



**Nadir İsmayilov**

<https://orcid.org/0009-0008-5541-280X>

*Associate Professor, Doctor of Philosophy in Pedagogy, Baku University, Faculty of Education and Management, Department of Educational Management, Azerbaijan nadir\_ismayil56@mail.ru*

**Haji Qasimli**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8246-1959>

*PhD student, Baku State University, Faculty of Information and Document Management library information resources management department, Azerbaijan hacı\_qasimli@list.ru*

**Dashqin Mahammadli**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6875-8091>

*Doctor of Philosophy in History, Baku State University, Faculty of Information and document management, Department of library-information resources management, Azerbaijan, dashqin.muhammedli@gmail.com*

***Atıf Künyesi | Citation Info***

İsmayilov, N., Qasimli, H. & Mahammadli, D. (2025). A Bibliometric Analysis of the Document Flow on Constitutional Law in the Republic of Azerbaijan (2000–2024). *Akademik Tarih ve Düşünce Dergisi*, 12 (4), 1004-1013.

**A Bibliometric Analysis of the Document Flow on Constitutional Law in the Republic of Azerbaijan (2000–2024)**

***Abstract***

*The adoption of the Constitution of the independent and sovereign Republic of Azerbaijan through a nationwide referendum on November 12, 1995, is one of the most significant events in the country's state and legal history. By its structure and content, this Constitution closely resembles the constitutions of developed democratic states. The consolidation of the principle of separation of powers, the delineation of the competencies of the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities, the determination of the status of local self-government, as well as the broad emphasis placed on human and civil rights and freedoms, are among the main features characterizing this similarity. Constitutional law of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as a leading branch of law, establishes the constitutional foundations of the state, the constitutional status of*



*the individual, and the system of state power and local self-government. From this perspective, the article provides a general analysis and, using bibliometric methods, examines the document flow generated in the field of constitutional law in Azerbaijan during the period 2000–2024.*

**Keywords:** *Constitutional Law, Bibliometric Analysis, Document Flow*

## **Azərbaycan Cümhuriyyəti'ndə Anayasa Hukuku Alanındaki Belge Akışının Bibliyometrik Analizi (2000–2024)**

### **Öz**

*Bağımsız ve egemen Azərbaycan Cümhuriyyəti Anayasası'nın 12 Kasım 1995 tarihinde ülke çapında yapılan bir referandumla kabul edilmesi, ülkenin devlet ve hukuk tarihindeki en önemli olaylardan biridir. Yapısı ve içeriği bakımından bu Anayasa, gelişmiş demokratik devletlerin anayasalarına büyük ölçüde benzemektedir. Kuvvetler ayrılığı ilkesinin pekiştirilmesi, yasama, yürütme ve yargı organlarının yetkilerinin belirlenmesi, yerel özyönetimin statüsünün saptanması ve insan ile yurttaş hak ve özgürlüklerine geniş yer verilmesi bu benzerliği karakterize eden başlıca özelliklerdendir. Azərbaycan Cümhuriyyəti'nin anayasa hukuku, hukukun başlıca dallarından biri olarak, devletin anayasal temellerini, bireyin anayasal statüsünü ve devlet iktidarı ile yerel özyönetim sistemini belirlemektedir. Bu açıdan bakıldığında, makale genel bir analiz sunmakta ve bibliyometrik yöntemleri kullanarak 2000–2024 döneminde Azərbaycan'daki anayasa hukuku alanında üretilen belge akışını incelemektedir.*

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** *Anayasa Hukuku, Bibliyometrik Analiz, Belge Akışı*

### **Introduction**

Bibliometric analysis of document flow refers to a method that statistically and quantitatively examines the circulation, dissemination, use, and interconnections of scientific or informational documents (such as articles, books, dissertations, etc.). It is applied to identify research trends, spheres of influence, and the dynamics of scholarly development. It should be noted that constitutional law constitutes a fundamental branch of every state's legal system. Research conducted in this field, adopted laws and legal interpretations, as well as their scholarly exegesis, play a crucial role both in the work of legal scholars and in the legislative process. In Azerbaijan, scholarly activity in the field of constitutional law has generated significant documents, particularly on issues such as state structure, separation of powers, and civil rights and freedoms. Nevertheless, the scope of document flow in this field, its structural features, and the level of scholarly inquiry have not been systematically analyzed. A bibliometric approach provides a suitable method for addressing this gap. The aim of this article is to identify the dynamics, content characteristics, and

information circulation of scientific documents on constitutional law in Azerbaijan during the period 2000–2024.

## 1. Main Part

Constitutional law determines the origins and fundamental principles of other branches of law. The field of constitutional law primarily consists of a set of constitutional norms. The Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan possesses supreme legal force within the system of normative legal acts and constitutes the foundation of the legislative system of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Azərbaycan Respublikasının Konstitusiyası, 1995). Constitutional law further defines that normative acts adopted in the Republic of Azerbaijan must be based on law and justice, as well as the types, validity, and procedures of their adoption.

Legal science is engaged in the systematization and study of normative acts, judicial decisions, and legal theories that regulate the legal order of society. The analysis of document flow in this field is of particular importance in identifying how legal information is disseminated, which topics attract the greatest attention, and in what directions scholarly activity is concentrated. For this purpose, bibliometric analysis is employed as a method of systematically examining legal documents on the basis of statistical and quantitative indicators.

Bibliometric analysis plays a significant role in the processes of creation, dissemination, and use of legal documents—legislative acts, scholarly articles, court decisions, legal opinions, and commentaries. Conducting such an analysis in the field of law enables researchers to determine the scope of influence of academic articles and legal sources, as well as to trace development trends on topical issues (İsmayilov, Mahammadli, & Gasimli, 2023).

The main directions of this analysis include the following:

**\*Analysis of legal publications flow.** This involves examining the dynamics of increase and decrease in the number of documents published annually in a particular field of law, as well as analyzing the scholarly activities of different countries and legal schools. For instance, in recent years there has been a noticeable rise in publications related to legal issues concerning digital law and artificial intelligence.

**\*Author and institutional analysis.** This direction identifies which legal scholars and institutions are most productive and the legal areas in which they specialize. Such analysis may

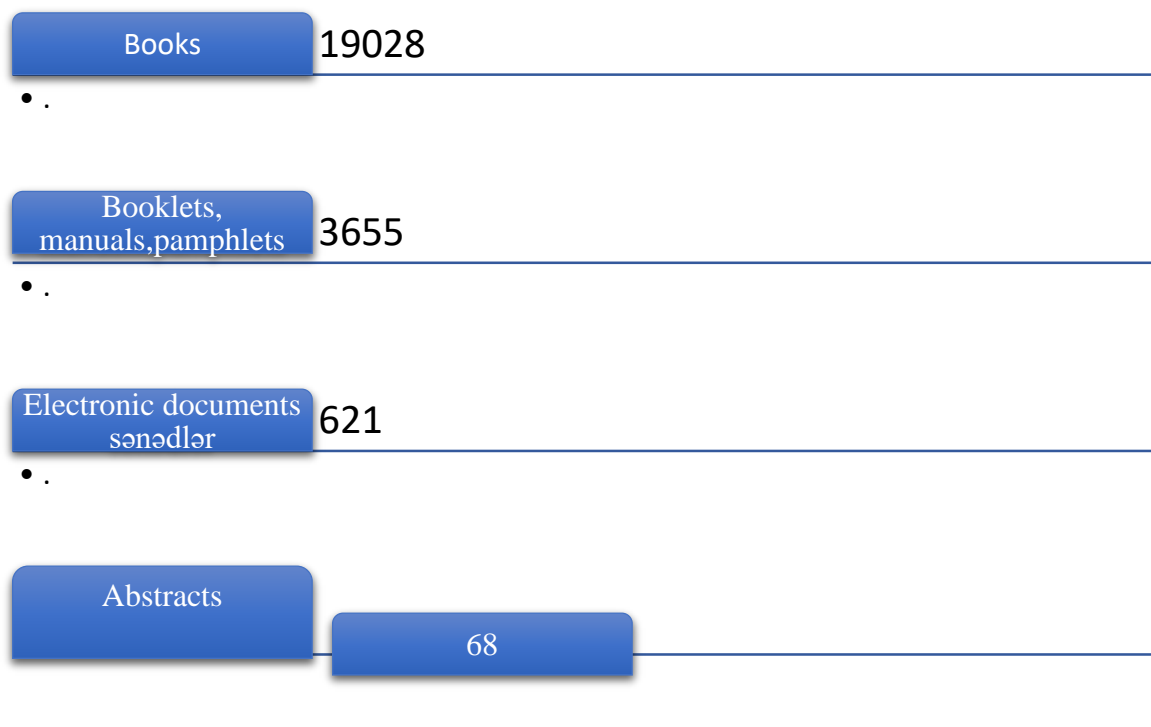
also reflect the formation of academic collaboration networks (co-authorship) and illustrate the ways in which legal science develops at the international level.

**\*Citation and impact analysis.** This consists of determining the most frequently cited articles, authors, and legal journals within the field of law. The number and structure of citations reveal the influence and scholarly reputation of legal documents. This method also helps to identify works considered “classics” in legal theory (İsmayilov, Mahammadli, & Gasimli, 2023).

**\*Thematic analysis.** This entails assessing the flow of documents on various legal topics to determine which areas have gained prominence over time. For example, an upward trend can be observed in publications related to human rights, constitutional law, environmental law, and cyber law.

**\*Structural analysis of document flow.** This examines the channels through which legal documents are disseminated—such as legal journals, digital databases, and academic conferences—and identifies the audiences they reach. This type of analysis also contributes to evaluating the potential impact of documents on legal practice and legislative initiatives.

*Document Flow in the Field of Law at the Scientific Library of Baku State University*



For the implementation of bibliometric analysis, a number of international scholarly databases (e.g., HeinOnline, Westlaw, Scopus, SSRN) and analytical tools (e.g., VOSviewer, Bibliometrix, CiteSpace) are utilized (İsmayilov & Khalafova, 2023). Through these tools, the

interconnections among legal documents, citation networks, and research clusters can be visualized and statistically assessed.

Bibliometric analysis of document flow in the field of law is crucial for gaining a deeper understanding of the development trends in legal science, assessing the quality and impact of scientific research activities, and providing a scientific basis for the formulation of legal policies (Mammadov & Mahammadli, 2025). Chronological analysis is employed to study how legal documents—such as scholarly articles, draft laws, and legal decisions—are disseminated over time, the dynamics of their publication, the periodic evolution of topical issues, and the stages through which legal discourse progresses (Ismayilov & Khalafova, 2025). The following analysis is divided into four main stages:

**\*1990–2000: Transition and Legal Reform Period**

This period represents a phase of profound changes in the legal systems of the post-Soviet space. In Azerbaijan and other CIS countries, the formation of national legislative systems is observed. Key topics in scholarly publications included constitutional law, legal reforms, the independent judicial system, and human rights protection (Nadir & Oruj, 2022). Document flow was primarily disseminated through print journals and local publications of law faculties.

**\*2000–2010: Legal Stability and International Integration Period**

This period is characterized by the stabilization of the legal system and the integration of international legal norms into national legislation. An increase in references to the European Court of Human Rights decisions is evident. Scholarly articles focused on international law, European law, and human rights and freedoms. From a bibliometric perspective, document flow began to increase, with electronic journals and digital legal databases (e.g., HeinOnline, LexisNexis) becoming more widely utilized.

**\*2010–2020: Digitalization and Multidisciplinary Approach Period**

During this phase, legal research began encompassing emerging areas such as digital law, artificial intelligence and law, and cybercrime. The number of scholarly articles increased significantly (Bayramov & Məhəmmədli, 2025). Key trending topics included cyber law and information law, environmental law, and gender law and social equality. Bibliometric tools (e.g., VOSviewer, Bibliometrix) were used to analyze citation networks and patterns of author collaboration in scholarly publications.

*Statistics on the Development Dynamics of Document Flow in Constitutional Law in the Republic of Azerbaijan (Based on the Electronic Catalog of the National Library of Azerbaijan)*

<i>Years</i>	<i>Number of Document Resources</i>
1920-1929	3
1930-1939	13
1940-1949	13
1960-1969	1
1970-1979	14
1980-1989	16
1990-1999	5
2000-2009	16
2010-2019	67
2020-2025	16
<i>Total</i>	<i>164</i>

The table presents the number of document resources across different decades, with a total of 164 documents. Based on these data, the following analysis can be made:

**\*Decade with the Fewest Documents: 1960–1969**

Only 1 document was recorded in this decade, showing a significant decline compared to other periods.

**\*Decade with the Most Documents: 2010–2019**

A total of 67 documents were produced, indicating a sharp increase in scholarly output compared to previous decades.

**\*1920–1949**

The number of documents remained relatively low: 1920–1929—3 documents; 1930–1939—13 documents; 1940–1949—13 documents. Although there was some incremental growth,

overall resources were limited. Contributing factors may include technological constraints, limited archiving practices, and the political and economic challenges of the period.

**\*1950–2000.**

A sharp decline occurred in 1960–1969 (1 document), followed by growth in the 1970s (14 documents). In the 1980s and 2000–2009 periods, 16 documents were recorded for each decade, reflecting a period of relative stability. A decrease to 5 documents is observed in 1990–1999, likely reflecting the transitional period caused by the dissolution of the USSR and Azerbaijan's independence.

**\*2010–2019**

The number of documents increased dramatically to 67, marking a peak. This surge may be associated with digitalization, the development of information technologies, and the expansion of documentation practices.

**\*2020–2025**

Sixteen documents have been recorded so far. Because this period is still ongoing, the number currently appears relatively low. Historically, there is a clear upward trend, particularly in the 21st century, with a peak in 2010–2019 (İsmayilov & Məmmədov, 2023; Efendiyev, Islamov, İsmayilov, & Dashdemirova, 2024). Variations in document output reflect changes in socio-political conditions and technological capabilities.

**\*2020–2024: Post-Pandemic and Legal Technology Era**

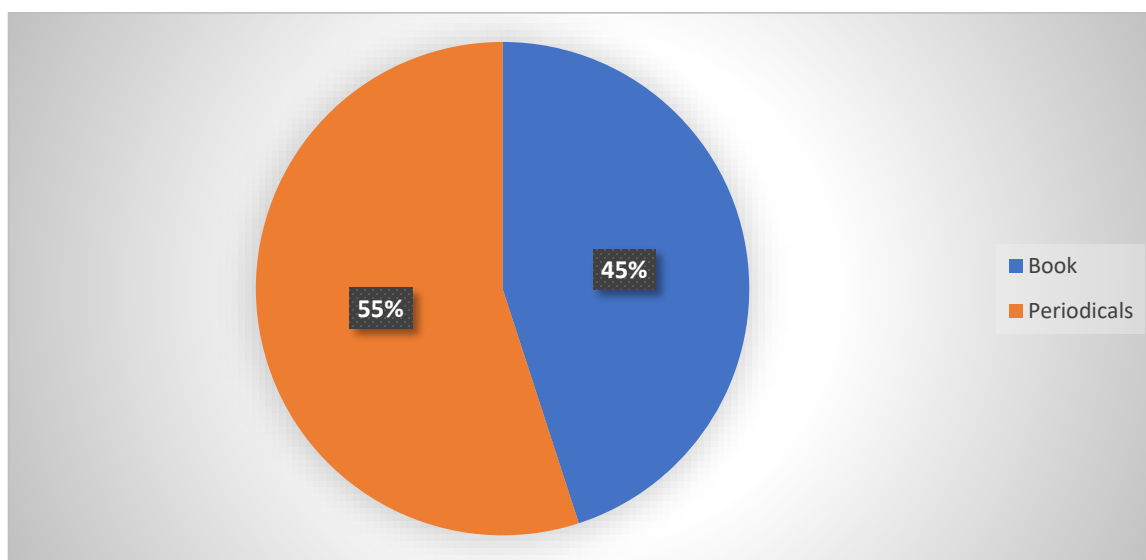
The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digital transformation in legal relations. Online courts, legal technologies (legal tech), and electronic legal services became major topics of discussion. Key emerging topics include emergency law, electronic justice systems, digital law, and data protection. During this period, the document flow is primarily facilitated through digital platforms, with increased international collaboration.

Chronological analysis demonstrates that the flow of documents in the field of law has undergone substantial changes over time, not only in terms of quantity but also in thematic diversity, dissemination channels, and research methodologies (İсмайлов & Халафова, 2022). Bibliometric methods allow for a scientific analysis of these changes and provide an objective understanding of the developmental dynamics of legal science.

Constitutional law, as a leading branch of law, is integrally connected with other branches (such as administrative law, labor law, and civil law). However, unlike other branches, constitutional law exerts legal influence over relations arising in various spheres of public life—political, social, and civic—whereas other branches regulate specific aspects of social life. The norms of constitutional law differ from those of other legal fields due to a number of distinctive features determined by the subject matter of the relations they regulate.

Unlike other branches, most constitutional law norms are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and possess a constitutive character. Constitutional norms generally consist of hypotheses, and sanctions are provided where necessary (Alizadeh & Mahammadli, 2025). Many constitutional provisions define the legal status of citizens and state bodies. The relations resulting from the implementation of these norms are further regulated by other branches of law. The enforcement of constitutional law norms is ensured both through citizens' compliance and, when necessary, through state coercive measures.

*Percentage Distribution of Legal Books and Periodicals Available in Public Libraries of the Republic*



In this field, it is noteworthy that Murtuz Najaf oglu Alasgarov has authored over 200 scientific works, including numerous monographs, textbooks, and teaching materials. He is the author of fundamental works such as *Azerbaijan: The National State Structure*, *Equal Cooperation*, and *International Legal Personality of the Young States of Asia and Africa*.

Ziyafet Abbas oglu Asgarov is a Doctor of Law and a professor. He serves as the First Deputy of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan and is a leading scholar in constitutional law. Ziyafet



Asgarov has made significant contributions to the development of legal science both theoretically and practically. In addition to teaching and research in constitutional law, he has played an active role in guiding legislation and reforms within the state system (Ismayilov & Sadigova, 2022). Planning reforms, protecting human rights, and ensuring the judicial safeguarding of legal freedoms have been among his main priorities. His fundamental scholarly works include *Constitutional Law* (Teaching Manual, 2002) and *Constitutional Law: Textbook* (2024, 3rd ed.).

Sefa Abbas oglu Mirzayev is an Azerbaijani legal scholar, PhD in Law, and Associate Professor. His contributions to the legal field are invaluable. His work *Legality and Legal Norms* (1980) remains highly relevant and influential in contemporary legal studies.

The bibliometric analysis covering the period 2000–2024 indicates that scientific activity and document flow in the field of constitutional law in Azerbaijan have developed progressively. The data show that the intensity of research in this field has increased over time, with both the quality and quantity of scientific publications particularly rising in the last decade.

#### **\*2000–2010**

During this period, the document flow in constitutional law was relatively limited (Kazimi, Ismaylov, & Rzaeva, 2023). Research primarily focused on general legal theory and the fundamental aspects of the country's constitutional framework. This phase can be regarded as an initial stage of development.

#### **\*2011–2020**

A notable increase in activity within constitutional law research was recorded during this period. Legislative changes, amendments to the Constitution, and legal reforms stimulated scholarly interest, resulting in significant growth in the number of master's theses, doctoral dissertations, and scientific articles. At the same time, research in this period increasingly took on a practical orientation.

#### **Conclusion**

During 2021–2024, research in the field of constitutional law has shown a marked increase, particularly on topics such as contemporary legal trends, human rights, constitutional reforms, electoral law, and public administration. A distinctive feature of this period is the growing use of comparative analyses with international law, increased references to foreign legal systems, and in-depth studies of the principles of a rule-of-law state.

Bibliometric indicators reveal that the majority of documents are presented in the form of scholarly articles and academic research, including master's and doctoral dissertations. Researchers from higher education and scientific institutions—such as Baku State University, the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, and the Academy of Public Administration—have been particularly active in this field.

Overall, the document flow in constitutional law in the Republic of Azerbaijan continues to grow and diversify. This trend reflects positively both on the development of legal science and on the strengthening of the country's legal foundations. Future research in this field should aim for further internationalization and greater integration with emerging areas such as digital law and the protection of human rights.

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