Transforming Commerce: A Bibliometric Exploration of E-Commerce Trends and Innovations in the Digital Age

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ABSTRACT

The digital era has ushered in a transformative shift in commerce, culminating in the rise of e-commerce as a dominant force in the global market. This study employs a comprehensive bibliometric analysis, utilizing VOSviewer, to delve into the intricate fabric of e-commerce trends and innovations within the context of the digital age. Through the exploration of publication trends, co-authorship networks, keyword clustering, citation patterns, and emerging technologies, this research maps the intellectual terrain of e-commerce research. The findings illuminate the multidimensional evolution of e-commerce, from personalized mobile experiences to the integration of cutting-edge technologies. The analysis highlights pivotal contributions, collaborative dynamics, and emergent themes, providing a holistic understanding of how commerce has been reshaped in the digital age.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In the wake of the digital revolution, the commerce landscape has undergone a major transformation, giving rise to the widespread phenomenon of e-commerce. The emergence of the Internet and its integration into daily life has not only revolutionized communication and information sharing, but also fundamentally changed the way business transactions are conducted. E-commerce, characterized by the buying and selling of goods and services through electronic networks, has emerged as a cornerstone of modern commerce, fundamentally changing the traditional commercial paradigm [1]–[3]. The digital age has ushered in an era of unprecedented connectivity, accessibility, and convenience. Consumers now have the power to browse, compare, and purchase products from the comfort of their homes, transcending geographical barriers and time zones. Similarly, businesses have harnessed the potential of e-commerce to reach global markets with minimal physical infrastructure, thus transforming supply chains, distribution networks, and customer engagement strategies [4]–[6].

A bibliometric analysis of previous research on e-commerce trends and innovations in the digital age is not yet available. However, there are several studies that focus on various aspects of innovation and trends in the digital age, which can provide insights into the e-commerce domain. Some of these studies include: Patterns of Introducing Innovations in the Digital Age and Their Impact on Managerial Staff and Employees [7]: This study examines the pattern of introducing innovation in the digital age and its impact on managers and
employees. The authors analyze how innovation patterns affect the components of managers' and employees' labor potential at the physical, mental, and intellectual levels.

Innovation Development Trends in International Tourism: A Content and Bibliometric Analysis [8]: This article aims to determine current trends in innovation development in international tourism through the systematization of scientific literature and analytical and bibliometric analysis of the term "innovation in tourism."

A Strategic Data-Driven Approach to Improve Conversion Rates and Sales Performance of E-Commerce Websites [9]: This paper describes a strategic data-driven approach to improving business sales performance and conversion rates of e-commerce websites.

Essay on Innovation and Communication [10]: This dissertation focuses on research related to innovation diffusion in the digital age, covering three interrelated areas: innovation diffusion, eCommerce and Digital Media, and Communication. Towards Future BIM Technology Innovation: A Bibliometric Analysis of the Literature [11]: This article conducts a literature review to evaluate how targeted cutting-edge technologies can be used to unleash the full potential of BIM from a technical perspective. Research Trends in Digital Innovation in Banking: A Bibliometric Analysis [12]: This paper scientifically analyzes the research trends of Digital Innovation in Banking through a bibliometric study, focusing on technology implementation, environmental innovation, business management, and its effects and benefits to society.

While this study does not specifically focus on e-commerce trends and innovations, it provides valuable insights into various aspects of innovation and trends in the digital age. These insights can be useful for understanding the broader context of e-commerce trends and innovations in our research.

However, the e-commerce landscape is not static; it is constantly evolving in response to technological advancements, changing consumer behavior and market demands. The rapid pace of innovation in the digital realm has led to the emergence of new business models, transformative technologies and innovative strategies. From mobile commerce (m-commerce) to social commerce, from artificial intelligence-driven personalization to blockchain-enabled secure transactions, the e-commerce ecosystem is a hotbed of dynamic trends and cutting-edge innovations [13]–[20]. This research aims to embark on a comprehensive journey through the terrain of e-commerce in the digital era. Using the powerful lens of bibliometric analysis, we aim to investigate the scientific literature that has accumulated over the years. Our focus is not only to provide a historical account of the evolution of e-commerce, but also to unpack the intricacies of the trends and innovations that have shaped this domain. Through careful examination of publications, authors, keywords, and citations, we seek to uncover the intellectual structures underlying e-commerce research and shed light on the critical insights emerging from scholarly discourse.

The purpose of this research is twofold. First, it aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the transformation of commerce, outlining the pivotal role that e-commerce has played in reshaping the traditional business paradigm. Second, it seeks to distill the essence of the scholarly dialog that surrounds e-commerce, pinpointing the driving forces behind its evolution, the emerging research themes, and the prominent contributors who have shaped the discourse. By tracing the intellectual landscape of e-commerce, it seeks to illuminate the past, present, and potential future trajectories of commerce in the digital age.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The digital revolution has brought about a paradigm shift in the world of commerce, giving rise to the phenomenon of electronic commerce, commonly known as e-commerce. Over the past few decades, e-commerce has evolved from a novel concept to a dominant force in the global business
landscape. This section delves into the existing literature to provide a comprehensive overview of the key trends and innovations that have shaped e-commerce in the digital age.

2.1 Evolution of E-Commerce

The beginnings of e-commerce can be traced back to the early 1990s when the internet started to gain traction as a means of communication and information sharing. E-commerce initially centered on online retail, which allowed consumers to purchase goods online and have them delivered to their doorstep [21]–[23]. However, the scope of e-commerce has expanded far beyond online shopping. Today, e-commerce encompasses a wide array of activities, including business-to-business (B2B) transactions, digital services, and even the exchange of intangible products such as information and knowledge [24]–[27].

2.2 Key Trends in Electronic Commerce

Mobile Commerce (M-Commerce): The proliferation of smartphones and mobile devices has given rise to mobile commerce, which allows consumers to engage in e-commerce transactions on the go. M-commerce has opened up new opportunities for businesses to reach consumers through mobile apps, responsive websites and location-based services [28]–[30].

Social Commerce: The integration of social media platforms into e-commerce strategies has given birth to social commerce. Consumers can now discover, share, and purchase products directly from social media platforms, blurring the lines between social interactions and commercial transactions [31]–[33].

Personalization and Recommendation Systems: E-commerce platforms leverage advanced data analytics and artificial intelligence to offer a personalized shopping experience. Recommendation systems analyze user behavior to suggest products tailored to individual preferences, increasing user engagement and driving sales [34], [35].

Blockchain Technology: The decentralized and secure nature of Blockchain is already being used in e-commerce, especially in supply chain transparency and secure payment systems. This technology has the potential to revolutionize trust and accountability in online transactions [36]–[39].

2.3 Innovations in E-Commerce Research

Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR): VR and AR technologies are making inroads into e-commerce, offering immersive shopping experiences that allow consumers to visualize products before buying. Virtual showrooms and try-before-you-buy features are changing the way customers interact with products online. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning: AI is revolutionizing e-commerce through chatbots, customer service automation and predictive analytics. AI-based personalization enhances customer experience and improves decision-making for businesses [36], [40].

Voice commerce: Voice-activated devices and virtual assistants are changing the way consumers interact with e-commerce platforms. Voice commerce allows users to make purchases, reorder items, and retrieve information using natural language. Subscription Models: Subscription-based e-commerce models are growing in popularity, offering convenience to consumers and a continuous flow of products or services. This model spans a wide range of industries, from beauty and fashion to digital media and software.
2.4 Scientific Dialogue on E-Commerce

The literature on e-commerce reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the field, covering aspects of technology, marketing, economics, psychology, and more. Scholarly discourse focuses on understanding consumer behavior in online environments, analyzing the impact of e-commerce on traditional business models, and exploring the ethical and regulatory challenges posed by the digital commerce landscape [41]–[45].

2.5 Research Gaps and Future Directions

Although e-commerce research has made substantial progress, there are still some gaps and avenues for further exploration. The impact of new technologies, such as AI, blockchain, and VR, on the e-commerce ecosystem presents a rich area for research. In addition, as the digital landscape continues to evolve, research investigating the challenges of cross-border e-commerce, sustainability, and the ethical implications of data-driven commerce is becoming increasingly relevant.

3. METHODS

The methodology used in this study involves a robust bibliometric analysis to explore trends and innovations in the field of e-commerce in the context of the digital age. To achieve this, we will use VOSviewer, a powerful bibliometric analysis tool, to visualize and analyze the relationships among various elements of scientific literature, such as publications, authors, keywords, and citations. The following subsections outline the step-by-step process for conducting bibliometric analysis using VOSviewer [46].

3.1 Data Collection and Processing

The data collection stage involves accessing reputable academic databases such as Web of Science, Scopus, and Google Scholar. A comprehensive search strategy will be designed using keywords such as "e-commerce", "digital commerce", "online shopping", "e-business", and related terms with the help of Publish or Perish (PoP) software. The time frame selected for data collection will cover the last two decades (1907-2023) to ensure that the latest developments in e-commerce research are covered.

After obtaining the search results, the data will be cleaned to remove duplicate entries and irrelevant records. The remaining dataset will undergo preprocessing, where important metadata such as publication year, author name, affiliation, keywords, and number of citations will be extracted and organized.

Table 1. Metric Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metrics Data</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publication years</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citation years</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>g-index</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>hA, index</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1. Mapping Results

The bibliometric analysis utilizing VOSviewer has yielded a wealth of insights into the trends and innovations that have shaped the field of e-commerce in the digital age. The visualization of co-authorship networks, keyword clusters, citation patterns, and emerging technologies has unveiled a comprehensive view of the intellectual landscape. This section presents and discusses the key findings derived from the analysis.

Figure 2. Research Trend

Bibliometric analysis, facilitated by VOSviewer, has illuminated the intellectual landscape of e-commerce research, offering a holistic view of the transformations shaping
modern commerce. The next section will explore the broader implications of these findings and suggest potential avenues for future research and innovation in the ever-evolving realm of e-commerce.

Figure 3. Visualization Cluster

Figure 3 presents the results of the cluster analysis based on the co-occurrence of keywords. Each cluster represents a thematic grouping of related keywords that co-occur frequently in the e-commerce literature. The most frequently occurring keywords within each cluster provide insight into the dominant themes and emerging research areas within the field. Let’s take a look at the discussion of clusters in table 2 below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster</th>
<th>Total Items</th>
<th>Most frequent keywords (occurrences)</th>
<th>Keyword</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(11)</td>
<td>E-commerce (25), Personalization (20)</td>
<td>Adoption, commerce, culture, device, e-commerce application, framework, mobile device, mobile e-commerce, mobile phone, personalization, worldwide web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>(7)</td>
<td>Supply chain (20), Web Site (15)</td>
<td>Ability, cross border e-commerce, future, internet pharmacy, success, supply chain, web site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>Transaction (20)</td>
<td>Buyer, e-commerce adoption, law, nation, nature, transaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>Digital economy (20)</td>
<td>Activity, communication technology, concept, digital economy, internet economy, revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>Trust (20)</td>
<td>Advergame, characteristic, evolution, social commerce, trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>e-government (25)</td>
<td>Access, e-government, economies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 presents the outcomes of the cluster analysis based on keyword co-occurrence. Each cluster represents a thematic grouping of related keywords that have frequently occurred together within the e-commerce literature. The most frequent keywords within each cluster provide insights into the dominant themes and research areas that have emerged within the field. Let’s delve into the discussion of the clusters:
1. Cluster 1: E-commerce and Personalization:
   This cluster encompasses a broad range of topics related to e-commerce and personalization. The high occurrence of keywords such as "e-commerce application," "mobile e-commerce," and "personalization" highlights the significance of tailoring user experiences and leveraging mobile technologies. This cluster reflects the evolution of e-commerce to provide personalized, mobile-centric shopping experiences through various applications and devices.

2. Cluster 2: Supply Chain and Web Site:
   Cluster 2 revolves around supply chain dynamics and web-related concepts. The presence of keywords like "cross border e-commerce," "internet pharmacy," and "supply chain" indicates a focus on the logistics and global aspects of e-commerce. This cluster underscores the importance of efficient supply chain management and the role of websites in facilitating cross-border trade.

3. Cluster 3: Transaction:
   The keywords within this cluster revolve around transactions and their various dimensions. The emphasis on "buyer," "e-commerce adoption," and "transaction" reflects research concerning the process of completing online transactions, including buyer behavior, legal aspects, and the transactional nature of e-commerce.

4. Cluster 4: Digital Economy:
   Cluster 4 delves into the concept of the digital economy and its impact on commerce. The presence of keywords like "communication technology," "digital economy," and "internet economy" suggests a focus on understanding how digital technologies shape economic activities and generate revenue within the e-commerce landscape.

5. Cluster 5: Trust:
   Trust emerges as a central theme in Cluster 5, which explores aspects related to trust-building in e-commerce interactions. Keywords such as "trust," "social commerce," and "trust" point to the evolution of trust mechanisms in online environments, emphasizing the role of social interactions and consumer trust in driving e-commerce success.

6. Cluster 6: e-government:
   Cluster 6 represents a smaller cluster with keywords related to e-government. Although less frequent, the presence of keywords like "e-government" and "economies" suggests a connection between government initiatives and the digital economy, possibly exploring how governments leverage e-commerce for economic development.

Overall, the cluster analysis provides a holistic view of the diverse themes and research areas within the e-commerce literature. Each cluster represents a unique facet of e-commerce research, reflecting the multidimensional nature of the field as it responds to technological advancements and changing consumer behaviors. These clusters offer valuable insights for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers seeking to navigate the complex landscape of e-commerce trends and innovations.
Figure 4. Author Collaboration

The co-authorship network analysis revealed clusters of researchers who have collaborated on e-commerce-related research. The visualization showcased the collaborative dynamics within the field, highlighting research groups, institutions, and individuals with strong ties. This implies the existence of specialized sub-communities within e-commerce research, each contributing to different aspects of the discipline.

Table 4. Keywords Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most occurrences</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Fewer occurrences</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occurrences</td>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Occurrences</td>
<td>Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mobile device</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Transaction</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>Trust</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Advergames</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Framework</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Supply chain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>SMEs</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Economies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Concept</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>World wide web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Access</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Social commerce</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Communication technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Digital economy</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Personalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Nature</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>e-commerce</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>e-government</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 provides a breakdown of the most frequently occurring keywords in the e-commerce literature, along with keywords that appear with fewer occurrences. These keywords offer valuable insights into the dominant themes and research areas within the field.

a. Most Occurrences Keywords:
  1. Commerce: The prevalence of the keyword "Commerce" as the most frequently occurring term underscores the central focus of e-commerce research. It reflects the broad exploration of various aspects of commerce within the
digital age, ranging from consumer behavior to business strategies.

2. Transaction: The high occurrence of "Transaction" highlights the significant attention given to understanding the intricacies of online transactions. Research in this area likely encompasses factors influencing transaction behavior, payment methods, and security measures.

3. Trust: "Trust" emerges as a pivotal keyword, indicating a strong emphasis on the role of trust in e-commerce interactions. This keyword reflects the importance of building and maintaining consumer trust in online transactions.

4. Framework: The presence of "Framework" suggests an interest in developing conceptual frameworks and models to understand the complex dynamics of e-commerce. Researchers may be focused on creating structured approaches to analyze e-commerce phenomena.

5. SMEs: "SMEs" (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) being a prevalent keyword reflects the attention given to the role of these businesses in the e-commerce landscape. This suggests a consideration of how smaller enterprises navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by digital commerce.

6. Concept: The occurrence of "Concept" points to an interest in exploring conceptual underpinnings of e-commerce. This keyword may indicate discussions on theoretical foundations, definitions, and fundamental concepts in the field.

b. Fewer Occurrences Keywords:

1. Mobile Device: Despite fewer occurrences, "Mobile Device" signifies the increasing importance of mobile technologies in e-commerce. This keyword suggests research into the mobile commerce experience, including mobile shopping, payment methods, and mobile app usage.

2. Future: The presence of "Future" highlights an interest in anticipating future trends and developments within e-commerce. This keyword suggests forward-looking research that envisions how e-commerce will evolve in the coming years.

3. Advergames: "Advergames" with fewer occurrences implies a focus on the intersection of advertising and gaming within the e-commerce context. This keyword suggests exploration of innovative marketing strategies that leverage gaming experiences.

4. Supply Chain: "Supply Chain" with fewer occurrences suggests a consideration of logistics and distribution aspects in e-commerce research. This may entail investigating efficient supply chain management, cross-border trade, and delivery mechanisms.

5. Economies: The presence of "Economies" reflects research into the economic implications and impact of e-commerce on local and global economies.

Overall, the analysis of keyword occurrences provides a snapshot of the key themes, concepts, and research areas that dominate the e-commerce literature. The prevalence of certain keywords indicates the depth and breadth of scholarly exploration, while the fewer occurrences of others suggest emerging and specialized research directions within the evolving landscape of e-commerce trends and innovations.
5. CONCLUSION

The journey through the landscape of e-commerce trends and innovations in the digital age has yielded profound insights into the transformative power of technology on commerce. The bibliometric analysis, facilitated by VOSviewer, has revealed a multidimensional and interconnected ecosystem where research themes, collaborations, and innovations intersect. From the co-authorship networks that exemplify the collaborative spirit within the field to the keyword clusters that unravel emerging trends, the scholarly discourse on e-commerce showcases its dynamic nature.

E-commerce has evolved far beyond its early days of online shopping, permeating every facet of business and consumer interactions. The prevalence of terms like “transaction,” “trust,” and “framework” underscores the foundational elements that underpin e-commerce research. At the same time, emerging terms such as “mobile device,” “future,” and “advergames” hint at the horizons of innovation that continue to expand.

In this digital age, commerce is not just about transactions; it is about personalization, seamless experiences, and harnessing emerging technologies. The intellectual tapestry woven through this analysis serves as a guide for researchers, businesses, and policymakers as they navigate the dynamic e-commerce landscape. As technology continues to evolve, so too will the nuances of e-commerce, shaping the future of commerce in ways we can only begin to fathom. This research contributes to understanding and navigating this transformation, offering a deeper appreciation of how commerce has adapted and thrived in the digital age.

REFERENCES


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