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Research Mapping of "*Intellectual Property Law*": A Bibliometric Visualization Analysis Based on the Scopus Database from 2000 to 2023

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to provide a comprehensive bibliometric mapping of global research trends in *Intellectual Property Law (IPL*) from 2000 to 2023, using data extracted from the Scopus database. Despite IPL's critical role in regulating creativity, innovation, and knowledge dissemination, especially in the digital age, there has been limited bibliometric synthesis of its scholarly landscape. This research addresses that gap by systematically analyzing 801 documents using VOSviewer, Biblioshiny and Microsoft Excel to uncover conceptual structures, collaborative networks, and thematic evolutions within the field. The analysis covered publication output by country and breakdowns by journal, institution, subject, keywords, citations, documents, and author. In total, 801 publications were published with 3,824 citations in the past 23 years. Co-authorship analysis highlights fragmented collaboration, with limited international cooperation outside high-income countries, particularly the USA and the UK. Influential authors and journals include institutions such as *Harvard University* and journals like the *Journal of IPL & Practice*.

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Keyword co-occurrence patterns suggest growing attention to terms such as "innovation," "digital economy", and "intellectual property", pointing to shifts in the legal discourse around emerging technologies. The USA produced the highest number of publications, 196 (24%), while the maximum number of publications was published in 2020 and 2021 with 47 records (6%). It was also found that the most commonly used keyword is *Intellectual Property* 138 (17%) in the publication on *IPL*. This bibliometric mapping contributes to the Library and Information Sciences (LIS) field by offering a knowledge structure of IPL that supports evidence-based collection development, scholarly communication services, and policy formulation related to digital rights and access to knowledge.

Keywords: Intellectual Property, Law, Human Mind, Property Rights, Intangible Assets, Bibliometric.

Introduction

In general, I*ntellectual Property Law (IPL)* refers to a body of law that safeguards the works of human intelligence and creativity. It establishes a legal framework for the ownership and use of these intangible assets by granting people or organizations exclusive rights to their innovations or other creative works. *IPL* covers various creative works, such as names, symbols, designs, literary and creative works, inventions, and pictures used in commerce. By giving authors, inventors, and creators the motivation to devote their time, energy, and resources to create new concepts and forms, *IPL* aims to promote innovation and creativity (Bentley & Sherman, 2014).

IPL is inherently connected to the field of LIS, as it underpins the legal structures for creating, accessing, using, and disseminating information and knowledge. In an era of rapid digitization, librarians and information

professionals are increasingly responsible for interpreting and managing issues related to copyright, licensing, open access, and digital rights management, all of which are foundational to IPL (Crews, 2012; Dryden, 2015). As custodians of knowledge and advocates for equitable access, LIS professionals must also navigate complex legal landscapes to support scholarly communication, institutional repositories, and fair use principles (Smith, 2014). Despite the growing relevance of these issues, there remains a notable gap in bibliometric studies that comprehensively map global research trends in *IPL* from an LIS perspective. This study was therefore undertaken to offer a structured and evidence-based analysis of *IPL* scholarship, helping librarians, researchers, and academic institutions had better understand the evolution, impact, and dissemination of research in this interdisciplinary domain.

There are various categories of intellectual property rights. The following are some of them: *Patent Law* protects inventions and discoveries and grants exclusive rights to the inventor. *Copyrights* protect the original works of authorship, for example, books, music, and artistic creations, giving the creator exclusive rights to reproduce their works. *Trademark law* safeguards symbols, names, and slogans, identifying and distinguishing goods and services in the market. *Trade Secrets* protect the confidentiality and proprietorship of trade information, such as formulas, processes, and business methods. Another one is *Industrial Design,* which covers the visualization design of objects and protects the products. Finally, *Plant Breeder's Rights* aims to protect the new varieties of plants developed by breeding (World Intellectual Property Organization, 2016).

When discussing a brief overview of IPL, it is important to note that Europe is the origin of the rules and regulations governing this legal

framework (Cornish et al., 2013). The practice of granting patents began in the fourteenth century, marking the early development of IP protection. Over the centuries, *IPL* has evolved into a complex system shaped by historical, economic, and technological changes. The following are key milestones in the development of *IPL;*

- Ancient Origins-The concept of protecting intellectual creations has ancient roots. Early forms of legal protection for inventions existed in ancient Greece and Rome (Ginsburg, 2002).

- The Statute of Monopolies (1624) - Enacted in England, this statute is one of the first known examples of a codified legal framework for patents, limiting the Crown's power to grant monopolies and laying the groundwork for modern patent law (Machlup & Penrose, 1950).

- The Statute of Anne (1710) - This law, enacted in England, is the first copyright law. It granted authors exclusive rights to print and publish their works for a limited period, establishing the foundation of copyright protection (Ginsburg, 1990).

- The Industrial Revolution - During the 18th and 19th centuries, rapid industrialization increased recognition of the economic value of inventions and innovations, further shaping and expanding IP laws to encourage and protect creativity and technological advancement (Cornish et al., 2013).

This study applies bibliometric techniques to examine trends in scholarly output, theme concentrations, and collaboration networks across time to improve the understanding of the intellectual structure of IPL and its interdisciplinary dimensions. Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative method for assessing and characterizing scholarly literature by examining

bibliographic data such as publication outputs, citation frequencies, authorship, and keyword trends. It facilitates the identification of trends in research, landmark publications, key contributors, institutional affiliations, and collaborative networks within a research field (Fu, Y., 2023). Through this methodological approach, researchers can map a topic area's intellectual structure, evaluate its scientific productivity, and trace the evolution of its primary themes. Therefore, bibliometric analysis offers a fascinating insight into several aspects of *IPL's* scholarly communication, including overall citation analysis, author and journal impact, co-authorship patterns, keyword co-occurrence, institutional productivity, and thematic evolution. These metrics result in a composite image of the evolution of the discipline, academic influence, and areas of emerging concern or underrepresentation. The overall objective of this study is to conduct a comprehensive bibliometric mapping of *IPL* research published in the multidisciplinary Scopus citation database from 2000 to 2023. Scopus provides access to many peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, and other scholarly documents through its wide coverage and stringent indexing requirements. It is a suitable platform for analyzing long-term patterns and trends in IPL research.

Objectives

This study focuses on 801 publications related to *IPL*, which were published in the Scopus database from 2000 to 2023. The following are the objectives of the study.

- To examine the research trend on the *IPL* publication till 2023.
- To identify the leading countries contributing to *IPL* research.
- To find the most prolific authors and determine the authorship patterns of published papers.

- To identify the top ten (10) leading institutions, the source of publications, the most used keywords of publications, the leading funding agencies, and the dominant language with the highest number of publications on *IPL* research.

Literature Review

Numerous bibliometric studies have been conducted across various disciplines using data from prominent citation databases such as Web of Science and Scopus. These analyses have explored publication patterns, thematic trends, and scholarly impact in medicine, engineering, social sciences, and legal studies. However, despite the growing importance of *IPL* in the context of innovation, globalization, and digital transformation, there remains a notable absence of comprehensive bibliometric evaluations explicitly focused on this domain. To date, no systematic bibliometric study has mapped the global research landscape of IPL using Scopus data. This lack of focused analysis highlights a clear gap in the literature. It underscores the need for a study that critically examines the intellectual structure, thematic evolution, and collaborative patterns within IPL scholarship. Addressing this gap, the present research offers a novel contribution by applying bibliometric methods to analyze the development and diffusion of knowledge in *IPL*. The literature review section is divided as follows,

1. Review key developments in *IPL* research

Sun et al. (2024) conducted a comprehensive bibliometric analysis to uncover key trends and patterns in the field of data-based intellectual property by using CiteSpace software. Their study examined collaboration networks, co-citation patterns, and keyword co-occurrence to map the intellectual structure and evolution of the field. The findings indicate a marked growth in

scholarly output related to data intellectual property management, particularly since 2013. The study highlights that while global collaboration, particularly among the United States, China, and the United Kingdom, is robust, institutional collaboration remains relatively limited. Furthermore, emerging research directions increasingly focus on the convergence of data privacy, innovation, and legal governance. This work offers a holistic bibliometric framework for understanding the development of data-based intellectual property, identifies current research challenges, and proposes future avenues of inquiry.

Singh & Hasan (2013) evaluate the output of world literature on intellectual property that is researched for publications and indexed in the Science Citation Index (SCI) database from 2001 to 2010. The authors published a total of 1439 papers in the field of intellectual property during this period. The average number of publications published per year was 143.9 papers. The highest number of papers, 172, was published in 2010. The countries involved in producing publications were 74 in number. The United States was at the top of producing 572 (39.75%) publications, followed by Great Britain with 119 (8.23%), and India stood at the eighth position with 54 (3.75%) publications.

Biglu (2008) conducted a comprehensive scientometric study that explored the landscape of patent-related literature through a five-part analysis. The first section focused on patent applications and granted patents registered by international agencies. In the second, the author examined patent-related documents indexed in MEDLINE from 1965 to 2005, using scientometric techniques to evaluate publication trends. The third section analyzed documents indexed under the topic "patents" in the Science Citation Index (SCI) over the same period (1965–2005). In the fourth section, citations to

patent documents within the SCI database were evaluated, followed by the fifth section, which analyzed the average number of references per paper in SCI-indexed publications. The findings highlighted that the United States consistently led in filing and granting patents, followed by Japan and Germany. The study also observed a growing pattern of international collaboration in patent-related scientific publishing. This research is a foundational analysis of patent literature trends and metrics, illustrating how publication behaviours and citation dynamics evolve within the broader intellectual property landscape and scientific communication.

2. Review of existing Bibliometric study

Hu et al. (2024) scrutinize the trends and dynamics of Intellectual Property Protection (IPP) of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in China, utilizing a dataset of 91 papers from the CNKI database spanning 2011 to 2020. The study uses CiteSpace software to visualize and analyze the literature across multiple dimensions, including article count, authorship, institutional affiliations, and keyword co-occurrence. Findings indicate a lack of robust collaboration among authors and institutions in IPP and ICH. Critical research hotspots identified encompass intangible cultural heritage, intellectual property protection, inheritors, legal protection, copyright, IPL, and geographical indications, with the legal safeguarding of ICH's intellectual property, digital conservation, traditional cultural expressions, and original authentication emerging as the leading research frontiers. This investigation provides a holistic view of China's IPP and ICH landscape, offering essential scientific insights for ongoing scholarly discourse. This study mainly benefits policymakers and stakeholders in the cultural heritage sector, underscoring the necessity of enhanced authorial and institutional collaboration and the

prioritization of legal and digital protection mechanisms to safeguard China's intangible cultural legacy for posterity.

Salam and Senin (2022) studied using the Scopus database for a deeper understanding and advanced knowledge of "Innovative behaviour", both theoretical and recent research developments. The study was conducted between 1961 and 2019 to see how authors, journals, countries, academic disciplines, research institutes, and keywords relevant to "innovative behaviour" were used as search words. After thorough consideration, 931 research papers were reviewed. In analyzing the authors' keywords, "innovation" was the most frequently occurring among other keywords. The data has shown a stronger link between "innovative behaviour" and "innovation" with 34 occurrences.

Modi, Vasmatkar, and Nandekar (2023), this article analyses how human rights and IPR, specifically copyrights, are integral to each other when read together. The primary issue is the collision between copyright and the human right of free speech. The article discusses in detail how copyrights form a human right and need to be recognized as the same. The nuance of free speech and copyrights in the Internet domain and the need to account for the publisher's independence and IPR has been discussed. The article attempts to understand the reasons for copyright violations while exercising the human right of free speech and the possible legal solutions to this problem. The article aims to dig out all the research in this respect and clarify the concept for future researchers. This bibliometric analysis is implemented using the Scopus and Web of Science repositories.

Research Design and Methods

The Scopus database was chosen for data collection in this study because it is one of the largest and most comprehensive multidisciplinary databases. Scopus is a comprehensive academic database covering over 22,000 journals from 5,000 publishers, 150,000+ books, and around 6.4 million conference papers. It contains 69 million records and 1.6 billion cited references, with coverage dating back to 1970. It is a reliable source for bibliometric and scientometric research (https://belmont.libguides.com/Scopus?utm).

For this research, the search query "*IPL*" was used in the title field, with the time frame limited to 2000 to 2023. A total of 801 records were retrieved in Plain text and CSV file formats. The collected data were analyzed using VOSviewer, Biblioshiny, and Microsoft Excel tools in alignment with the study's objectives.

Interpretation and Analysis

Top ten (10) Countries in the publications on *IPL*

Table 01 presents a country-wise analysis of research publications on *"IPL"*. As indexed in the Scopus database, researchers from over 160 countries produced 801 IPL publications from 2000 to 2023. According to the data, the *United States* is the most prolific contributor, with 196 publications (24%), accumulating 1,519 citations and an h-index of 20. This is followed by the *United Kingdom*, which has produced 103 publications (13%), receiving 486 citations and an h-index of 10. *Germany* ranks third with 66 publications (8%), 385 citations, and an h-index of 8, followed by *Australia* with 43 publications (5%), 205 citations, and an H-index of 8.

Table 01

Publication from the Top Ten Leading Countries

Country	Records	Percentage	T.Citation	h.Index
United States	196	24%	1519	20
United Kingdom	103	13%	486	10
Germany	66	8%	385	8
Australia	43	5%	205	8
Italy	35	4%	142	6
China	27	3%	49	4
India	21	3%	45	3
Canada	19	2%	228	6
Japan	18	2%	17	3
Switzerland	18	2%	39	4

T. Citation-Total Citations

Other notable contributors include *Italy* (35 publications, 4%), *China* (27 publications, 3%), *India* (21 publications, 3%), *Canada* (19 publications, 2%), *Japan* (18 publications, 2%), and *Switzerland* (18 publications, 2%).

Top ten (10) Prolific Authors in publication

Table 02 presents a statistical overview of the top ten most prolific authors in the analyzed dataset, based on publication count, total citations, h-index, and citations per publication (CPP). While Drexl, J. leads in publication with 13 papers (2% of the dataset), his total citation count (68) and h-index (6) suggest moderate influence, yielding a CPP of 5.23. In contrast, Geiger, C., with seven publications, demonstrates the highest scholarly impact, accumulating 198 citations (CPP = 28.29) and an h-index of 6, indicating significant recognition despite a lower output. Authors Kur, A., and Hilty, R.M. each contributed eight papers, earning CPPs of 8.75 and 6.63, respectively, reflecting balanced profiles of productivity and influence. Allcock, J.P.M., with eight publications and zero citations, emerges as an outlier, potentially due to recent publication or limited academic traction.

Table 02

Top ten (10) Prolific Authors in publication

Author	Records	P. Percentage	T. Citation	h. Index
Drexl, J.	13	2%	68	06
Allcock, J.P.M.	08	1%	00	00
Hilty, R.M.	08	1%	53	05
Kur, A.	08	1%	70	06
Geiger, C.	07	1%	198	06
Akakura, T.	05	1%	09	02
Kato, K.	05	1%	09	02
Montagnani, M.L.	05	1%	06	01
Balganesh, S.	04	0%	36	01
Buccafusco, C.	04	0%	61	04

T. Citation-Total Citation, P. Percentage - Publication Percentage

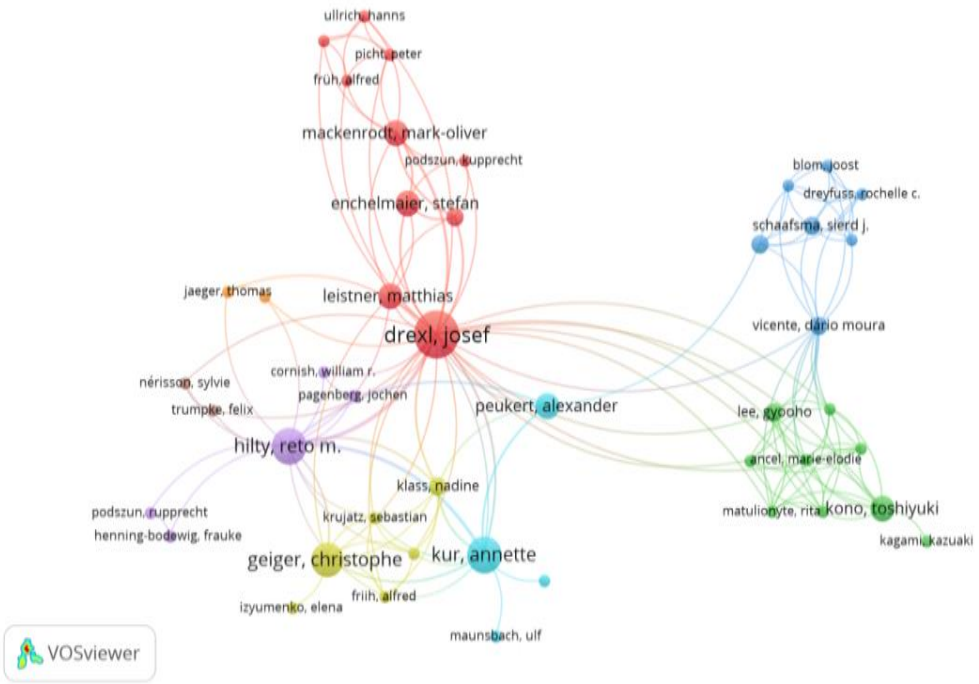
Authors with fewer records, such as Buccafusco, C. (CPP = 15.25, H-index = 4) and Balganesh, S. (CPP = 9.00, H-index = 1), show that high per-paper impact is achievable even with limited output. Overall, the average CPP across the top ten authors is 7.61, and the mean h-index is 3.3. These findings highlight that while publication count indicates productivity, citation-based metrics, particularly CPP, offer a more nuanced assessment of scholarly impact. Furthermore, the relatively low citation and h-index values suggest that the dataset represents a specific academic niche or emerging area, rather than the global standing of these authors. Therefore, comparisons with widely cited scholars like Peter Menell (2007) must be contextualized carefully within the limits of the current dataset.

Figure 01 illustrates the co-author collaboration analysis of publications on *IPL* based on data from the Scopus database. In this

visualization, larger nodes represent the most prolific authors, indicating more publications and collaborations.

Figure 01

Author collaboration analysis of publication on IPL



At the centre of the network, *Josef Drexl* is represented by the largest node, indicating his leading role in publication count and collaborative activity. The red cluster, prominently featuring *Drexel*, includes frequent collaborators such as *Leistner, Matthias, Enchelmaier, Stefan, and Mackenrodt. Mark-Oliver* suggested a strong and cohesive research group. The map reveals a well-connected scholarly landscape, with specific authors emerging as central figures in fostering academic collaboration and knowledge dissemination.

Publications by Institution

Table 03 presents the leading institutions contributing to research on *IPL*, based on data extracted from the Scopus database between 2000 and 2023.

Table 03

Publications by Institution

Institution	Records	Percentage	Citation	h-Index
Max Planck Institute for Innovation & Competition.	25	3%	112	06
Queen Mary University of London.	11	1%	25	04
Max Planck Institute	09	1%	171	05
University of Cambridge	09	1%	63	05
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München	08	1%	127	05
University of Nottingham	07	1%	12	02
National University of Singapore	07	1%	08	02
Monash University	07	1%	39	02
Università Bocconi	07	1%	13	02
University of California	07	1%	54	04

The Max Planck Institute for Innovation & Competition stands out as the most productive institution among the studied, contributing 25 publications (3%) with 112 citations and an h-index of 6, reflecting both the volume and sustained impact of its scholarly output. The Max Planck Institute (other departments) also has a strong influence with nine publications. Notably, it achieves a higher citation count (171) and an h-index of 5, indicating its research's high relevance and scholarly impact.

The Queen Mary University of London ranks second in output with 11 publications (1%) and 25 citations, maintaining an h-index of 4. Other prominent contributors include the *University of Cambridge and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München*, producing high-quality research. Cambridge recorded nine publications, 63 citations, and an h-index of 5, while *Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität* achieved eight publications, a strong 127 citations, and an h-index of 5. These institutions demonstrate a balanced combination of research productivity and influence.

Several other Universities, such as the *University of Nottingham, the National University of Singapore, Monash University, Università Bocconi, and the University of California*, each contributed seven publications (1%). However, the impact of citations on these institutions varies significantly. For example, the *University of California* accumulated 54 citations (h-index 4). In contrast, the *National University of Singapore* had only eight citations (h-index 2), suggesting varying levels of visibility and influence across institutions.

Year-wise Publications

Table 04 presents the year-wise distribution of publications on *IPL* from 2019 to 2023. The highest number of publications was recorded in 2020 and 2021, with 47 publications (6%) each, followed closely by 2022 (43 publications) and **2023** (42 publications), both contributing **5%** of the total output. The lowest output was observed in 2019, with 32 publications (4%). In terms of citations, 2022 had the highest impact, with 321 total citations, indicating strong academic engagement. Publications in 2023 also received a significant 275 citations, showing continued relevance. While the number of publications has remained relatively stable, the consistent citation counts highlight the growing importance and influence of research in this field. Overall, the data

reflect a steady upward trend in scholarly interest and impact related to IPL during these five years.

Table 04

Year-wise Publications

Years	Records	Percentage	Total Citation
2023	42	5%	275
2022	43	5%	321
2021	47	6%	280
2020	47	6%	265
2019	32	4%	258

List of top ten (10) most cited papers

Table 05 presents the top ten most cited research papers in *IPL*, highlighting the most influential scholarly contributions based on citation count. The leading paper, "*Risk Aversion and Rights Accretion in IPL"* by Gibson, J., has received 126 citations, indicating its significant academic impact. Following this is Posner, R.A., with 112 citations for his work, *"Intellectual Property: The Law and Economics Approach,"* which integrates legal and economic perspectives and is widely referenced in both disciplines.

Geiger, C.'s paper on the *Constitutional dimensions of IPL in the European Union* has earned 89 citations, reflecting the growing interest in the intersection between fundamental rights and IP regulations. *Demers, J.'s* work on the effect of IPL on *musical creativity and Merges,* R.P.'s historical analysis of a century of IPL received high citation counts, 85 and 80, respectively.

Table 05

List of top ten (10) most cited papers

Papers	Author/s	Citation
Risk aversion and rights accretion in intellectual property law.	Gibson, J.	126
Intellectual Property: The law and economics approach	Posner, R.A.	112
"Constitutionalizing" intellectual property law? The Influence of Fundamental rights on intellectual property in the European Union.	Geiger, C.	89
Steal This Music: How intellectual property law affects musical creativity.	Demers, J.	85
One hundred years of solicitude: Intellectual property law, 1900 -2000.	Merges, R.P.	80
Intellectual property law and practice in the blockchain realm	Gürkaynak, G.,	77
Intellectual property law and the sumptuary code	Beebe, B.	77
Plagiarism, norms, and the limits of theft law: Some observations...	Green, S.P.	74
Moments in law: Contestation and settlement in the history of intellectual property	Sell, S.,	74
Intellectual property law, technology flow and licensing opp...	Bosworth, D., Yang, D	73

The remaining top-cited papers include those by *Gürkaynak, G., Beebe, B., Green, S.P., Sell, S.,* and *Bosworth & Yang,* each with 73 to 77 citations. They cover blockchain, cultural influence, plagiarism norms, historical disputes, and licensing topics. These works underscore the breadth and depth of scholarly discourse in the evolving field of IPL.

Document type distribution of publications

Table 06 illustrates the distribution of publications on *IPL* by document type based on records from the Scopus database. Among the various types, *journal article*s dominate the scholarly output with 306 publications, accounting for 38% of the total.

Table 06

Document type-wise distribution of publications

Document type	Records	Percentage	Total Citation	h-index
Article	306	38%	1730	20
Book chapter	197	25%	409	10
Review	88	11%	871	14
Book	75	9%	640	15
Conference paper	49	6%	80	04
Erratum	39	5%	00	00
Editorial	24	3%	22	02
Note	14	2%	59	03
Short survey	08	1%	13	01
Letter	01	0%	00	00

These articles have accumulated the highest number of citations (1,730) and have an h-index of 20, highlighting their strong academic influence and visibility. *Book chapters* follow with 197 records (25%), though they have received comparatively lower 409 citations and an h-index of 10.

Review papers, while fewer in number (88 records; 11%), have a high impact with 871 total citations and an h-index of 14, indicating their critical role in summarising and synthesizing key developments in the field. *Books* comprise 9% of the publications (75 records) and have received 640 citations, demonstrating significant value, particularly for foundational or comprehensive content, with an h-index of 15. *Conference papers, editorials, notes, and short surveys* contribute smaller proportions, with lower citation

and impact metrics. Interestingly, errata (39 records) and letters (1 record) show no citation impact, reflecting their limited scholarly contribution. The data emphasizes that articles, reviews, and books are the most influential formats in *IPL research*.

Top ten (10) Publication Sources

Table 07 explains that the leading journal publishing research literature on *IPL is the Journal of IIC International Review of Intellectual Property & Competition Law*, which has the highest number of 58 (7%) publications with 313 total citations and 07 h-index. *The Journal of Intellectual Property Law & Practice*, with 36 (4%) records published and 13 citations and 01 h-index, is followed by *the Journal of Intellectual Property Rights* and *Queen Mary Journal of Intellectual Property*, which published 11 (1%) each, respectively.

The rest of the journals, such as *Engineering Management Journal, Grur International, International Journal of Intellectual Property Management, Journal of Intellectual Property Information Technology and E-Commerce Law, Journal of Intellectual Property Law and Management, and Commonwealth Law Bulletin*, contributed one percent (1%) to research publication on IPL.

Table 07

Journal-wise distribution of publications

Journals	Records	Percentage	T. Citation	h-Index
IIC International Review of Intellectual Property & Competition Law	58	7%	313	07
Journal of Intellectual Property Law & Practice	36	4%	13	01

Journal of Intellectual Property Rights	11	1%	32	03
Queen Mary Journal of Intellectual Property	11	1%	14	02
Engineering Management Journal	08	1%	00	00
Grur International	08	1%	10	01
International Journal of Intellectual Property Management	07	1%	05	02
Journal of Intellectual Property Information Technology & E Commerce Law	06	1%	27	02
Journal of Intellectual Property Law & Management	06	1%	03	01
Commonwealth Law Bulletin	05	1%	01	01

T. Citation-Total Citation

Distribution of keywords

Table 08 presents the distribution of frequently used keywords in publications related to *IPL*. The most prominent keyword is *"Intellectual Property*," appearing in 138 records (17%), reflecting its broad and foundational relevance to the research field. This is followed by "Intellectual Property Rights" with 59 records (7%), and "Patent" with 46 records (6%), indicating focused scholarly interest in specific legal protections.

Keywords such as "Copyright" (38 records, 5%) and "IPL" (25 records, 3%) further highlight the thematic core of the literature. Terms like "Patents", "Article", "Human", "Laws and Legislation", and "Law" appear

with lower frequency (2–3%) but still signal important dimensions and interdisciplinary connections of IP research.

Table 08

Distribution of keywords

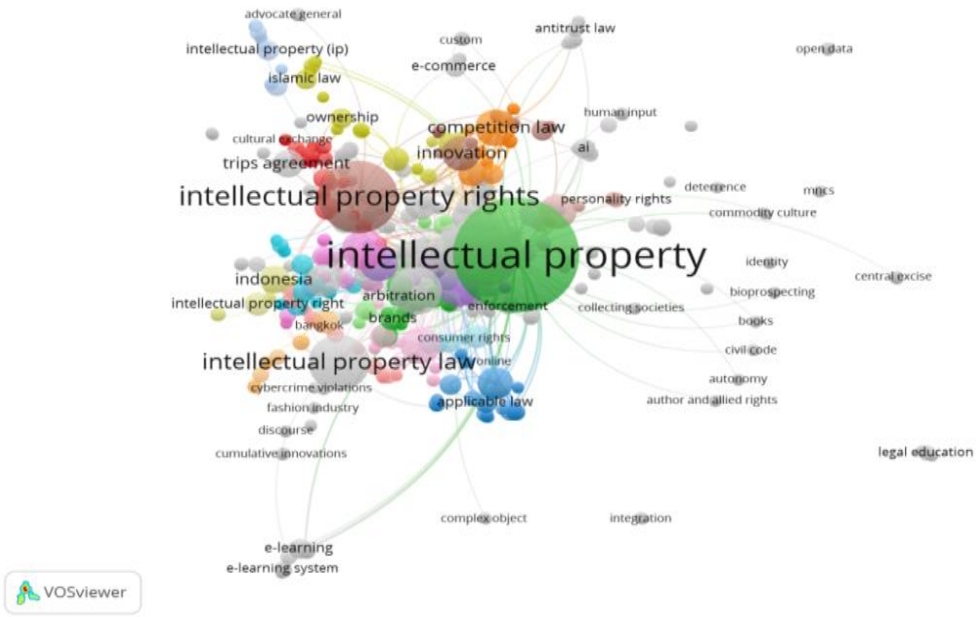
Keywords	Records	Percentage
Intellectual Property	138	17%
Intellectual Property Rights	59	7%
Patent	46	6%
Copyright	38	5%
Intellectual Property Law	25	3%
Patents	22	3%
Article	21	3%
Human	20	2%
Laws and Legislation	19	2%
Law	17	2%

The keyword analysis reveals that while the field is centred on core IP concepts, it also touches on legal, human, and academic publication aspects, offering a multidimensional view of the topic.

Figure 02 explains the author's keyword analysis of publications. The figure is examined according to its size. Keywords *such as intellectual property, intellectual property rights, patent, copyright, intellectual property law, patents, articles, human rights, laws, and legislation and law* come to the fore. This result shows that these concepts are more associated with publications on *IPL*, as expressed in the keyword analysis.

Figure 02

Keyword analysis of publications



Distribution of publication by subject (Discipline)

Table 09 shows the most preferred subject area of research. Social Science is in the highest place, with 635 (79%) publications and 3170 total citations, and the h-index is 26. Followed by Business, Management & Accounting with 86 (11%), 413 total citations and 08 h-index , number of 80 (10%) publications with 616 total citations and 12 h-index belonged to the area of Economics, Econometrics & Finance, Computer Science is 58 (7%) with 169 citations and 05 h-index and area of Engineering is 50 (6%) publications with 40 total citations and h-index 4.

Table 09

Distribution of publication by subject (Discipline)

Subjects	Records	Percentage	T. Citation	h-Index
Social Sciences	635	79%	3170	26
Business, Management & Accounting	86	11%	413	08
Economics, Econometrics & Finance	80	10%	616	12
Computer Science	58	7%	169	05
Engineering	50	6%	40	04
Arts and Humanities	35	4%	143	06
Medicine	30	4%	113	05
Biochemistry, Genetics & Molecular Biology	17	2%	62	04
Decision Sciences	16	2%	06	01
Environmental Science	13	2%	60	05

T. Citation-Total Citations

Arts and Humanities, Medicine, and Environmental Science also contributed to the scholarly output, though with fewer records and lower citation metrics. Despite having 16 publications, Decision Sciences showed minimal impact, with only six citations and an h-index of 1. Overall, the data indicate an intense concentration of research activity in the Social Sciences, while contributions from other disciplines remain modest.

Publications by language

Table 10 presents the language-wise distribution of publications on IPL. Most records are published in English, accounting for 767 publications (96%). These English-language documents also received the highest total citations (3,812) and have the highest h-index (28), indicating their dominant role and wide-reaching academic impact in this research area.

Other languages contribute marginally to the total output. Spanish ranks second with 15 publications (2%) but a very low citation count (8) and

an h-index of 2. Languages like Portuguese, Russian, French, and Japanese have 2 to 4 records, minimal citations (0–12), and h-index values of 1. The categories "Undefined" and "Others" also contribute minimally and show no significant academic impact. In summary, English is the primary medium for scholarly communication in IPL, underscoring its importance for global dissemination and visibility of research in this domain.

Table 10

Publications by Language

Language	Records	Percentage	T. Citation	h-Index
English	767	96%	3812	28
Spanish	15	2%	08	02
Portuguese	04	0.04%	12	01
Undefined	04	0.04%	00	00
Russian	03	0.03%	01	01
French	02	0.02%	01	01
Japanese	02	0.02%	01	01
Others	04	0.04%	01	01

T. Citation-Total Citation.

The findings highlight the evolving momentum and structural disparities in *IPL* research. The recent surge in publications reflects the growing importance of IPL in addressing emerging technological challenges. At the same time, the fragmented collaboration networks and dominance of English-language outputs reveal ongoing global inequities. Addressing these challenges through inclusive research partnerships, multilingual dissemination strategies, and regional academic investment is essential for fostering a more equitable and globally responsive *IPL* research ecosystem.

Conclusion

This bibliometric study examined global research trends in *IPL* using data from the Scopus database covering 2000 to 2023. A total of 801 publications were identified and analyzed using VOSviewer, Biblioshiny, and Microsoft Excel tools. The findings were presented in tables and visual charts to enhance understanding and interpretation of the results. The analysis revealed that the United States is the leading contributor in this research area, producing 196 publications (26%), followed by the United Kingdom and Germany. The most active years of publication output were 2020 and 2021, with 47 publications (6%) each. A dominant 96% (776 publications) were published in English, reaffirming English as the global language of academic communication in legal studies.

Regarding sources, the journal IIC – International Review of Intellectual Property and Competition Law was the most productive, contributing 58 publications (7%). Drexl, J. emerged as the most prolific among the authors, with 13 publications (2%) and a substantial citation impact. Keyword analysis indicated that "Intellectual Property" was the most frequently used term, appearing in 138 records (17%), followed by keywords such as "Intellectual Property Rights," "Patent," and "Copyright." This study provides a clear picture of the publication landscape in the field of *IPL*. The results can benefit academics, legal researchers, librarians, and policymakers, helping them identify key contributors, trending topics, and influential sources. Since *IPL* is an integral part of LIS, this research also offers practical insights for librarians. Furthermore, the study can serve as a valuable reference and methodological model for future bibliometric and scientometric analyses in related subject areas.

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