THE KURAB JOURNAL
of Interdisciplinary Research in Social Sciences (KJIRSS)
ISSN (Online): 3141-5210

Trends in Legal Communication Research: A Decadal Bibliometric Analysis (2015-2025)

Abdullahi Shehu Yusuf [1], Abubakar Shehu [2*], Mohd Nazri Latiff Azmi [3], and Tuan Sharifah Azura Tuan Zaki [3]

[1] Department of History and International Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Northwest University, Nigeria
[2] Department of Development and Strategic Communication, University of Abuja, Nigeria
[3] Faculty of Languages and Communication, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abdin, Malaysia

*****Correspondence: abubakarsnk@gmail.com

Received: April 14, 2026
Accepted: May 29, 2026
Published: May 31, 2026
Copyright: © 2026 The authors.
Published by: Kurab Publishing & General Concepts
This work is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).
Cite as: Yusuf, A. S., Shehu, A., Azmi, M. N. L., & Tuan Zaki, T. S. A. (2026). Trends in legal communication research: A decadal bibliometric analysis (2015-2025). *The Kurab Journal of Interdisciplinary Research in Social Sciences*, *1* (1), 9-21. https://doi.org/10.63725/kurab.v1.i1.02

Abstract

The growing and interdisciplinary nature of legal communication highlights the need for a comprehensive bibliometric analysis to map research trends and scholarly impact in this field. This study aims to assess scientific outputs, authorship patterns, institutional and national contributions, and thematic developments in legal communication research from 2015 to 2025. The study examines a dataset of 1,630 publications by 4,496 authors using RStudio for bibliometric analysis. The findings revealed a collaborative level with an average of 2.95 co-authors per document and 16.1% international collaborations. Additionally, there is an increase in research output from institutions such as McGill University and the University of California. The US and the UK have the highest productivity and citation impact in legal communication research. Moreover, the analysis showed a strong focus on human-centered and gender-related topics, with "human," "humans," "female," and "male" being the most frequent terms. However, issues such as "decision making" and "informed consent" are less explored but suggest a gradual increase in research interest. This study provides insights into trends, priorities, and global engagement in legal communication and suggests future research.

Keywords: bibliometric analysis, legal communication, research trends, scientific output

Introduction

Legal communication, concisely, encompasses how legal information is conveyed, interpreted, and utilized within the legal system and its interactions with broader society. The term includes communication between legal professionals, such as lawyers and judges (Sinsheimer & Herring, 2016; Wathen, 2005), communication with individuals involved in legal proceedings, including litigants in person (Tkacukova, 2016) and children (Krähenbühl, 2011), and even the communication inherent in legal texts themselves, such as legislation (Greenberg, 2011) and judicial decisions (Anleu & Mack, 2015). It is emphasized that legal communication is not merely the exchange of information but a complex process shaped by linguistic, cultural, and institutional factors, with significant implications for justice and the rule of law (Annet, 2025; Kagaba, 2024; Romig & Burge, 2024; Wathen, 2005). As Hafner (2014) notes, professional communication in the legal domain is multifaceted, involving specialized genres, registers, and interactional contexts that distinguish legal discourse from other forms of professional communication.

Investigation into legal communication is paramount as researchers can identify communication barriers that impede access to justice (Umo, 2025; Tkacukova, 2016). Ultimately, evidence-based insights from legal communication research can inform legal professional training, clarity of legal drafting, and enhance the overall accessibility and comprehension of legal processes (Greenberg, 2011; Romig & Burge, 2024; Sinsheimer & Herring, 2016). Research in legal communication contributes to understanding how moral considerations are communicated in legal settings (Johansen & Laursen, 2023) and the role of legal communication in promoting social justice (Kato Bukenya, 2025). By analyzing communication practices

in the legal domain, research helps to identify best practices and areas for improvement (Sinsheimer & Herring, 2016). In essence, research into legal communication informs academic discourse and provides practical guidance for legal practitioners, policymakers, and educators seeking to foster more effective, ethical, and just legal systems (Means et al., 2024; Wathen, 2005).

Existing research has explored various facets of legal communication, including professional communication practices (Hafner, 2014), the role of communication in judicial settings (Means et al., 2024), and the impact of legal literacy (Romig & Burge, 2024). However, a comprehensive understanding of the trends and structure of this interdisciplinary field remains somewhat fragmented. While individual studies offer valuable insights into specific areas, a broader, bibliometric analysis is needed to identify dominant themes, emerging areas of inquiry, and potential avenues for future research. A bibliometric analysis is essential in addressing research gaps and providing a holistic overview of the field. This study, therefore, focuses on a decadal bibliometric analysis of legal communication research to examine publication patterns, influential authors, key journals, and the evolution of research topics over the past ten years.

The current research identifies trends and prominent themes in legal communication research through a bibliometric analysis of publications from 2015 to 2025. This analysis highlights scholarly engagement with legal communication subjects by identifying publication patterns and thematic frequencies. This focus reflects academic output and the urgent need for inclusive discourse within the field of legal communication. The findings are expected to map the field's priorities, highlight gaps in existing scholarship, and inform future research directions. Specifically, the analysis aims to achieve the following objectives.

1. To ascertain scientific outputs in legal communication research concerning publications, authors, journals, institutions, and countries over the decade (2015-2025).
2. To examine the emerging trends in legal communication research concerning topic frequency and themes over the specified period.

Legal Communication

As an interdisciplinary field, legal communication integrates perspectives from legal and communication professions to address complexities and enhance practices across various contexts (Annet, 2025; Constable, 2022; Gómez-Moreno, 2024; Jannink, 2022; Wathen, 2005). According to Greenberg (2011), legislation functions as a communicative act; legal messages serve as instruments for constructing and transmitting norms. This process requires interpretations to bridge intent and application. Similarly, Hafner (2014) identifies legal communication as a specialized domain characterized by distinct genres, registers, and interactional practices that demand technical precision and contextual adaptability. These foundational works establish legal communication as a significant aspect in the administration of justice. Moreover, several studies have examined how communication shapes legal processes, institutions, and outcomes. For instance, Greenberg (2011) explores the communicative nature of legislation and legal interpretation by comparing legal texts and linguistic communication. The study argued that understanding legislation as a form of communication can clarify how legal meaning is constructed and interpreted by various actors within the legal system. This notion suggests that legal communication accounts for the sender's intent and the interpretative practices of recipients.

Moreover, Hafner (2014) examines professional communication in the legal domain. The study emphasizes the importance of context and expertise in shaping effective legal communication. Likewise, Romig and Burge (2024) highlight the significance of legal communication skills in understanding the contexts and challenges within legal communication. Anleu and Mack (2015) employ a qualitative analysis to examine judicial decision-making in lower criminal courts. The study focuses on how authority is performed and communicated through judicial language and demeanor. The findings revealed that judges use specific communicative strategies to assert institutional authority and manage courtroom interactions, which affect perceptions of legitimacy and fairness. Similarly, Wathen (2005) highlights the significance of effective communication in judicial practice. The author argues that clear and accessible judicial communication is fundamental to public trust and the administration of justice. These studies collectively point to the vital role of communication in maintaining the legitimacy and efficacy of legal institutions.

Krähenbühl (2011) examines communication with children in legal proceedings. The findings revealed that lawyers and intermediaries often struggle to adapt their communication to the needs of younger

participants. Additionally, Tkacukova (2016) employs qualitative interviews and courtroom observations to investigate litigants' experiences in person during family court financial remedy proceedings. The research found that self-represented litigants often face significant challenges in understanding legal language and procedures. This situation leads to communication breakdowns and procedural disadvantages. Sierocka (2023) expands on these insights by discussing the complexities of translating and interpreting legal languages. The findings suggest that linguistic diversity in legal settings often leads to miscommunication and procedural delays. A recent investigation by Annet (2025) utilized case studies to analyze communication barriers in cross-cultural legal situations. The study identified language differences, cultural misunderstandings, and power imbalances as persistent obstacles to effective legal interaction. These findings suggest that legal communication barriers can worsen inequalities, particularly for vulnerable and unrepresented parties. The studies highlight the urgent need for culturally and linguistically responsive communication strategies in various legal environments.

Furthermore, Sinsheimer and Herring (2016) used a mixed-methods design to investigate legal professionals' reading, writing, and communication practices. The study found that legal work requires advanced literacy and adaptable communication skills across multiple genres and audiences. These findings concur with Romig and Burge (2024), who examine legal literacy and communication skills, emphasizing the importance of targeted training for law students and practitioners. Likewise, Means, Kelly, and LaClair (2024) explore the role of judicial communication and cultural competency. The study demonstrates that ongoing education and diverse initiatives can enhance collegiality and effectiveness within the judiciary. Johansen and Laursen (2023) explore a moral dimension by analyzing how courts communicate ethical principles. The study suggests that transparent and principled communication can strengthen public confidence in the legal system. More recent studies also point to the role of effective legal communication in advancing social justice (e.g., Bukenya, 2025; Umo, 2025). Focusing on the experiences of marginalized communities, Umo (2025) found that legal communication practices often fail to meet the needs of disadvantaged groups, thereby limiting their access to justice. Similarly, Bukenya (2025) argues that inclusive and accessible legal discourse is essential for advancing equity and protection rights.

In summary, the foregoing studies demonstrate that legal communication is a strong interdisciplinary field that integrates insights from law and communication to address the challenges in legal processes and enhance practices across various contexts. The literature covers a wide range of topics, including the communicative function of legislation (Greenberg, 2011), the specialized genres and registers of legal discourse (Hafner, 2014), the role of judicial language in asserting authority and legitimacy (Anleu & Mack, 2015; Wathen, 2005), and the challenges faced by vulnerable groups such as children and self-represented litigants in using legal language and procedures (Krähenbühl, 2011; Tkacukova, 2016). Other studies highlight the impact of linguistic diversity, translation, and cross-cultural barriers in legal settings (Sierocka, 2023; Annet, 2025), as well as the importance of advanced literacy, communication skills, and ongoing education for legal professionals (Sinsheimer & Herring, 2016; Romig & Burge, 2024; Means et al., 2024). Despite these various existing studies, there is a lack of systematic, data-driven mapping of trends in research themes, influential works, and scholarly collaborations. Therefore, the current study focuses on a bibliometric analysis to synthesize existing knowledge, identify research gaps, and guide future inquiry and practice in this field.

Methodology

This study employs bibliometric analysis to quantitatively examine scientific output and assess trends in legal communication research. Bibliometric analysis is a prominent method of assessing scientific outputs across various elements, such as publications, authors, journals, institutions, and countries (Donthu, Kumar, Mukherjee, Pandey, & Lim, 2021). The main purpose of bibliometric analysis is to identify, evaluate, and understand the literature within a specific domain (Öztürk, 2021).

Search Strategy and Selection Criteria

A bibliometric analysis of 1,630 research articles on legal communication was conducted using the keywords “communication”, “legal”, and “law”. The keywords were used as Boolean (AND/OR) operators and as individual search fields. A comprehensive online search was conducted to identify recent and pertinent articles published from 2015 to 2025. To set a boundary for the study, the analysis included only

empirical studies and review articles published in English during this timeframe. Articles were retrieved exclusively from the Scopus database, chosen for its ability to provide relevant, reliable, and current scholarly information. The search encompassed a broad range of empirical and review papers from diverse academic journals within the database. The article selection process is illustrated in the following figure.

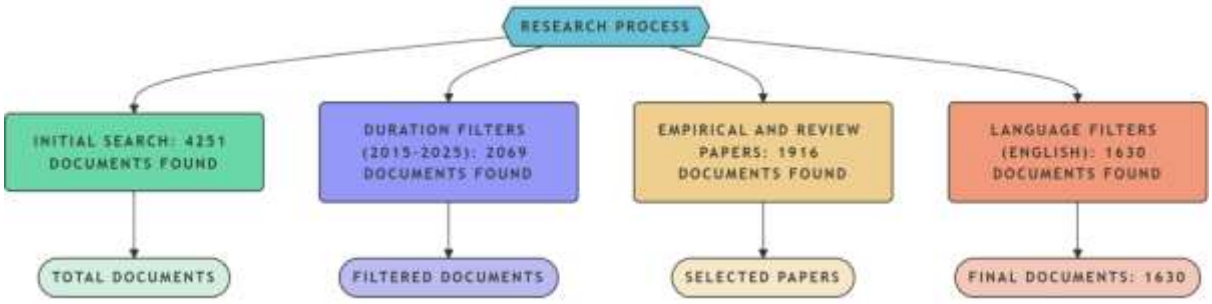


Figure 1. *Search Strategy*

As shown in Figure 1, the search process began with an initial retrieval of 4,251 articles. Refining the search to include only publications from 2015 to 2025 reduced the number of articles to 2,069. Further filtering to select solely empirical and review papers narrowed the results to 1,916 articles. Finally, excluding non-English-language publications yielded a total of 1,630 articles. Consequently, 1,630 empirical and review articles published in English during the specified timeframe were included in the analysis. This systematic procedure ensures that only relevant, English-language studies within the designated period were identified and incorporated into the current bibliometric research.

Analytical Approach

A total of 1,630 research articles were analyzed using RStudio software. This technique enabled a comprehensive bibliometric evaluation of trends in legal communication research. The documents were first imported into RStudio, where various bibliometric techniques were applied to generate descriptive statistics assessing publication patterns, author contributions, and citation frequencies spanning 2015 to 2025. This process yielded important metrics, such as co-authorship networks and annual growth rates (Ab Rashid, 2023). Furthermore, an analysis of term occurrences was performed to identify and quantify recurring themes within the literature. This approach offers valuable insights into research areas that warrant further exploration.

Findings

Research Output in Legal Communication

The first objective of this analysis was to ascertain scientific outputs in legal communication research. The analysis concerns publications, authors, journals, institutions, and countries over the decade (2015-2025). Table 1 presents key characteristics of the dataset summary, which comprises 1,171 research articles and 459 review papers, totaling 1,630 documents. These works were authored by 4,496 individuals, out of which 534 were single-authored. Collaboration is a prominent aspect of the dataset, as evidenced by an average of 2.95 co-authors per publication. Furthermore, the data reflect a significant level of international cooperation, with 16.1% of collaborations involving contributors from multiple countries, indicating a broad global engagement. The average citation rate of 7.595 per document underscores the scholarly impact and research value. Together, these characteristics offer a detailed snapshot of research output and collaboration trends, highlighting productivity and quality during the period.

Table 1. *Summary of Data Characteristics*

SN	Description	Results
1	Timespan	2015-2025
2	Empirical Articles	171
3	Review Articles	1,459
4	Documents	1,630
5	Annual Growth Rate (%)	9.6
6	Authors	4496

7	Single-authored documents	534
8	Co-authors per document (%)	2.95
9	International co-authorships (%)	16.1
10	Average citations per document (%)	7.595

Figure 1 illustrates the annual scientific production in legal communication research. There has been a fluctuating publication trend over the period. Initially, output is moderate, and then noticeably increased in certain years. This outcome indicates growing scholarly interest and activity in legal communication. However, the trend reflects periods of expansion and contraction, highlighting dynamic shifts in the field's development. For instance, the findings also revealed some years with declines, suggesting variability in research productivity. This pattern might be influenced by funding availability, emerging research themes, or broader academic interest in legal communication topics. These findings suggest the importance of continued monitoring to understand future research trends.

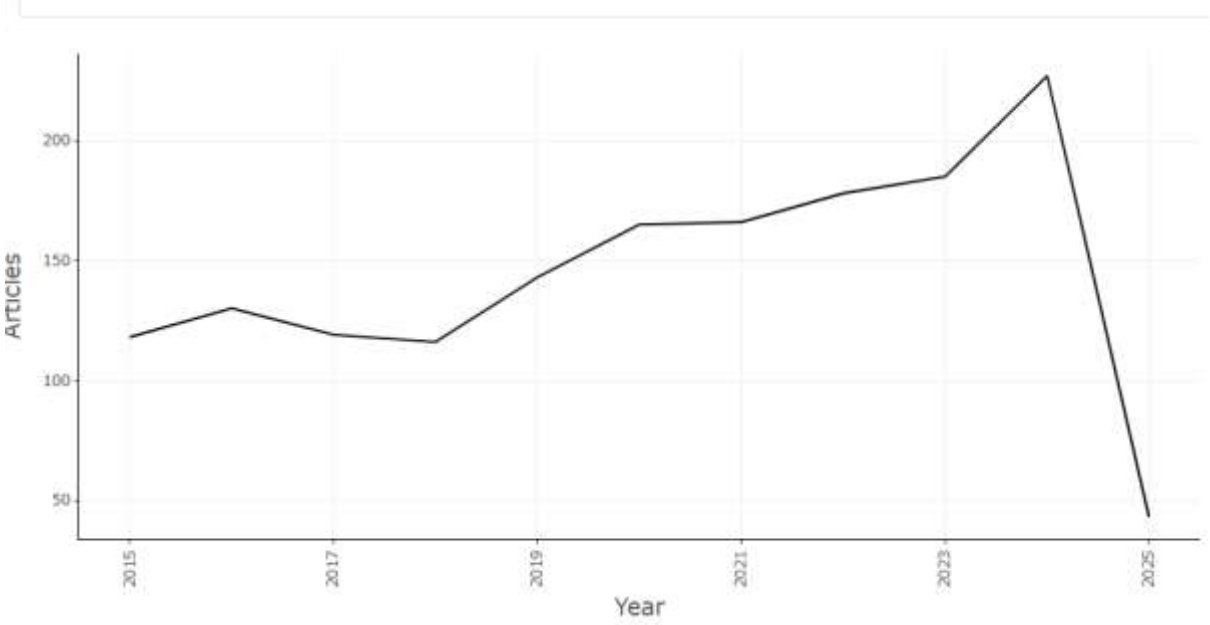


Figure 2. *Annual Scientific Production*

The publications initially increased from 2015, peaked around 2017, and then declined in output between 2018 and 2019. After this downturn, there is a clear upsurge in publication activity starting in 2020, with the number of articles rising steadily through 2023. This variation reflects research interest and productivity, possibly influenced by growing academic priorities or funding. Figure 2 depicts the publication output in legal communication research according to institutional affiliations during the study period. The outcome suggests several prominent universities and research institutions that have contributed significantly to the field, with some affiliations demonstrating sustained productivity while others show more varied patterns.

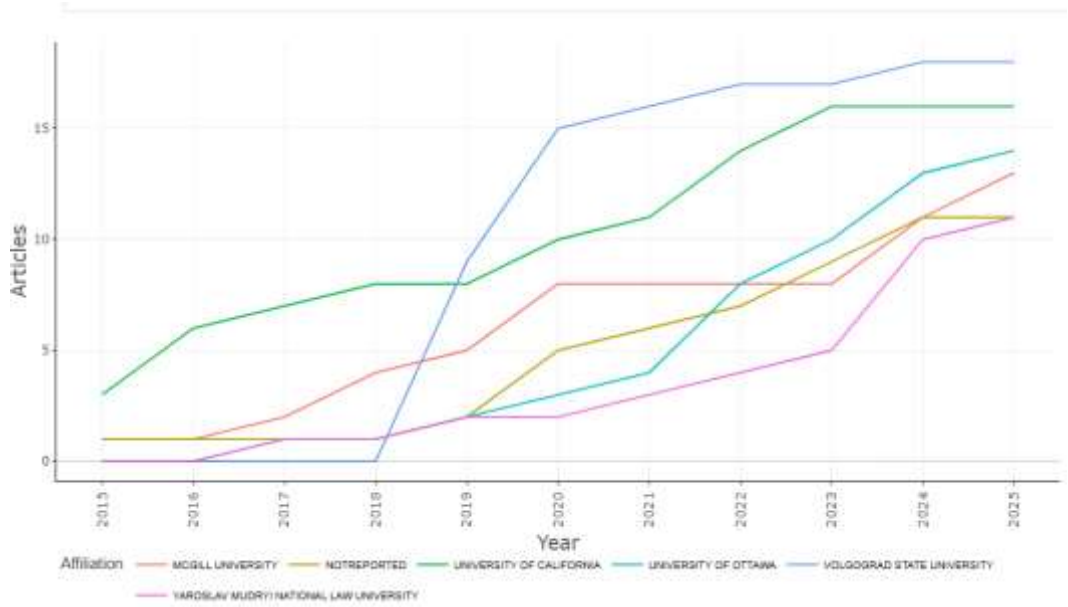


Figure 3. *Affiliation Production Over Time*

Notably, there is a marked increase in publication output among top affiliations around 2025 and between 2020 and 2022. These periods indicate intensified research, collaboration, and temporal trends in scholarly activities. The resurgence in publications post-2020 may be attributed to renewed academic interest, increased funding opportunities, or emerging global issues that have heightened the relevance of legal communication research. The top institutions include McGill University, the University of California, the University of Ottawa, Volgograd State University, and Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University. The data revealed that McGill University and the University of California experienced notable increases in publication output during 2017 and again from 2020 to 2022, reflecting periods of heightened research activity. The University of Ottawa shows a similar pattern, with a marked upsurge in publications, particularly in 2021. Volgograd State University and Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University also contributed steadily, with their publication numbers rising in the early 2020s, especially in 2022. There is a clear upward trend starting in 2023, with publication numbers rising sharply through 2024 and reaching their highest levels in 2025. This surge suggests a growing interest or investment in legal communication research at these institutions.

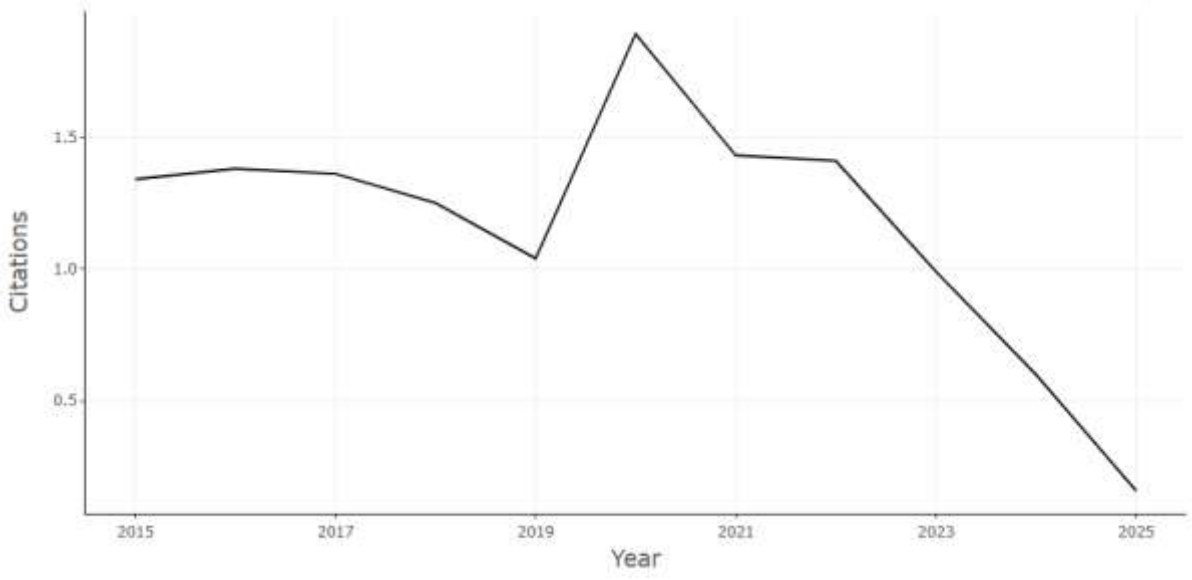


Figure 4. *Average Citations Per Year*

Figure 4 depicts the average citations for legal communication research within the study period. The findings revealed distinct periods of both decline and upsurge in scholarly impact. The data show that average citations were relatively high in the early years, peaking around 2016 and 2017. This outcome indicates strong academic interest and influence from publications during this period. However, there has been a noticeable decline in average citations from 2018 through 2019, suggesting a temporary decrease in the field's visibility or the influence of newer publications. Following this decline, the trend reverses with a significant upsurge in average citations around 2020. The increase reflects renewed engagement and possibly the emergence of new influential research. In the most recent years, 2024 and 2025, the figure shows a slight decline or stabilization in average citations, indicating that while the field remains active, the citation rate has plateaued.

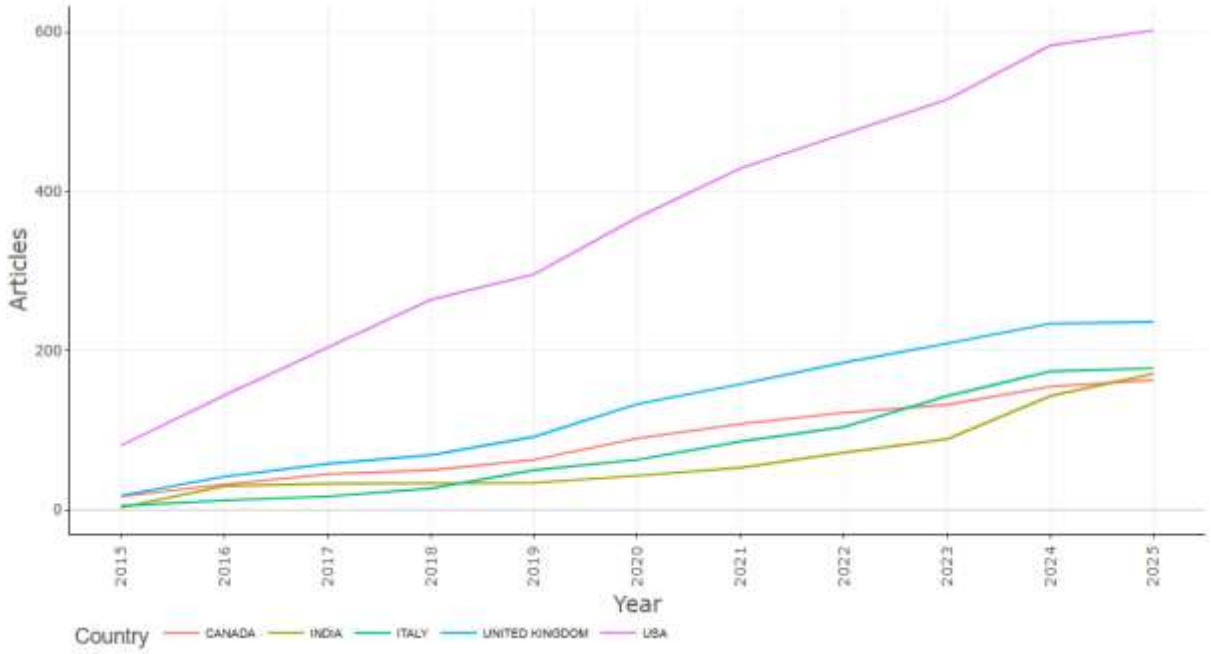


Figure 5. *Countries' Production Over Time*

Figure 5 illustrates the annual research output in legal communication by country. From 2015 to 2017, countries such as the US, the UK, and Italy exhibited moderate and steady publication activity in the early years. A noticeable upsurge occurs between 2018 and 2020, with the US, the UK, and Canada significantly increasing their research output. This is followed by a strong resurgence from 2022 onwards, with all major countries, particularly the US, experiencing a substantial increase in publications. The US reached its highest level in 2024 and 2025. These trends indicate that legal communication research has become increasingly global, with leading countries responding to new opportunities and challenges. Figure 6 presents the most cited countries in legal communication research, highlighting notable differences in scholarly impact across nations over the decade.

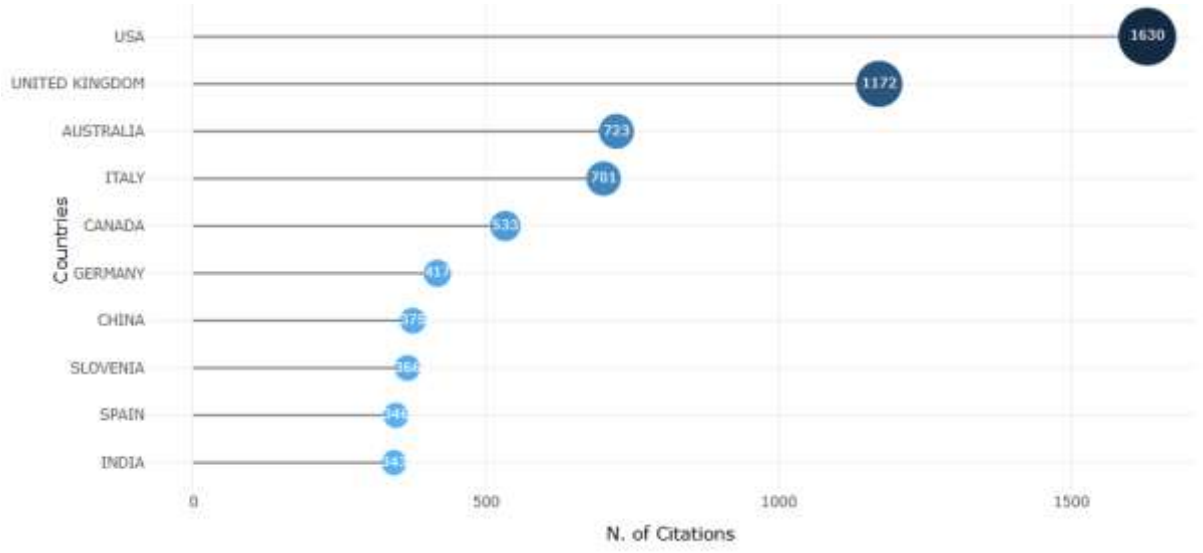


Figure 6. *Most Cited Countries*

As shown in Figure 6, the US (Citations = 1630) and the UK (Citations = 1172) are the most-cited countries, with the UK leading by a significant margin at 458 citations. This outcome demonstrates that the US has a dominant role in the field, followed by the UK, Australia, and Italy. Canada follows with 533 citations, reflecting its academic presence and impact. Germany and China are prominent with 417 and 375 citations, respectively. Nevertheless, India represents the least-cited country (citations = 343), followed by Spain (citations = 346) and Slovenia (citations = 366). This distribution points to the predominance of English-speaking countries in legal communication research. This outcome aligns with the findings in Figure 5, which shows that the US and the UK are the most productive countries in legal communication research. Figure 7 shows the distribution of the corresponding author countries within the decade.

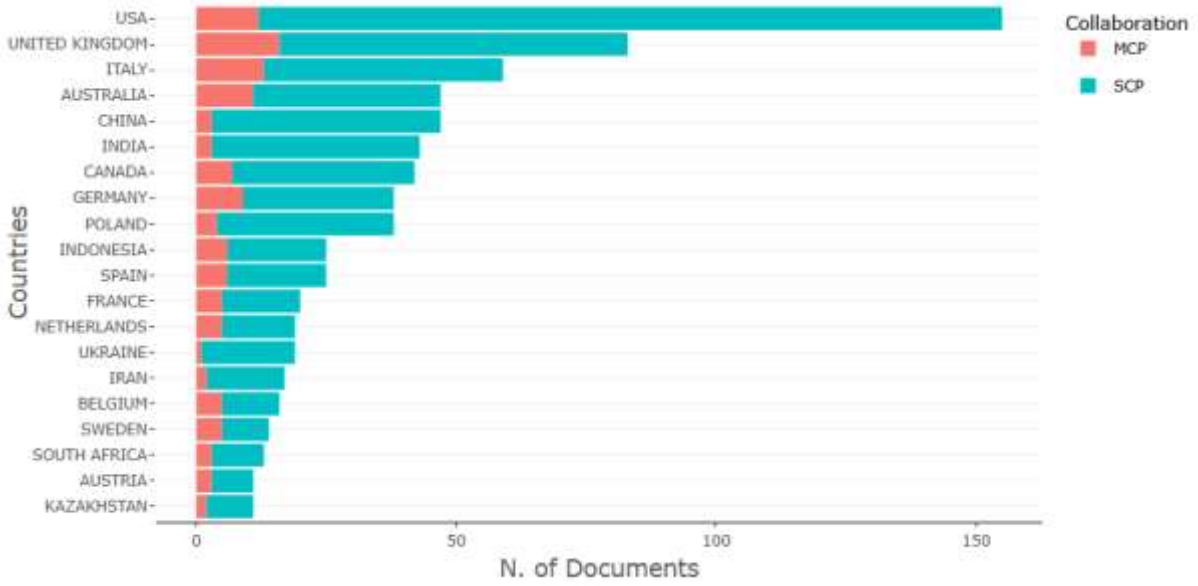


Figure 7. *Corresponding Author Countries*

As shown in Figure 7, the US has more corresponding authors, followed by the UK, Italy, and Australia. This outcome indicates the US dominance in research leadership and correspondence in legal communication research within the specified period. The UK also has substantial representation, reflecting its strong engagement in legal communication scholarship. In contrast, countries such as Kazakhstan, Australia, and South Africa have fewer corresponding authors. This outcome highlights limited research

leadership roles from these regions. This pattern also emphasizes the dominance of North American and Western European countries in shaping and directing legal communication research.

Topic Frequency and Themes

The second objective of this analysis was to examine the emerging trends in legal communication research concerning topic frequency and themes over the specified period. Figure 8 presents the most frequent terms in legal communication research publications within the decade. The terms "human" and "humans" top the list, with frequencies of 377 and 273, respectively. This outcome highlights a strong focus on human-centered topics within the field. These terms are followed by "female" (213), "article" (193), and "male" (161), suggesting particular attention to gender and demography topics. Other commonly occurring terms include "adult" (158), "interpersonal communication" (155), and "laws and legislation" (128). This outcome reflects key research themes related to age groups, modes of communication, and legal frameworks. In contrast, the terms "informed consent" (106) and "decision-making" (98) are the least frequent. While these topics are present, they comparatively receive less emphasis in the literature. These findings highlight the field's predominant interest in human and gender topics.

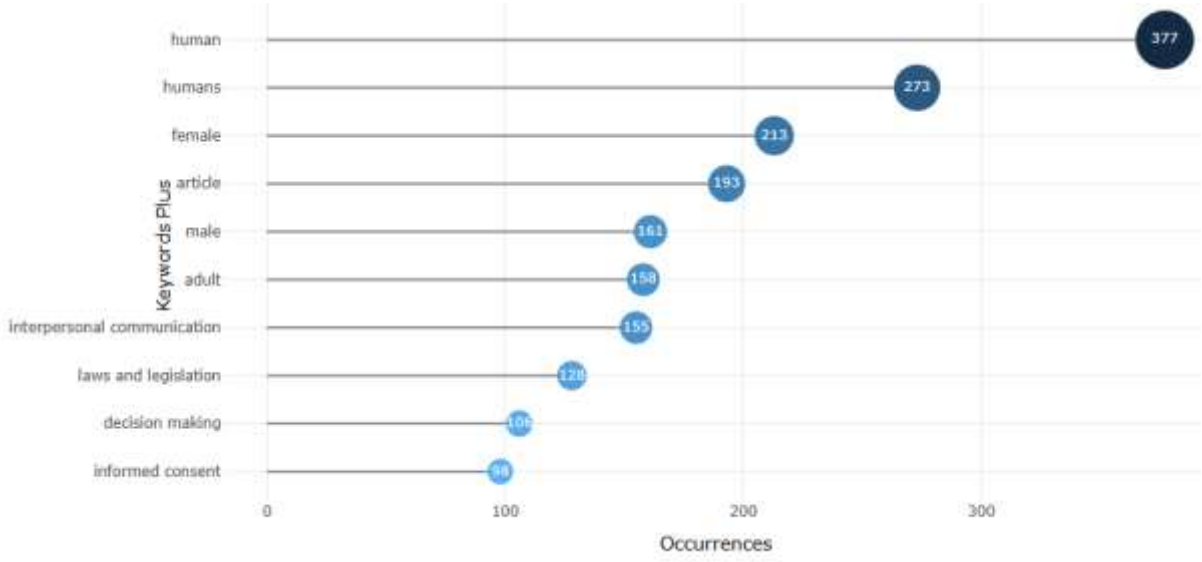


Figure 8. *Most Frequent Terms*

Table 2 provides a year-by-year breakdown of the most frequent terms appearing in legal communication research publications from 2015 to 2025. Across the entire period, the terms showed a steady increase each year. The terms "human" and "humans" consistently dominate. The term "human" reached the highest frequency (377) in 2025, and "humans" followed closely at 273. This outcome reflects a growing emphasis on human-centered topics in legal communication research. The terms "female" and "male" are also among the most frequently used terms, with their frequencies rising from 17 and 10 in 2015 to 213 and 161 in 2025, respectively, indicating sustained attention to gender-related topics. The terms "article" and "adult" show similar upward trends, suggesting an expanding focus on scholarly outputs and adult populations. Notably, "interpersonal communication" and "laws and legislation" also grew considerably, with "interpersonal communication" reaching 155 and "laws and legislation" amounting to 128 by 2025.

Table 2. *Terms' Frequency Over Time*

Year	Human	Humans	Female	Article	Male	Adult	Interpersonal Communication	Laws and Legislation	Decision Making	Informed Consent
2015	35	29	17	15	10	7	18	11	10	9
2016	81	64	45	31	31	18	39	24	25	22
2017	110	85	56	40	43	24	51	35	31	28
2018	134	100	68	53	55	37	63	43	42	33
2019	165	122	92	75	73	60	74	60	49	40
2020	199	147	116	90	89	77	89	77	61	47

2021	247	181	138	118	104	100	107	87	65	62
2022	285	212	156	139	119	112	119	102	74	77
2023	313	231	170	156	130	129	126	114	84	80
2024	365	265	203	185	153	150	151	127	98	97
2025	377	273	213	193	161	158	155	128	106	98

Nevertheless, "decision making" and "informed consent" are the least cited terms throughout the decade, though they show a gradual increase over time. In 2015, the terms appeared only 9 and 7 times, respectively, but their frequencies rose to 106 and 98 in 2025. Although less common, the gradual rise of these terms signals a growing emphasis on ethical and procedural considerations within legal communication literature. The consistent year-by-year growth across all terms indicates an overall expansion of research activity and thematic variety in the field. However, human-focused and gender-related topics represent the key focus of legal communication research.

Discussion

This bibliometric analysis revealed the productivity, topics, and thematic focus in legal communication research. The findings highlight a high degree of collaboration and international co-authorships. The average citation rate per document further suggests the academic impact and quality of research output during this period. Temporal trends in publication output, as depicted in Figures 1 and 2, reveal a shift forward in research activity. Following an initial phase of moderate growth, the field reached a peak in 2017, experienced a brief decline between 2018 and 2019, and subsequently entered a sharp upward trajectory that peaked in 2025. The resurgence post-2020 may be attributed to renewed funding, the emergence of pressing global legal issues, or increased institutional investment. This could be observed in the notable contributions from McGill University, the University of California, the University of Ottawa, Volgograd State University, and Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University.

The citation analysis (Figure 3) further clarifies the field's scholarly influence, with average citations peaking in 2016–2017 and again after 2020, before stabilizing in 2024–2025. This pattern suggests that influential works published during peak years continue to shape subsequent research, while newer publications gradually accumulate citations. The dominance of the US and the UK in both productivity and citation metrics (Figures 5 and 6) reflects longstanding trends in legal scholarship, where English-speaking countries often set the research agenda. Meanwhile, countries such as India, Spain, and Slovenia remain underrepresented in citation counts, which highlights persistent disparities in global research visibility and influence.

The analysis of topic frequency and thematic trends (Figure 8 and Table 2) indicates a strong and growing emphasis on human-centered and gender-related topics, with "human," "humans," "female," and "male" consistently ranking as the most frequent terms. Other prominent themes include "interpersonal communication" and "laws and legislation," reflecting the field's dual concern with both the social and structural aspects of legal discourse. Notably, terms such as "decision making" and "informed consent," while less frequent, have shown steady growth over the decade, suggesting an emerging interest in ethical and procedural dimensions.

Despite the overall expansion in thematic variety, the persistent dominance of human and gender-related topics points to potential gaps and opportunities for future research. The relatively lower frequency of terms such as "informed consent" and "decision making" indicates that ethical and procedural issues, though gaining traction, remain underexplored compared to other themes. The field would benefit from targeted efforts to address these gaps, foster greater international collaboration, and enhance regional visibility.

Conclusion

This study assessed scientific outputs, authorship patterns, institutional and national contributions, and thematic developments in legal communication research from 2015 to 2025. The study reveals strong collaboration and international co-authorship. Key institutions such as McGill University, University of California, and University of Ottawa have driven much of the recent growth, particularly from 2023 to 2025. The US and the UK emerged as the most productive and cited countries. Additionally, the dominant themes have centered on human and gender-related topics, as evidenced by the high frequency of terms such as "human," "humans," "female," and "male." The study also reveals periods of increased productivity and scholarly impact. Likewise, interest in ethical and procedural topics such as "decision making" and

"informed consent" is growing. Nevertheless, these topics are comparatively less emphasized. The study provides insights into priorities, global engagement, and collaborative patterns in legal communication research. The study's contribution lies in its comprehensive bibliometric approach and the ability to highlight established and emerging areas of interest. However, the limitations of this study consist of the exclusion of non-English publications and reliance on indexed sources, which may overlook some regional contributions. Future research may incorporate varied data sources to investigate underexplored themes.

Acknowledgments: The authors would like to express their gratitude to all individuals who assisted or supported the process of conducting this research, but do not meet the criteria for authorship.

Ethical clearance: Not applicable. This study used only bibliometric data and public secondary literature. Since no human participants, animal subjects, or sensitive personal records were involved, formal ethical approval was not required.

Sources of funding: This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Conflict of interest: The authors declare that they have no competing or conflicting financial, personal, or professional interests that could have influenced or appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Availability of data and materials: The datasets generated and analyzed are available from the corresponding author upon request.

References

Ab Rashid, M. F. (2023). How to conduct a bibliometric analysis using R packages: Comprehensive guidelines. *Journal of Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Arts*, *15*(1), 24-39.

Anleu, S. R., & Mack, K. (2015). Performing authority: Communicating judicial decisions in lower criminal courts. *Journal of Sociology*, *51*(4), 1052-1069. https://doi.org/10.1177/1440783313495765

Annet, K. A. (2025). Communication barriers in cross-cultural legal situations. *Research Invention Journal of Current Issues in Arts and Management 4*(2):34-37. https://doi.org/10.59298/RIJCIAM/2025/423437

Bailey, R., & Bailey, E. (2022). Effective communication with participants in court hearings: using polyvagal theory in the courtroom. *Juvenile and Family Court Journal, 73*(1), 57-66. https://doi.org/10.1111/jfcj.12215

Bornman, J., & Msipa, D. (2024). Accommodating persons with communication disabilities in court: Perspectives of law students. *African Journal of Disability (Online)*, *13*(1), 1-11. https://doi.org/10.4102/ajod.v13i0.1385

Boyd, C. L., Collins Jr, P. M., & Ringhand, L. A. (2025). Gender, race, and interruptions at Supreme Court confirmation hearings. *American Political Science Review*, *119*(1), 492-499. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055424000145

Campbell, C. M., & Henderson, K. S. (2022). Bridging the gap between clients and public defenders: Introducing a structured shadow method to examine attorney communication. *Justice System Journal*, *43*(1), 26-52. https://doi.org/10.1080/0098261X.2021.2011494

Constable, A. (2022). Effective communication in multilingual judicial proceedings. In *Victim Advocacy before the International Criminal Court* (pp. 231-262). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

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 - Turk, 133*, 285–296. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2021.04.070

Given-Wilson, Z., & Memon, A. (2022). Seeing is believing? A systematic review of credibility perceptions of live and remote video-mediated communication in legal settings. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(6), 1168-1176. https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.4001

Gómez-Moreno, J. P. (2024). Advocacy for online proceedings: features of the digital world and their role in how communication is shaped in remote international arbitration. *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law-Revue internationale de Sémiotique juridique*, *37*(3), 865-885.https://doi.org/10.1007/s11196-023-10041-y

Greenberg, M. (2011). Legislation as communication? Legal interpretation and the study of linguistic communication. Retrieved from: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1726567

Grieshofer, T. (2023). Court forms as part of online courts: Elicitation and communication in the early stages of legal proceedings. *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law-Revue internationale de Sémiotique juridique*, *36*(4), 1843-1881. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11196-023-09993-y

Hafner, C. A. (2014). Professional communication in the legal domain. In *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Professional Communication* (pp. 349-362). Routledge.

Heavey, A. L., & Houck, M. M. (2024). Rethinking scientific communication in courts: a question of credibility. *Forensic Science International: Synergy*, *9*(1), 100483. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsisyn.2024.100483

Jannink, T. (2022). Culture and the Court Interpreter: An examination of current literature on dealing with potential intercultural miscommunication in the criminal court. *Neke. The New Zealand Journal of Translation Studies*, *5*(1), 22-33. https://doi.org/10.26686/neke.v5i1.7529

Johansen, L. V., & Laursen, J. (2023). Moral communication in court. In *Courtroom Ethnography: Exploring Contemporary Approaches, Fieldwork and Challenges* (pp. 161-177). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

Kato Bukenya, T. (2025). The role of legal communication in promoting social justice. *Newport International Journal of Current Issues in Arts and Management (NIJCIAM), 6*(1), 141-147. DOI: https://doi.org/10.59298/nijciam/2025/6.1.141147

Krähenbühl, S. (2011). Effective and appropriate communication with children in legal proceedings according to lawyers and intermediaries. *Child Abuse Review*, *20*(6), 407-420. https://doi.org/10.1002/car.1204

Mak, C. (2022). Civil Courts and Delocalized Justice: Reflections on the Shell Nigeria Cases in Light of Theories of Communication and Constitutionalization. *German Law Journal, 23*(6), 872-880. https://doi.org/10.1017/glj.2022.57

McKay, C., & Macintosh, K. (2024). Digital vulnerability: People-in-prison, videoconferencing and the digital criminal justice system. *Journal of Criminology*, *57*(3), 313-333. https://doi.org/10.1177/26338076231217794

Means, T. N., Kelly, J. P., & LaClair, S. (2024). Judicial communication, collegial education, cultural competency, and the significance of state judicial diversity. In *Research Handbook on Judicial Politics* (pp. 302-320). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Öztürk,, O. (2021). Bibliometric review of resource dependence theory literature: An overview. *Management Review Quarterly, 71*(3), 525–552. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11301-020-00192-8

Robinson, G. (2023). Targeted Retention of Communications Metadata: Future-proofing the Fight Against Serious Crime in Europe?. *European Papers-A Journal on Law and Integration*, *2023*(2), 713-740. https://doi.org/10.15166/2499-8249/683

Romig, J. M., & Burge, M. E. (2024). Legal Literacy and Communication Skills: Working with Law and Lawyers. Retrieved from: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5029373

Sierocka, H. (2023). Issues in translating, interpreting and teaching legal languages and legal communication. *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law-Revue internationale de Sémiotique juridique*, *36*(4), 1629-1638. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11196-023-10029-8

Sinsheimer, A., & Herring, D. J. (2016). Lawyers at work: A study of the reading, writing, and communication practices of legal professionals. *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*, *21*(1), 63–113.

Tkacukova, T. (2016). Communication in family court: financial remedy proceedings from the perspective of litigants in person. *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*, *38*(4), 430-449. https://doi.org/10.1080/09649069.2016.1239362

Umo, M. E. (2025). Legal communication and marginalized communities. *International Journal of Current Issues in Arts and Management (NIJCIAM), 6*(1), 96-101. https://doi.org/ 10.59298/NIJCIAM/2025/6.1.96101

When the court speaks: Effective communication as a part of judging. *Maine Law Review*, *57*(2), 449–456.

Yang, M., & Wang, M. (2021). A science mapping of studies on courtroom discourse with CiteSpace. *International Journal of Legal Discourse*, *6*(2), 291-322. https://doi.org/10.1515/ijld-2021-2057/html

Disclaimer: The viewpoints, findings, and research data presented in all published works belong exclusively to the respective authors and contributors. They do not necessarily reflect the official policies or positions of *Kurab Publishing* or its editorial board. *Kurab Publishing* and its editors expressly disclaim all liability for any damages, personal injury, or property loss arising from the application of any concepts, methodologies, instructions, or commercial products mentioned within the manuscripts.