

## Mapping Themes, Collaboration, and Impact in the Journal of Necmettin Erbakan University School of Law Review (2018–2025): A Bibliometric Study

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### ABSTRACT

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In this study, we provide a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of 188 articles published in the Journal of Necmettin Erbakan University School of Law Review between 2018 and 2025. We gather data from the Google Scholar database using Publish or Perish (V8) software, and keywords, abstracts, and institutional information are extracted from the journal website using Python scripts. We analyzed citation indicators, subject distributions, and inter-institutional co-authorship networks. Our findings indicate a total of 429 citations exist for the journal articles. On average, the journal has 2.28 citations per article and 61.29 citations annually. The h-index and g-index values are 10 and 12, respectively, and the average number of authors per article is 1.16. Journal articles cover various topics with a focus on Consumer Law, Criminal Law, Obligations/Private Law, and Constitutional Law. Also, the procedural and constitutional frameworks play an intersecting role in many studies. Keyword frequency analysis shows that historical themes (e.g., Ottoman law) coexist with contemporary debates (e.g., personal data, mediation, labor contracts). The journal articles are written by authors from several institutions. Collaborations of authors from several institutions, including international institutions, are observed in collaboration network analysis. Our results suggest that the journal has a strong profile in private and criminal law, with its rapidly increasing publication volume in recent years. Focused calls for international partnerships and focused attention on underrepresented areas could increase visibility and impact.

## Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisinde (2018–2025) Temaların, İş Birliklerinin ve Etkilerinin Haritalanması: Bibliyometrik Bir Çalışma

### Makale Bilgisi

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#### Anahtar Kelimeleri:

Bu çalışmada, Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi'nde 2018-2025 yılları arasında yayımlanan 188 makalenin kapsamlı bir bibliyometrik analizini sunuyoruz. Veriler Google Scholar veritabanından Publish or Perish (V8) yazılımı kullanılarak toplanmış ve anahtar kelimeler, özetler ve kurumsal bilgiler dergi web sitesinden Python komut dosyaları kullanılarak çıkarılmıştır. Atıf göstergeleri, konu dağılımları ve kurumlar arası ortak yazarlık ağları analiz edilmiştir. Bulgularımız, dergi makaleleri için toplam 429 atıf olduğunu göstermektedir. Ortalama olarak, dergi makale başına 2,28 atıf ve yıllık 61,29 atıf almaktadır. H-endeksi ve g-endeksi değerleri sırasıyla 10 ve 12'dir ve makale başına ortalama yazar sayısı 1,16'dır. Dergi



Bibliyometri, Hukuk Dergisi, Atıf Analizi, Kurumsal İşbirliği.

makaleleri, Tüketici Hukuku, Ceza Hukuku, Borçlar/Özel Hukuk ve Anayasa Hukuku odaklı çeşitli konuları kapsamaktadır. Ayrıca, usule ilişkin ve anayasal çerçeveler birçok çalışmada kesişen bir rol oynamaktadır. Anahtar kelime sıklığı analizi, tarihsel temaların (örneğin, Osmanlı hukuku) çağdaş tartışmalarla (örneğin, kişisel veriler, arabuluculuk, iş sözleşmeleri) birlikte var olduğunu göstermektedir. Dergi makaleleri çeşitli kurumlardan yazarlar tarafından yazılmıştır. İşbirliği ağı analizinde, uluslararası kurumlar da dahil olmak üzere çeşitli kurumlardan yazarların işbirlikleri gözlemlenmektedir. Sonuçlarımız, derginin özel ve ceza hukuku alanlarında güçlü bir profile sahip olduğunu ve son yıllarda yayın hacminin hızla arttığını göstermektedir. Uluslararası ortaklıklara yönelik odaklı çağrılar ve yeterince temsil edilmeyen alanlara odaklanması, görünürlüğü ve etkiyi artırabilir.

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## INTRODUCTION

Bibliometrics is a scientific field that focus on the quantitative analysis of scientific records. Bibliometrics is not just about counting papers and citations — it's a way to watch how research topics shift, where people publish, and how institutions team up over time. In this way, it is possible to situate scientific journals within the academic context.

The first pioneering bibliometric analysis studies appeared in the late 19th century, as library science and statistical work on indexing and retrieval emerged. Yet, this field matured in the 1960s with advances in citation indexing and the systematic quantification of scientific output. In 1963, the Science Citation Index launched, making it possible to follow citation trails and get a clearer picture of scholarly impact.<sup>1 2</sup> Around the same time, Derek J. de Solla Price's Little Science, Big Science<sup>3</sup> framed the study of the exponential growth of science and introduced the idea of "cumulative advantage," later known as the Matthew Effect.

The term "bibliometrics" itself was popularized by Alan Pritchard<sup>4</sup> in 1969 as "the application of mathematical and statistical methods to books and other media of communication," marking its emergence as a distinct research area rather than merely a branch of information science. Through the 1980s and 1990s, the spread of large citation databases (e.g., Web of Science and later Scopus) accelerated the use of citation, co-authorship, and co-citation analyses for mapping fields and

<sup>1</sup> Garfield, Eugene. "Citation Analysis as a Tool in Journal Evaluation." *Science*, vol. 178, no. 4060, 1972, pp. 471.

<sup>2</sup> Garfield, Eugene. "Citation Indexes for Science: A New Dimension in Documentation through Association of Ideas." *Science*, vol. 122, no. 3159, 1955, pp. 108.

<sup>3</sup> Price, Derek J de Solla. *Little Science, Big Science*. Columbia University Press, 1963. pp. 2

<sup>4</sup> Pritchard, Alan. "Statistical Bibliography or Bibliometrics?" *Journal of Documentation*, vol. 25, no. 4, 1969, pp. 348.

evaluating research performance. The h-index<sup>5</sup> also gained traction as a compact indicator of individual impact.

In the 21st century, bibliometrics has been reshaped by digital infrastructures, open-access policies, and alternative indicators. Altmetrics broaden the lens beyond citations to include online attention—such as social media, blogs, and news coverage—offering complementary evidence of reach and engagement<sup>6</sup>. Meanwhile, visualization and network analysis tools such as VOSviewer<sup>7</sup>, CiteSpace, and Bibliometrix<sup>8</sup> have made it far easier to map knowledge structures and explore intellectual connections in depth. Today, bibliometrics is embedded in research evaluation, evidence-informed policy, and strategic planning, increasingly intersecting with big-data methods and artificial intelligence.

This study applies these approaches to a flagship journal of Necmettin Erbakan University (NEU), a comparatively young yet fast-growing institution in Türkiye founded in 2010. As of April 2025, NEU comprises 20 faculties, 4 graduate institutes, 9 vocational schools, and 37 research centers, educating roughly 30,000 undergraduates, over 4,000 master's students, and more than 1,000 PhD candidates, with support from more than 2,600 academic staff. The university also operates NEU Press and publishes over twenty peer-reviewed journals. Among them, The Journal of Necmettin Erbakan University School of Law Review is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal dedicated to publishing high-quality research on contemporary and classical legal issues. The journal promotes articles that have solid ideas, sharp methods, and are meaningful to both scholars and practitioners. Published articles cover everything from public to private law, including constitutional, administrative, criminal, civil, commercial, labor, and social security law. In addition, international law on both public and private fronts is included. The journal also promotes interdisciplinary research, connecting law with economics, politics, sociology, and technology. The journal welcomes original research articles, review essays, case notes and comments, legislative analyses, and book reviews. This study conducts a comprehensive bibliometric assessment of the journal, examining publication performance, institutional contributions, thematic distribution, and emerging research fronts.

## I. LITERATURE REVIEW

Bibliometrics investigates scholarly communication through quantitative indicators derived from publication and citation data. Since the early conceptualization of bibliometrics as “statistical bibliography,” these methods have been used to summarize large bodies of literature, describe research performance, and reveal intellectual structures and thematic evolution.<sup>9</sup>

A typical bibliometric workflow combines performance analysis (e.g., annual output, total

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<sup>5</sup> Hirsch, Jorge E. “An Index to Quantify an Individual’s Scientific Research Output.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 102, no. 46, 2005, pp. 16569.

<sup>6</sup> Priem, Jason, et al. “Altmetrics: A Manifesto.” 2010, pp. 2.

<sup>7</sup> van Eck, Nees Jan, and Ludo Waltman. “Software Survey: VOSviewer, a Computer Program for Bibliometric Mapping.” *Scientometrics*, vol. 84, no. 2, 2010, pp. 523.

<sup>8</sup> Aria, Massimo, and Corrado Cuccurullo. “Bibliometrix: An R-Tool for Comprehensive Science Mapping Analysis.” *Journal of Informetrics*, vol. 11, no. 4, 2017, pp. 959.

<sup>9</sup> Donthu, et al. “How to Conduct a Bibliometric Analysis: An Overview and Guidelines.” *Journal of Business Research*, vol. 133, 2021, pp. 285.

citations, citations per paper) with science mapping techniques (e.g., co-authorship, co-citation, bibliographic coupling, and keyword co-occurrence). Methodological guidance stresses that performance indicators provide an interpretable baseline, while mapping techniques help uncover relational patterns among authors, institutions, and topics.<sup>10 11</sup>

For citation-based assessment, widely used impact indicators include the h-index and g-index. The h-index aims to balance productivity and citation impact,<sup>12</sup> whereas the g-index was proposed to give additional weight to highly cited publications.<sup>13</sup> More broadly, reviews of citation impact indicators discuss their conceptual assumptions and appropriate interpretation, particularly when comparing heterogeneous fields.<sup>14</sup>

Contemporary bibliometric research increasingly relies on dedicated software to support transparent and reproducible workflows. VOSviewer is widely used for constructing and visualizing bibliometric maps, including co-citation and co-occurrence networks.<sup>15</sup> Similarly, the bibliometrix R package provides an open-source environment for performance analysis and science mapping, supporting end-to-end workflows from data import to visualization.<sup>16</sup>

Because science mapping results can be sensitive to data-cleaning choices and parameter settings (e.g., thresholds, counting methods, clustering), comparative evaluations of mapping tools emphasize the explicit reporting of preprocessing decisions and analysis settings to improve interpretability and replicability.<sup>17</sup>

A central methodological choice concerns the database used for retrieval. Curated databases such as Web of Science and Scopus provide standardized metadata, but their journal coverage varies and may underrepresent national-language outlets and some social science and humanities fields.<sup>18</sup>

Google Scholar (GS) typically offers broader coverage and can be advantageous for law and socio-legal scholarship. Still, GS-based datasets may be noisier and often require more extensive screening and cleaning. Reviews and comparative studies discuss the suitability of GS for evaluation,

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<sup>10</sup> Zupic and Čater “Bibliometric Methods in Management and Organization.” *Organizational Research Methods*, vol. 18, no. 3, 2015, pp. 429.

<sup>11</sup> Donthu, et al. “How to Conduct a Bibliometric Analysis: An Overview and Guidelines.” *Journal of Business Research*, vol. 133, 2021, pp. 285.

<sup>12</sup> Hirsch, Jorge E. “An Index to Quantify an Individual’s Scientific Research Output.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 102, no. 46, 2005, pp. 16569.

<sup>13</sup> Leo Egghe. “Theory and Practice of the G-Index.” *Scientometrics*, vol. 69, no. 1, 2006, pp. 131.

<sup>14</sup> Waltman, Ludo. “A Review of the Literature on Citation Impact Indicators.” *Journal of Informetrics*, vol. 10, no. 2, 2016, pp. 365.

<sup>15</sup> n Eck, Nees Jan, and Ludo Waltman. “Software Survey: VOSviewer, a Computer Program for Bibliometric Mapping.” *Scientometrics*, vol. 84, no. 2, 2010, pp. 523.

<sup>16</sup> Aria, Massimo, and Corrado Cuccurullo. “Bibliometrix: An R-Tool for Comprehensive Science Mapping Analysis.” *Journal of Informetrics*, vol. 11, no. 4, 2017, pp. 959.

<sup>17</sup> Cobo et al. “Science Mapping Software Tools: Review, Analysis, and Cooperative Study among Tools.” *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, vol. 62, no. 7, 2011, pp. 1382.

<sup>18</sup> Mongeon, Philippe, and Adèle Paul-Hus. “The Journal Coverage of Web of Science and Scopus: A Comparative Analysis.” *Scientometrics*, vol. 106, no. 1, 2016, pp. 213.

noting both strengths in coverage and limitations to reproducibility.<sup>19 20 21</sup> An independent assessment of academic search systems further underscores the importance of transparent search strategies when using GS in evidence syntheses.<sup>22</sup>

Publish or Perish (PoP) is commonly used as an interface for retrieving GS-based records and calculating indicators (e.g., citation counts, h-index, g-index). Practical guidance emphasizes transparent query design, careful record validation, and documentation of cleaning decisions as essential steps for defensible GS-based bibliometrics.<sup>23</sup>

Beyond mapping entire fields, bibliometric methods are frequently applied to analyze the development and positioning of individual journals (journal-level bibliometrics). These studies typically examine longitudinal output, citation structure, influential papers, and the thematic and collaboration structures within a journal's publications.

Journal-level retrospectives are well established across disciplines. For example, *Journal of Business Research* has been examined through a 45-year retrospective (1973–2017), combining performance indicators with network-based science mapping.<sup>24</sup> Comparable anniversary-style analyses exist for the *European Journal of Marketing*<sup>25</sup> and for *Industrial Marketing Management*, which is explicitly framed as a bibliometric overview since the journal's foundation.<sup>26</sup>

Journal-level profiling is also common in open-access and information science contexts. A bibliometric overview of *Sustainability* (2009–2018) demonstrates how journal-focused studies can document growth, collaboration, and thematic structure.<sup>27</sup> Similarly, a bibliometric analysis of the *Journal of Documentation* (1945–2018) illustrates the use of longitudinal indicators and visualization techniques to produce an evidence-based journal portrait.<sup>28</sup> Recent work continues this tradition, for

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<sup>19</sup> Halevi, Gali, et al. "Suitability of Google Scholar as a Source of Scientific Information and as a Source of Data for Scientific Evaluation—Review of the Literature." *Journal of Informetrics*, vol. 11, no. 3, 2017, pp. 823.

<sup>20</sup> Moed, Henk F, et al. "A New Methodology for Comparing Google Scholar and Scopus." *Journal of Informetrics*, vol. 10, no. 2, 2016, pp. 533.

<sup>21</sup> Martín-Martín, Alberto, et al. "Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Scopus: A Systematic Comparison of Citations in 252 Subject Categories." *Journal of Informetrics*, vol. 12, no. 4, 2018, pp. 1160.

<sup>22</sup> Gusenbauer, Michael, and Neal R Haddaway. "Which Academic Search Systems Are Suitable for Systematic Reviews or Meta-Analyses? Evaluating Retrieval Qualities of Google Scholar, PubMed, and 26 Other Resources." *Research Synthesis Methods*, vol. 11, no. 2, 2020, pp. 181

<sup>23</sup> Harzing, Anne-Wil. "Bibliometric Research." 2016, <https://harzing.com/resources/publish-or-perish/tutorial/bibliometric-research>

<sup>24</sup> Donthu et al. "Forty-Five Years of *Journal of Business Research*: A Bibliometric Analysis." *Journal of Business Research*, vol. 109, 2020, pp. 1.

<sup>25</sup> Martínez-López, Merigó, Valenzuela-Fernández, et al. "Fifty Years of the *European Journal of Marketing*: A Bibliometric Analysis." *European Journal of Marketing*, vol. 52, no. 1/2, 2018, pp. 439

<sup>26</sup> Martínez-López, Merigó, Gázquez-Abad, et al. "Industrial Marketing Management: Bibliometric Overview since Its Foundation." *Industrial Marketing Management*, vol. 84, 2020, pp. 19

<sup>27</sup> Tang, Ming, et al. "Ten Years of *Sustainability* (2009 to 2018): A Bibliometric Overview." *Sustainability*, vol. 10, no. 5, 2018, p. 1655.

<sup>28</sup> Mokhtari, Heidar, et al. "A Bibliometric Analysis and Visualization of the *Journal of Documentation*: 1945–2018." *Journal of Documentation*, vol. 77, no. 1, 2020, pp. 69.

instance, “A 50-year bibliometric analysis of Resources Policy”.<sup>29</sup>

In law and socio-legal scholarship, journal-level bibliometrics can be particularly informative because publication venues and citation practices differ from many STEM fields, and because database coverage may be uneven for nationally oriented or institutionally hosted law journals. Accordingly, journal-level studies in socio-legal contexts often combine descriptive analyses with citation-network approaches while explicitly acknowledging coverage constraints.<sup>30 31</sup>

A recent example in socio-legal research is a bibliometric analysis of the *Journal of Law and Society*, published in the context of the journal’s anniversary, which uses bibliometric indicators and network analyses to situate the journal within broader socio-legal research landscapes.<sup>32</sup> This line of work supports the view that journal-level bibliometrics can serve two complementary goals in law-related venues: (i) journal profiling (growth, impact, key contributors) and (ii) knowledge-structure mapping (themes and collaboration patterns).

Although journal-level bibliometrics is widely used across disciplines and has clear precedents in socio-legal scholarship, systematic bibliometric portraits remain limited for many national or institutionally hosted law journals—especially where indexing and metadata completeness vary across years and platforms. This creates a practical need for transparent and replicable workflows integrating (i) a defensible data source strategy, (ii) systematic data cleaning and deduplication, and (iii) standardized performance and science mapping outputs interpretable by editors, authors, and research communities.<sup>33</sup>

Against this background, the present study contributes a journal-level bibliometric profile of the *Journal of Necmettin Erbakan University School of Law Review* (2018–2025) by combining citation-based indicators with structured mapping outputs (collaboration networks and thematic structures). By explicitly documenting retrieval, cleaning, and mapping steps, the study aligns with established best practices in bibliometric methodology and in journal retrospectives, while addressing coverage and metadata variability, common challenges in legal scholarship.

## II. METHODOLOGY

### A. Study Design and Scope

This study is a journal-level bibliometric analysis of the *Journal of Necmettin Erbakan University School of Law Review*. The analysis covers the period from 2018 to September 2025. It

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<sup>29</sup> Merigó, José M, et al. “50 Years of Resources Policy: A Bibliometric Analysis.” *Resources Policy*, vol. 96, 2024, p. 105229.

<sup>30</sup> Mongeon, Philippe, and Adèle Paul-Hus. “The Journal Coverage of Web of Science and Scopus: A Comparative Analysis.” *Scientometrics*, vol. 106, no. 1, 2016, pp. 213.

<sup>31</sup> Halevi, Gali, et al. “Suitability of Google Scholar as a Source of Scientific Information and as a Source of Data for Scientific Evaluation—Review of the Literature.” *Journal of Informetrics*, vol. 11, no. 3, 2017, pp. 823.

<sup>32</sup> (Boulanger et al. “The Journal of Law and Society in Context: A Bibliometric Analysis.” *Journal of Law and Society*, vol. 51, no. 1, 2024

<sup>33</sup> Cobo et al. “Science Mapping Software Tools: Review, Analysis, and Cooperative Study among Tools.” *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, vol. 62, no. 7, 2011, pp. 1382.

focuses on (i) publication output, (ii) citation-based performance indicators, (iii) collaboration patterns among authors/institutions, and (iv) thematic structures derived from keywords and abstracts. The unit of analysis is the research article.

## B. Data Sources and Data Cleaning

The Journal of Necmettin Erbakan University School of Law Review is indexed by several databases, some of which are TR-Dizin, ERIH Plus, DOAJ, EBSCO, and Google Scholar. Since Google Scholar indexes all journal articles published since 2018, it serves as the primary data source for our analysis. The well-known academic journal databases Web of Science and Scopus provide export options for the selected journal data for further bibliometric analysis. Unfortunately, Google Scholar does not offer an export option for selected journal data. For this reason, we used a software named "Publish or Perish V.8".<sup>34</sup> The software output is shown in Figure 1.

Using the journal's ISSN (2667-4076), the software query returned 191 records, including some duplicates. As explained below, we cleaned the dataset by removing repeats and matching each entry to the articles listed on the journal's website.

For every record, the software provides:

- total citation count
- average citations per year
- article ranking
- author names
- article title
- year of publication

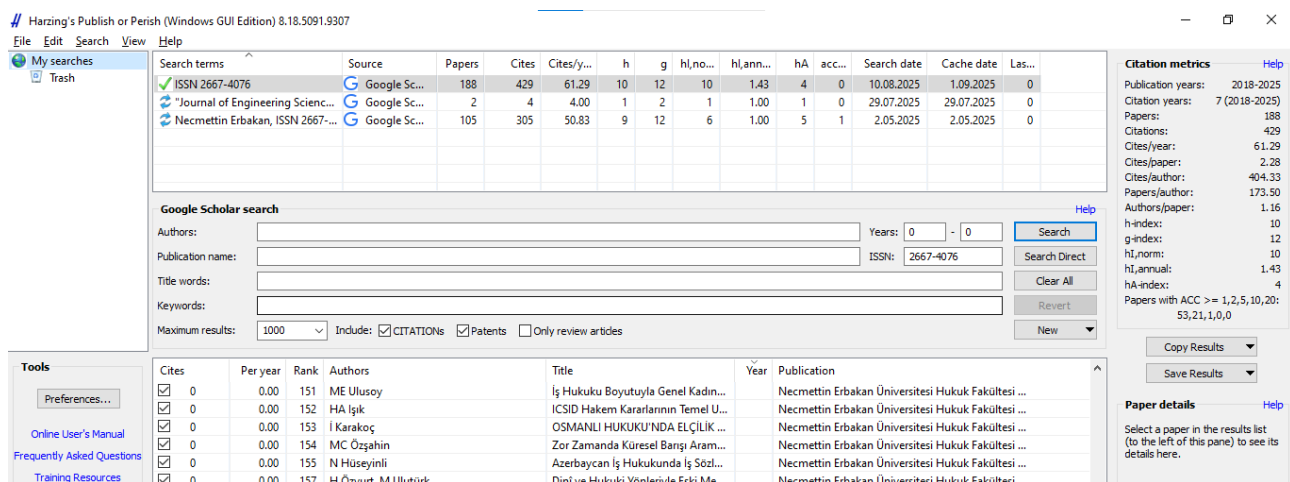


Figure 1 Publish or Perish V.8 Software User Interface

While these fields are sufficient for a basic bibliometric profile, deeper analysis requires article keywords and author affiliations. To obtain these, we wrote a Python script that extracted

<sup>34</sup> "Publish or Perish Version 8." <https://Harzing.Com/Blog/2021/10/Publish-or-Perish-Version-8>, Jun. 2025.

keywords, abstracts, author details, and affiliations directly from the journal's website. After combining these with the initial dataset, we ran additional Python routines to perform the bibliometric analyses.

### **C. Analysis Stages and Research Questions**

To ensure transparency and internal consistency, the analysis was conducted in the following stages.

1. Compute citation-based performance indicators for the journal (e.g., total citations, cites/year, cites/paper, h-index, g-index) and summarize them in a table.
2. Analyze annual publication output (number of articles per year) and visualize temporal growth.
3. Examine citation dynamics by publication year and identify the most-cited articles; report these in a table and/or figure.
4. Assess author and institution productivity (e.g., most productive authors, most contributing institutions) and present the key distributions.
5. Construct and interpret the institutional collaboration network (co-authorship across institutions), highlighting central actors and collaboration clusters.
6. Conduct keyword analysis (frequency and co-occurrence) to identify dominant and emerging themes; report a frequency plot and (if used) a co-occurrence map.
7. Classify articles into subject categories based on keywords and abstracts (e.g., using a transparent LLM-assisted labeling workflow and/or rule-based checks) and report the distribution across categories.

Based on the above-described analysis process, we answer the following research questions, respectively.

1. What is the overall citation profile of the journal (2018–2025) based on standard bibliometric indicators?
2. How has the journal's annual publication output evolved?
3. How are citations distributed across publication years, and which articles are the most cited?
4. Who are the most productive authors and institutions in the journal's publication set?
5. What is the structure of inter-institutional collaboration in the journal (network characteristics and key actors)?
6. What are the dominant and emerging themes based on keyword frequency and co-occurrence patterns?
7. How are the journal's articles distributed across subject categories when classified using keywords/abstracts?

## **III. DATA ANALYSIS RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. Citation Profile and Performance Indicators**

The citation metrics summary for the Journal of Necmettin Erbakan University School of Law

Review, as returned by the Publish and Perish 8 software, is displayed in Table 1.

**Table 1** *The citation metrics summary for the Journal of Necmettin Erbakan University School of Law Review*

Metric	Value
Publication Years	2018-2025
Citation Years	7 (2018-2025)
Papers	188
Citations	429
Cites/year	61.29
Cites/paper	2.28
Cites/author	404.33
Papers/author	173.50
Authors/papers	1.16
h-index (Hirsch's h-index)	10
g-index (Egghe's g-index)	12
hI,norm (Normalized individual h-index)	10
hI,annual (Annualized individual h-index)	1.43
hA-index (Average citation h-index)	4
Papers with ACC $\geq$ 1,2,5,10,20	53,21,1,0,0

Table 1 shows that the 188 articles published from 2018 through September 2025 have received 429 citations. On average, the journal accrues 61.29 citations per year, and each article has 2.28 citations. The Cites/author metric is computed by dividing an article's citations by its number of authors and summing this value across all 188 articles; the total is 404.33. Since the Cites/author metric (404.33) is close to the total citations metric (429), we can say that most articles have only one author. The Papers/author metric is the sum, over all articles, of the reciprocal of each article's author count, and as expected, the papers/author metric (173.50) is close to the total number of articles (188) since most papers are written by a single author. The mean number of authors per article is 1.16.

Key impact indicators used in this study include:

h-index (Hirsch) : the largest number  $h$  such that at least  $h$  papers have  $\geq h$  citations each, and the remaining papers have  $\leq h$  citations.

g-index (Egghe) <sup>35</sup>: the largest number  $g$  such that the top  $g$  papers have at least  $g^2$  citations in total.

Individual h-index<sup>36</sup>: the h-index divided by the average number of co-authors on the h-core

<sup>35</sup> Leo Egghe. "Theory and Practice of the G-Index." *Scientometrics*, vol. 69, no. 1, 2006, pp. 131.

<sup>36</sup> Campiteli, Mônica G, et al. "Is It Possible to Compare Researchers with Different Scientific Interests?" *Budapest Scientometrics*, vol. 68, no. 1, Springer, 2006, pp. 179.

papers, reducing co-authorship effects.

Normalized individual h-index ( $hI_{norm}$ ): calculated by first dividing each paper's citations by its number of authors (normalization), then taking the h-index over these normalized counts—thereby focusing on individual contribution.

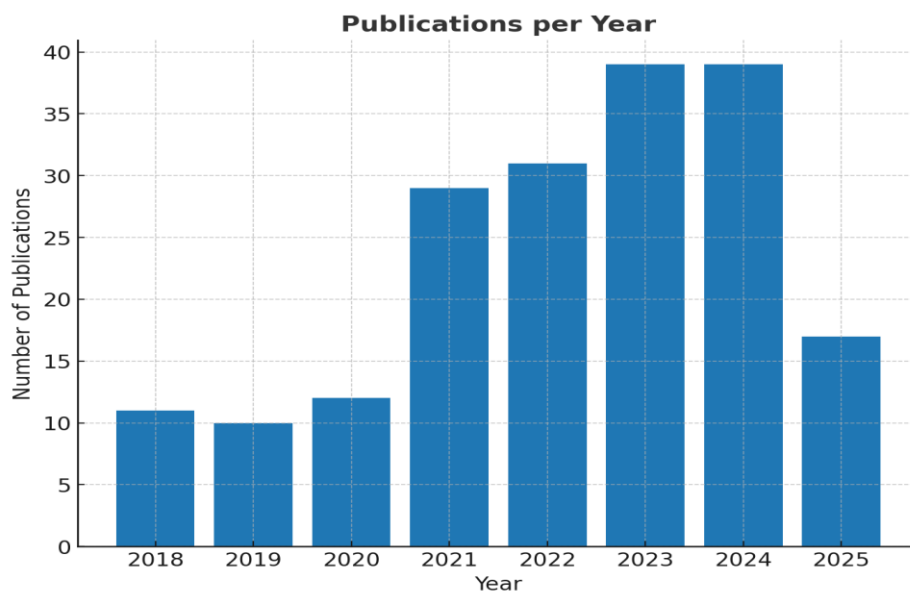
Annualized individual h-index ( $hI_{annual}$ ): the average yearly increase in  $hI_{norm}$ , which helps adjust for differences in career length.

Average citation index (hA-index): similar to the h-index, but each paper's citations are divided by its age (in years) before computing the index.

In Table 1, "Papers with ACC" denotes the annual citation count, computed as total citations divided by years since publication. We use these metrics to evaluate publication performance; in our case, they are calculated over the complete set of articles in the journal dataset.

### B. Annual Publication Output (2018–2025)

Figure 2 shows the number of articles published each year in the Journal of Necmettin Erbakan University School of Law Review. The annual output shows a long, steady baseline followed by a sharp expansion. From 2018 to 2020 the series is flat at around 10–12 papers per year. A step-change occurs in 2021, when publications jump to 29, and the upward trend continues into 2022 (31), reaching a sustained peak in 2023 and 2024 with 39 papers in each year. The lower count in 2025 (17) is due to a year-to-date total since the second issue of the journal has not been published yet. Taken together, the data indicate that publication activity has more than tripled from the late-2010s to the 2023–2024 peak, suggesting a period of rapid and sustained growth.



**Figure 2** Number of Articles Published Each Year

### C. Citation Dynamics by Year and Most-Cited Articles

Looking at the journal articles' citations, the average is 2.28 citations per article. However, this is an average; some articles have more than 15 citations, while others have none. Table 2 gives the five most cited papers since 2018. Figure 3 shows the total citations for journal articles by publication year. As seen in Figure 3, annual citations rose from the mid-40s in 2018–2019 to about 70 in 2020, reaching a peak near 106 in 2021 and remaining high in 2022 (~87). Counts then ease to roughly 55 in 2023 and to minimal year-to-date values in 2024–2025. This pattern is typical of citation dynamics: newer articles have had less time to be discovered and cited. Given the strong growth in publications during 2023–2024, the recent dip should be read as provisional rather than a real decline in impact.

### D. Most Productive Authors and Contributing Institutions

One hundred eighty-four different authors write the articles of the Journal of Necmettin Erbakan University School of Law Review. Among these authors, the most productive is B.B. Sarihan<sup>37</sup> with six publications. The authors H.Ç Çorlu<sup>38</sup>, Y. Yılmaz<sup>39</sup>, and B. Boga<sup>40</sup> are the most productive, with three publications each. The authors who get the most citations from their publications in the journal are T. Atlı<sup>41</sup> (38 citations from two publications), B.B. Sarihan<sup>12</sup> (36

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<sup>37</sup> Sarihan, Banu Bilge. “Evde Hizmet Sözleşmesi.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2019, pp. 415. Sarihan, Banu Bilge. “Konkordatonun Kira Sözleşmesine Etkisi.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2020, pp. 83. Sarihan, Banu Bilge. “Sinema Eserleri.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 5, no. 1, 2022, pp. 92. Sarihan, Banu Bilge. “Tüketici Hukuku Uyuşmazlıklarında Dava Şartı Arabuluculuk Uygulaması.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 4, no. 2, 2021, pp. 415. Sarihan, Banu Bilge. “Türk Borçlar Hukukunda ve İş Hukukunda İbranın Hukuki Boyutu.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2020, pp. 99. Sarihan, Banu Bilge, and Mustafa Yıldırım. “External Protection of Personality.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2024, pp. 320.

<sup>38</sup> Çorlu, Hüseyin Çağrı. “Rusya-Avrupa Birliği İlişkileri ve Enerji Şartı.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 1, no. 2, 2018, pp. 45. Çorlu, Hüseyin Çağrı. “The EU’s Proceedings Against Gazprom And Their Repercussions On EU Competition Law.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2021, pp. 28. Çorlu, Hüseyin Çağrı. “The Recalibration of International Trade Rules under WTO to Further Economic Growth: Challenges and Prospects ” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 1, no. 2, 2018, pp. 29.

<sup>39</sup> Yılmaz, Yasin, and Enes Cömert. “Akışkan Bir İslam Hukukuna Doğru: Modernite ve Makasid Söyleminin Dönüşümü.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2021, pp. 305. Yılmaz, Yasin and İbrahim Keş. “Konya İli Örneğinde Çocuk Suçluluğu Üzerine Kriminolojik Bir İnceleme.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2019, pp. 23. Opwis, Felicitas and Yasin Yılmaz. “İslam Hukuk Teorisinde Yeni Temayüller: Yeni Bir Hukuk Kaynağı Olarak Makâsıdu’ş-Şeria?” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2020, pp. 120.

<sup>40</sup> Boga, Bekir. “Rehin İlişkinin Ceza Hukuku Tarafından Korunmasına Genel Bir Bakış.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 7, no. 3, 2024, pp. 756. Boga, Bekir. “Türk Ceza Hukukunda Çocukların Fiziksel Mahremiyetine İlişkin Görüntülerinin Kaydedilmesi ve Yayılmasının Cezalandırılması Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2020, pp. 33. Boga, Bekir. “Türk Ceza Kanununun Siyasi Haklardan Yoksunluğa İlişkin Düzenlemesinin İptali.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2018, pp. 9.

<sup>41</sup> Atlı, Turan. “Kişi Haklarının İhlali Durumunda İnternet Erişiminin Engellenmesi.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2020, pp. 4. Atlı, Turan. “Kişisel Verilerin Önleyici, Koruyucu ve İstihbari Faaliyetler Amacıyla İşlenmesi.” *Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2019, pp. 4.

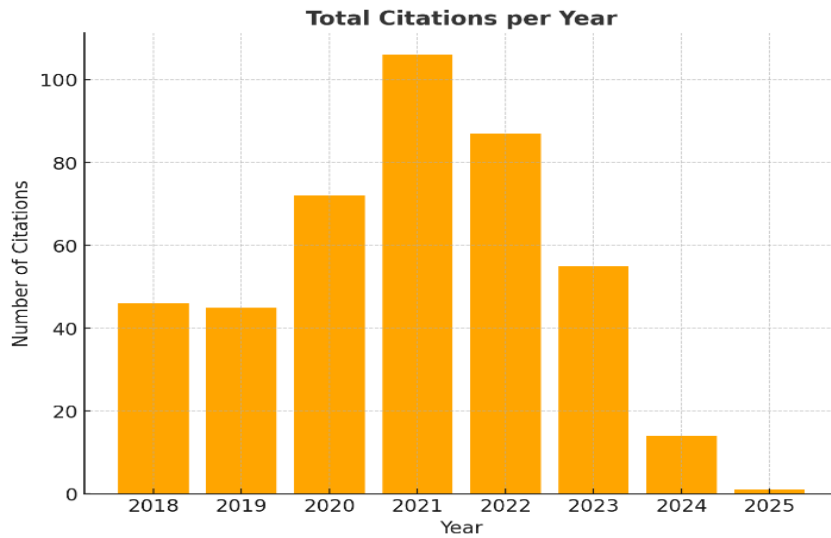
citations from six publications), and O. Yılmaz<sup>42</sup> (15 citations from two publications). All these authors are from Necmettin Erbakan University. Although the authors from Necmettin Erbakan University are dominant, there is a great variety of institutions from which the authors are from. Authors from 73 different institutions have published their articles in the journal. Among these 73 institutions, nine are located in countries other than Turkey. These foreign institutions are:

- Saint Petersburg State University (Russia)
- National University of Malaysia (Malaysia)
- Plaza General Partnership (Plaza V.O.F.) (Netherlands, Company)
- University of Passau (Germany)
- Georgetown University (USA)
- University of Nottingham (UK)
- University of Göttingen (Germany)
- Brown University (USA)
- Yakın Doğu University (Northern Cyprus Turkish Republic)

The plot of institutions with three or more publications in the journal is shown in Figure 4.

### E. Institutional Collaboration Network

To analyze collaborations between institutions, a collaboration graph (See Figure 5) is developed. In this graph, a link between two institutions indicates that the authors from those institutions collaborated on a study. Instead of a single compact core, the institutional collaboration network displays a loosely connected structure characterized by small dyads and triads. A few universities emerge as local hubs—most visibly Necmettin Erbakan



**Figure 3** Total Citations of the Journal Articles based on Publication Each Year

<sup>42</sup>Yılmaz, Orhun. “Manevi Tazminat Talebinde Tarafların Kusur Oranlarının ve Diğer Özel Hallerin Değerlendirilmesi.” Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi, vol. 2, no. 1, 2019, pp. 88. Yılmaz, Orhun. “Türk İş Hukukunda Postalar Halinde Çalışma.” Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi, vol. 1, no. 1, 2018, pp. 83.

University, Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, and Selçuk University—linking to multiple partners and public-sector actors (e.g., Adalet Bakanlığı, İstanbul Barosu). International ties are present but selective, with links to organizations such as Brown University, Georgetown University, and Plaza V.O.F., indicating occasional cross-border co-authorship. Edge widths (co-authorship counts) are not wide since many connections are single-paper collaborations, while node sizes (degree) highlight the few institutions that broker activity across clusters. We can say that the collaboration map shows an isolated-domestic, project-based collaborations. There are limited but strategic international bridges. Encouraging multi-institution teams across the existing centers can further increase collaboration.

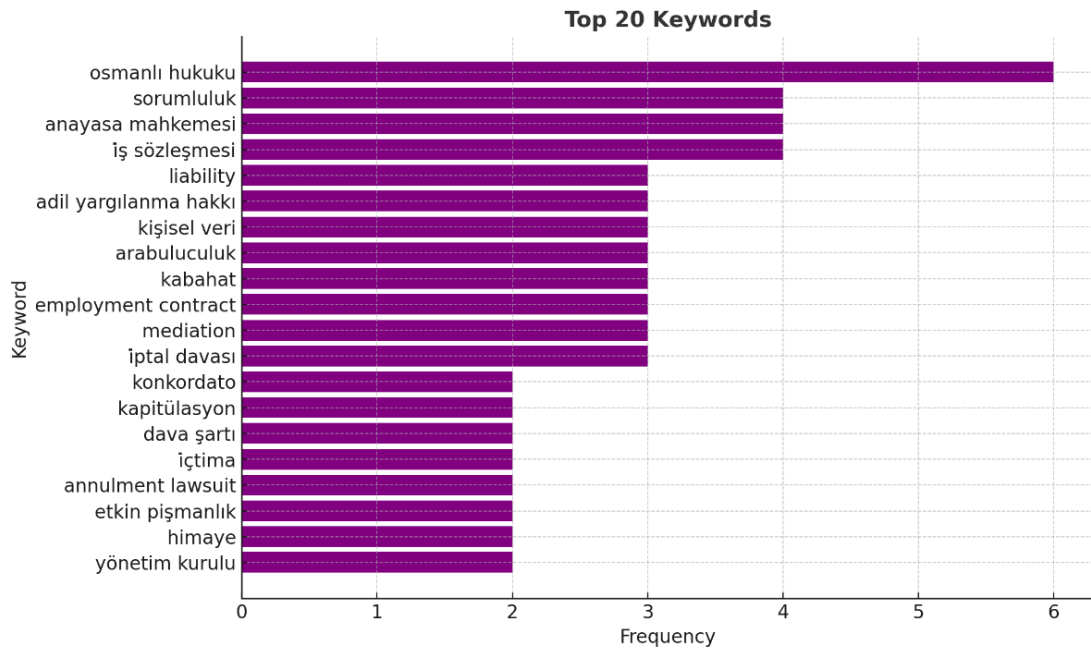
## F. Keyword Frequency and Thematic Structure

As we analyze the articles' contexts, we notice that some keywords are over-repeated compared to others. Figure 6 shows the frequency of the most repeated twenty keywords. The keyword frequency analysis reveals that "Ottoman law" is the most prominent theme. This indicates a strong scholarly interest in historical and comparative legal studies. Closely following are the terms liability, constitutional court, and employment contract, each of which reflects a focus on constitutional, civil, and labor law. The fewer repeated keywords, such as personal data, mediation, and misdemeanor, indicate an increasing attention to contemporary legal challenges, including data protection and alternative dispute resolution. Additionally, there are more specialized concepts, such as annulment lawsuits, bankruptcy protection (concordat), and capitulations, with moderate frequency. These keywords suggest focused and consistent scholarly engagement in these areas. In short, the distribution of keywords demonstrates a balanced spectrum of research. Historical perspectives and foundational legal principles coexist with modern debates on privacy, mediation, and contractual relations.

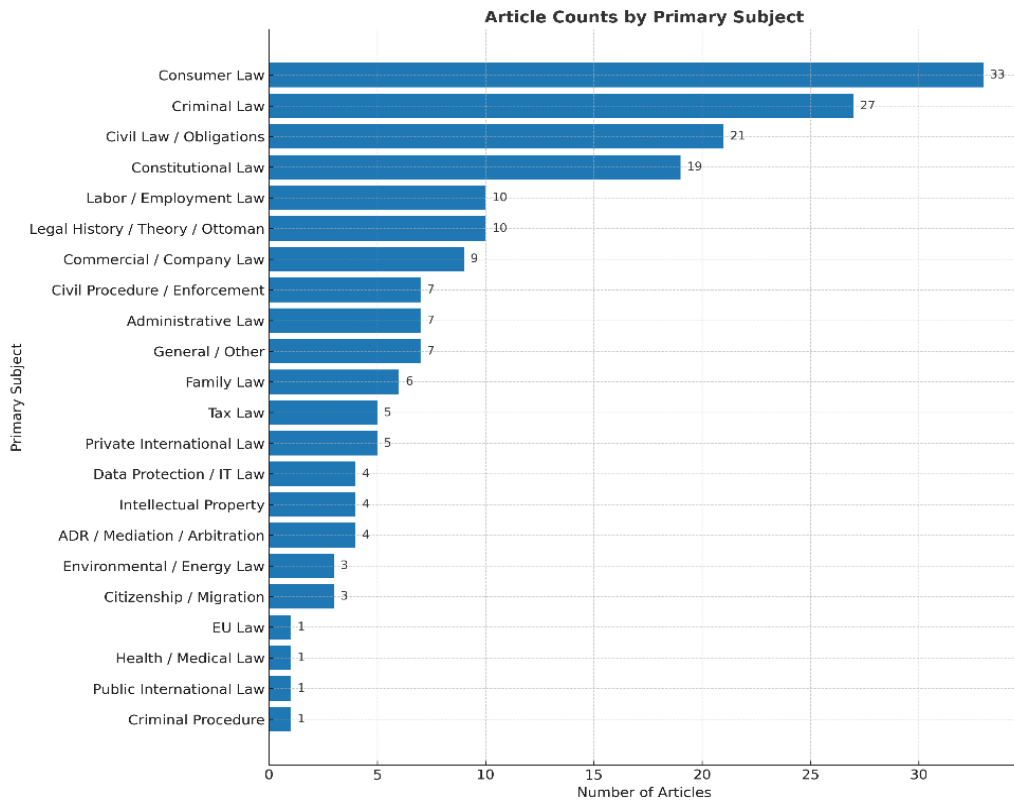
**Table 2** *The five most cited journal articles*

Title	Author	Year	Affiliation	Citation Count
Kişisel verilerin önleyici, koruyucu ve istihbari faaliyetler amacıyla işlenmesi	T Atlı	2019	N. Erbakan University	21
Tüketici hukuku uyumsuzluklarında dava şartı arabuluculuk uygulaması	BB Sarıhan	2021	N. Erbakan University	19
Kişi haklarının ihlali durumunda internet erişiminin engellenmesi	T Atlı	2020	N. Erbakan University	17
Türk iş hukukunda postalar halinde çalışma	O Yılmaz	2018	N. Erbakan University	13
Yargı kararları ışığında yıllık ücretli izin hakkı	H Kayırgan	2021	Gaziantep University	13





**Figure 6** *Most repeated twenty keywords*

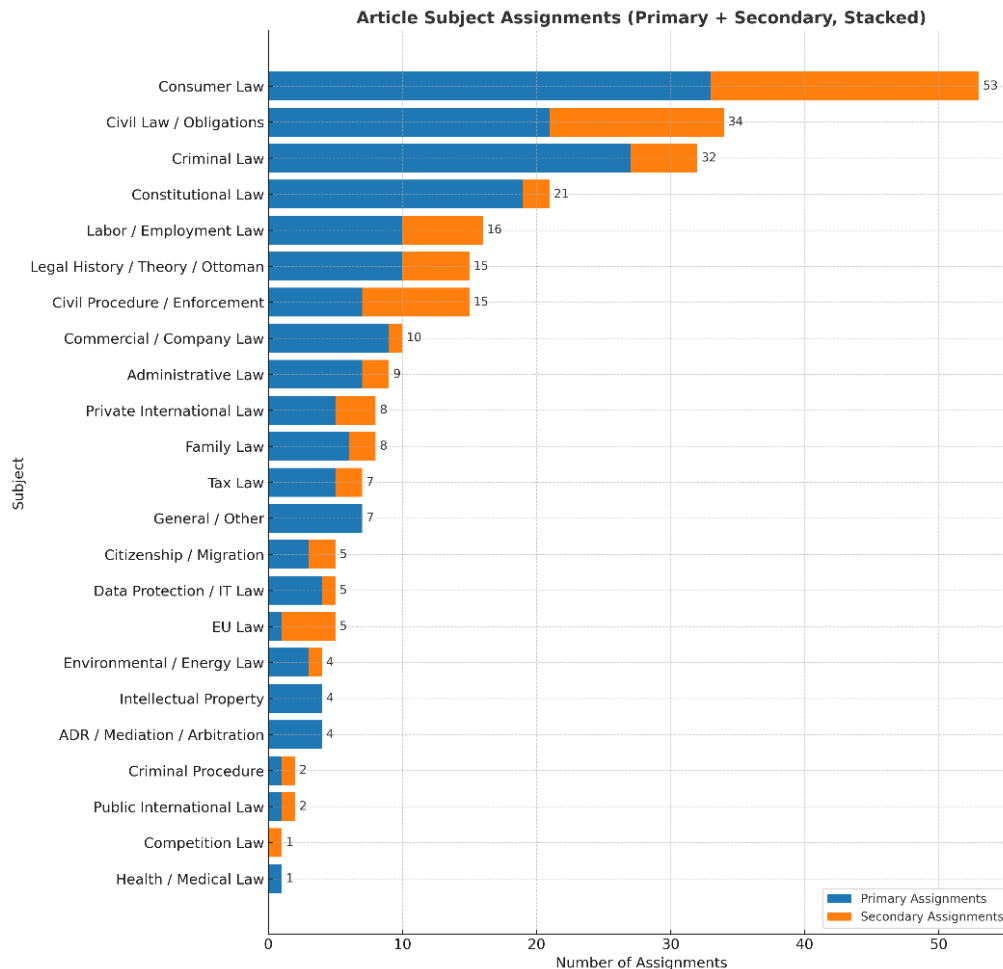


**Figure 7** *Article counts based on primary subjects*

### **G. Subject Distribution based on Keyword/Abstract Classification**

To further analyze the context variation in the articles, we use artificial intelligence to classify them based on their keywords and abstracts. Using a Large Language Model (LLM)- assisted subject classification (ChatGPT), the articles are grouped into 22 titles, as shown in Figure 7. Figure 7 shows a clear concentration of articles in a few core areas. Consumer Law leads with 33 of 188 papers

(≈18%), followed by Criminal Law (27; ≈14%), Civil Law/Obligations (21; ≈11%), and Constitutional Law (19; ≈10%). A mid-tier cluster—Labor/Employment Law and Legal History/Theory/Ottoman (each 10), and Commercial/Company Law (9)—indicates steady but more specialized activity. The remaining fields have fewer than or equal to seven papers. These fields are Civil Procedure/Enforcement, Administrative Law, Family Law, Tax Law, Private International Law, Data Protection/IT Law, Intellectual Property, and ADR/Mediation/Arbitration. Only a handful of papers appear in EU Law, Health/Medical Law, Public International Law, and Criminal Procedure (each 1), underscoring their niche presence in the dataset.



**Figure 8** Article counts based on primary and secondary subjects

For each article, along with the primary subject, a secondary subject is determined during LLM-assisted subject classification. The stacked bar chart in Figure 8 broadens this picture by incorporating secondary classifications. Still, Consumer Law remains the dominant cross-cutting theme with 53 articles. This suggests that consumer-protection issues frequently intersect with other doctrinal areas. Civil Law/Obligations (34 articles) and Criminal Law (32 articles) also show wide spillover. When secondary fields are added, Constitutional Law rises to 21 studies, reflecting its recurrent role as a background framework (e.g., rights, judicial review) rather than the sole focus. As another observation, procedure-adjacent fields such as Civil Procedure/Enforcement reach 15 studies, and Labor/Employment Law reaches 16, indicating that these topics often appear as secondary

dimensions of broader studies. By contrast, Competition Law and Health/Medical Law remain minimal (each 1 total), and Public International Law and Criminal Procedure stay small (each 2), even after secondary fields are added. When Figures 7 and 8 are combined, we can say that the portfolio is centered on private and criminal law questions with strong consumer protection salience. This portfolio is complemented by steady contributions in employment, commercial/company, and historically oriented work (Ottoman legal history). Cross-labeling trends reveal that while international and EU-focused work is rather scarce, constitutional and procedural problems usually serve as the foundation for studies in other fields. This distribution points to a doctrinal focus that is primarily domestic with sporadic excursions into cross-border or sector-specific subjects.

## CONCLUSION

This study presented a journal-level bibliometric profile of the Journal of Necmettin Erbakan University School of Law Review for 2018–September 2025. The results depict a young outlet that has expanded rapidly in volume while maintaining a coherent—yet gradually diversifying—scholarly agenda. Output more than tripled from the late-2010s to a sustained peak in 2023–2024 (39 papers each year), yielding a total of 188 articles. Using Google Scholar data retrieved via Publish or Perish, we observed 429 citations in total and an impact profile of  $h = 10$  and  $g = 12$ . As expected for a relatively recent journal, citations are unevenly distributed, and the newest issues have had limited time to accrue impact.

From a content perspective, both keyword evidence and subject classification converge on a strong private-law and criminal-law core. Keyword frequency highlights “Ottoman law” as the most prominent recurrent theme, followed by terms such as liability, constitutional court, and employment contract—indicating sustained attention to historical/legal-theory debates alongside foundational civil, constitutional, and labor-law topics. Meanwhile, less frequent but visible terms (e.g., personal data, mediation, misdemeanor) point to growing engagement with contemporary regulatory challenges such as privacy/data protection and alternative dispute resolution.

The LLM-assisted subject classification further clarifies this thematic structure. Primary-field assignments show that Consumer Law leads the portfolio (33 of 188 papers;  $\approx 18\%$ ), followed by Criminal Law (27;  $\approx 14\%$ ), Civil Law/Obligations (21;  $\approx 11\%$ ), and Constitutional Law (19;  $\approx 10\%$ ). A mid-tier cluster includes Labor/Employment Law and Legal History/Theory/Ottoman (each 10) and Commercial/Company Law (9). When secondary-field labels are considered, Consumer Law becomes an even more pervasive cross-cutting frame (53 articles), with spillovers also visible for Civil Law/Obligations (34) and Criminal Law (32). Constitutional Law and procedure-adjacent topics (e.g., Civil Procedure/Enforcement) frequently function as “background frameworks” that intersect with other doctrinal areas. In contrast, EU Law, Health/Medical Law, Public International Law, and Criminal Procedure remain niche even after secondary labeling, suggesting that international/sector-specific themes are still relatively limited within the journal’s current scope.

Collaboration patterns complement these topical findings. The institutional collaboration map indicates a sparse, multi-component network dominated by small dyads and triads, with limited foreign ties. Only 9 of the 73 represented institutions are located outside Turkey, suggesting that internationalization is present but still in an early stage. Strengthening multi-institution teams around existing domestic hubs—and promoting cross-border special issues, co-edited symposia, or targeted

calls—may increase network cohesion and improve international visibility. Based on these findings, we recommend four practical steps for editorial development:

- Internationalization: encourage bilingual titles/abstracts and standardized keywords (TR/EN) to improve global retrievability; invite guest editors from abroad.
- Collaboration incentives: highlight calls that favor multi-institution or practitioner–academic teams; recognize data- or method-sharing.
- Thematic focus with breadth: continue the strong private- and criminal-law core while curating special issues in underrepresented areas (EU law, health law, public international law) to balance the long tail.
- Impact tracking: complement citation counts with altmetrics and download data; foreground research with policy relevance to accelerate uptake.

Finally, the analysis has limitations. Coverage relies primarily on Google Scholar via Publish or Perish; database idiosyncrasies, de-duplication, and recency effects may bias counts. The subject classification, while reported transparently, can misclassify edge cases. Future work may incorporate self-citation measures, field-normalized indicators, and periodic re-runs of the analysis to monitor longitudinal change. With such enhancements, the journal is well-positioned to deepen its national influence and expand its international footprint.

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