public governance model called Digital Era Governance (DEG) model, in which digital technologies play a central role. Therefore, the main aim of this paper is to provide a comprehensive and in-depth examination of DEG research over the past two decades. Bibliometric analysis is based on the Scopus database that contains 3,917 documents published between 2000 and 2019. In this context, several established and innovative bibliometric approaches are applied. The results reveal the apparent growth of DEG research in the last 20 years, as accelerated by several of the most relevant documents published in reputable journals like *Government Information Quarterly*. Most DEG research has been conducted in Anglo-Saxon countries, as confirmed while examining authors' affiliations and collaborations. With respect to the biggest discussion topics in DEG research, the results show that in recent years e-government has been replaced by emerging alternative concepts like digital, open and smart government. The findings add to the existing scientific knowledge and facilitate evidence-based policymaking.

Keywords: digital era governance, e-governance, public administration, bibliometric analysis, citation analysis, mapping, dynamic evolution