

# The Evaluation of Notary Studies Globally: Bibliometric Analysis

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**Abstract.** *This study aims to investigate research trends on notarial topics in published documents globally, including identifying the position of Indonesian research in this context and issues that require further exploration in this discipline. This research method involves collecting data on notary publications from various indexed journal sources in the Scopus database. Scopus was chosen because it is a popular and trusted indexer. This data was then analyzed bibliometrically to identify trends in the number of publications, the most prolific authors, and documents frequently cited in the notary field, including the research topics discussed. In addition, the position of Indonesian research in international databases is also evaluated. The research findings show that notarization is an important and fast-growing field in the global legal system. Notarial publications have steadily increased in recent years, reflecting the growing interest in the discipline globally. This research also reveals that Indonesia has contributed many publications in notary affairs, but there is still potential for further development. Topics such as digital notarization and smart contracts stand out as areas that require further exploration. This indicates the importance of adapting to technological developments and changes in legal practice. Thus, this research provides a deeper understanding of the urgency and position of the notary in navigating an increasingly complex and globally connected legal era.*

**Keywords:** *Contracts; Notary; Publication.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The notarization has deep historical roots and has become an important foundation in the legal systems of various countries.<sup>1</sup> Over time, the urgency of notarization has increased due to the growing complexity of legal and business transactions. Technological developments and globalization have also brought new challenges that require notaries to remain relevant in this digital era.<sup>2</sup> The main role of notaries is to ensure that legal documents are drafted correctly, by applicable laws, and by doing so, protect the rights of individuals and the public interest.<sup>3</sup> The validity of contracts is one of the important aspects examined by notaries, thus providing legal certainty for the

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<sup>1</sup> Cooper and McKenna, "Social Justice in Coastal Erosion Management: The Temporal and Spatial Dimensions."

<sup>2</sup> Dias Menezes, de Araújo, and Nishijima, "Blockchain and Smart Contract Architecture for Notaries Services under Civil Law: A Brazilian Experience."

<sup>3</sup> Abdillah, "Batasan Kewenangan Dan Tanggung Jawab Notaris-PPAT Dalam Edukasi Prosedur Pembuatan Akta Otentik Ditinjau Dari Pasal 51 KUHP."

parties involved.<sup>4</sup> Consumer protection is also in focus, especially in property and business transactions involving significant investments.<sup>5</sup>

Not only that, notaries also play a role in maintaining accurate legal records and serve as independent witnesses in many transactions. Notarized documents can be relied upon as evidence in legal cases, providing legal certainty to third parties involved in the transaction.<sup>6</sup> Notaries also play a role in dispute prevention and resolution. They can serve as mediators who help prevent conflicts or ease tensions between parties involved in legal agreements.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, when it comes to financial planning and inheritance, notaries provide valuable guidance in the creation of wills, ensuring that a person's estate is managed and distributed according to their wishes after they pass away.<sup>8</sup>

Thus, notarization remains important in maintaining justice, legal certainty, and public protection in various legal and financial transactions. Despite the changing times, the role of notaries in realizing these principles remains relevant, and their presence is needed to support the stability and development of society and the economy. Currently, the topic of notarization has been very much done. However, there still needs to be more specific research results and simultaneous linking with a bibliometric approach to assess and evaluate published research results.

The bibliometric approach is a very useful tool in evaluating and measuring the impact of published research.<sup>9</sup> Unfortunately, in the context of the study of notaries, the application of the bibliometric approach is still relatively minimal. This reflects its untapped potential in gaining deeper insights into this field's development and identifying dominant research trends and focuses. Applying the bibliometric approach in research can provide many benefits.<sup>10</sup> For example, by analyzing a large pool of existing publications, researchers can identify the most prolific authors, influential journals, and frequently discussed research topics. This can help in planning further research, highlight areas that may require more attention, or even uncover potential collaboration opportunities.<sup>11</sup>

In addition, the bibliometric approach can also be used to measure the impact of research in the form of citations, identify research networks, and even map the development of notarial concepts over time. This can provide a more comprehensive

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<sup>4</sup> Khairandy et al., "The Use of Electronic Media as an Innovation in Law by the Notary in Handling Agreement and Contracts: The Role of Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE) Law in Indonesia's E-Commerce."

<sup>5</sup> Yuanitasari, "The Role of Public Notary in Providing Legal Protection on Standard Contracts for Indonesian Consumers."

<sup>6</sup> Gusarov et al., "Preventive Function of a Notary in the Legal System of Society."

<sup>7</sup> Dyakovych, "Mediation as Means of Rights and Interests Protection by Notaries."

<sup>8</sup> Biemans, "Will Requirements for Last Wills Remain as They Are? The 'Physical Presence Requirement' of Witnesses and Notaries in the Light of the COVID-19 Interim Measures and the EU Freedom of (Notarial) Services."

<sup>9</sup> Baharuddin et al., "Bibliometric Analysis of Socio-Political Research on Capital Relocation: Examining Contributions to the Case of Indonesia."

<sup>10</sup> Malik et al., "Multi-Level Governance and Digitalization in Climate Change: A Bibliometric Analysis."

<sup>11</sup> Widayat et al., "Bibliometric Analysis and Visualization Articles on Presidential Election in Social Media Indexed in Scopus by Indonesian Authors."

view of how notarization is developing as a research field. With the development of technology and easier access to bibliometric data, this approach to notarization should become a priority. This can help researchers, academics, and legal practitioners to understand the dynamics of research in this field in more depth, produce more relevant research, and ultimately increase our understanding of the role and urgency of notarization in society.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research method uses bibliometric analysis, which utilizes bibliographic data (such as titles, keywords, and citations) from various scientific documents to identify scientific literature trends, patterns, and relationships. In this study, the search was conducted using the keyword "notary". The digitization resulted in 1,412 documents that were considered the most relevant. The documents obtained were transferred into the Vosviewer analysis tool. By using bibliometric analysis methods and tools such as Vosviewer, this research can provide a deeper insight into the latest trends and developments in the literature on issues of global legitimacy, especially knowing the position of Indonesian research.

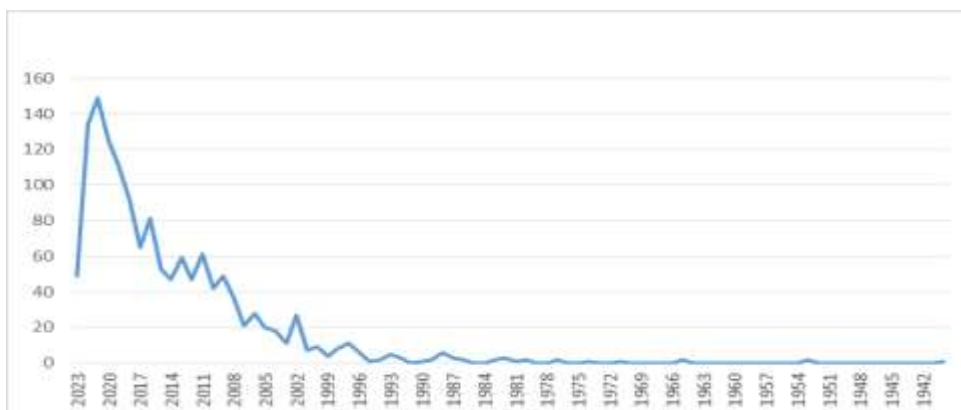
## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1. Notary: Trends in number of documents, authors, citations

In the notarization field, using a bibliometric approach has become increasingly important to evaluate trends in the number of documents, identify prominent authors, and measure research impact through citation analysis. Although notarization is an integral part of the legal system in many countries, bibliometric research in this area still needs to be completed. However, with the development of technology and data access, this method is emerging as an invaluable tool for understanding the development and urgency of notarization in modern society. In this study, we will explore key trends in the number of documents, contributions of authors, and the impact of research in the notarial domain, helping us to understand the dynamics of research and development in this field in greater depth.

The number of documents in the study of notarization is as follows:

**Figure 1.** Number of publication documents



Source: Database Scopus, 2023

The trend in the number of published documents in the field of notaries from 1940 to 2023 shows some interesting patterns. It should be noted that the initial data in the 1940s and 1950s had a very limited number, probably due to the limited accessibility and resources at that time. However, as time progressed, there was a significant increase in the number of documents related to notaries. First, from the early to mid-2000s, there was a relatively steady increase in published documents. This may reflect the gradual development in research and publications in the domain of notarization, in line with developments and changes in the law and legal practice. However, it should be noted that the number of publications remained relatively low until the 2000s.

Then, from 2007 to 2011, there was an even sharper increase in the number of documents. This could reflect the growing interest in notarization and perhaps significant changes in laws or regulations affecting this field. This trend continued until around 2021 when the documents peaked at 149 publications. However, there is a sharp decline in 2022 and 2023, with the number of publications dropping to 134 and 49, respectively. This decline could be due to various factors, including global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting research priorities in different fields.

From this analysis, the field of notaries has undergone significant development in research and publications in recent decades. Although the number of publications has fluctuated, the general trend is that. Towards an increase to a peak in the early 2020s. However, changes in the global environment and laws and regulations may affect the dynamics of the number of publications in the future. Therefore, further studies and in-depth analysis are required to understand the factors underlying these fluctuations and their impact on the development of the field of law.

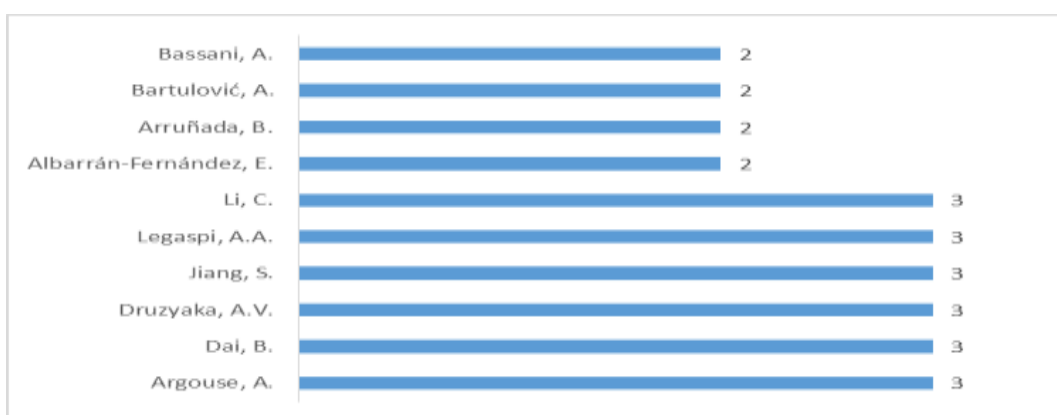
In addition to the factors identified in the previous analysis, several additional factors have influenced the dynamics of the number of publications in the field of notarization from 1940 to 2023. First, the development of information technology and the accessibility of the internet have played an important role in increasing publications in various fields, including notary public. The easier access to online resources, databases, and electronic journals has enabled researchers to access, disseminate, and publish their research more easily. This can be one of the factors that support the increase in the number of publications over time.

Secondly, legal and social issues changes may also affect the number of publications. If there are significant changes in laws or regulations about public notaries, this may trigger greater research interest in this domain. Conversely, when a particular area of law is well-established or does not undergo significant changes, the number of publications may tend to stabilize or experience a decline. Thirdly, demographic factors and changes in population structure can also affect the number of publications. For example, suppose there is an increase in legal practitioners with a special interest in notarization. In that case, this may increase the number of publications as more research is being conducted in this field.

Finally, international cooperation and knowledge exchange between countries can also affect the number of publications.<sup>12</sup> Increasingly open international communication channels, research exchanges, and collaborations between researchers from different countries can increase the number of publications that reflect a global perspective on law.<sup>13</sup> In this increasingly complex context, it is important to continuously monitor publication trends in law and analyze the factors that influence changes in the number of publications. This will help us understand how the field evolves and adapts to societal, law, and technology changes.

In addition to the trend in the number of documents, there is another trend in the number of documents by the author.

**Figure 2.** Number of documents by author



*Source: Database Scopus, 2023*

Authors who scored three documents each in the discussion of notarization, such as Argouse, A., Dai, B., Druzyaka, A.V., Jiang, S., Legaspi, A.A., and Li, C., appear to have made comparable contributions in the development of notary literature. Argouse, A., Dai, B., Druzyaka, A.V., Jiang, S., Legaspi, A.A., and Li, C., each with three documents, indicating that they have made significant contributions to the discussion of notarization. This may reflect their strong interest in legal issues and notary practice. In addition, they have also been involved in research focusing on various topics in notary law, which may include legal and practical aspects.

On the other hand, authors with two published documents such as Albarrán-Fernández, E., Arruñada, B., Bartulović, A., and Bassani, A., although having a slightly lower contribution in terms of number of publications, still play a role in developing understanding about notarization. Although their number of documents is not as high as some other authors, this does not diminish the value of their contribution in introducing key issues in notarization or exploring certain aspects of this research.

<sup>12</sup> Baharuddin et al., "Publication Trends Related to Social Capital and Governance: Bibliometric Analysis."

<sup>13</sup> Demir et al., "The Evolution of the Field of Legal Medicine: A Holistic Investigation of Global Outputs with Bibliometric Analysis."

Therefore, the role of individuals in describing the dynamics and developments in notarial research is determined by the number of publications and the substance of the research they produce. All of these authors, who have three or two documents, play a role in enriching notary literature with their various perspectives and insights. This is an example of how a diversity of authors within a research field can lead to a more complete and holistic understanding of a relevant topic.

In addition to publication trends based on the number of documents and documents by authors, there are also the number of documents that are frequently cited, namely as follows:

**Table 1.** Publication documents that are frequently cited

<b>Document title</b>	<b>Authors</b>	<b>Citations</b>
<b>The precolonial 19th century forest of the Upper St. Lawrence Region of Quebec: A record of its exploitation and transformation through notary deeds of wood sales</b>	Simard, H., Bouchard, A.	50
<b>The use of notary deeds to estimate the changes in the composition of 19th century forests, in Haut-Saint-Laurent, Quebec</b>	Bouchard, A., Dyrda, S., Bergeron, Y., Meilleur, A.	31
<b>The economics of notaries</b>	Arruñada, B.	29
<b>Are civil-law notaries rent-seeking monopolists or essential market intermediaries? Endogenous development of a property rights institution in Mexico</b>	Monkkonen, P.	21
<b>A notary archive model for secure preservation and distribution of electrically signed patient documents</b>	Ruotsalainen, P., Manning, B.	15
<b>The rise of an administrative elite in medieval Bologna: Notaries and popular government, 1282-1292</b>	Carniello, B.R.	14
<b>PADVA: A blockchain-based t1s notary service</b>	Szalachowski, P.	10
<b>Implementation of the role of notary through capital market in the ERA of asean economic community</b>	Santiago, F.	10
<b>Building a prototype based on Microservices and Blockchain technologies for notary's office: An academic experience report</b>	Sousa, P.S.D., Nogueira, N.P., Santos, R.C.D., Maia, P.H.M., Souza, J.T.D.	8

*Source: Database Scopus, 2023*

The research document "The precolonial 19th century forest of the Upper St. Lawrence Region of Quebec: A record of its exploitation and transformation through notary deeds of wood sales" has 50 citations. It is an important study of how notarial deeds were used to trace the exploitation of forests in Quebec during the 19th century.<sup>14</sup> This research explores how notarial documents can be valuable in understanding the history of natural resource use. The information from these notarial deeds provides insights into how the forests of the time were exploited and changed, allowing researchers to understand the impact of natural resource exploitation from a historical perspective.

Another study, "The use of notary deeds to estimate the changes in the composition of 19th century forests, in Haut-Saint-Laurent, Quebec," has 31 citations. This document also explores the use of notary deeds to analyze changes in forest composition, this time in the Haut-Saint-Laurent area of Quebec in the 19th century. This research highlights how valuable notarial data can be in environmental research.<sup>15</sup> The use of notarial deeds to track changes in forest ecosystems provides a deeper understanding of environmental change and its impact at the time.

The results of another study, "The Economics of Notaries," have 29 citations. This document investigates economic aspects related to notaries. This research considers the costs and benefits of using a notary in legal and business transactions. It provides an economic view of the role of notaries in society and how they affect economic efficiency.<sup>16</sup> Meanwhile, another study, "Are civil-law notaries rent-seeking monopolists or essential market intermediaries? Endogenous development of a property rights institution in Mexico," has 21 citations. This document examines the role of notaries in the legal and economic systems and whether they act as rent-seekers or important market intermediaries.<sup>17</sup>

Meanwhile, another document, "A notary archive model for secure preservation and distribution of electrically signed patient documents," has 15 citations. This document creates a notary archive model for securely storing and distributing electronically signed patient documents.<sup>18</sup> This research is relevant to technological developments in

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<sup>14</sup> Simard and Bouchard, "The Precolonial 19th Century Forest of the Upper St. Lawrence Region of Quebec: A Record of Its Exploitation and Transformation through Notary Deeds of Wood Sales."

<sup>15</sup> Bouchard et al., "The Use of Notary Deeds to Estimate the Changes in the Composition of 19th Century Forests, in Haut-Saint-Laurent, Quebec."

<sup>16</sup> Arruñada, "The Economics of Notaries."

<sup>17</sup> Monkkonen, "Are Civil-Law Notaries Rent-Seeking Monopolists or Essential Market Intermediaries? Endogenous Development of a Property Rights Institution in Mexico."

<sup>18</sup> Ruotsalainen and Manning, "A Notary Archive Model for Secure Preservation and Distribution of Electrically Signed Patient Documents."

modern notary practice and highlights the importance of security in electronic medical documentation. The next topic, "The rise of an administrative elite in medieval Bologna: Notaries and popular government, 1282-1292," has 14 citations. This document provides historical insight into the notary's role in medieval society in Bologna.<sup>19</sup> This study discusses how notaries contributed to government and popular government development in that period. This illustrates the role of the notary in the context of history and social development.

Another study, "PADVA: A blockchain-based TLS notary service," has 10 citations. This document attempts to understand the use of blockchain technology in notary services to ensure the security and integrity of transactions. This research reflects on the latest technological applications in notary practice and how these innovations affect modern practice.<sup>20</sup>

Meanwhile, "Implementation of the role of notary through capital market in the ERA of ASEAN economic community" has 10 citations. This document discusses the role of a notary in the capital market, particularly in the context of the ASEAN Economic Community. This research is relevant to the role of notaries in supporting economic and investment transactions in the ASEAN region, highlighting their importance as supervisors and guarantors of transparency in economic transactions.<sup>21</sup>

The research document "Building a prototype based on Microservices and Blockchain technologies for notary's office: An academic experience report" has 8 citations. This document reports academic experience trying to implement blockchain technology and microservices in a notary's office.<sup>22</sup> This research describes efforts to incorporate the latest technology in notary practice, creating an understanding of the possibility of technological change in this industry.

Meanwhile, "The notary-based PKI a lightweight PKI for long-term signatures on documents" has 8 citations. This document discusses the use of notaries in Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and long-term document signatures. This study highlights the role of notaries in ensuring the long-term security and validity of documents, explaining their relevance in the context of electronic document security.<sup>23</sup>

These ten documents reflect various aspects of notary-hood, from historical aspects to economics, technology, and the role of notaries in social and economic developments. They also reflect on the role of notaries in various contexts, from the environment to

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<sup>19</sup> Carniello, "The Rise of an Administrative Elite in Medieval Bologna: Notaries and Popular Government, 1282-1292."

<sup>20</sup> Szalachowski, "PADVA: A Blockchain-Based Tls Notary Service."

<sup>21</sup> Santiago, "Implementation of the Role of Notary through Capital Market in the ERA of Asean Economic Community."

<sup>22</sup> Sousa et al., "Building a Prototype Based on Microservices and Blockchain Technologies for Notary's Office: An Academic Experience Report."

<sup>23</sup> Vigil et al., "The Notary Based PKI a Lightweight PKI for Long-Term Signatures on Documents."

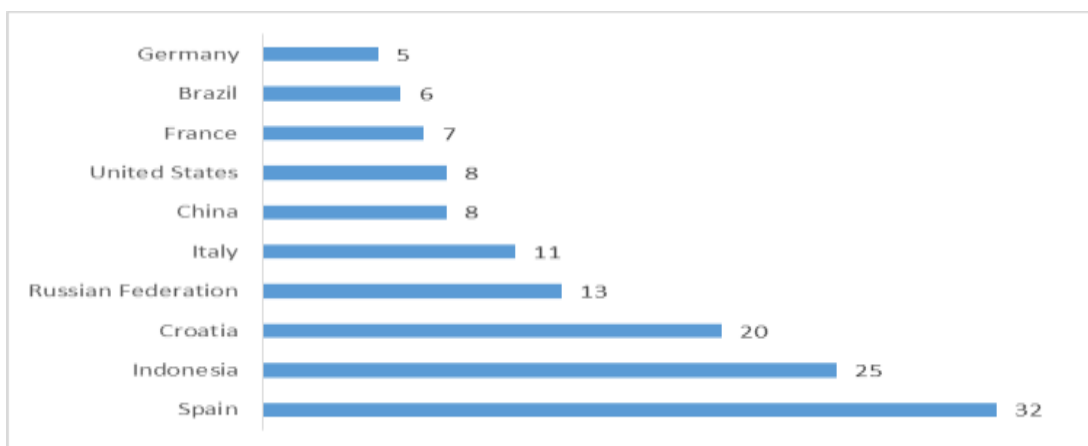


international business, illustrating the importance of notaries as key players in the legal and economic system.

### 3.2. Notary: Research position in Indonesia

A notary is a crucial field in the legal system in many countries, including Indonesia.<sup>24</sup> In the Indonesian context, a notary is responsible for preparing valid legal deeds, such as agreements, wills, and others.<sup>25</sup> The position of research in Indonesia related to notary practice is increasingly important, along with developments and changes in the legal system, technological developments, and socio-economic challenges related to notary practice. The position of research on notary based on publication documents is seen as follows:

**Figure 3.** Number of documents by country affiliation



Source: Database Scopus, 2023

Data on the number of documents related to notary affairs from various countries shows the extent of research development in this field globally. From the data provided, Spain leads in the number of documents related to notarization, with 32 documents. This reflects Spain's significant research interest and contribution in exploring various aspects of notary practice and its legal system. On the other hand, Indonesia, with 25 documents, also shows a strong commitment to notary research. However, it should be noted that notary research in Indonesia is still in its infancy, and there is great potential to explore further aspects, such as the role of notaries in economic and legal developments in the country.

Indonesia's research position in a global context provides an opportunity to further contribute to the development of international notary-hood. In the era of globalization, knowledge and best practices in the notary field can move between countries. Indonesia can play an active role in sharing experiences and developing better notary

<sup>24</sup> Keumala, "The Dialectic of Notary Inheritance Deed Arrangement."

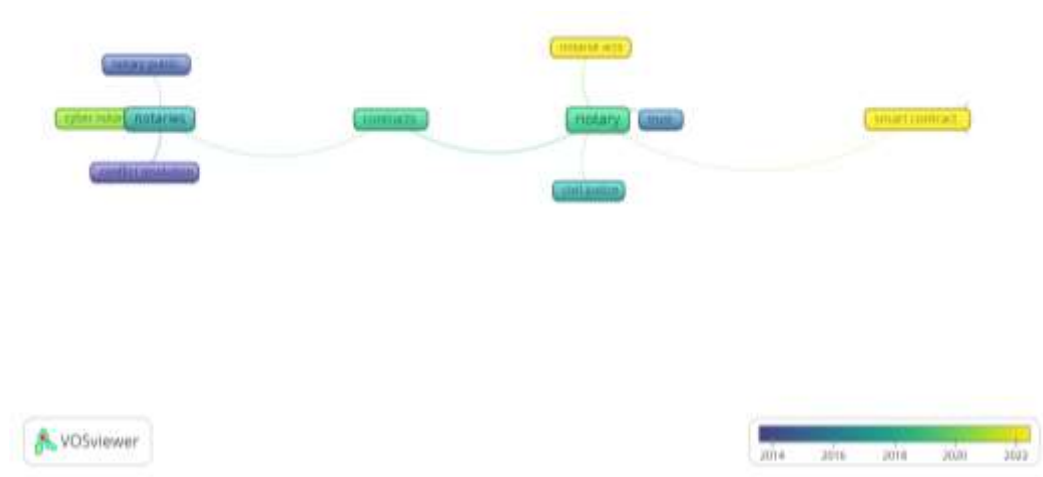
<sup>25</sup> Abdillah and Sahindra, "Spesialitas Notaris-PPAT Sebagai Profesi Dan Jabatan Dalam Sistem Hukum Indonesia Specialties of Notary-PPAT as a Profession and Position In the Indonesian Legal System."

practices in various countries. By increasing the quantity and quality of notary research, Indonesia can play a more significant role in directing the development and standards of notary practice globally. This can support the formation of notary practice that is more efficient and ethical and by developments in international law and technology. Thus, Indonesia can use this opportunity to strengthen its position in the international legal community and improve the domestic legal and business environment.

### 3.3. Notary: Relevance of research topics and recommendations

This study further discusses several topics that are relevant in exploring notarial issues. These topics are seen as follows:

**Figure 4.** Relevance of research topics



*Source: Processed by researchers using Nvivo 12 Plus, 2023*

Notarization is a broad and constantly evolving field in the context of law and modern society. Some topics commonly discussed in notary research include conflict resolution, the role of public notaries, trust, civil justice, and contracts. Research in this area has provided important insights into how notaries can play a key role in maintaining the rule of law, facilitating business transactions, and overseeing civil justice processes. In the future, there is a great opportunity to continue to explore these aspects and develop better recommendations to optimize the notary's role in an increasingly complex legal practice.

In addition, some topics are relatively new and require further exploration in notarization, such as cyber notaries and smart contracts. Research in this field explores how notaries can adapt to technological developments and the needs of an increasingly digital society.<sup>26</sup> Recommendations and findings from this research can form the basis for developing relevant regulations and innovations in notarization practices in this digital era. Thus, research in notarization is not only about

<sup>26</sup> Khairandy et al., "The Use of Electronic Media as an Innovation in Law by the Notary in Handling Agreement and Contracts: The Role of Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE) Law in Indonesia's E-Commerce."

understanding current practices but also about preparing for future practices. By continuing to explore these topics and linking them to technological developments and social change, we can ensure that the role of notaries remains relevant and effective in supporting the rule of law and business processes in a changing world.

The findings of notarization research will have a significant impact on guiding notarization practice and future legal developments. With the increasing complexity of business transactions and continuous technological changes, these findings will be important in increasing the efficiency, integrity, and relevance of notarization in modern society. From improvements in digital notarization practice to a better understanding of the role of notaries in conflict resolution, research recommendations, and findings will form the basis for better legal reforms and more effective use of technology in notarization practice. This will also help create a more equitable and inclusive legal environment where the public has better access to notary services. Thus, the contribution of the findings of this study in the future is to form better, more efficient, and more in line with developments in society and technology.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

A notary is an integral part of the legal system in almost all countries. It is the profession responsible for the creation, verification, and legalization of legal documents that significantly impact the rights and obligations of individuals and business entities. The urgency of notarialism cannot be underestimated because the role of a notary is very important in maintaining legal order, justice, and trust in society. Notarization research has experienced a significant increase in recent years, reflecting growing interest in the field globally. Although it has contributed to a significant number of publications, Indonesia still has the potential to further develop notary research, especially in exploring new topics such as digital notarization and smart contracts. This is an exciting time to undertake deeper notarization research, shaping future notarization practice. These findings can be considered for future research for study development.

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