

INTRODUCTION

The capacity to conduct scientific research and disseminate findings through high-impact publications is a defining feature of modern universities.^[1, 2] In the global higher education landscape, research productivity and international visibility are increasingly linked to institutional reputation, funding opportunities, and national innovation capacity.^[3, 4] Universities are no longer assessed solely by their teaching mission; rather, they are also expected to generate new knowledge, engage in international scholarly communication, and contribute to wider social and economic development. In this context, publication output, citation visibility, and collaboration intensity have become widely used indicators of institutional performance, particularly in systems where research funding, promotion, and prestige are increasingly tied to measurable outputs.^[3, 4] For developing countries, strengthening university research is particularly important because it contributes not only to academic prestige but also to socio-economic development, innovation, and integration into global knowledge networks.^[5-8] As a developing country, Viet Nam have made significant investments to elevate their research standing, often through targeted institutional and governmental policies that incentivize scientific output and international collaboration.^[5-8]

Vietnam has experienced remarkable growth in scientific output over the past three decades.

^[8-10] According to the SCImago Journal & Country Rank, Vietnam ranked 45th in the world and 12th in Asia by 22046 published articles in 2024, reflecting a sustained upward trajectory in research activity.^[11] This upward trajectory has been driven by multiple factors, including increased state investment in science and technology, stronger incentives for international publication, and the rising role of universities in national research development.^[7, 12] More recently, the Vietnamese government has reaffirmed that national development must be grounded in science and technology (S&T), innovation, and digital transformation, and has identified these areas as top national priorities in socio-economic development (Resolution No. 57-NQ/TW, dated December 22, 2024, of the Politburo).

^[13] In this context, Vietnamese higher education is increasingly shifting toward competition in quality, academic prestige, and innovation capacity, with research becoming a crucial criterion for institutional positioning, cooperation, and resource mobilization. Within this broader national transformation, Dong Thap University (DThU), a public university in the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam, provides a relevant case for examining how institutional policies can shape research productivity. As of June 2025, the University has 560 permanent staff and employees. Currently (June, 2025), there are 1403 graduate students (including PhD and master students), and 18.000 full and part-time students studying at DThU's main campus in a total of 21 postgraduate majors, and 51 undergraduate majors.^[14] DThU provides a salient example of how institutional policies can transform research productivity. Since its transition from Dong Thap Pedagogical College to university status in January 10, 2003 (according to Decision No. 08/2003/QĐ-TTg of the Vietnam's Prime Minister), DThU has implemented a series of support policies - including financial incentives for international publications, annual internal research grants, enhanced investment in laboratories, and targeted support for conference participation. Major milestones in research policy occurred in the period 2012 - 2013, with the introduction of an international publication reward system, and in 2023, with substantial enhancements to incentives and research funding.^[15] These initiatives aimed to increase the quality and quantity of research output, encourage international publication, and foster collaborations both within Vietnam and abroad. According to the Viet Nam University Rankings (VNUR), DThU ranked 70th among the top 100 universities/institutions in terms of international publications in Viet Nam in 2025 ^[16] (out of 198 ranked universities).

Bibliometric analysis offers a robust approach to evaluate the effects of such policies at the institutional level.^[17-19] Since the pioneering work of Moed and colleagues,^[18] bibliometric data have been viewed as a valuable source for measuring university research performance and informing research policy, especially when combined with careful interpretation and contextual knowledge. Bibliometric indicators can help identify growth trajectories, disciplinary

strengths, collaboration structures, citation visibility, and thematic evolution, thereby offering evidence that can support institutional decision-making and strategic planning. More recent work has further shown that bibliometric analyses can assist universities in monitoring research output, guiding resource allocation, and evaluating their position in national and international knowledge systems.^[20, 21] Prior studies have demonstrated the value of quantitative scientometric methods for mapping research trends, assessing the impact of policy interventions, and identifying leading researchers and topics.^[22-24] However, most studies have focused either on national-level publication trends or on descriptive institutional profiles. Far fewer studies have explicitly linked specific, time-stamped institutional policy changes - such as publication reward schemes, internal grant programs, or research infrastructure investments - to subsequent bibliometric outcomes, including changes in publication output, collaboration patterns, funding profiles, or thematic orientation.^[10] This lack of fine-grained, empirical evidence at the institutional level is particularly evident in the Vietnamese context, where public universities have rapidly expanded research-related policies but systematic evaluations of their concrete effects on scientific output and visibility remain scarce.

Against this background, the present study provides a quantitative case study of DThU that explicitly connects documented policy changes with bibliometric indicators. Using a longitudinal analysis of 644 Web of Science-indexed publications (2003-2025), we align key research policy milestones at DthU - especially the 2012-2013 introduction of an international publication reward system and the 2022-2023 expansion of incentives, internal research grants and infrastructure investment - with trends in publication volume, journal outlets, co-authorship patterns, funding acknowledgements and SDG coverage. By directly linking concrete policy interventions to measurable bibliometric outcomes, the study aims to generate empirical evidence on how institutional research policies can shape scientific productivity and international visibility in a public university in the Global South.

METHODOLOGY

Data collection

This bibliometric study followed the methodological criteria suggested by^[25, 26] regarding techniques for bibliometric analysis. The Web of Science (WoS) data was extracted from the Core Collection, a leading multidisciplinary database recognized for its high standards of coverage and indexing.^[27] This database included datasets from the SCIE (Science citation index Expanded), SSCI (Social Sciences Citation Index), A&HCI (Arts & Humanities Citation Index), and ESCI (Emerging Sources Citation Index) databases.^[28] The search was conducted on June 30, 2025, using the following query in the “Organization-Enhanced” (OG) field: OG=(Dongthap Univ OR Dong Thap Univ). The OG field was chosen because it clusters different spelling variants of institutional names and reduces false positives arising from geographic terms such as “Dong Thap” appearing in addresses not related to DThU. However, we recognize that the OG index may not capture all historical name variants or secondary affiliations. To improve precision, we manually screened the affiliation lines of all retrieved records and retained only those in which at least one author explicitly reported “Dong Thap University” (or recognized Vietnamese variants) as an institutional affiliation. Records without a verifiable DThU affiliation were excluded. This approach prioritizes accurate institutional attribution, while we acknowledge that some DThU publications that were not correctly indexed under OG may have been missed; this is considered a limitation of the study. The search included all WoS document types and indexes (SCIE, SSCI, A&HCI, ESCI), with the publication date range set from 2003 to 2025. We restricted the analysis to English-language documents classified as articles, reviews, or proceedings papers. These document types were selected because they are the primary and most standardized forms of international scholarly communication in WoS, and they are commonly used in institutional research evaluations. Documents without any affiliation to Dong Thap University were excluded.

The initial results obtained from WoS were 649 publications. Based on these searching criteria, the final dataset comprised 644 publications affiliated

with Dong Thap University (Retracted Publication or Meeting Abstract or Correction were excluded from the corpus). For each record, bibliographic metadata were retrieved, including author names, affiliations, publication year, document type, journal/source, keywords, funding organizations, and address information for co-authors.

Data processing and cleaning

Raw WoS records were exported as tab-delimited text and further processed using Microsoft Excel and the R package Bibliometrix.^[17, 29, 30] To ensure an accurate representation of DThU's research output, only authors with verified DThU affiliations were considered for the analysis of most productive authors. A manually curated list of the 15 most productive DThU researchers, validated against affiliation data, was used to filter and attribute author productivity. Duplicate records and papers with incomplete metadata were checked and, if necessary, excluded.

2.3. Bibliometric analysis

The analysis covered several key indicators:

- Annual publication trends: Number of WoS-indexed publications per year, with policy milestones annotated.
- Authorship patterns: Most productive DThU authors, distribution of publications by author.
- Research topics and keywords: Frequency and temporal trends of author keywords, indicating core and emerging research themes.
- Source journals: Distribution of publications across journals and journal quality (using

Scimago Journal Rankings where possible).

- Funding sources: Analysis of acknowledged funders.
- Collaboration networks: Patterns of international and domestic co-authorship.
- Policy impact: Major institutional support policy changes (2013, 2023) were discussed against publication and collaboration trends for quantitative and qualitative analysis.

All visualizations were generated using Biblioshiny - the graphical interface of Bibliometrix [17] and R (ver. 4.3) for customized trend analysis.

RESULTS

Main bibliometric indicators

As of June 30, 2025, a total of 644 publications affiliated with Dong Thap University (DThU) were indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) Core Collection. These documents were authored by a large number of contributors and received citations that resulted in an average of 12,91 citations per document, indicating a relatively high impact for an institution of DThU's size and regional context (Figure 1). The collection was dominated by research articles, with a smaller proportion of reviews and proceedings papers.

Trends of scientific output in Dong Thap University

The evolution of DThU's WoS-indexed output over time is shown in Figure 2. During the first several years after the university's establishment, annual publication counts were very low, and in some years no WoS-indexed publications were recorded.



Fig. 1: Main bibliometric indicators for Dong Thap University's Web of Science-indexed publications (2003–2025) (data searched on June 30, 2025)

From 2009 onward, the number of publications increased gradually, with annual output remaining below 20 papers until 2013. After 2013, annual publications rose more sharply, surpassing 30 papers in the mid-2010s and continuing to climb in subsequent years. The highest annual output was observed in 2024, with close to 90 WoS-indexed publications. A further increase was apparent from 2022 onward, although the count for 2025 reflected only the first six months of that year, as data were retrieved on June 30, 2025. The cumulative curve in Figure 2 illustrates a pronounced acceleration in the total number of WoS-indexed publications over the study period.

Generally, during the first 6-year establishment of DThU, no scientific article was published in WoS dataset. Since then, there has been a steady increase in the number of papers during the period of 2009 - 2025 with an annual growth rate at 15,48%, especially from 2013 up to now (Fig. 1 and 2). The number of papers has been increasing especially dramatically for 6 recent years, in which the most number of papers published was 92 papers in 2020, higher than twenty three-fold comparison of 2009. Only in the first six months of 2025, 40 articles have been published, almost equivalent to 2018 (Fig. 2).

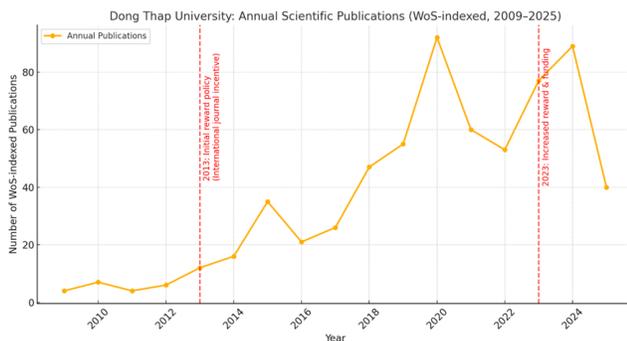


Fig. 2: Annual and cumulative number of WoS-indexed publications by year, 2009–2025, with key policy years annotated. Note: The publication count for 2025 includes only the first six months (data searched on June 30, 2025)

Most productive authors

Scientific output at DThU was concentrated among a core group of researchers (Figure 3). The fifteen most productive DThU-affiliated authors accounted for a substantial share of the university’s WoS-indexed

publications. The ten leading authors were Huynh Vinh Phuc (184 publications), Nguyen V. Dung (47), Vo Minh Tam (41), Nguyen Van Hung (31), Tran Van Tan (27), Ha Danh Duc (24), Tran Quoc Tri (22), Vo Thi Le Hang (19), Nguyen Ho (17), and Nguyen Quoc Thai (15). All of these authors were confirmed as DThU-affiliated during the study period, based on institutional affiliation lines and publicly available information.

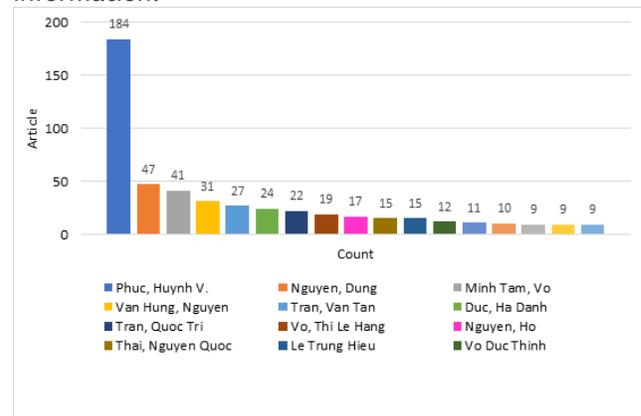


Fig. 3: Top 15 most productive authors affiliated with Dong Thap University (2009–2025) (based on WoS-Researcher profile)

Top 20 main research areas

Based on the WoS research area classification, the 644 publications were grouped into 20 broad subject categories (Table 1). The most represented research areas were physics (184 articles, 28,6%) and mathematics (171, 26,6%), followed by chemistry (128, 19,9%) and materials science (82, 12,7%). Additional areas with notable representation included science and technology - other topics (59, 9,2%) and optics (51, 7,9%). Smaller but visible proportions of output were classified under computer science (30, 4,7%), engineering (22, 3,4%), and environmental sciences and ecology (21, 3,3%). Only 25 publications (3,9% of the total) were assigned to social-human sciences fields, including linguistics, education, social sciences, business economics, art, and social issues.

Research topics and keywords co-occurrence analysis

The analysis of author keywords revealed several dominant thematic clusters in DThU’s international

Table 1: Top 20 main research areas of DTHU's WoS-indexed publications

Rank	Research Area	Articles	Percent (%)
1	PHYSICS	184	28,6
2	MATHEMATICS	171	26,6
3	CHEMISTRY	128	19,9
4	MATERIALS SCIENCE	82	12,7
5	SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY OTHER TOPICS	59	9,2
6	OPTICS	51	7,9
7	COMPUTER SCIENCE	30	4,7
8	ENGINEERING	22	3,4
9	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES ECOLOGY	21	3,3
10	BIOLOGY	18	2,8
11	LINGUISTICS	8	1,2
12	MEDICAL SCIENCES	7	1,1
13	EDUCATION EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH	6	0,9
14	SOCIAL SCIENCES OTHER TOPICS	6	0,9
15	BUSINESS ECONOMICS	4	0,6
16	AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES	4	0,6
17	MECHANICS	3	0,5
18	EARTH SCIENCES	2	0,3
19	ART	2	0,3
20	SOCIAL ISSUES	1	0,2

Source: Web of Science (data searched on June 30, 2025).

publications. A keyword co-occurrence network based on author-provided keywords (Figure 4) showed a dense cluster of terms associated with fixed point theory, functional analysis, and related areas of mathematics. Another major cluster grouped terms from materials science and computational chemistry, including “electronic properties,” “DFT calculations,” “graphene,” and “optical properties.” A smaller cluster of keywords referred to Vietnam and the Mekong Delta, pointing to research on environmental and regional issues.

A complementary analysis of terms extracted from publication titles (Figure 5) produced similar patterns. Frequently occurring title terms related to mathematical problems, materials and electronic properties, and environmental features such as “soil”, “water”, and “delta”. Together, these analyses indicated that DTHU’s WoS-indexed publications during the study period were thematically

anchored in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and materials science, with additional contributions in environmental, regional, and ecological studies.

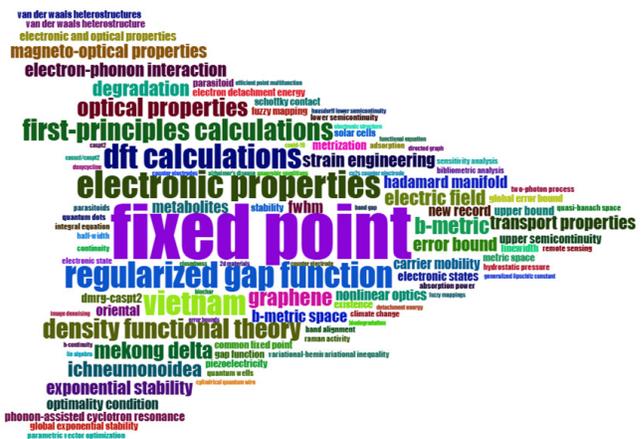


Fig. 4: Word cloud visualization of author keywords at DTHU WoS-indexed publications

Table 3: Top 10 funding agencies supporting DThU WoS-indexed publications (harmonized data)

Rank	Funding Agency	Articles Supported
1	National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED)	135
2	Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam (MOET)	67
3	Vingroup Joint Stock Company/Vingroup Innovation Foundation VINIF	33
4	Dong Thap University (internal)	31
5	Higher Education Commission of Pakistan	20
6	National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)	14
7	Department of Science and Technology at Ho Chi Minh City	13
8	Hue University	12
9	Belarusian National Research Program Convergence	11
10	National Science And Technology Council Taiwan	7

Source: Web of Science (data searched on June 30, 2025). Note: Funders are harmonized for accuracy due to variations in reporting within the WoS database.

Country and Institutional collaboration

Country-level co-authorship analysis of the 644 WoS-indexed publications revealed a geographically diverse collaboration network (Figure 6). The most frequent international partners were located in Taiwan, Pakistan, Russia, Colombia, India, USA, and Poland, along with additional collaborations involving institutions in Germany, Thailand, Australia, and

other countries. These collaborations were often embedded in multi-country networks rather than bilateral partnerships only.

At the institutional level, DThU co-authored papers with a broad range of Vietnamese and international universities (Figure 7). Strong collaboration links were observed with Duy Tan University, Ton Duc Thang University, Hue University, Le Quy Don Technical



Fig. 6: International country collaboration map for DThU WoS-indexed publications. Greater line density means closer connection between countries

5,3%), and SDG 2: Zero Hunger (28, 4,3%). Additional contributions were linked to SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. More than 70% of the publications were not explicitly associated with any SDG, indicating that most of DThU's WoS-indexed research during the period was not framed in SDG-specific terms.

DISCUSSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This study analyzed DThU's WoS-indexed publications over more than two decades and aligned bibliometric patterns with major institutional policy milestones. By combining longitudinal output indicators, author productivity metrics, thematic and collaboration analyses, and funding data, the study provides empirical evidence on how research support policies may interact with other systemic factors to shape the research profile of a public university in the Global South.

Evolution of publication output and institutional policies

As shown in Figure 2, DThU's annual WoS-indexed output increased substantially over time, with pronounced upturns after 2013 and again after 2022. These temporal changes coincided with the introduction of an international publication reward policy in 2012-2013 and the subsequent expansion of incentives, internal research grants, travel and training support, and investment in research infrastructure in 2022-2023. While broader national trends in Vietnamese higher education, changes in scientific collaboration patterns, and global shifts in publishing may also have contributed to this growth, the alignment between institutional policy milestones and publication trends suggests that research support policies at DThU likely played an important role in stimulating international publication activity.^[5, 7]

This interpretation is consistent with previous work showing that performance-based incentives, competitive grants and targeted support programs can be associated with higher research productivity and improved international visibility in universities.^[2-4] In Vietnam in particular, recent analyses have documented the effects of national and institutional policies on the rapid growth of international

publications and the changing structure of research output ^[5, 7, 9] Rather than implying a simple causal mechanism, the present findings support the view that institutional policies at DThU operated in tandem with these broader developments, reinforcing existing trends and opening new opportunities for academic staff to publish in international journals.^[15]

Author productivity and capacity building

The concentration of WoS-indexed output among a relatively small group of highly productive authors (Figure 3) mirrors patterns observed in other universities, where a core group of researchers typically accounts for a large share of total publications.^[3] These authors, all confirmed as DThU researchers, collectively contributed to a significant portion of the university's total international output. This concentration reflects both strong individual productivity and the university's support for key research groups, for example through access to collaborations, funding and research infrastructure.

From a policy perspective, this configuration offers both advantages and challenges. On one hand, it indicates that DThU has been able to cultivate and retain highly active researchers capable of competing in international outlets. On the other hand, reliance on a small group of prolific authors raises questions about long-term sustainability and equity in research opportunities. Expanding mentoring schemes, internal grants, and training in academic writing and project management could help broaden participation and build research capacity among early-career and less productive staff, thereby reducing dependence on a few key individuals and strengthening the overall research culture at the university.^[8, 10]

Research areas, themes and SDG alignment

The dominance of physics, mathematics, chemistry and materials science in DThU's WoS-indexed portfolio (Table 1) reflects the university's established strengths in the natural and physical sciences. The keyword co-occurrence analysis (Figure 4) further highlighted dense thematic clusters in fixed-point theory, functional analysis, and computational materials science (e.g., "electronic properties,"

“DFT calculations,” “graphene”). These patterns underscore DThU’s growing capacity in theoretical and computational research fields and its integration into international research networks in these fields.

At the same time, the relatively small and scattered set of publications in social-human sciences, along with the limited number of SDG-related publications in areas such as poverty, inequality or institutional development (Table 4), indicate substantial room for diversification. The analysis of SDG coverage showed that DThU’s contributions were strongest in well-being, environmental and agricultural domains (e.g., SDGs 2, 3, 13 and 15), but much weaker for several other goals. This imbalance is not unique to DThU and has been observed in other universities where STEM fields initially benefit more from performance-based research policies than social sciences and humanities.^[9]

For institutional policy, these findings suggest that greater emphasis on interdisciplinary and SDG-oriented research - particularly in education, social policy, public health and local development - could help broaden the university’s contribution to societal challenges. Adjusting funding schemes and reward structures to recognize SDG-related outputs and applied research may encourage more researchers in underrepresented disciplines to engage with international publication channels.

Beside this, the word clouds demonstrate the breadth and concentration of DThU’s research. The prominence of STEM fields, i.e., mathematics, materials, computational science - is clear, but there is also a visible if smaller, commitment to environmental and regional studies. Expanding keyword diversity in future research, particularly in social sciences, health, and education, could further strengthen DThU’s interdisciplinary profile and societal impact.

Collaboration and funding patterns

The country-level and institutional collaboration networks (Figures 6 and 7) revealed that DThU developed extensive co-authorship ties with both domestic and international partners. Strong links with Vietnamese institutions such as Duy Tan University, Ton Duc Thang University, Hue University and others,

together with collaborations in Taiwan, Pakistan, Russia, Colombia, India, Poland, Germany, Thailand, USA, and Australia, indicate that DThU has become an active participant in regional and global research networks. These results underscore DThU’s success in establishing global research ties, particularly with partners in Asia, Eastern Europe and Australia. The spread and diversity of institutions, both domestic and international, underscore DThU’s growing engagement in global research networks. At the same time, the prominence of a few core partners suggests opportunities to further expand and diversify institutional collaborations in future research strategies. This internationalization is closely linked to access to competitive external funding, broader dissemination of research findings, and increased citation impact.^[32]

The funding analysis (Table 3) showed that national programs such as NAFOSTED and MOET, along with private actors like VINIF, played a central role in enabling DThU’s research. Internal university grants and support from provincial and regional institutions further contributed to the funding landscape. Together, these sources provided a mix of national, institutional, private and international funding that underpinned many of the university’s WoS-indexed publications. At the same time, the reliance on a relatively small number of major funders and the modest presence of industry-based or international competitive grants indicate that there is still considerable potential to diversify funding sources and strengthen the university’s resilience to policy or funding shifts.^[4]

Policy implications

Several policy implications emerge from these findings. First, the temporal correlation between the introduction and strengthening of research support policies and the marked increase in WoS-indexed publications suggests that well-designed incentive schemes, combined with internal grants and infrastructure investment, can be effective in stimulating international publication in a public university in the Global South. Second, the concentration of output among a small group of highly productive authors highlights the importance of

extending capacity-building, mentoring and support mechanisms to a larger share of the academic staff to promote more inclusive research development.

Third, the disciplinary and thematic profile of DThU's international publications underscores the need to complement existing strengths in mathematics, physics, chemistry and materials science with stronger support for social-human sciences and SDG-related research. Designing specific funding streams and recognition mechanisms for interdisciplinary and locally relevant research - particularly research that addresses environmental, ecological, climate change, and agricultural issues in the Mekong Delta - may help achieve a better balance. Finally, the evidence on collaboration and funding patterns points to the value of maintaining strong national partnerships while actively seeking to expand international linkages and diversify funding portfolios, including collaborations with industry, NGOs and international agencies.

Taken together, the results support the view that institutional research policies can make a meaningful contribution to enhancing scientific productivity and visibility, while also highlighting the importance of strategic diversification - in disciplines, collaborations and funding sources - to sustain and deepen research development over time.

LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

This study has several limitations that should be acknowledged. First, the analysis relies solely on bibliometric data extracted from the WoS database. While WoS is among the largest bibliographic sources, using only one database may not capture the full range of DThU's international publications, and inconsistencies in metadata - such as non-standardized author names or affiliations and incomplete funding acknowledgments - may affect the accuracy of results. These are common challenges in bibliometric research.^[33] Additionally, we restricted our analysis to English-language documents classified as articles, reviews, or proceedings papers.

These document types were selected because they represent the primary and most standardized forms of international scholarly communication in WoS and are commonly used in institutional research evaluations. However, this choice excludes monographs, book chapters, and publications in Vietnamese or other languages, which may be particularly important for regional outreach and local impact. Consequently, the study focuses on DThU's internationally visible research output and likely underestimates its total scholarly production, especially in the social sciences and humanities.

Futhermore, the scope of this study is constrained by the granularity of available WoS metadata and the absence of detailed qualitative information on how research support policies are designed and implemented at DThU. Over more than 20 years of development, DThU has introduced numerous policies that may have had both direct and indirect, impacts on scientific research and international publication, but a systematic analysis of these policies was beyond the scope of the present study.

Future research should consider expanding the data sources to include other major bibliographic databases such as Scopus, Dimensions, and other sources of bibliographic data,^[26, 33, 34] as well as conducting qualitative interviews with researchers, faculty, and university managers.^[35-37] A deeper investigation into the formulation, evolution, and practical effects of institutional research policies at DThU - and comparison with other Vietnamese and regional universities - would provide valuable insights into the mechanisms that foster or hinder scientific productivity and innovation.^{[35,] [37-40]}

CONCLUSION

This study set out to analyze and characterize the impact of institutional research support policies on the scientific productivity and international visibility of Dong Thap University through a bibliometric case study. The findings show that a systematic alignment of documented policy milestones with longitudinal bibliometric indicators can illuminate how university-level interventions are associated with changes in

publication output, collaboration patterns, thematic orientation and SDG-related engagement.

Beyond the specific case of DThU, the study contributes to the broader literature on research policy in developing economies by demonstrating the usefulness of institution-focused bibliometric evaluation for examining the effects of incentive schemes, internal funding and strategic partnerships. It highlights both the potential of targeted policies to foster internationally visible research and the persistent structural imbalances - across disciplines, funding sources and SDG areas - that such policies alone do not fully resolve.

Taken together, the results suggest that research policy in public universities in Vietnam and similar contexts should be understood as an evolving interplay between institutional strategies, national frameworks and global scientific dynamics. The approach and insights offered here provide a conceptual and empirical basis for future work seeking to design, monitor and refine research support policies in universities across the Global South.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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