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Mapping Literature and Research Trends on AI Applications in Journalism: A Bibliometric Review

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Abstract

An emerging field of interdisciplinary research that needs more focus is the application of AI in journalism. The bibliometric analysis of the most recent research on implementation in digital journalism is presented in this paper. From Scopus, publications from 2014 to 2023 were examined to determine subjects, performance, impact, and collaborations. The findings indicate a rise in yearly production, with over 88 publications released in 2023 attesting to heightened research activity. Additionally, more recent publications had a more significant citation effect, demonstrating their relevance today. The majority of the prolific writers are from America, China, and Spain. International collaborations are centered around the West, between the United States and China, and the United States and Korea. This offers a standard that will guide future research in this enormously promising field. For AI to be implemented in digital journalism in a responsible manner, under-represented groups must be more involved.

Keywords: artificial intelligence; bibliometric; journalism

1. Introduction

Bibliometric techniques and scientometric indicators are used in bibliometric analysis studies to statistically analyze academic literature on a certain topic or research domain [1]. The term artificial intelligence (AI) refers to computer programs that are capable of doing activities that often require cognitive abilities, such as speech recognition, decision-making, and visual perception [2], [3]. In a variety of industries, including journalism, there has been an increasing application of artificial intelligence (AI) techniques such as computer vision, natural language processing, machine learning, and predictive analytics [4]. An emerging multidisciplinary field of study with significant potential for innovation and social impact is the integration of AI applications in journalism.

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By automating procedures, evaluating stakeholder data, forecasting crises, improving communication personalization, and producing content, AI has the potential to transform journalistic performance [5], [6]. AI enables media to discover data-driven stories, automate news writing, fact-check, curate personalized news, and forecast consumption patterns. However, discussions on the impact of AI on journalism and media professionals are fueled by issues related to ethics, transparency, privacy, and job loss [7]. However, if used wisely, AI offers invaluable opportunities to increase productivity, engagement, and creativity despite its dangers.

The utilization of AI in journalism is still an evolving and challenging area, especially in countries like Spain. While it has great potential, its implementation requires a cautious approach and attention to the various complex factors involved [8]. The journalism industry needs to adapt to the development of AI technology, but this requires time and significant investment. In addition, there are still many aspects that need to be further studied regarding the use of AI in journalism, including its impact on news quality, journalistic ethics, and media business models. The importance of training and skills development for journalists to adapt to new technologies. Skills in managing data and understanding algorithms will be key to improving competitiveness in a journalism industry that is increasingly influenced by technology and AI [9]. The utilization of AI in journalism not only changes the way news is produced, but also the way news is received and consumed by the public. This shows that AI has the potential to bring significant changes in the practice of journalism in the future.

The integration of AI in journalism requires updated codes of ethics and clear guidelines to ensure that the use of this technology does not undermine the quality and integrity of journalism. Without strong ethics, public trust in the media may decline [10], [11]. There are significant concerns about the potential for AI to spread misinformation. Both journalists and the public feel that AI could contribute to the rise of misinformation, which is a major challenge for the media industry. In addition, in the process of producing news, it is important to clearly mark when AI is used in the creation of news content. This transparency is considered important to maintain trust and ensure that audiences understand how information is generated. Vietnamese journalism applies the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) model, which helps understand how and why people decide to use new technologies such as AI [12]. Simply put, the model considers various factors that can influence a journalist's decision to use AI. These factors include Performance Expectancy, Effort Expectancy, Social Influence, Facilitating Conditions, Behavioral Intention, Trust, Regulatory Support, and Technology Attachment. Further research should be conducted in this emerging field to integrate AI into journalism to inform applications and policies responsibly. Bibliometric approaches can offer insightful information on new influences and trends in this ever-changing environment. The identification of growth trajectories, notable contributors, pertinent channels, regional productivity, collaboration networks, and research interests can be achieved by quantitative analysis of publication and citation trends. However, no previous study has used bibliometric analysis to assess the literature on AI applications in journalism.

This study's goal is to present a bibliometric examination of recent advancements in journalism's use of artificial intelligence (AI) between 2014 and 2023. Monitoring topics, collaboration, productivity, and impact yields data-driven insights into this developing field. The results offer a fundamental comprehension of the extent of research needed to support journalism in the future. In particular, the research makes the following contributions: to quantify the number of publications and citation impact, to see the significant increase in activity and influence as the field continues to grow; to identify the most contributing authors, countries, journals, and institutions, and see the key contributors shaping and driving the development of the field; analyze international collaborations and the geographical distribution of research to map the

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increasingly connected global research landscape; track changes in research topics and focus over time, to understand how the discourse and research interests in the field are evolving; and discuss limitations and provide suggestions to improve the quality of future bibliometric analyses as the field becomes more complex.

This bibliometric study aims to map the current research landscape on AI implementation in journalism. By collecting extensive data, both large and small scale, from various sources, this study aims to provide a clearer direction for future research. The quantitative findings of this study are expected to fill in the gaps in knowledge and serve as a benchmark to measure the development of research in this field.

2. Method Research

This study employs bibliometric analysis as its methodology. Rstudio software is used to analyze research development, country distribution, journal distribution, affiliation distribution, author distribution, and bibliometric mapping analysis in the context of a study on AI applications in journalism. Using scientific mapping tools, this quantitative approach examines bibliographic databases [13]. This approach was developed to offer an open and thorough summary of a field [14]. Compared to other techniques like meta-analysis and systematic literature review, this method can analyze a vast number of publications. Because there is no requirement to eliminate publications during the sampling phase, bibliometric analysis lessens subjectivity bias in contrast to systematic literature reviews and meta-analyses [15].

2.1. Search strategy

The selection of keywords for bibliometric analysis is based on a careful examination of the existing literature and the specific research objectives. The goal was to identify the most relevant terms that would capture the essence of the relationship between journalism, artificial intelligence, and newsmaking. After conducting a thorough literature review, the following keywords were selected: "Robot Journalist," "robotic reporter," "Automated News," "news generator," "AI Journalist," and "automated AND journalist." These terms were chosen because they represent the core concepts of the research topic and cover a wide range of potential studies. For example, "Robotic Journalist" and "robotic reporter" directly refer to the use of artificial intelligence in news production, while "Automated News" and "news generator" highlight the automation aspect of the process. The inclusion of "AI Journalists" and "automated AND journalists" further expands the search to capture studies that may not explicitly use the terms "robot" or "reporter."

The Scopus database was used to do the bibliometric analysis. For transdisciplinary topics like journalism, artificial intelligence, and news generation, Scopus provides more comprehensive results since it includes a larger coverage of scientific papers than other databases like WoS or PubMed. This is why Scopus was selected. The relevant articles were found using the following search query: (ALL ("Robot Journalist") OR ALL ("robotic reporter") OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ("Automated News") OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ("news generator") OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ("AI-Journalist") OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ("automated AND journalist"))

2.2 Criteria for Inclusion and Exclusion

The analysis of recent developing trends only considered articles published between 2014 and 2023. Additionally, the findings were narrowed down to include only English-language journal publications. Excluded materials included books, editorials, letters, notes, and brief surveys.

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2.3 Study Selection

Using Scopus, 615 documents were found. These articles' abstracts, titles, and keywords were used to determine their relevancy after the inclusion/exclusion criteria had been applied to eliminate duplicates and unnecessary articles

3. Finding and Discussion

3.1. Annual Scientific Production

Figure 1. shows the annual scientific production from 2014-2023. There was a general upward trend in the number of scholarly publications on the integration of artificial intelligence in media, with a noticeable peak in 2020 and 2022. This growth likely reflects several factors. First, technological advances in AI, such as the development of more sophisticated algorithms and increased computing power, have enabled researchers to explore new applications in journalism. Second, the growing recognition of AI's potential to improve efficiency, accuracy, and personalization in journalism has spurred interest among academic researchers and industry professionals. Third, significant events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of fake news, have highlighted the need for innovative approaches to news gathering and dissemination, driving research into AI-based solutions.

Specifically, six articles were published in 2014, followed by a steady increase to 17 articles in 2015 and 37 articles in 2016. The number of articles increased to 38 in 2017, followed by a significant jump to 57 articles in 2018. The upward trend continued in 2019 with 70 articles, culminating in a peak of 80 articles in 2020. The year 2021 saw a slight decline to 67 articles, but the output rebounded to 80 articles in 2022. In 2023, the number of articles reached 88, marking the highest publication count in the analyzed period. According to this analysis, there has been an increase in interest in using AI in journalism throughout time, with the highest levels of research effort occurring in 2020 and 2022. The sustained increase, particularly from 2018 onwards, suggests a burgeoning field of research. The recent peak in 2023 highlights the continued relevance and exploration of AI applications within the journalism domain. Further studies could delve into the specific AI applications explored within these publications, the geographical distribution of research, and the potential impact of AI integration on journalistic practices.

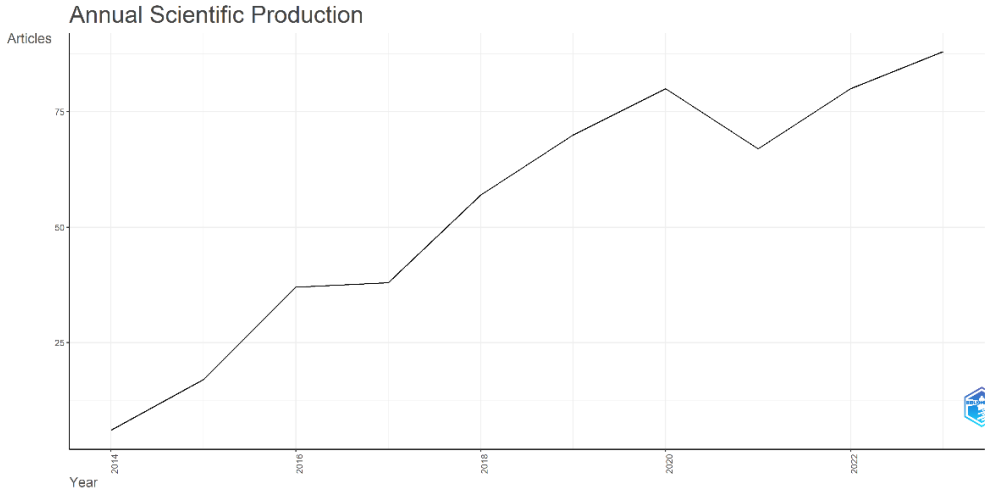

Figure 1. *Annual Scientific Production*

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3.2 Average Annual Citations

Figure 2 shows the Average Citations Per Year of journals on the topic of AI in journalism. From 2014 (15) to 2015 (104,47), the mean citations per article (MeanTCperArt) showed a growing tendency. From 2015 onwards, the trend decreased until 2023 (4,73). However, when the number of citable years was included, the mean citations per year (MeanTCperYear) showed a different trend. Between 2014 and 2017, there was a rise from 1,36 to 10,45, with a peak of 5,31 in 2017. In 2023, the MeanTCperYear fell to 2,37. The increase in adjusted annual citations between 2014 and 2015 suggests that papers published in the latter part of this period received more citation impact. The declining MeanTCperYear following 2017 indicates, meanwhile, that citations for publications published from 2018 to 2023 are still being added to. In general, older articles from 2018 to 2023 had a lower annual citation effect than those from 2014 and 2015, as the latter had less time to accumulate citations. However, adjusted measures show that older articles are still preferred when looking at unadjusted citation counts. This points to increased study and the impact of current works, including AI in journalism.

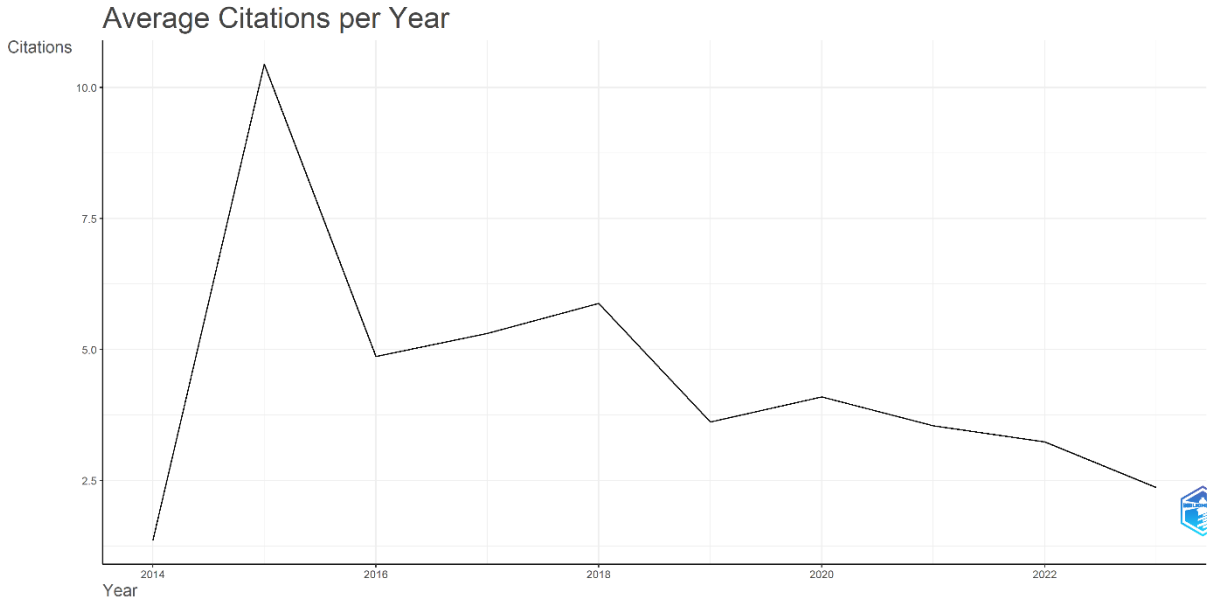

Figure 2. *Average Citations Per Year*

3.3 Most Relevant Authors

The data given in figure 3 shows a group of highly prolific authors in the field of AI in journalism. Diakopoulos stands out as the most prolific author, with nine published articles. This is followed by Carlson M and Lewis, who have contributed eight articles each. Tandoc, Wu, and Hepp have each authored seven articles, demonstrating their significant contributions to the field. Additionally, Kim D, Kim S, Na Na, and Opdahl have published six articles each, solidifying their positions as key contributors. While the data effectively identifies the most prolific authors, further analysis is required to assess their impact, research focus, and collaboration patterns. This would involve examining the specific journals where these authors publish, the keywords associated with their work, and their co-authorship networks. Such a thorough examination would offer a thorough grasp of the writers' impact and their part in influencing the field of AI research in journalism.

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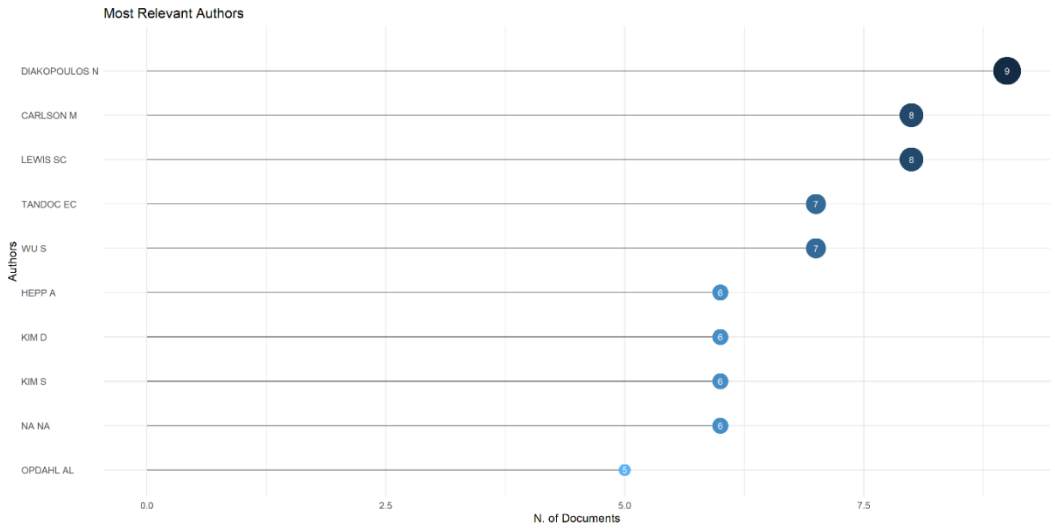

Figure 3. *Most Relevant Authors*

3.4 Creation of Production Over Time

The data in figure 4 reveals an increasing trend of research outputs related to AI in journalism across the institutions analyzed from 2014 to 2023.. The University of Amsterdam and the University of Bergen show a steady growth trajectory, with a particularly significant increase in publications from 2018 onwards. Nanyang Technological University also demonstrates a rising trend in research output, especially after 2017. The University of Helsinki exhibits a similar pattern, with a notable surge in publications starting in 2018. Universidade de Santiago de Compostela stands out with a remarkable growth rate, particularly from 2018 onwards, establishing itself as a prominent contributor to the field. While all institutions showcase an upward trend in research productivity, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela's rapid growth is noteworthy. This analysis indicates a growing interest and focus on AI in journalism within the academic community represented by these institutions.

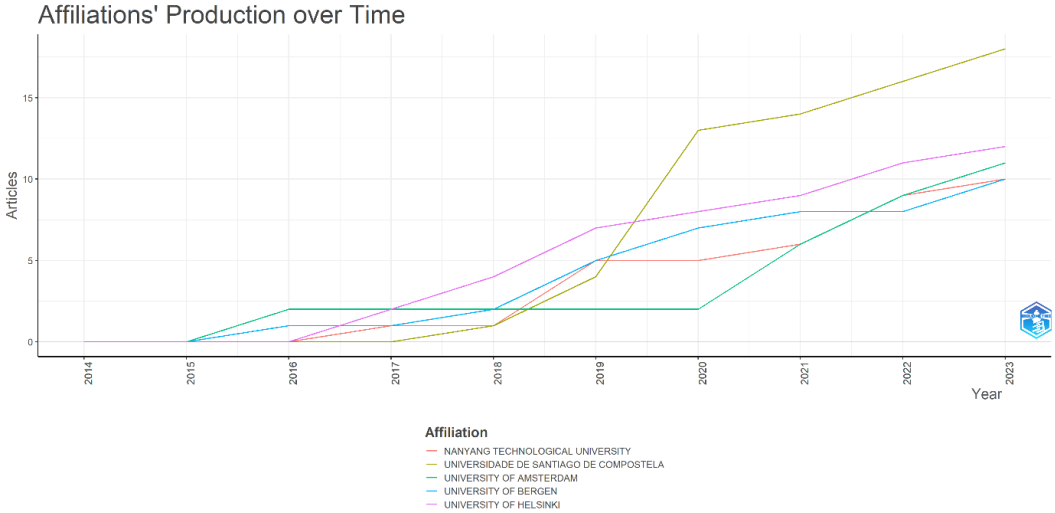

Figure 4*. Affiliations Production Over Time*

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3.5 Corresponding Author Countries

Figure 6 visualizes the corresponding author countries in the field of AI in journalism. With 83 articles and a share of 15.37%, the United States is the top country in terms of corresponding authorship. Closely trailing with 23 items and a 4.26% share in China. The United Kingdom ranks third with 19 articles and a 3.52% share, followed by Spain and Germany with 18 articles each. The top 10 countries contributing to the corresponding authorship are predominantly from Western countries, with the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, and Australia holding significant positions. However, emerging countries like Singapore, Norway, and Canada also demonstrate notable contributions. China has 21 papers, whereas the United States has 72, the most single-country publications when it comes to collaboration. On the other hand, the United States and the United Kingdom demonstrate higher levels of multi-country collaboration than China when taking into account the MCP ratio, which accounts for output size. This analysis highlights the global nature of research in AI within journalism, with both Western and emerging countries actively contributing to the field. The United States maintains a leading position in terms of overall authorship and collaboration, while China demonstrates significant growth in research output.

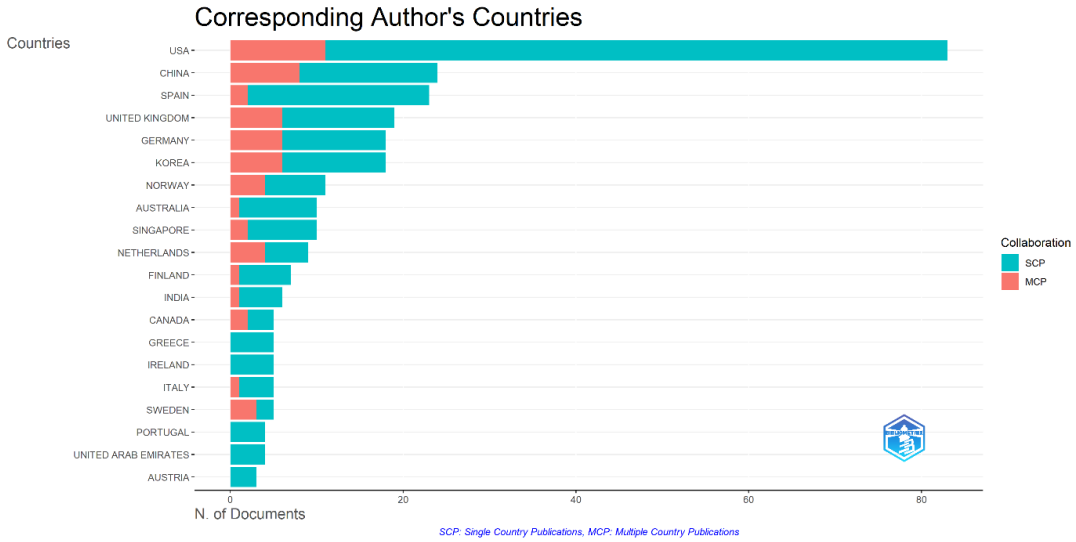

Figure 5. *Corresponding Author Countries*

3.6 Country Scientific Production

Figure 6 visualizes the Scientific Production of Countries dominated by the US. With 212 publications published, the US emerged as the top nation in terms of scientific production. Spain followed in second place with 99 articles, followed by China with 50 articles. The United Kingdom and Germany contributed significantly, with 60 and 53 articles, respectively. South Korea, Australia, Norway, and Finland demonstrated substantial research output with 33, 23, 23, and 22 articles, respectively. The Netherlands and Sweden each contributed 21 articles, while India and Singapore closely followed with 20 articles each. Portugal and Belgium showcased their research efforts with 15 and 13 articles, respectively. France, Pakistan, and Canada contributed 13, 12, and 9 articles, respectively. Italy, Israel, Switzerland, and Ireland demonstrated active participation, with eight articles each. Slovenia and the Czech Republic each contributed seven articles, while Denmark, Ecuador, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates each contributed six articles. Austria, Chile, Colombia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, and Iran showcased their research efforts with five articles each. Japan, Latvia, Poland, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia contributed four articles each. Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Ukraine, and Croatia demonstrated their research contributions with three articles each. Egypt, Estonia, Hungary, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Romania, and South Africa each

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contributed two articles. Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Kuwait, Lithuania, Malta, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Peru, Serbia, Slovakia, and Thailand each contributed 1 article. The research activity in AI within journalism is spread across different continents. Europe and Asia appear to have a moderate level of research activity, with 29 and 23 articles, respectively. North America, Oceania, South America, and Africa have a lower level of research activity, with 2, 2, 5, and 3 articles, respectively. This analysis reveals a diverse landscape of research contributions in AI within journalism. While the United States holds a dominant position, several countries, including Spain, China, the United Kingdom, and Germany, demonstrate significant research activity. The data also highlights the growing involvement of countries across different regions, indicating a global interest in this emerging field.

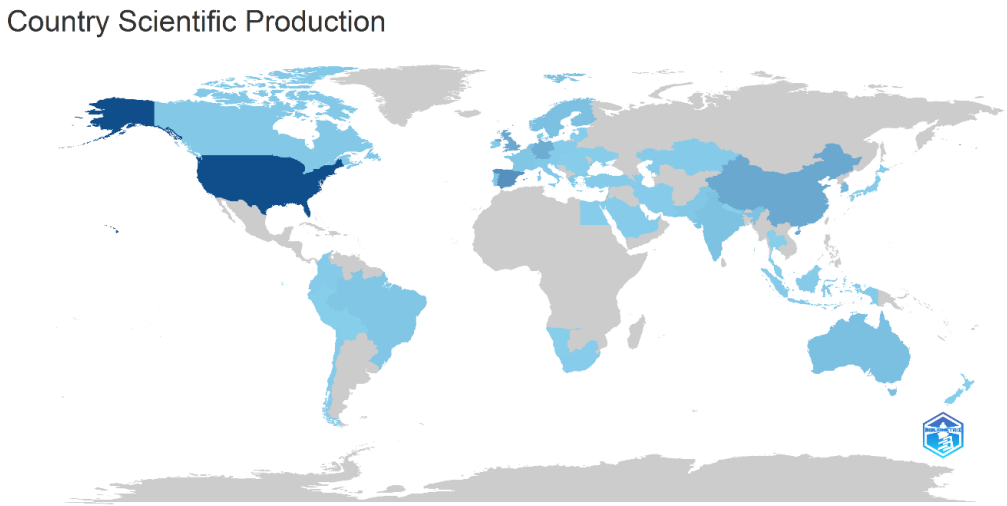

Figure 6. *Country Scientific Production*

3.7 Word Cloud

The most common terms connected to the subject of "AI in Journalism" are shown visually in the word cloud in Figure 7. The term "artificial intelligence" unsurprisingly dominates the visualization, emphasizing its central role in the research domain. This is followed by "natural language processing systems," "automation," and "news articles," which collectively highlight the focus on utilizing AI technologies to analyze and generate journalistic content. Phrases like "decision-making," "robots," and "social networking (online)" suggest that the field of journalism is interested in learning more about how artificial intelligence (AI) may assist in decision-making, automate tasks, and analyze social media data. Additionally, the presence of terms like "perception," "social media," and "mass media" suggests a focus on understanding public perception and utilizing AI to analyze large-scale media data. The appearance of terms like "natural language generation," "computational linguistics," and "text generations" signifies the importance of natural language processing techniques in this field. Furthermore, the inclusion of "data mining," "learning systems," and "news productions" emphasizes the data-driven nature of AI applications in journalism and their potential to streamline news production processes. In summary, the word cloud provides a valuable overview of the key themes and technologies prevalent in the research on AI in journalism. It highlights the central role of artificial intelligence, the emphasis on natural language processing, and the interest in utilizing AI for various aspects of journalistic practice, including content analysis, automation, and decision support.

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Figure 7. *Word Cloud*

3.8 Collaboration World Map

The collaborative world map offers a geographical summary of the global research alliance in artificial intelligence for journalism, illustrated in Figure 8. The United States appears to be the central hub for international collaboration, with connections to numerous countries. The United Kingdom demonstrates a strong collaborative network, particularly with European countries. While there are indications of cooperation between countries like China, Australia, and Brazil, the data is insufficient to draw definitive conclusions about the extent and nature of these partnerships. A more extensive dataset encompassing a more comprehensive range of countries and collaboration metrics would be necessary to understand collaboration patterns thoroughly. This would allow for a detailed analysis of regional collaboration hubs, the identification of emerging collaborative networks, and the assessment of the impact of collaboration on research productivity and influence. Furthermore, visualizing the data in a geographic map format would provide a more precise representation of collaboration patterns and facilitate the identification of potential knowledge gaps and opportunities for future collaborations.

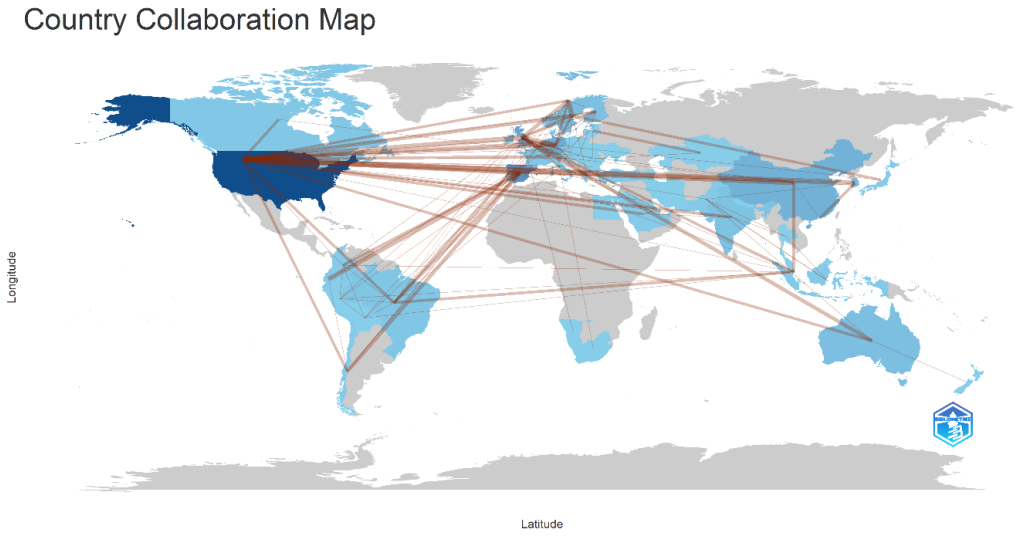

Figure 8. *Country Collaboration Map*

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3.9 Discussion

From 2014 to 2023, this bibliometric analysis offered insightful information about new developments and the effects of AI applications in journalism. There has been an increase in interest in using AI in journalism over the years, with the highest levels of research effort occurring in 2020 and 2022. The steady rise, especially after 2018, points to a developing field of study. The most recent peak in 2023 demonstrates AI applications' relevance and ongoing research in the media field. Most prolific writers are from the United States, highlighting the nation's dominance in this field of study. Their overlapping ranking for total and fractional outputs demonstrates top writers' extensive individual contributions. Furthermore, many citations suggest that these prolific writers also authored important fundamental works. Their co-authorship and linked keyword networks demonstrate how they developed common concepts and together influenced the discipline. This analysis finds specialists in the area whose research is set to improve AI applications in journalism by counting notable contributors. This study shows that interest in AI in journalism is growing, but citation patterns show complex dynamics. Older articles often accumulate more citations over time, reflecting their established position in the field. In contrast, a new article may have a more immediate impact, demonstrating its relevance and innovation in a shorter timeframe.

The primary sources are mostly journals focusing on digital journalism. [16], [17], which utilizes AI to reduce media bias [16] unlike [17] Which provides direction for journalists to use AI responsibly. Journalism companies with strategies and regulations to adopt AI have more advantages than journalism companies that are still debating AI's existence. [18]. The use of AI in journalism requires some ideas from policymakers in the journalism institution. [19]. The use of AI in journalism is still a matter of debate and further investigation from a cross-cultural, country, and science perspective [20], [21], [22].

The existing bibliometric analysis provides an initial overview of the application of AI in journalism, but there is still room for improvement. Limited base data, errors in metadata, and the short time span of the research are the main obstacles. To overcome this, it is necessary to conduct a more comprehensive search in various data bases, improve the quality of bibliographic data, and expand the research time span. In addition, analysis of whole texts and utilization of advanced visualization methods can provide richer insights into developments and trends in the field. Journalism education and training and media organizations can encourage international collaboration in AI research by forming consortia, establishing study centers, organizing conferences, and developing interdisciplinary study programs. This collaboration will accelerate the development of AI in journalism and give birth to new innovations. AI has great potential to revolutionize journalism practices, especially in terms of content production, fact verification, personalization, sentiment analysis, and investigative reporting. However, along with the utilization of AI, it is important to pay attention to ethical aspects such as algorithm bias, data privacy, and responsibility for AI-generated content. Future journalists need to be equipped with relevant skills to collaborate with AI, such as critical thinking, data literacy, and an understanding of AI ethics.

4. Conclusion

With 51 publications in 2023, the year with the highest publication trends about AI applications in journalism may be inferred from the results and the preceding discussion. With a MeaTCperART of 16.67, the articles from 2015 showed the highest trend of citations. Countries that have significantly impacted research on this topic are the United States, Spain, China, and Germany. The keywords artificial intelligence and journalism have not been directly connected with three other new theme keywords: computational linguistics, learning systems, and fiction.

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Future scholars who wish to take themes related to this field might refer to the research emphasis presented in this publication. The correlation between these keywords can be utilized as a fresh study finding about AI applications in journalism that can benefit from additional investigation. Additionally, data can be found by researchers using sources from other databases like WOS, Google Scholar, and others. There may be slight variations between the data collected for this study on July 20, 2024, and the findings of studies published after that date because they were not covered in this study.

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