



## **Bibliometric Insights into the *Kathmandu School of Law Review***

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### **Abstract**

This bibliometric study analyzes the academic reach, thematic focus, and collaboration trends of the *Kathmandu School of Law Review* (KSLR). Through keyword analysis, the research highlights recurring themes such as human rights, governance, policy-making, and development, reflecting a multidisciplinary approach to legal scholarship. Visualizations of co-authorship networks reveal limited collaboration among scholars, suggesting opportunities for the journal to foster joint publications and interdisciplinary partnerships. Citation network analysis indicates a niche area of research with a few central authors like Puja Mitra and Yubaraj Sangroula, while the low overall citation count points to the need for broader academic engagement and visibility. Bibliographic coupling maps show emerging research clusters, indicating the potential for KSLR to build authority in key areas such as South Asian legal systems and international human rights. The study concludes with recommendations for KSLR to increase global outreach, promote interdisciplinary studies, and enhance academic collaboration to strengthen its impact within and beyond the region.

**Keywords:** Bibliometric analysis, Citation network, Co-authorship, Kathmandu School of Law Review, KSLR



## **Introduction**

"Philosophical Transactions" marks the first scientific journal published by The Royal Society in 1600 (Young, 2020). In the 1800s, academic journals gained popularity being a means to share reviewed research and encourage meaningful discussions. In the 20th century, a great expansion in journal publishing developed in a wide variety of fields and countries. Digital technologies transformed access to these journals in the second half of the last century and accelerated the pace of publishing even more (Kraus, et al., 2021). International law reviews started to appear as early as 1869, and the first publications took place in countries like France, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Various means of discussing international legal issues by legal scholars were undertaken by such journals, which played their role in influencing the way in which the discipline was oriented. Such mass expansion took place worldwide in the course of the 20th century, and it spread accordingly (Rasilla, 2018; Swygart & Bruce, 1984; Cohen, 2023).

The Kathmandu School of Law Review, popularly known as the KSLR, is a recognized legal journal that has contributed to fostering scholarly discussion and academic research in the field of law both within Nepal and abroad. Being the bi-annual flagship journal of the Kathmandu School of Law, the KSLR has emerged as a platform where legal scholars, students, practitioners, and strategic organizations share knowledge concerning contemporary legal issues. Since its inception, the journal has sought to foster knowledge-sharing and also to provide incisive insight into a myriad of legal issues that have helped in the development of legal academia (Kathmandu School of Law, n.d.).

The Kathmandu School of Law Review thus invites contributions from a diverse pool of contributors, including law students, advocates, members of the judiciary, academia, and personnel from both international organizations and strategic foreign policy think tanks. Focusing on global legal challenges, the journal aims to propose solutions that are theoretical yet practical, ultimately contributing toward global problem-solving efforts (Kathmandu School of Law, n.d.).

With an ISSN of 2091-2110, the KSLR aspires to place itself in the center of legal scholarship and practice alike, serving as a platform from which this mounting legal discourse at both national and global levels may seek guidance. The present bibliometric review focuses on the analysis of recent trends, authorship patterns, citation indicators, and subject matter covered by articles published over the years in KSLR, estimating its academic impact and contribution to the field (Kathmandu School of Law, n.d.).

This paper conducts a bibliometric study by analyzing the pattern of authorship, citation indicators, thematic clustering, and trend related to the scholarly contributions published by KSLR in order to gain insight into the academic impact.

## **Significance of the Study**

This bibliometric study of KSLR provides much-needed clarity regarding its thematic focus, collaboration patterns, and citation impact. While strengths are concentrated on human rights,



South Asian legal issues, and a multidisciplinary approach, areas of improvement relate to limited collaboration, low frequency of citations, and the need for a more focused niche. Thus, with close attention to these aspects, KSLR will find itself in a better position regarding expanding its academic outreach and emerging as a pioneering journal within its field.

## **Methodology**

The present bibliometric study on the Kathmandu School of Law Review (KSLR) attempts to depict quantitative information about scholarly contributions and the citation pattern within the journal. The current study uses the most advanced tools and methods in carrying out a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of the *Kathmandu School of Law Review*. Core database source is downloaded from "Lens.org", an open access platform offering comprehensive scholarly and patent literature (Penfold, 2020). It includes all articles published by the review up to the current year, hence allowing this dataset to represent the academic contributions made by the journal.

## **Tools Utilized**

- VOSviewer: This tool allows the mapping of bibliometric networks such as co-authorship, citation analysis, and bibliographic coupling. VOSviewer helps us describe the relations between the authors (Orduña-Malea & Costas, 2021), the frequency of mutual citations of articles (Arruda, Silva, Lessa, Proença Jr, & Bartholo, 2022), and how research themes are related in terms of references used.
- ❖ Co-authorship: The collaboration pattern of the authors and the institutions has been analyzed.
- ❖ Citation Analysis: Key articles and authors have been identified, their citations in this review indicating their impact.
- ❖ Bibliographic Coupling: This helped to highlight the thematic clusters of the articles through shared references, hence showing the common research focus areas in the review.
- WordSift: This is used to analyze keywords occurring in titles and abstracts. Emerging trends and how the review focus is changing are discerned from temporal shifts in the use of terms (Roman, Thompson, Ernst, & Hakuta, 2016).

## **Process of Analysis**

1. Data Collection: Complete bibliographic data was collected from "Lens.org" of the articles published in all volumes of the Kathmandu School of Law Review. It will include information about the year of publication, list of names of authors, title, abstract, and references.
2. Co-authorship Network Analysis: We develop the visual network of co-authorships within the journal using "VOSviewer" and analyze the degree and nature of



- collaboration among its authors. This network analysis brings out the key contributors and collaborations both within and across institutions.
3. Citation Analysis: Citation data pre-processing was done to identify those articles that were most cited in the journal. The information was then visualized using "VOSviewer" in order to discern influential papers and authors whose works have added a great deal to the academic dialogue of the law review.
  4. Bibliographic Coupling: The distribution of the articles, according to their coinciding references, used "VOSviewer", which allowed the identification of thematic clusters. It points out how a given topic or problem is interconnected and outlines the dominant and emergent themes within the review.
  5. Keyword Analysis: Keyword analysis of article titles and abstracts was performed by using the "WordSift" tool. Through monitoring use-frequency and shifts of keywords, we found that the focuses of review have shifted and themes emerged little by little.

The combination of tools and methods discussed here thus gives a very detailed, multifaceted view of the academic landscape within the Kathmandu School of Law Review. Co-authorship insights, citation analysis, bibliographic coupling, and keyword trends allow one to gain an improved understanding of the contributions of this journal, along with its positioning within the broad academic discourse.

## **Limitations**

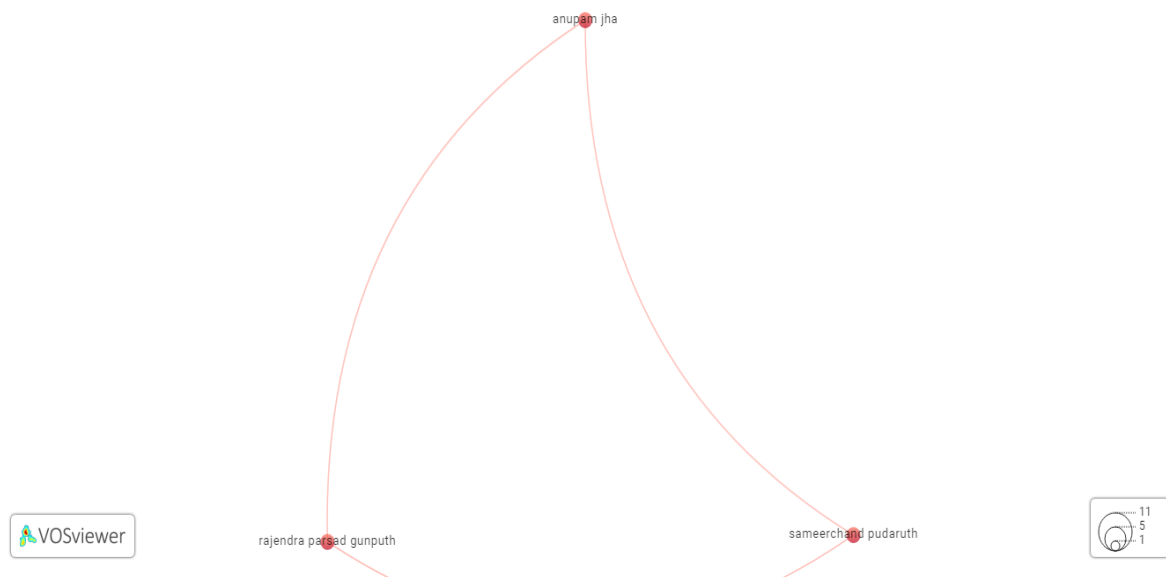
While the bibliometric analysis provides important insights, several limitations need to be acknowledged, including the following:

- The analysis is bound to data available within KSLR itself and is therefore likely not indicative of the full impact its articles have in the wider academic world-for example, citations in external journals.
- Citations not indexed and works published outside of the KSLR are not reflected here, which may limit the understanding of the influence of the journal.
- The dataset was further refined by limiting the publication dates to works between 2012 and 2023. Any future studies may consider an expanded date range to investigate longitudinal trends.
- This might potentially affect the robustness of the network analysis, given the relatively smaller number of articles compared to larger law journals.





### Co-authorship Network Visualization



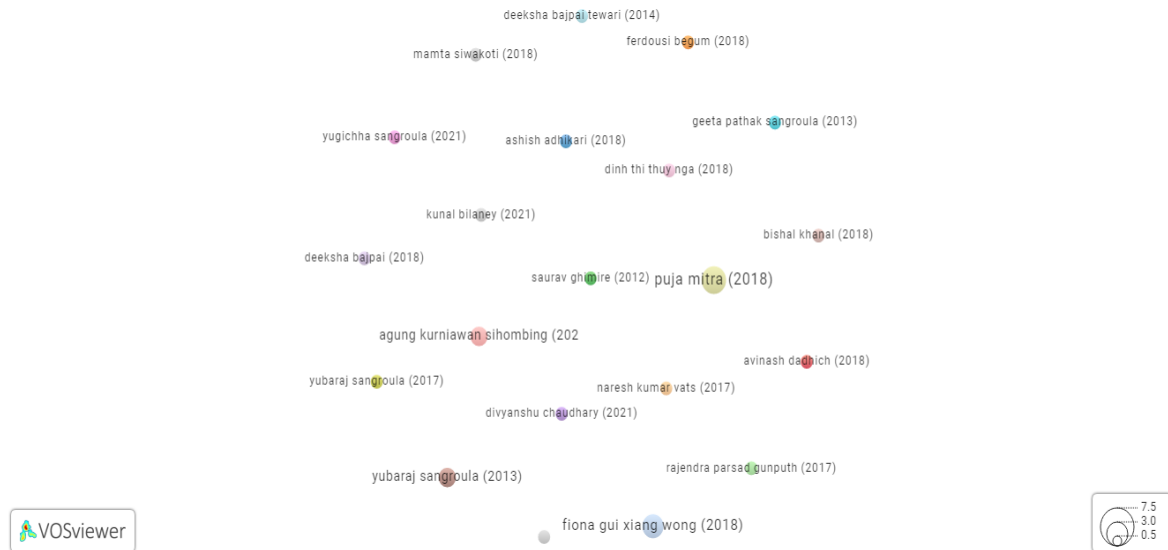
**Figure 3: Co-authorship Network Visualization**

The figure presents a network showcasing academic collaborations of three authors: Anupam Jha, Rajendra Parsad Gunpath, and Sameerchand Pudaruth. Lines connecting names show the relationship of co-authorships. The thickness can represent strength or frequency, and in this picture, it seems quite sparse; that is, these authors collaborate very little with each other or have low citation frequencies.

One critical observation could be that this network is rather minimal, with only three nodes and faint connections, which could mean the focus is very narrow or the respective authors have not collaborated much within the larger academic field. This diagram may represent research niches or limited integration into broader academic networks.

From a research or scholarly impact perspective, such a small network may bring into view opportunities for these authors to expand collaborations, possibly increasing their academic visibility and the interdisciplinary impact of their work.

**Document Citation Network (2012–2021)**



**Figure 4: Document Citation Network (2012-2021)**

The figure presents the citation analysis at the document level, displaying relationships between authors and the works they have cited. The size of the circle is proportional to the number of citations per document. In the network, Puja Mitra (2018) has the highest figure at 4 citations, represented by a larger yellow node and therefore giving it its higher degree of influence within the network. This is followed by Fiona GUI Xiang Wong (2018), represented with a moderately sized node indicating 3 citations, whereas for Agung Kurniawan Sihombing and Yubaraj Sangroula, smaller-sized nodes are used to represent them for 2 citations each.

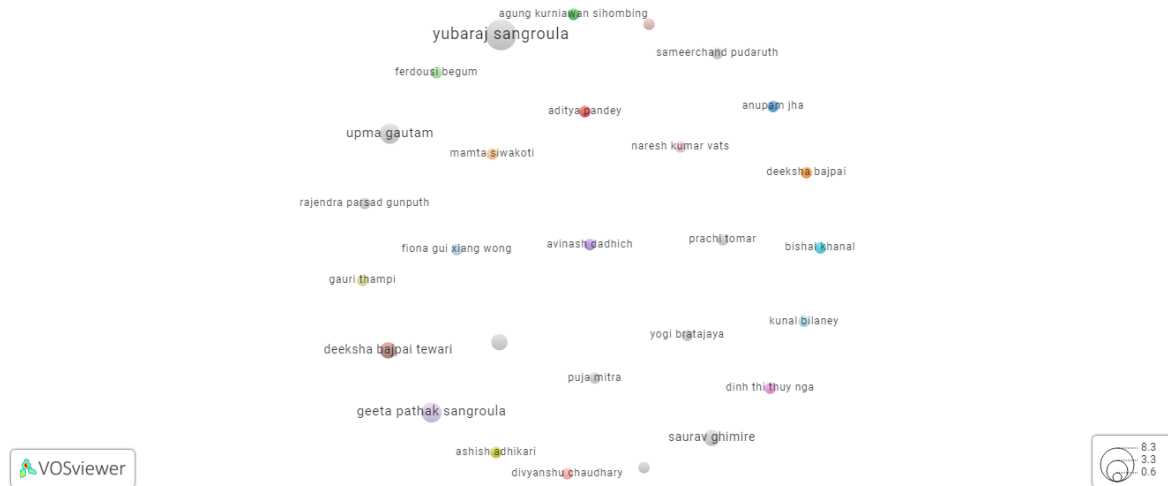
In contrast, authors, such as Geeta Pathak Sangroula (2013), Mamta Siwakoti (2018) and others have only 1 citation, meaning that the nodes for these authors are small and less salient. This structure suggests that these documents are only sparsely connected, or in other words, that lower levels of co-citation or shared references across various works exist. Another observation is that no dense clusters appear; this might point to the suggestion that most of the documents are cited in isolation rather than together.

Critically, the spread-out nature of the nodes indicates a diverse research focus wherein the works of authors have separate and distinct impacts, with almost negligible overlap within the citations. It may also reflect the limited co-authorship or collaboration in the dataset analyzed. With respect to citation, documents like Mitra's give the central reference points and are therefore more likely to be the important contributions to the field.

This would encourage more co-authored works or cross-referenced publications to increase collaboration, thereby further enriching the academic discourse.



**Citation Network Visualization of Key Authors**



**Figure 5: Author Citation Network Analysis**

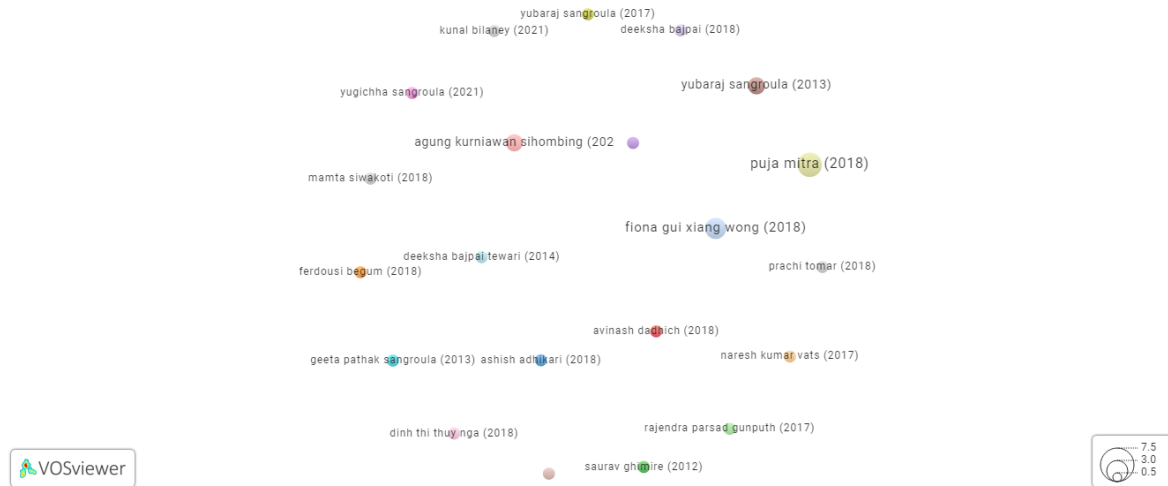
The figure represents citation network among authors through the documents published. Each node represents an author; the size is proportional to the number of citations received by the corresponding author. The big nodes, like "Yubaraj Sangroula" and "Puja Mitra", have a high number of citations, hence their presence in this network.

Key authors, include, for instance, Puja Mitra, 2018, who have four citations, hence regarded as highly contributing, Fiona Gui Xiang Wong, 2018, who has three citations, while other authors like Agung Kurniawan Sihombing have two citations. Influential authors are Geeta Pathak Sangroula and Yubaraj Sangroula evidence by structural positioning.

There is also a clear clustering effect within the network, as the more frequently cited authors together tend to build clusters, which may indicate thematic or topical coherences. For example, the dense cluster around Yubaraj Sangroula and his co-authors readily indicates their collaborative or topic-related prominence.

Overall, the total number of citations within the network would be small, indicating a niche area or an emerging domain where interest is on the rise. The position of these key authors would be more central in driving the discussion in this area of research. These clusters thus give an idea about the intellectual structure of the field and the interaction of various research contributions.

**Bibliographic Coupling Analysis of Scholarly Documents**



**Figure 6: Bibliographic Coupling Analysis of Documents**

This figure maps the relationships of various documents through their bibliographic coupling. Documents more similar share more references. Node size corresponds to the number of times that document has been cited, and node distance corresponds to the amount of bibliographic coupling. Larger nodes represent documents that have been more frequently cited, or through a stronger connection of bibliographic coupling.

**Key nodes:** "Yubaraj Sangroula 2017" and "Puja Mitra 2018" are larger nodes, which means these documents have been more heavily cited and/ or share stronger bibliographic links to other documents.

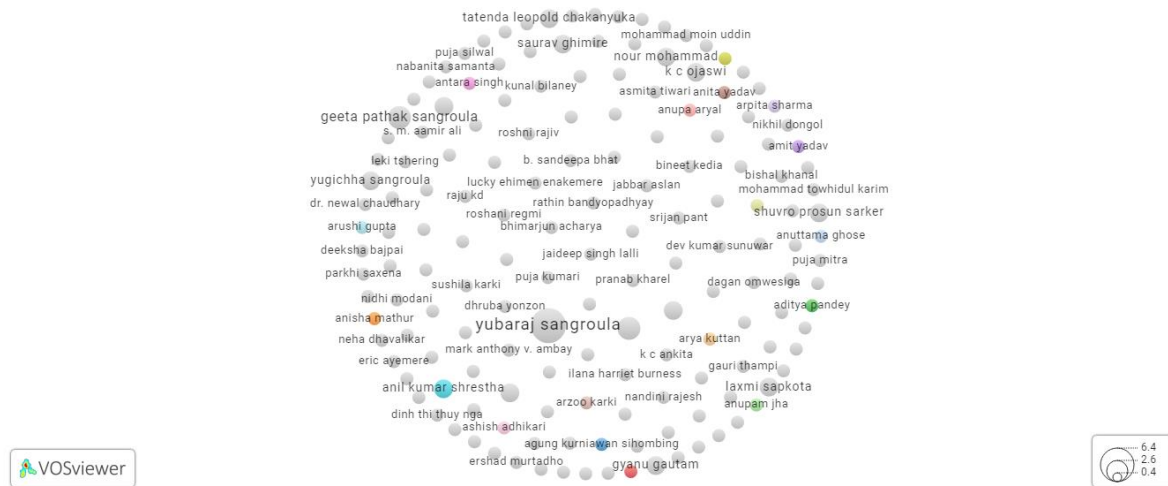
**Clustering:** The closeness of documents shows that some groupings of papers are working in similar areas of research-that is, there is an overlap of references and probably even thematic connections.

**Time Spread:** The dates indicate that more recent documents, such as those from 2021 or 2018, may build on foundational research from earlier years, such as "Geeta Pathak Sangroula (2013)" and "Saurav Ghimire (2012)".

**Diverse themes:** Though some nodes are forming clusters, the figure also presents scattered nodes, showing diversity among the represented research fields.

This allows the mapping of patterns of scholarly work, influential documents, and emerging trends based on shared bibliographies.

**Bibliographic Coupling Analysis of Authors**



**Figure 7: Author Coupling Network**

Figure represents the result of a bibliographic coupling analysis. Authors are the unit of analysis for this map produced in VOSviewer.

**Nodes (Authors):** Each dot in this diagram represents one author. The size of the dots corresponds with the number of publications or the impact based on the bibliographic coupling measure. The larger dots correspond to those authors with greater influence depending on the number of shared references or bibliographic coupling.

**Links:** The lines or links between nodes in this graph show bibliographic coupling. Bibliographic coupling represents that there are common sources cited by the two authors in their work. The thicker links signal that both authors have more references shared within the publications; this means that a thematic and/or methodological similarity in research works is present within the pairs.

**Clusters Color-Coded Groups:** Colors represent clusters of authors that bear thematic or topical relationships. These clusters are derived based on an author's reference list similarity, which in turn is indicative of an author's research field or subfield.

**Central Authors:** Yubaraj Sangroula and Geeta Pathak Sangroula are two of the most central authors in the network. The large node size and centrality of these two authors indicate that their work shares a large number of references with other authors, which is indicative of their pivotal role in the research area under study.

Yugichha Sangroula and Anil Kumar Shrestha also feature significantly, being probably key contributors with substantial bibliographic overlap with others in the field.

**Peripheral Authors:** Aditya Pandey, Laxmi Sapkota, and Gyanu Gautam are the authors situated in the periphery. In other words, though these authors are part of the research network, their works have fewer common references with the rest of the group; hence, they likely represent either emerging research topics or more niche subjects.



## **Discussion**

The bibliometric analysis of KSLR helps draw meaningful inferences about the academic reach, thematic focus, and tendencies of collaboration amongst its contributors. Several key observations have emerged during this study that point both to areas of strength and areas of growth for the journal regarding its scholarly impact.

### **1. Thematic Concentration**

The keywords in titles and abstracts indicate a heavy concentration of human rights, law, and socio-political concerns, while referencing the South Asian region, especially Nepal, India, and Bangladesh. Keywords such as "Rights," "Human," and "International" indicate that the journal is embedded within legal scholarship concerning justice, governance, and development issues. This focus also befits KSLR's mission of engaging in global challenges through legal discourse by providing practical solutions to pressing regional issues.

In addition, the frequent occurrence of keywords that denote governance, policymaking, and effects upon society is indicative of a multidisciplinary approach, with a socio-economic breadth of law. Interdisciplinary foci raise the relevance of the journal within broader academic and policy-making circles. On the other hand, putting the focus on South Asia gives an impression that this journal might have a more regional scope rather than global, being a strength as well as a limitation depending upon the audience it tries to reach.

### **2. Collaboration and Co-authorship**

The most obvious finding will be the limited co-authorship and sparse academic collaborations identified from the co-authorship network. What the analysis found, however, was just a few links between authors, meaning substantial collaboration within the network was infrequent. This may be because the journal is still young or perhaps a function of author preferences for solo projects. Whatever the case may be, limited collaboration does point to an opportunity that KSLR should encourage—more joint publications, particularly by scholars from various regions or institutions. Increased collaboration could provide the journal with more visibility and widen its scholarly scope.

However, despite the presence of several key contributors, such as Yubaraj Sangroula and Geeta Pathak Sangroula at the core of the author networks, the overall citation network remains sparse. Again, this speaks more to a research niche or emergent domain rather than to an established field. Building on this theme, one thing KSLR might do in future is to look for further ways to incentivize interdisciplinary and international collaborations that might help its authors embed themselves within broader academic communities.

### **3. Citation Patterns**

It indicates a somewhat low number of citations per document. The centrality of the citation network involves authors like Puja Mitra and Fiona Gui Xiang Wong, among others, but the distribution of the citations overall is low for a majority of the articles in KSLR. This may be because the journal enjoys low visibility or its topic areas are too specialized. Thankfully, the more recent publications also appear to build on previously published research since 2021 and 2018, further growing the literature base within this journal.



The small number of co-citations also means that largely speaking, articles are cited in isolation rather than being utilized as part of a wider academic debate. This presents a further opportunity for KSLR in promoting more engagement with extant literature both within its own articles and in the wider academic community. Further intertextuality within its articles could amplify the journal's impact in framing international law and human rights discussions.

#### **4. Areas of Growth**

Indeed, document-document bibliometric coupling analysis does point to an emerging trend in KSLR as clusters seem to develop around a number of highly influential documents. Overall node spread does, however, indicate that there is considerable diversity of topics and small overlap between research fields. This is both a strength and a challenge. While this diversity of themes, for example, in fact reflects a wide-ranging insight, it is possible to note that such a dispersing of foci may entail an outcome where this journal will not be able to carve out any specific niche for itself in international legal scholarship.

Going ahead, KSLR can position itself centrally in one or more key areas of law, like international human rights or South Asian legal systems. In doing so, the establishment of authority in an area of specialization builds on the credibility of the journal and yields more focused contributions and citations, thus increasing its academic standing.

#### **5. Global Outreach: Improving**

While KSLR has rapidly proved itself a leader within Nepal and the South Asian region, there is, of course, scope for further internationalization. This might be achieved by collaboration with other international institutions or by encouraging submissions from a broader range of scholars worldwide. Promotion through electronic platforms and open access databases will also go a long way in enhancing the visibility and accessibility of the journal, thereby attracting a wider readership and increasing the citation frequency.

#### **6. Building Collaborative Networks**

Co-authorship and citation network maps indicate that the journal should encourage academic collaboration among authors. While the journal is characterized by strong central authors, the co-authorship and citation networks are considerably sparse. Encouraging more partnerships and cross-institutional research might lead to an increase in the number of co-authored articles, apparently with the aim of informing richer academic discourses. Additionally, more scholars from a wide variety of fields, including international law, socio-economics, and regional policy, would have significantly widened the reach of the journal.

#### **7. Promoting Interdisciplinary Research Studies**

Governance, social justice, and development appear both in the keyword analysis and in the abstract analysis; this would suggest that KSLR is well-placed to encourage interdisciplinary studies. The multidisciplinary approach could place the journal at an important crossroads of law, public policy, and development, allowing a unique platform for scholarly work that bridges these fields.



## **Conclusion**

Generally, the bibliometric analysis of the Kathmandu School of Law Review is a growing journal with strong thematic foundational works in human rights, international law, and legal issues in South Asia. With various challenges in collaboration and frequency of citation, the journal enjoys considerable opportunities for growth. In return, by fostering more co-authored works, increasing inter-disciplinary studies, and reaching out even more internationally, KSLR will go on achieving enhanced academic impact and further valuable contribution to legal scholarship within and beyond the South Asian region.

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