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Abstract

This study aims to underscore the contribution of the China-USA relationship under the bibliometric lens published in the Web of Science core collections. The study employed a bibliometric approach of content analysis. The findings reveal that a total of 10,035 publications on US-China were recorded in the Web of Science, and the majority of them were journal articles (83%), and 37.5% of them were open-access articles. The collection also reveals that the International Relations subject remained a highly contributing discipline with 13.8%, followed by astronomy, political science, and area studies. Furthermore, the most influential contributors were from China, such as Zhang Y, Wang J, and Wang Y, while the institutional-wise records show that the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Peking University, Tsinghua University, and the University of California System were at the forefront. The record also reveals that China has contributed 65.4%, followed by the USA

with 28.1% of publications. The publisher record reveals that Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, and Elsevier were the highest contributors, while publications in the English language remained the highest (96.2%). The study concludes that the literature on US-China is expanding exponentially at the global level in diverse disciplines. Recommendations include expanding open access, multilingual outputs, and collaborative research in order to enrich the academic discourse.

Keywords: Bibliometric Analysis; US-China Relations; Web of Science; Statistical Analysis; Research Productivity

Introduction

The relationship between China and the United States has been regarded as one of the most consequential bilateral engagements, particularly in global political discourse. In scholarly literature, the relationship between the two countries has been extensively examined over the last two decades, with particular attention to the balance of power, cooperation, and competition. Some scholars argue that U.S.–China relations have evolved from initial encounters in the late 18th century to a state of complex interdependence and strategic competition in the 21st century. After the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949, the relationship between the U.S. and China remained tense until President Nixon's 1972 visit, followed by the establishment of formal diplomatic ties

in 1979.[1] The relationship between the two powers has become complex, marked by various aspects, including economic interdependence, strategic competition, and areas of cooperation and conflict. Most scholars argue that the relationship between the two nations is concerning in terms of human rights, military power, technology, and trade.[2]

The relationship between China and the USA is characterized by a competitive framework and turbulence over various issues. Some political scholars have argued that both countries have undergone a period of tension and cooperation, such as the issue of trade, the status of Taiwan, and climate change. The present study underscores the bibliometric. The relationship between the two powers remains turbulent, characterized by a competitive framework that has been a long-standing goal for the U.S. Scholars in international politics have argued that both nations have experienced periods of tension and cooperation over various issues, including trade, climate change, and the status of Taiwan. The study aims to examine the relationship between the U.S. and China through a bibliometric lens, encompassing the turbulence in their relationship.

Bibliometrics has been a topic of great interest in the scholarly realm over the last few decades. Alan Pritchard coined the word

[1]Weishu Liu et al., "Feature Report on China: A Bibliometric Analysis of China-Related Articles, "*Scientometrics* 102, no. 1 (2015):503–17,https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-014-1371-y.

[2] George Alessandria et al., "Trade War and Peace: U.S.-China Trade and Tariff Risk from 2015–2050," *Journal of International Economics* 155 (May 2025): 104066, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jinteco.2025.104066.

bibliometrics in 1969 in his seminal paper "Statistical Bibliography or Bibliometrics.[3]

The purpose of bibliometric studies is to provide a systematic evidence-based lens to understand how scholarly, diplomatic, and policy debates evolve. Bibliometrics helps identify how much research is being produced on the relations between two countries, i.e., (China-US relationships). It serves as a mirror of how global scholarship represents, debates, and influences international relations, providing both academics and policymakers with insights that pure political analysis alone cannot capture. Bibliometric studies serve as a mirror of how global scholarship represents, debates, and influences international relations. Bibliometric analysis can also provide insights to both academics and policymakers that cannot be captured through the lens of pure political analysis.[4]

The Web of Science is the pioneering work of Eugene Garfield, who introduced the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) in 1960. In 1964, the ISI introduced the Science Citation Index (SCI). Initially, SCI only covered the Arts & Humanities; however, in 1997, the index was integrated into an online platform named Web of Science, making it globally accessible to researchers worldwide. The database was acquired by Thomson Reuters in 1992 and later by

[3] Abid Hussain and Arslan Arif, "Bibliometric Analysis of Regional Studies–A Quarterly Journal of Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad, Pakistan," *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-Journal)* 5157 (2021): 1–21.
[4] Juan M. Gil-Barragan et al., "A Bibliometric Analysis of China–Latin America Economic and Political Relations," *Latin American Policy* 11, no. 2 (2020): 290–312, https://doi.org/10.1111/lamp.12191.

Clarivate in 2016.[5] Web of Science is one of the most authoritative databases for academic citation indexing agencies. Its role is highly commendable for content analysis research, like bibliometric studies and research evaluation in global academic visibility. To understand the contours of scholarly works, the Web of Science provides an evidence-based framework by incorporating dynamic disciplines such as institutions, document types, publishers, and citation patterns, which shape the academic discourse. This study aims to highlight the published work on the China-US relationship, particularly in political science, international relations, and other specialized fields such as technology and health, alongside traditional disciplines. [6]

The Web of Science has revealed that a substantial number of publications have been published on the China-US relationship across various domains. The study reveals that extensive knowledge has been contributed to both countries, particularly in social sciences, applied sciences, and natural sciences.[7] Similarly, another study demonstrates that, among other disciplines, energy and environmental science have been identified as key areas of focus in both countries. However, despite political friction, collaborative

[5] Junwen Zhu and Weishu Liu, "A Tale of Two Databases: The Use of Web of Science and Scopus in Academic Papers," *Scientometrics* 123, no. 1 (2020): 321–35, https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-020-03387-8.
[6] Yujie Qi, "Bibliometric Analysis of Research Trends in Chinese Cultural and Creative Industries," *Frontiers in Communication* 10, no. 5 (2025): 1–21, https://doi.org/10.3389/fcomm.2025.1520966.
[7] Qiu Ma et al., "A Bibliometric Analysis of Evolution of Global and Chinese Nursing Scientific Publications," *Open Journal of Social Sciences* 11, no. 10 (2023): 649–59, https://doi.org/10.4236/jss.2023.1110038.

research addressing climate change, renewable energy, COVID-19, and health sciences remains the most contributing disciplines of both countries. A study of a scholar postulates that social sciences, particularly international relations and security studies, remain highly visible in the literature, reflecting scholarly debates on trade, geopolitical competition, technology rivalry, and defense studies. In a multidimensional and interdisciplinary character, these disciplines have been illustrated as the most distinct characteristics of both China and the USA.[8]

The bibliometric types of research cover a wide array of publications, such as the most dynamic authors, publishers, and most cited articles with significant contributions from different countries. For bilateral types of research, bibliometric analysis has gained enormous attention over the last few decades. The data in Web of Science reveals a tremendous growth in bilateral research in countries like the USA and China. Both countries have contributed a handsome scholarship covering diverse areas of interest like science and technology, economics, engineering, medical sciences, and defense. The study also reveals that, after 2017, a relative slowdown occurred in sensitive domains such as Artificial Intelligence and advanced technology, due to restrictions on collaboration and

[8] Ping Zhou et al., "University-Industry Collaboration in China and the USA: A Bibliometric Comparison," *PLOS ONE* 11, no. 11 (2016): e0165277, https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0165277.

geopolitical tensions between the two countries.[9] Some scholars argue.[10] There have been alarming surges in scholarly research on COVID-19, particularly on vaccine development, epidemiology, and public health between 2020 and 2022.

The published literature also highlights that bibliometric analysis provides key insights into diverse disciplines such as medical science, engineering, and agriculture. This contribution reflects the document on the bibliometrics from both countries (the US and China). The literature also reveals that articles on China and the US are dominated by journal articles, which comprise nearly 80% of the research landscape. The data reveal that scholarship between China and the USA plays a pivotal role in scholarly communications because both are contributing innovative research on areas such as health, economics, political science, and information technology. In a bilateral relationship, both countries contribute depth and breadth in their scholarly communications. The data also underscore that the Chinese Academy of Sciences is one of the leading institutions in environmental sciences, nanotechnologies, and life sciences from the Chinese side. On the other side, Harvard, MIT, and Stanford

[9] Abid Hussain and Saeed Ullah Jan, "Mapping of Research Output of the Journal 'Strategic Studies' Islamabad: A Statistical Review," *International Journal of Librarianship and Information Science (IJoLIS)* 5, no. 3 (2020): 55–61.
[10], "Strategy of Libraries and Librarians during COVID-19," *This Paper Was Originally Published in the International Journal of Law, Humanities & Social Science*, 2021, https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5232341.

have contributed highly cited articles across international relations, health science, and modern technologies.[11]

The data also reveals that the social science domain remains the most dynamic discipline in both China and the USA. Few scholars have highlighted that Peking University and Tsinghua University from China, Columbia and George Washington University in the US have contributed a handsome amount of scholarships on trade, diplomacy, and security issues. The data in Web of Science also reveals that scholarship between China and the US relies on leading academic publishers like Elsevier, Springer Nature, and Routledge. The study of [12] Indicates that Taylor & Francis dominates other publishers, with a recorded knowledge share of 15.1%. The recorded knowledge shows that SpringerLink and Routledge play vital roles in interdisciplinary research. These combinations of commercial publishers and university presses ensure the dissemination of high-quality knowledge, both in terms of disciplinary depth and interdisciplinary breadth.

This study aims to highlight the bibliometric evidence from the Web of Science and demonstrate the quality of scholarship on China-US relations in both expansive and dynamic ways, reflecting a balance

[11] Xin Su et al., "China-US Relations and Cybersecurity: A Study of Bilateral Cyberattack Patterns Based on Big Data Analysis," *2025 2nd International Conference on Smart Grid and Artificial Intelligence (SGAI)*, IEEE, 2025, 1507–10, https://ieeexplore.ieee. org/ abstract/document/11009352/.

[12] Abid Hussain, "Research Output of Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science (CJILS): A Bibliometric Analysis from 1993-2021.," *Library Philosophy & Practice* 1515, no. 5 (2022): 1–15.

of traditional concerns, trade, security, diplomacy, and emerging themes such as AI, public health, and sustainability in real-world developments. Scholarships in both countries, China and the USA, have been contributed to in various domains, but scholars have given very little attention to this area (Bibliometric).

The present paper is the first attempt to synthesize the published literature on both China-US relations, with a focus on specific areas such as authorship patterns, the most dynamic publishers, institution-wise contributions, year-wise collaborations, and the types of documents contributed by different scholars from various regions. The research will contribute to scholarly knowledge for policymakers, academics, and scholars across different domains.

Literature Review

The relations between China and the USA shape the global economy, technology governance, security architecture, and climate cooperation, and their policy swings ripple through worldwide research. There has been tremendous growth between the two countries over the last few decades. The recent scholarship between the two countries shows a rapid scientific convergence to partial decoupling and selective rivalry in some areas and retreat in others. Mapping these ebbs and flows has become an essential task for the scholarly realm, making this area a crucial tool for the diffusion of new knowledge. As a rising power with its mission, China has made strides to excel in every aspect of life, whether it is industry,

agriculture, defense, science and technology, or global politics. For researchers and librarians, the bilateral relationship is more than geopolitics.

Hence, the intended paper directly affects grant frameworks for scholars of different disciplines to collect and present data through a bibliometric lens. Bibliometrics has been a topic of great interest in the scholarly realm over the last few decades. The word bibliometric was coined by Alan Pritchard in 1969 in his seminal paper "Statistical Bibliography or Bibliometrics. [13]. The purpose of bibliometric studies is to provide a systematic evidence-based lens to understand how scholarly, diplomatic, and policy debates evolve. Bibliometrics helps identify how much research is being produced on the relations between two countries, i.e., (China-US relationships).

Bibliometric and scientometric analyses systematically mine publication metadata, examining various aspects such as authors, affiliations, citations, keywords, journals, and document types to chart volume, influence, and collaborative networks over time. This converts diffuse literature into comparable indicators—growth rates, institutional centrality, and topic evolution. [14]

[13] Muhammad Ismail et al., "Research Contributions of Top-Ranking Universities of Pakistan in SCOPUS Database: A Bibliometric Analysis," *Journal of Information Management and Library Studies* 6, no. 1 (2023): 14–23.
[14] Abid Hussain, "Bibliometric Analysis of Global Policy: A Scholarly Journal of Durham University, UK," *Access: An International Journal of Nepal Library Association* 3, no. 2 (2024): 65–75, https://nepjol.info/index. php/access /article/view/69421.

There have been global trends to encompass published research across diverse disciplines, including science and technology, global politics, and various journals and scientific publications.[15] Different sources of bibliometrics have been introduced in the form of various databases, such as the Scopus index, which is maintained by Elsevier. Google Scholar is another indexing agency that offers extensive coverage to complement mainstream databases in citation analysis. Open Alex has emerged as a free and open-access model for bibliometric mappings, supporting large-scale analysis.[16] Similarly, other databases, such as PubMed, which is highly popular for bibliometric analysis of biomedical resources, are used for domain-specific bibliometric studies in health and life sciences due to their comprehensive indexing of biomedical literature.

Among them, the role of Web of Science (WoS) has been widely recognized by the scholarly realm. It is considered one of the oldest curated citation databases for its structural indexing. The present study is based on bibliometric analyses of the Web of Science, which Clarivate owns. Currently, Web of Science is one of the most authoritative academic citation indexing agencies, serving as a vital tool for bibliometric studies, global academic visibility, and research evaluation. Recent studies in WoS have shown that the WoS core

[15] Zhu and Liu, "A Tale of Two Databases."
[16] Ikram Ul Haq et al., "Evaluating the Scholarly Literature on Information Literacy Indexed in the Web of Science Database," *Library Philosophy & Practice*, 2021, 1–17, https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5230/.

collection remains a common backbone of its curated indexing and is vital for longitudinal comparisons between China and the USA. [17]

Bibliometric evidence from the Web of Science (WoS) shows that while the People's Republic of China and the United States remain the leading contributors to scholarship on their bilateral relationship, several other countries have emerged as dynamic participants. China is contributing nearly one-fifth of economic studies, international relations, security, and environmental studies, which is a growing academic investment in international indexing agencies. The United States, with its established research infrastructure, continues to dominate in policy-oriented and theoretical analyses of global governance and strategic competition.[18]

A dynamic shift has occurred in the global political and economic landscape between China and the USA. This global landscape has intensified scholarly interest in the evolving relationship between the two countries. Multiple perspectives, including trade, security, diplomacy, cultural exchange, and technology, have given rise to an expanding body of literature over the last few decades. As a result, an expanding body of literature has emerged that examines various dimensions of China-USA interactions, which further highlights

[17] Haibin Chen et al., "A Bibliometric Investigation of Life Cycle Assessment Research in the Web of Science Databases," *The International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment* 19, no. 10 (2014): 1674–85, https://doi.org/10.1007/s11367-014-0777-3.
[18] Hussain, "Bibliometric Analysis of Global Policy."

their strategic competitions, cooperation in global governance, soft power diplomacy, and knowledge production.

Traditional qualitative approaches, such as studies of international relations and political economy, have begun to identify leading journals, influential authors, and research clusters that shape the discourse on China-US relations. However, there is still a scarcity of bibliometric analysis on the subject matter. As the global demands of the scholarly realm rely on point information, the role of bibliometric methods is useful in providing a qualitative overview of how academic intentions in these bilateral relations have evolved, revealing citation structures, co-authorship networks, and thematic development across disciplines.

While some prior works have analyzed the U.S.–China relations through regional or issue-based lenses, few have systematically employed bibliometric tools to assess global scholarly output. There is still a big gap in the subject, which needs further attention to draw a holistic knowledge in the field, particularly on US-China relations in the shape of a bibliometric approach to examine the research productivity of the present generation and beyond. This study aims to pose the central question of what the research trends are in US-China relations in the Web of Science for the last two decades. Using a bibliometric approach, this study highlights the most productive journals, influential scholars, publishers, and subjects to evaluate their research themes over time. The present study

provides a holistic approach, discusses the broader research trends, and offers recommendations for future studies.

Research Questions

1. How have publication patterns (year-wise outputs, document types, open-access categories, and subject classifications) shaped the trajectory of scholarship on U.S.–China relations?
2. Who are the most influential authors, institutions, and countries contributing to the study of U.S.–China relations?
3. What are the dominant thematic areas, citation clusters, and subject-wise contributions in research on U.S.–China relations?

Research Method

The present study employed a bibliometric approach to analyze the US-China relations. Data was extracted from the Web of Science Databases using different keywords such as China-US relations, US-China trade war, US-China technology, and many others. A total 10 of 035 records were retrieved and analyzed. The bibliometric approach has become one of the trending research areas among diverse disciplines. This approach provides empirical knowledge for the scholarly realm. The most extensive research patterns across the world provide a point of view and an overview of publications based on the different aspects, such as the most dynamic authors, publishers, contributors, and citations of the subject matter. This approach provides timely and state-of-the-art information to scholars

working in different fields. The scholar did not apply the restriction to extract maximum data on different subjects, such as international relations, political science, technology, and defense, to track publication trends more widely.

The data was imported into Excel sheets and synthesized carefully to categorize them into document type, open access, subject categories, and the most dynamic institutions. Furthermore, the study identified the leading authors on China-US, the most dynamic institutions, countrywide contributions, publisher-wise outputs, and language distribution to assess the global spread and accessibility of the literature. To provide comprehensive insights across categories, quantitative indicators such as record counts and percentages were calculated against the total dataset (N = 10,035). The data was presented in tables, line graphs, and charts to provide a comprehensive overview with a multidimensional picture. Each table was carefully explained and presented in a sequential order, instilling in the minds the bibliometric theme.

Findings

Table 1 shows the year-wise distribution of articles on US-China relations. The data indicates that there has occurred an upward trend in the scholarly output between 2017-2024, the data also reveals that the most highest years in terms of contribution was 2023 with (914; 9.11%), while in the year 2024 (898; 8.95%) which is the second most productive year, however, in year 2022 (816; 8.13%) was

released which is again a stunning growth, the data further evaluate that during 2017, a study growth was found with (511; 5.09%) to 2021 (737; 7.34%) this reflects that there has occurred a surge on topics such as economic, technologies and geopolitics between the two countries.

The data also reveals that a spike in growth occurred between 2020 and 2021; the data published between these two years is mostly relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic. This reshapes a global dynamic in the relationship between the two countries. Interestingly, the year 2025 shows (517; 5.15%), which indicates a slight decline compared to the previous years. While the data shows that very low accounts for 2026 with 2026 (2; 0.02%), which suggests that the year 2026 has not yet arrived, it is still emerging. To know more about the data, see Table 1 and Figure 1 below:

Table 1: Year-wise contributions of Articles on US-China Relations

S. No	Final Publication Year	Record Count	% of 10,035
1	2023	914	9.108%
2	2024	898	8.949%
3	2022	816	8.132%
4	2021	737	7.344%
5	2020	698	6.956%
6	2019	680	6.776%
7	2018	563	5.610%
8	2025	517	5.152%
9	2017	511	5.092%
10	2026	2	0.020%

Figure 1: Year-wise publication on US-China Relations

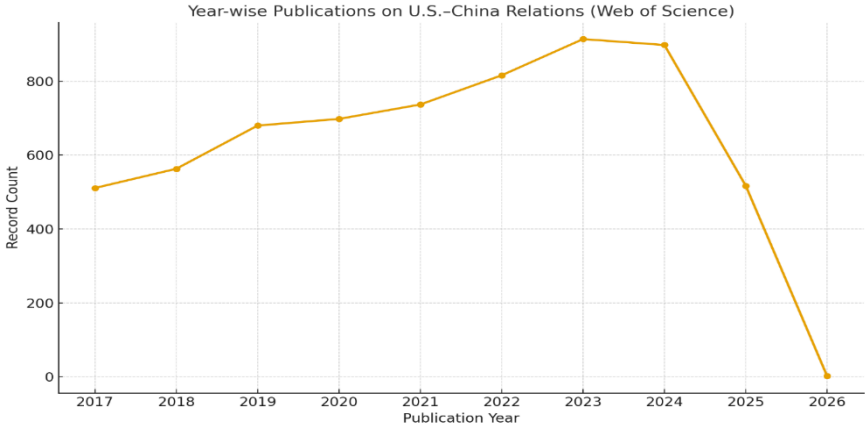

Table 2 highlights the document types within the 10,035 dataset and their distributions. The data shows that among them, the majority of publications were journal articles with (8,329; 83%), which shows that journal articles are the most dominant scholarly contribution, followed by proceeding papers (1,425; 14.2%). This shows that conference proceedings are the second largest collection, with 229 (2.28%) of them being review articles. It indicates that review articles hold importance in scholarly communication. The data also reveals that early access publications were recorded (158; 1.57%) in the dataset, while the book reviews reveal (137; 1.36%), it further reflects that book reviews are highly selected contributions for those who are interested in book reading. The data also shows that editorial materials were (72; 0.71%), while retracted publications were (9; 0.09%), corrections (8; 0.08%), letters (7; 0.07%), and news items (7; 0.07%). The data represent that the scholarly landscape is heavily driven by journal articles, particularly peer-

reviewed research with supplementary contributions of conference proceedings; however, other material remains relatively rare. For more information, see Table 2 below:

Table 2: Types of Documents contributed in Web of Science on US-China Relations

S.No	Document Types	Record Count	% of 10,035
1	Article	8,329	83.000%
2	Proceeding Paper	1,425	14.200%
3	Review Article	229	2.282%
4	Early Access	158	1.574%
5	Book Review	137	1.365%
6	Editorial Material	72	0.717%
7	Retracted Publication	9	0.090%
8	Correction	8	0.080%
9	Letter	7	0.070%
10	News Item	7	0.070%

Table 3 provides an overview of open-access (OA) publications out of 10,035 publications. The data shows that among them, all open-access material was 3,763 records (37.50%), which indicate that there has been a big surge in open-access publications because in more third-world countries, people cannot buy paid articles. The data also shows that the Green Submitted version is the most common (1,678; 16.72%), which also indicates good figures, followed by the Gold open access (1,572; 15.67%). This indicates that Gold open-access articles are fully accessible in OA journals. The other categories of documents include Free to Read (813; 8.10%), which means that mostly publishers hosted these kinds of materials under OA licenses.

The data also shows that Gold-Hybrid (708; 7.06%), these kinds of articles are made open for free, but most of them are published in subscription journals. Its details are Green Published (668; 6.66%) and Green Accepted versions (242; 2.41%). This means that most contributions in this category are based on self-archived versions in various repositories. In short, Table 3 reflects a significant presence of OA publishing, which has become a trend for countries with low budgets.

Table 3: Open-Access Category on China-US Relations

S.No.	Open Access Type	Record Count	% of 10,035
1	All Open Access	3,763	37.499%
2	Green Submitted	1,678	16.721%
3	Gold	1,572	15.665%
4	Free to Read	813	8.102%
5	Gold-Hybrid	708	7.055%
6	Green Published	668	6.657%
7	Green Accepted	242	2.412%

Table 4 provides subject-wise categories of publications on China-US relations in the Web of Science. Among 10,035 publications, majority of them were from International Relations with 1,385 records (13.80%), the record indicates that international relations reflect a prominent place in the global research followed by Astronomy & Astrophysics with (890; 8.87%) and Area Studies (739; 7.36%), the data further highlights that Astrophysics and Astronomy are the most contributed research after the international relations. Political science remained the fourth highly contributed discipline between China and the USA with (654; 6.52%), which

underscores that in the social science branch, political science is the most prominent discipline after international relations.

The data also indicates that computer science and artificial intelligence were also the most prominent disciplines (558; 5.56% and 421; 4.20%) respectively, the data also shows that areas such as computer science theory and methods have good records with (344; 3.43%), which reflects a stronger presence among these disciplines. Furthermore, the data also indicates that Economics as a subject reflects (450; 4.48%), while electrical and electronic engineering discipline stands with (363; 3.62%), however, subjects such as material science hold (322; 3.21%) position, which shows a notable contribution from applied science. For more details, see Table 4 below:

S.No	Web of Science Categories	Record Count	% of 10,035
1	International Relations	1,385	13.802%
2	Astronomy Astrophysics	890	8.869%
3	Area Studies	739	7.364%
4	Political Science	654	6.517%
5	Computer Science Artificial Intelligence	558	5.561%
6	Economics	450	4.484%
7	Computer Science Information Systems	421	4.195%
8	Engineering Electrical Electronic	363	3.617%
9	Computer Science Theory Methods	344	3.428%
10	Materials Science Multidisciplinary	322	3.209%

Table 4: Category-wise subject contributions on US-China Relations

Table 5 covers the contribution of the most dynamic authors to US-China literature. Out of 10,035 contributions, Luis C., who remained

on top with 23 (0.23%) publications, followed by Anton M. Koekemoer with 18 (0.18%) publications. The data also shows that Zheng Wei and Deng Xin each have 17 (0.17%) publications. This reflects that the authors have contributed a handsome number of articles on China-US relations. The data also shows that some other notable contributed authors are Chen Shyi-Ming 16 (0.16%) and different scholars, namely Hu Frank, Wang Jing, de Grijs Richard, Schneider Donald P., and He Kai. Each one has contributed 15 (0.15%). Collectively, these authors are the most dynamic and prolific contributors on the China-US relationship, with a mixed perspective from social, applied, and natural sciences. For more details, please see Table 5, below:

Table 5: Author-wise publications on US-China Relations

Sr. No	Top Authors	Record Count	% of 10,035
01	Luis C. Ho	23	0.229%
02	Anton M. Koekemoer	18	0.179%
03	Zheng, Wei	17	0.169%
04	Deng, Xin	17	0.169%
05	Chen, Shyi-Ming	16	0.159%
06	Hu, Frank	15	0.149%
07	Wang, Jing	15	0.149%
08	de Grijs, Richard	15	0.149%
09	Schneider, Donald P.	15	0.149%
10	He, Kai	15	0.149%

Table 6 provides a list of the top 10 most influential authors on US-China relations. The data shows that Zhang Y leads the list as the leading author with 101 (1.01%) publications. Wang J, with 94 (0.94%), and Wang Y, with 84 (0.84%), both have contributed handsome publications on US-China literature, while Li Y (79;

0.79%), Liu Y (78; 0.78%), and Li J (71; 0.71%) are listed in the top ten most contributors. The data also shows that Zhang J (62; 0.62%), Wang L (61; 0.61%), Wang X (61; 0.61%), and Zhang L (55; 0.55%) were also included in the top 10 slots. If we go into detail, every author has shared less than 2% of the total 10,035 publications. Still, their contribution reminds us that these authors are a highly influential cohort in US-China literature. For more details, see Table 6, below:

Table 6: Most Influential Authors on US-China Relations

S.No.	Author	Record Count	% of 10,035
1	Zhang Y	101	1.006%
2	Wang J	94	0.937%
3	Wang Y	84	0.837%
4	Li Y	79	0.787%
5	Liu Y	78	0.777%
6	Li J	71	0.708%
7	Zhang J	62	0.618%
8	Wang L	61	0.608%
9	Wang X	61	0.608%
10	Zhang L	55	0.548%

Table 7 underscores institution-wise contributions to the China-US relationship. Out of 10,035 publications, the leading institution is the Chinese Academy of Sciences (1,172; 11.68%), which stands in the top position with advanced scholarships. Peking University, which is one of the leading universities in China, has contributed 427 (4.26%), followed by Tsinghua University (296; 2.95%) publications. Other major institutes include the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (316; 3.15%) with publications, while Shanghai Jiao Tong University has contributed (228; 2.27%)

publications. It is interesting to note that the University of Science and Technology of China has contributed (196; 1.95%). It seems that Chinese institutions have a strong presence in US-China scholarships. On the other side, the University of California system, which has only 324 (3.23%) and Harvard University with 195 (1.94%) publications, reflects that these universities have fewer records on the US-China relationship compared to Chinese Institutions.

Among European institutions, the National de la Recherche Scientifique has contributed (212; 2.11%) publications, while the University of London stands with (195; 1.94%). The data shows that Chinese institutions are in a clear dominant position compared to US institutions. For more details, see Table 7, below:

Table 7: Institutional-wise contributions to US-China Relations

Sr. No	Affiliations	Record Count	% of 10,035
1	Chinese Academy of Sciences	1,172	11.679%
2	Peking University	427	4.255%
3	Tsinghua University	296	2.950%
4	University of California System	324	3.229%
5	University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)	316	3.149%
6	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	228	2.272%
7	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)	212	2.113%
8	University of Science and Technology of China (CAS)	196	1.953%
9	Harvard University	195	1.943%
10	University of London	195	1.943%

Table 8 provides country-wise contributions to the US-China relationships. Out of 10,035 publications, the People's Republic of China has contributed 6,566 records (65.43%), which is the highest among countries in terms of contribution. The data also reveals that the USA stands second after China with 2,825 (28.15%). It seems that both countries have contributed 93% of the total publications. The third contributory country is England, ranking with (802; 7.99%), followed by Germany with (576; 5.74%). Australia has contributed (563; 5.61%), which is a leading Western partner, while Japan has (449; 4.47%), followed by Russia with (320; 3.19%). The data also shows that European contributions are also notable, such as France, which stands at 376 (3.75%) publications, while Italy (357; 3.56%) and Canada (346; 3.45%) further added a good number of publications. The data shows that China and the USA are the dominant players in all contributions, followed by Europe, Asia, and Oceania. For more details, see Table 8, below:

Table 8: Country-wise contributions to US-China Relations

S.No.	Country/Region	Record Count	% of 10,035
1	People's R China	6,566	65.431%
2	USA	2,825	28.151%
3	England	802	7.992%
4	Germany	576	5.740%
5	Australia	563	5.610%
6	Japan	449	4.474%
7	France	376	3.747%
8	Italy	357	3.558%
9	Canada	346	3.448%
10	Russia	320	3.189%

Table 9 outlines the publisher-wise contributions on U.S.–China relations from 10,035 publications, showing that Elsevier leads with 1,419 records (14.14%), followed by Springer Nature (1,075; 10.71%) and Taylor & Francis (878; 8.75%), reflecting their dominance in disseminating global research. Other major contributors include Wiley (583; 5.81%), IEEE (541; 5.39%), and Oxford University Press (515; 5.13%), indicating strong representation from both STEM and social science domains. IOP Publishing (462; 4.60%) and Sage (353; 3.52%) further expand the spread, while specialized scientific outlets like the American Physical Society (228; 2.27%) and MDPI (184; 1.83%) also contribute. Overall, the distribution highlights the pivotal role of leading international publishers, particularly Elsevier, Springer, and Taylor & Francis, in shaping and circulating scholarship on U.S.–China relations across multiple disciplines. For more details, please see Table 9, below:

Table 9: Publisher-wise contributions on US-China Relations

S.No.	Publisher	Record Count	% of 10,035
1	Elsevier	1,419	14.141%
2	Springer Nature	1,075	10.713%
3	Taylor & Francis	878	8.749%
4	Wiley	583	5.810%
5	IEEE	541	5.391%
6	Oxford Univ Press	515	5.132%
7	IOP Publishing Ltd	462	4.604%
8	Sage	353	3.518%
9	Amer Physical Soc	228	2.272%
10	MDPI	184	1.834%

Table 10 presents distributions of languages in China-US relationships. The data shows that out of 10,035 publications in the Web of Science, the most dominant is the English language with 9,657 records (96.23%), which is a global medium for scholarly communication across the globe. The data also shows that Russia is the second contributing language with (180; 1.79%) and Chinese with (110; 1.10%) publications, though Chinese institutions have contributed a handsome amount of scholarship, but those are in the English language rather than in Chinese. Articles in the Spanish language show (39; 0.39%), while the French language has only (9; 0.09%) publications. Similarly, the Turkish language contributed (6; 0.06%) publications, while the Portuguese language contributed (5; 0.05%) publications. Similarly, the Slovak language has (5; 0.05%) while German and Norwegian languages have (4; 0.04%) publications respectively. The data in the table shows that English is a highly contributing language in all 10,035 publications. For more details, see Table 10, below:

Table 10: Language-wise contributions to China-US Relations

S.No.	Language	Record Count	% of 10,035
1	English	9,657	96.233%
2	Russian	180	1.794%
3	Chinese	110	1.096%
4	Spanish	39	0.389%
5	Turkish	6	0.060%
6	Portuguese	5	0.050%
7	Slovak	5	0.050%
8	French	9	0.090%
9	German	4	0.040%

10	Norwegian	4	0.040%

Table 11 provides subject-wise contributions on US-China relationships recorded in the Web of Science Core Collection. The data shows that across 10,035 publications, international relations dominate with 1,400 (13.95%), while Galaxy Evolution stands with (441; 4.40%), however, Stellar Evolution have (104; 1.04%) publications on the socioeconomic sides Market interdependencies have (157; 1.57%) records while on China's Social Transformation presents (139; 1.39%).

The records on International Trade indicate (117; 1.17%), while Corporate Governance has (96; 0.96%). In interdisciplinary Complex Networks have (127; 1.27%), while Media and Politics (113; 1.13%). Furthermore, Fuzzy Decision-making presents only (96; 0.96%). This demonstrates that the entire data reflects a blend of political, economic, social, and scientific perspectives. In short, international relations is the most prominent subject in the China-US collection. For details, please see Table 11, below:

Table 11: Subject-wise Citations on China- U.S. Relations

S.No.	Citation Topics Micro	Record Count	% of 10,035
1	International Relations	1,400	13.951%
2	Galaxy Evolution	441	4.395%
3	Market Interdependencies	157	1.565%
4	China's Social Transformation	139	1.385%
5	Complex Networks	127	1.266%
6	International Trade	117	1.166%
7	Media and Politics	113	1.126%
8	Stellar Evolution	104	1.036%

9	Fuzzy Decision-making	96	0.957%
10	Corporate Governance	96	0.957%

Discussion

The study underscores a highly researched landscape on bibliometric analysis of US-China collections in the core collection of Web of Science. The data shows that a total of 10,035 publications on US-China were found, which reflects that the most dominant publications were journal articles (83%). It highlights that peer-reviewed scholarly contributions have a broader scope in scholarly communication than books and conference reports. The findings corroborate the study.[19] This highlights that journal articles are commendable sources of research and learning. The study also highlights the Open access trends of US-China relations in the Web of Science core collections.

It shows that around 37.5% of publications can be accessed online without any restrictions. These open-access articles include green and gold categories. This reaffirms that the demand for open-access articles is increasing across the globe. The findings closely align with the study [20] who describes that bibliometric research on open access articles is rapidly increasing using Web of Science core collections. The study also highlights the subject-wise categorization of the documents. The data shows that international relations remain

[19] Hussain and Arif, "Bibliometric Analysis of Regional Studies–A Quarterly Journal of Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad, Pakistan."
[20] Haq et al., "Evaluating the Scholarly Literature on Information Literacy Indexed in the Web of Science Database."

the dominant discipline across other disciplines, with 13.8%, while other fields like astronomy, area studies, and political science were recorded at 7.3% and 6.5%, respectively.

This confirms that international relations remain the largest area by subject-wise compared to other disciplines. The findings clearly align with the study of[21] which affirms that social science collections are increasing at alarming rates in the Web of Science and Scopus indexing agencies. The author-wise contributions in bibliometric research have remained a usual practice across all disciplines because, without authors' contributions, particularly dynamic authors, bibliometric studies have no value. The present study also highlights a few dynamic authors, like Zhang Y, Wang J, and Wang Y, who emerged as the most influential authors. This reflects that Chinese authors have more publications on US-China relationships than the USA.

The findings corroborate the study of [22] who conducted a study on the bibliometric analysis of China and Latin America on their socio-political dynamics? The same study also found that Chinese authors are more dominant than those of America in social science research. At the same time, the present study encompasses institution-wise contributions between the US and China. The data shows that the

[21] Abid Hussain et al., "Bibliometric Perspective of Margalla Paper: A Flagship Journal of National Defence University, Islamabad, Pakistan," *Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science, 10 (4)*, 2021, 300–307, http://jalis.in/pdf/10-4/Pakistan.pdf.

[22] Gil-Barragan et al., "A Bibliometric Analysis of China–Latin America Economic and Political Relations."

Chinese Academy of Science remains in the dominant position with (11.6%) publications, while Peking University and Tsinghua University remain in second and third positions compared to the USA.

On the other hand, the most dynamic institutions from America were the University of California System and Harvard University. The findings are closely related to the results of [23] which highlights that in scientific fields, Chinese institutions contribute more publications than those of America. Country-wise contributions have also been made by the author in the present study, which reveals that China has contributed (65.4%), while the USA has contributed only (28.1% of publications. The findings of country-wise publications closely associated with the study of [24] which postulated that US authors have contributed fewer items compared to Chinese authors.

The present study also highlights the language-wise contributions of publications relevant to the US and China. English remained the most dominant field compared to other languages. Similarly, the publishers of this study indicate that Elsevier remained in the top position with (14.1%), followed by Springer Nature with (10.7%) and Taylor & Francis with (8.7%). The findings of this study also corroborate the findings of [25] which describes that Science Direct,

[23] Gil-Barragan et al., "A Bibliometric Analysis of China–Latin America Economic and Political Relations."
[24] Alessandria et al., "Trade War and Peace."
[25] Chen et al., "A Bibliometric Investigation of Life Cycle Assessment Research in the Web of Science Databases."

Springer Nature, and Routledge are the most popular databases that contribute articles in diverse disciplines. The finding closely aligns with the study of [26] which indicates that Elsevier and Springer Nature broadly cover natural and applied sciences research.

In short, the findings of this study suggest that US-China relations are increasing politically as well as in a multidisciplinary phenomenon. The findings also suggest that Chinese institutions are increasingly shaping the discourses than American ones. Future studies may further elaborate on different aspects of China-US relationships, particularly on international relations, by combining Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar as a platform.

Conclusion

The study reveals that scholarships on US-Chinese relationships are increasing exponentially across different landscapes. This study concludes that research on China and the U.S. is highly disciplinary, globally relevant; however, Chinese and US international relations remain the central theme. The research also ensures that areas such as economics, astrophysics, and the social sciences show significant intersections. The findings also reveal that Chinese scholars and institutions are increasingly contributing larger scholarships than those of Americans.

[26] Zhou et al., "University-Industry Collaboration in China and the USA."

In areas such as disciplines, author-wise contributions, and country-wise contributions, China remained in top positions while the USA remains a critical counterpart. Despite diverse contributions of the Chinese in different fields, the English language remains in a key position compared to the Chinese language; similarly, major publishers were from Western countries compared to China. This shows that Western publishers underline structural asymmetries in scholarly communication. Based on the findings of the study, the present research offers significant recommendations for future studies. These are mentioned below:

Policy Recommendations

1. It is suggested that future studies should focus more on politics, technology, and cultural diplomacy.
2. It is recommended that Web of Science and Scopus Indexing agencies should promote multilingual publishing in other languages like Russian, Chinese, Spanish, etc, to enhance inclusivity and global engagement.
3. Global collaboration, such as a partnership between US and Chinese universities, for diverse perspectives in order to develop social harmony between the two countries.
4. It is recommended that Web of Science should increase the open access initiative in both green and gold open-access options to increase the visibility, accessibility, and impact of research in both countries.

5. Both countries should contribute policy-relevant research, such as trade wars, climate cooperation, security issues, and non-traditional security threats, to contribute more evidence-based research for both countries.

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