



Visualization of Bibliometric Research Political Budget Cycles in 2014–2022

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Abstract. The budget in the political year always attracts attention, it is a way to attract attention so that the incumbent gets the vote of the electorate. The lack of widespread public interest in local government and the consistently disappointing turnout at local elections belies the intensity, excitement, and passion with which local politics is conducted. This article discusses citation developments, publication trends, author collaborations, trend term titles, trend term author keywords, trend term abstracts, and statistics on the topic of the Political Budget Cycle from 2014–2022. This study summarizes research articles from Google Scholar. Then an in- depth bibliometric analysis was carried out through Vos Viewers to analyze and visualize the database obtained. The results of the citation analysis showed that the number of citations per year from 2014–2022 was 12.635 citations, Analyze results showed that research on the Political budget cycle from 2014–2022 decreased. The most research results were in 2014 which resulted in 39 articles (20%), and the story of scientific publications with the lowest political budget cycle topics occurred in 2022 which resulted in 3 articles (3%). In 2014–2022 the words or variables used in research are political budget cycle, political cycle, budget cycle, and evidence, while the terms that are still rarely used in the study are political business cycle, budget process, budget deficit, political economy, and transparency.

Keywords: election · budget · political · political budget cycle · government · budget deficit · bibliometrics

1 Introduction

Democracy is a complex system of government. There are many ways in which today's political choices affect future well-being. The election of the head of state or region is one of the implementations of democracy in a country. Countries that uphold democracy provide an opportunity for people to participate in the election of leaders of their countries and regions. However, budget abuse can occur before or at the time of local elections. Budgeting is basically financial planning. A budget is defined as something that has limits. A budget is a resource available to achieve organizational goals [1]. This misuse of the budget occurs for several reasons, firstly the local government through

the regional head can manage his government, including the budget. The central government provides decentralization to local governments. Second, there is an ambition to become a successive regional head in the next period. Therefore, everything will be used to attract public sympathy [2].

The budget is also a political document. Political budgeting includes methods and tactics used to develop, secure, and manage budgetary resources. This tactic is often referred to as the political budget cycle, the political budget cycle is a cycle in some components of the government budget caused by the election cycle. More specifically, the term most often refers to an increase in government spending or a deficit or decrease in taxes (including changes relative to long-term trends) in an election year that is considered motivated by the incumbent's desire to create value in the eyes of society to be able to be re-elected.

According to [3], The political budget cycle is a periodic fluctuation in government fiscal policy, that is, it is influenced by the electoral cycle. So, before elections/regional elections, the central or local government often conducts consumption parties such as taxes that are withheld, transfers that are increased, and government expenditures are diverted to public goods. Pre-election fiscal manipulation—spending more or reducing taxes before elections—is a powerful tool for governments to increase economic strength ahead of elections [4].

The practice of the political budget cycle can be detected in certain countries or countries with special characteristics, namely developing countries, new democracies, or countries with a low level of fiscal or government transparency or media freedom [5] and the political budget cycle only occurs in direct elections and does not occur in indirect elections [6].

In this regard, there has been a lot of research on the political budget cycle whose results are published in various databases, one of which is Google Scholar. In this regard, the author wants to know the trend of progress and changes or developments in publications about the political budget cycle contained in Google Scholar from 2014 to 2021. In this study, we will look at a bibliometric map of the “political budget cycle” using Vos Viewer. Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative study of bibliographic material. It provides an overview of research areas that can be classified by papers, authors, and journals.

2 Literature Review

Several studies in several countries have researched the political budget cycle. Researched the political budget cycle in the United States Municipality, they examined the increase in taxes, expenditures, and the number of employees in the electoral and non-election years of 1970–2004. In this study found that there was no political budget cycle to increase total expenditure or tax revenue in election years compared to non-electoral years. But researchers found that total public employees increased by an extra 0.7% in the election year. Police departments grew 0.6% faster in election years. Workers in the field of education and sanitation of employees, who may also be relatively noticeable public employees, statistically a significant increase in their numbers during the election years.

Conducted a study on the political budget cycle in the 97 largest municipalities in Spain in the period 1999–2009, where researchers researched fiscal transparency in the electoral cycle. Researchers found that the political budget cycle occurred in election years, and the results showed that total spending increased in election years in cities that had low financial transparency. The political budget cycle on increased spending is not found in Cities with higher financial transparency.

Conducted research on the political budget cycle in the 11 Western German Lander period 1974–1994. The fact that three non-electoral years have the same negative signs suggests that the political cycle was not planned: spending was not systematically cut in the election year and intensified the following year. This hypothesis is fully confirmed in both specifications in total cases of expenses, administrative, and health. The results also show that these extra expenditures are absorbed into higher deficits rather than requiring increased taxes. For education and health, the slight presence of ideology and the impact on spending decisions can reduce the explanatory power of electoral dummies.

In Indonesia, the political budget cycle was first studied by [10] who examined the political budget cycle (PBC) for districts/cities in Indonesia, only for direct elections, not for indirect elections. The results of the study showed that there was a significant political budget cycle in the first direct election in Indonesia in the regional level category. This is because the regent has discretion, especially if he is running for re-election. Sjahrir et al. (2013) in their research stated that the PBC occurs only in direct elections and not in indirect elections: These new findings support the logic behind the PBC: that voters are persuaded to vote for incumbents only in direct elections. In indirect elections in Indonesia, the relationship between party sponsors and candidates is too weak for incumbents to have an incentive to increase their discretionary spending. Research on the political budget cycle conducted by [11] in 451 urban districts in Indonesia that held direct elections during the 2010–2014 period, this study examined the existence of pre-election manipulation through the behavior of budget balance, total expenditure, investment expenditure, and other administrative expenditures including donations, social assistance, and financial assistance expenditures during the election year. The results showed a significant political budget cycle. The results showed that there was an increase in the regional budget deficit in the election years. Total spending also appeared to increase during the election year, along with spending on donations and financial aid. These results support the notion that elections have a positive effect on government spending through increased city spending, especially spending that is very visible to voters.

And the research conducted by [12] this research examines the Political Budget Cycle in Regional Elections in Indonesia, especially in Java Island, and provides related evidence between central government transfers and the authority of the political budget cycle in the regions. This research shows that local elections increase grant spending and social assistance spending, while investment spending increases two years before elections. The assumption that prospective incumbents are taking advantage of their authority to politicize the budget cannot be proved in this study. Moreover, the relationship between the transfer of the center and the political cycle of the budget in the regions also cannot be proven.

3 Research Method

The study in this study was carried out by searching through the Publish or Perish 8 database with data obtained through Google Scholar. Searches on Google Scholar use the term or keyword “Political Budget Cycle” for the last 9 years (2014–2022), with a total of 200 research samples. Then the data is collected and processed using Microsoft Excel 2019, while to visualize the development of research on the “Political budget cycle” using VOS Viewer software. VOS viewer is a program developed for creating and viewing bibliometric maps. The way to create a map is to export the search results from the Publish or Perish database to RIS format, then entered it into the VOS Viewer software.

4 Results and Discussion

A. *Scientific Publication Growth Rating “Political Budget Cycle” for the Period 2014–2022*

The growth of scientific publications on the “Political Budget Cycle” in research over a period of 9 years, starting from 2014 to 2022 experienced a significant phase of increase and decrease, especially the decline in the period the time of the last three years. This happens because the topic of the political budget cycle is conclusive. And when viewed from the political side, the budget itself is about power and who has the power to decide. In local elections, the budget is a very important part. Without a sufficient budget, the election phase cannot run smoothly, and this practice of the political budget cycle will continue to occur as an incumbent’s strategy to be re-elected in the next election.

In such publications can be seen in Table 1 and Fig. 1.

B. *Growth Ranking of the Core Journal of Scientific Publications “Political Budget Cycle”*

The Table 2 and Fig. 2 shows the growth ratings of the core journals of scientific publications on the “Political Budget Cycle”.

Based on Table 2 shows that the most productive publisher of the “Political Budget Cycle” is Elsevier with several numbers namely 28 studies, followed by Taylor & Francis, Springer, Wiley Online Library, and papers.ssrn.com.

C. *Development map on the “Political Budget Cycle” through keyword clustering based on VOS Viewer software*



Fig. 1. The rise and fall of scientific research “Political Budget Cycle.”

Table 1. GROWTH OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS ON THE “POLITICAL BUDGET CYCLE” OF THE PERIOD 2014–2022.

No	Publication year	Number of documents	Percentage
1	2014	39	20%
2	2015	24	12%
3	2016	35	18%
4	2017	31	16%
5	2018	14	7%
6	2019	24	12%
7	2020	18	9%
8	2021	15	8%
9	2022	6	3%
	TOTAL	200	

Table 2. GROWTH OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS ON THE “POLITICAL BUDGET CYCLE” FOR THE PERIOD 2014–2022.

Publisher	Numbers Of Publication
Elsevier	28
Taylor & Francis	22
Springer	16
Wiley Online Library	15
papers.ssrn.com	14
books.google.com	8
journals.sagepub.com	6
cambridge.org	6
researchgate.net	4
academic.oup.com	4

Here's the depiction:

- Cluster 1 red color consists of 8 topics, the largest of which are study, literature, budget deficit, determinant, economic, role, government
- Cluster 2 of blue colors consists of 10 topics, the largest of which topics are municipality, political cycle, electoral cycle, evidence, level, size, effect, politic, incumbent, and article.
- Cluster 3 yellow color, consisting of 6 topics, the largest of which is the political budget cycle, PBC, analysis, existence, cycle, and politics.

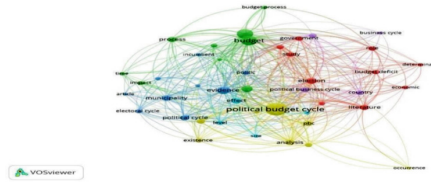


Fig. 2. Political Budget Cycle

- Cluster 4 green color, consisting of 5 topics, with the most topics being budget, other topics are budget process, process, time, and impact.
- Cluster 5 purple colors, consisting of 3 topics, with the most topics being the political budget cycle, country, and business cycle.

5 Conclusion

From the results and discussion above, it can be concluded that the growth of scientific publications on the “Political Budget Cycle” produced during the 9 years from 2014–2022 has experienced an upward phase down, where over the past three years, the topic of the “Political Budget Cycle” has experienced a downward trend. The highest number of “Political Budget Cycle” publications occurred in 2014, namely 39 publications (20%), and the lowest occurred in 2022, which only had 3 publications (3%). This happens because the topic of the political budget cycle is conclusive. And when viewed from the political side, the budget itself is about power and who has the power to decide. In local elections, the budget is a very important part. Without a sufficient budget, the election phase cannot run smoothly. And this practice of the political budget cycle will continue to occur as an incumbent’s strategy to be re-elected in the next election.

On this paper found that the most productive publisher of the “Political Budget Cycle” is Elsevier with several numbers namely 28 studies, followed by Taylor & Francis, Springer, Wiley Online Library, and papers.ssrn.com. From the bibliometric visualization, it shows that the most research trends are the political budget cycle, budget, political cycle, municipality, electoral cycle, political business cycle, election, and evidence-based.

Most of the Political budget cycle research result discusses that the Political Budget Cycle (PBC) describes the phenomenon of fiscal variables following an election cycle. PBCs mostly rely on aggregate figures of fiscal variables that are only suggestive of how the manipulation works. PBCs occur when incumbent politicians maximize the voting function instead of the social welfare function. Politicians’ ability to create political budget cycles decreases with economic and social development and the betterment of institutions (checks and balances). There’s indicated that the presence and strength of political budget cycles depend on a range of conditioning factors. They point to the importance of voter time preference and argue that, in relatively poorer countries, high discount rates will lead impatient voters to value immediate consumption due to fiscal expansions over the future benefits from fiscally responsible policies.

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