

Original Paper

Research Status and Development Trends of Administrative Agreements—Visual Analysis Based on CiteSpace

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Abstract

Administrative agreement has dual attributes of administration and agreement. It is an important flexible governance tool for the construction of service-oriented government and the modernization of national governance. CiteSpace software was used to conduct a visual analysis of the core articles on administrative agreement-related research included in the National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) from 1998 to 2026. The relevant research has gone through three stages: concept construction, institutional specification, and governance application. The overall process has gradually shifted from basic theoretical analysis to judicial application and multi-system construction. Domestic administrative agreement research has formed a stable academic pattern. The core research strength is concentrated in universities and judicial practice departments. Cooperation among scholars is relatively scattered, and cross-institutional and cross-regional collaborative research is still insufficient. The research has formed core topics around attribute definition, judicial review, rights protection, practical application and dispute resolution, and the focus continues to develop in the direction of practicality and refinement. Relying on existing research results to further improve the design of rules and practical paths can effectively promote the healthy development of the administrative agreement system and better respond to the practical needs of building a rule of law government.

Keywords

administrative agreement, CiteSpace, visual analysis

In recent years, my country's high-quality development has steadily advanced, and the construction of service-oriented government and law-based government has continued to deepen. Administrative agreement, as a flexible and efficient administrative management method, has gradually received attention. Relying on the dual legal attributes of administrative and negotiated nature, administrative agencies can reach consensus with citizens, legal persons or other organizations through equal

consultation, and promote public service projects in a more flexible and efficient manner, so as to maximize the realization of public interests and the protection of private interests in individual cases. In 2019, the promulgation of the “Provisions on Several Issues Concerning the Trial of Administrative Agreement Cases” further refined the trial rules of administrative agreements by defining the definition of administrative agreements, providing a solid legal guarantee for standardizing the establishment and performance of administrative agreements and resolving disputes over administrative agreements. With the continuous advancement of the construction of service-oriented government, administrative agreements have been widely used in various fields of public services. Issues related to administrative agreements have also become a hot spot in legal research. Scholars have delved into the theoretical and practical issues of administrative agreements from different research perspectives. After years of development, this field has accumulated relatively rich research results.

Currently, our country is in a critical period of building a rule-of-law government and innovating and transforming governance models. Sorting out and summarizing the research results in the field of administrative agreements since 1998 will not only help clarify the research context in this field, but also better serve practice, making administrative agreements an effective tool for service-oriented government operations. Based on the core documents on administrative agreements included in CNKI from 1998 to February 2026, this article uses quantitative analysis methods to systematically analyze the authors, research institutions, keyword co-occurrence and clustering characteristics, and sort out the research evolution path. This will provide a panoramic view of the current status, hot spots and trends of administrative agreement research in my country, and provide ideas and references for further research in this field.

1. Research Tools and Main Methods

1.1 Research Tools

This article mainly uses the CiteSpace document visual analysis software developed by Dr. Chen Chaomei. CiteSpace is an information visualization software developed using Java language. It is mainly based on co-citation analysis theory (co-citation) and path-finding network algorithm (pathFinder). It measures documents (collections) in specific fields to explore the key path of the evolution of the subject field and its knowledge turning point. Through the drawing of a series of visual maps, it forms an analysis of the potential dynamic mechanism of the subject evolution and the detection of the subject development frontier. (Note 1) With the help of CiteSpace bibliometric analysis tools, we can systematically analyze the core dimensions of authors, institutions, research hotspots and other documents in the field of administrative agreements. By drawing a visual knowledge map, we can discover the research process and future prospects of administrative agreements.

1.2 Data Source

The sample data in this article comes from the China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) database from 1998 to February 2026. In order to ensure comprehensive and accurate search results,

the document search operation is implemented through the advanced search function. The search topics were set as “administrative agreement”, “administrative contract” and “administrative contract”, and 1,101 documents were initially retrieved. Through manual review and screening, non-research documents such as low-relevant documents and meeting minutes were excluded, and 957 valid samples were finally formed.

1.3 Research Methods

This article uses CiteSpace software to conduct author collaboration, institutional distribution, keyword co-occurrence, and emergence detection analysis on 957 selected documents. The time slice is set to 1 year, and the node type selects authors, institutions, and keywords respectively to generate a visual knowledge graph. The knowledge graph visualization method comprehensively uses multidisciplinary theories and technologies to intuitively deconstruct data information through data mining, information processing, knowledge measurement, and graphic drawing. (Note 2) Combining co-occurrence analysis and timeline view, the research evolution path and changes in core topics are identified, comprehensively displaying the entire research landscape from conceptual construction to practical application in the field of administrative agreements, and providing a scientific and visual bibliometric basis for subsequent academic discussions.

2. The Overall Trend of Research on Administrative Agreements

2.1 Analysis of Annual Publication Characteristics

The annual change in the number of research documents is an important indicator to measure the development of a certain research field. (Note 3) In order to present the research trend in the field of administrative agreements more comprehensively, this article organizes relevant literature in the field of administrative agreements since 1998, as shown in Figure 1.

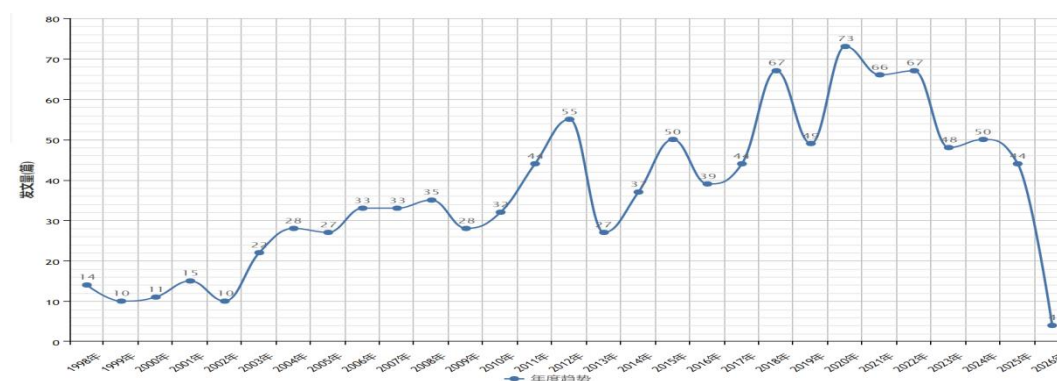


Figure 1. Analysis of the Number of Documents Issued in the Administrative Agreement Field in Time Series from 1998 to February 2026

Judging from the annual publication trend of CNKI academic journals, the research on administrative agreements in my country shows obvious phased characteristics. From 1998 to 2014, the research on

administrative agreements in my country was in a period of low and stable development. The number of published articles has remained in the low range of single digits to more than 30 articles for a long time. In 1998, the number of published articles was only 14 articles, 15 articles in 2001, and 35 articles in 2008. The overall growth rate is slow. The academic community mainly conducts theoretical discussions around administrative contracts and the concept and nature of administrative contracts, and academic attention has not been fully increased. From 2015 to 2020, the research on administrative agreements entered a stage of explosive growth, and the number of published articles increased by leaps and bounds: 39 articles were published in 2015, 50 articles in 2017, 67 articles in 2018, and reached a research peak of 73 articles in 2020. The introduction of laws related to administrative agreements has become the core growth driver of academic research. After 2021, it has entered a period of deep cultivation. Although the research enthusiasm has declined, the depth and pertinence of the research have increased significantly, and it has gradually turned to specific rules and difficult issues in judicial practice, reflecting the transformation from theoretical construction to concrete practical analysis.

2.2 Related Analysis of Research Authors

The data was processed with the help of CiteSpace software, and visual analysis was carried out with the author as the node type, and the author collaboration network map was obtained (Figure 2). The results show that the network contains a total of 284 nodes and 23 connections, and the network density is only 0.0006, indicating that the degree of cooperation among authors in this field is low, the overall research strength is relatively scattered, and there are only a few local cooperative relationships. At the core author level, Yu Lingyun has become the scholar with the highest number of publications in the field of administrative agreement research with the largest node size. Through long-term output, he has established the basic theory and judicial review research direction in this field, and is the core hub of the early academic community. Highly prolific authors include Chen Guodong, Chen Tianhao, Ying Songnian, Liu Hezhe, etc. Among them, Ying Songnian, as a leading figure in administrative law, has made foundational contributions to the basic theory and legislative improvement of administrative agreements; Chen Tianhao, Chen Guodong and other scholars have continued to produce in the mid-term stage, promoting the deepening of research on the private law attributes of administrative agreements, dispute resolution mechanisms and other directions. In addition, scholars such as Shi Jianhui, Ye Bifeng, Zhang Qingbo, Yan Erbao, Yu Lishen, and Zhou Youyong constitute the backbone of the field and have expanded the research boundaries of administrative agreements from the perspectives of administrative procedures and administrative relief. However, from the perspective of cooperation clustering, academic subgroups in the field cooperate closely within each group, but there are few connections between groups, indicating that cross-group cooperation among scholars is relatively weak, and academic resources and research forces are still distributed in a decentralized manner. In the future, the interconnection among scholars needs to be further strengthened to promote the in-depth development of research.

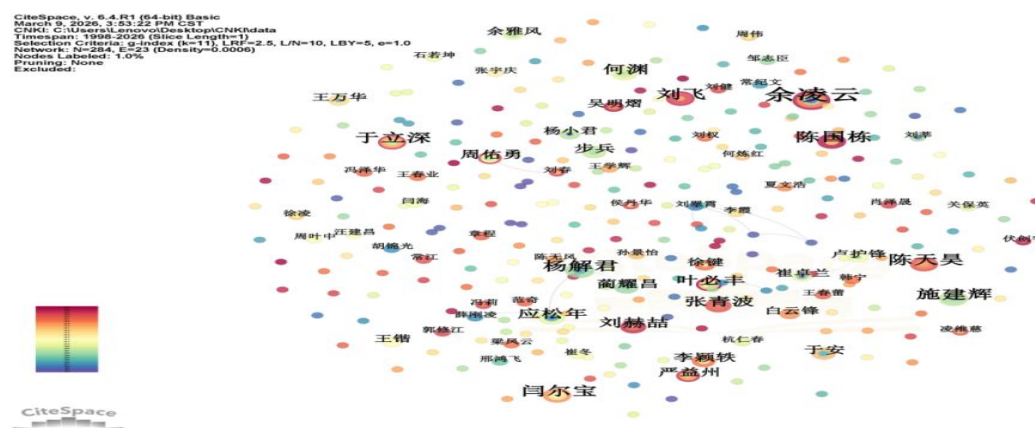


Figure 2. Cooperation Map of Authors of Administrative Agreements from 1998 to February 2026

2.3 Analysis of the Layout of Issuing Institutions

Import the research sample data into the CiteSpace analysis tool, and draw a co-occurring knowledge map of research institutions in the field of administrative protocols through visualization algorithms and network structure analysis, as shown in Figure 3.

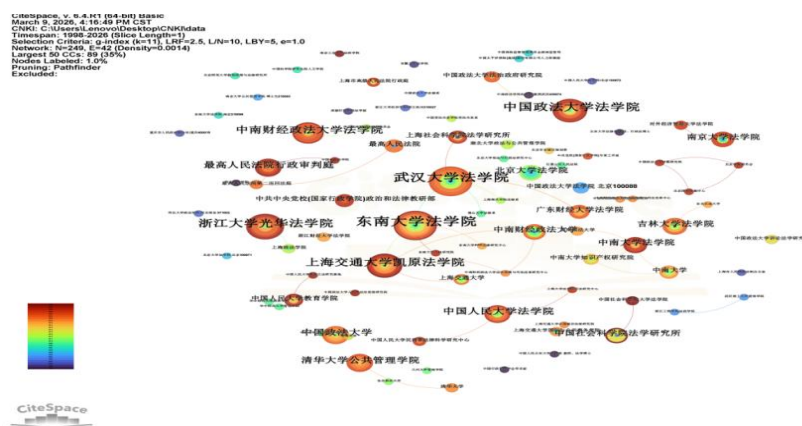


Figure 3. Cooperation Map of Administrative Agreement Issuing Agencies from 1998 to February 2026

As can be seen from Figure 3, compared with the highly dispersed author cooperation network, the institutional cooperation network in the field of administrative agreements is denser and has richer connections, reflecting the characteristics of academic cooperation relying more on institutional platforms. Compared with the aforementioned author network, although it is more connected, cross-cluster cooperation is still insufficient, and academic resources are highly concentrated in a few core institutions. Among them, the School of Law of China University of Political Science and Law is the core institution in the field, ranking first in the number of publications and academic influence.

Together with Wuhan University Law School, Southeast University Law School, Zhejiang University Guanghua Law School and other institutions, it forms the main research force of universities; at the same time, the Administrative Tribunal of the Supreme People's Court, as a key practical institution, plays a core role in the judicial review and specification formulation of administrative agreements, with the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (National School of Administration) and Renmin University of China Law School as important supporting forces. Currently, three major cooperation clusters have been formed with China University of Political Science and Law as the core, Southeast University and Wuhan University as sub-cores, and Renmin University and the Academy of Social Sciences as supplements. The cooperation within the cluster is close but there are few cross-cluster connections. Overall, administrative agreement research institutions present a pattern of prominent core, local agglomeration, and overall decentralization. There is still much room for improvement in cross-institutional and cross-regional collaborative innovation.

3. Analysis of Hot Topics in Administrative Agreement Research

3.1 Keyword Co-occurrence Network Analysis

In the CiteSpace software, set the node type as a keyword, perform a quantitative analysis on the relevant documents in the field of administrative agreements included in the CNKI database from 1998 to February 2026, use g-index to screen high-impact documents, and switch the network shearing method to Pathfinder r, the finally generated keyword co-occurrence network contains 282 nodes, 240 connections, and the network density is 0.0061, of which the largest connected component accounts for 63%, indicating that the research topics in this field are concentrated, the knowledge network structure is stable, and the core research community has been formed (see Figure 4 Keyword Co-occurrence Map).

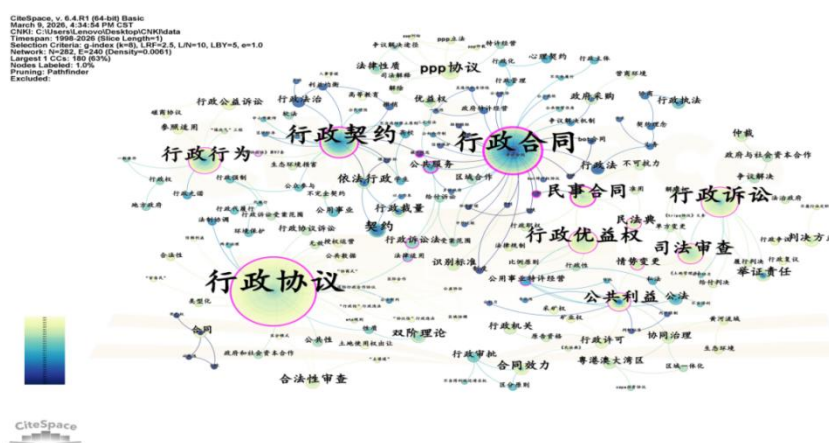


Figure 4. Co-occurrence Network Analysis of Keywords in Administrative Agreements from 1998 to February 2026

3.2 Analysis of Research Hot Spots

From the CiteSpace keyword co-occurrence network, it can be seen that the field of administrative agreement has formed a knowledge network with “administrative agreement”, “administrative contract” and “administrative contract” as the core nodes, radiating multi-dimensional research topics. The node size and co-occurrence frequency, connection strength and correlation degree intuitively show that the current research hotspots focus on the five major directions of basic theoretical definition, judicial review rules, rights protection mechanisms, typical practical applications and dispute resolution paths. The cross-penetration among each direction constitutes a complete system of administrative agreement research.

3.2.1 Definition of Basic Theory

Basic theoretical analysis is the logical starting point for the study of administrative agreements. Administrative agreements are both administrative and agreement-based. They not only carry the public law mission of administrative subjects to realize public management functions and safeguard public interests, but also follow the contractual spirit of equal negotiation and autonomy of will. This dual attribute makes it span the two legal fields of administrative law and civil law and become a core issue of common concern in the administrative and civil law circles. From the CiteSpace keyword co-occurrence network, it can be seen that “administrative agreement”, “administrative contract” and “administrative contract”, as core nodes in the field, show a high-intensity co-occurrence relationship with keywords such as “legal nature”, “public law attributes”, “civil contract”, and “public and private law connection”, which intuitively presents the core debate in the academic community around the priority of public law and the priority of private law. Scholars who advocate the priority of public law always base on the public interest nature of administrative agreements and emphasize the core position of their public law attributes. They believe that although administrative agreements take the form of a contract, they are essentially different from civil contracts. For example, Yang Huaifu believes that the administrative contract is a “fake contract” that only borrows the form of the contract. The public law factors in the agreement are the criteria for judging administrative agreements, and the administrative agreements are identified through the purpose of the agreement. (Note 4) In contrast, scholars who prioritize private law focus more on the consensual nature of contracts, advocate weakening the absolute dominance of administration, and take into account both transaction efficiency and the protection of subject rights. For example, Wang Liming believes that the concept and scope of administrative agreements should be reconsidered from the perspectives of the applicability of contract law rules, transaction security and efficiency, and the seriousness of maintaining contracts, so as to better realize the due functions and effects of administrative agreements and fully protect the legitimate rights and interests of all parties. (Note 5) Avoid over-emphasis on the nature of public law and damage to contract trust and market order. In addition, there are scholars in the academic circle who have jumped out of the either/or priority debate between public and private law and put forward theoretical perspectives that are more relevant to practice, further enriching the research connotation of the basic

theory of administrative agreements. Yu Lingyun pointed out that the distinction between administrative contracts and civil contracts may not be clear-cut. (Note 6) The existence of a mixed contract of public and private law leaves room for qualitative flexibility, which also confirms the complex correlation structure of nodes such as “administrative agreement”, “civil contract” and “public law” in the map, reflecting the intersectionality and controversial nature of basic theoretical research on administrative agreements.

3.2.2 Judicial Review Rules

Judicial review has been a key research direction in administrative agreements in recent years. Scholars have different opinions on the focus of judicial review. They mainly include the legality review principle of administrative priority, the contractual review principle of agreement priority, and the dominant theory of mixed contract theory. Judicial review of administrative agreements is discussed from these three aspects. First, the legality review with administrative priority is to comprehensively review whether the administrative agency is legal, whether it is in the public interest, and whether it is obviously inappropriate in six aspects: the qualifications of the subject of the signing, the basis of authority, the application of law, the legitimacy of the procedure, the content of the agreement and the administrative purpose. Different from general specific administrative acts, administrative agreements are a dynamic process that must be reviewed throughout the process, and the review focus of the legality review principles must be determined based on the different litigation claims of the parties to substantively resolve administrative disputes. (Note 7) Second, the contractual review based on agreement priority mainly focuses on the rights and obligations relationship between the administrative agency and the administrative counterpart. In essence, it respects and protects the spirit of the contract, maintains the trust interests and transaction security between the administrative agency and the counterparty, and claims that the administrative agency has failed to perform the agreement in accordance with the law and the contract, including refusing to perform, incompletely performing or delaying performance, failing to perform incidental obligations, illegally or violating the agreement, changing, rescinding, and terminating the agreement, requesting that the administrative agency be ordered to continue to perform the agreement, etc. Contractual review is applicable. (Note 8) Third, the hybrid contract theory uses a combination of legality and contractual review for review. Yu Lingyun believes that under the dual legal order of public law and private law, a hybrid contract of public and private law does not have an independent legal status and is not recognized as an independent contract type. Mixed contracts of public and private law can only be uniformly labeled as administrative agreements using the “dominant theory”. (Note 9) Through the organic combination of legality review and contractual review, the dual attributes of administrative agreements are taken into account. The formation of this hot spot not only responds to the normative demand for judicial review of administrative agreements in the Administrative Litigation Law and related judicial interpretations, but also reflects the expansion and innovation of the traditional administrative litigation review model in China's administrative law under the trend of integration of public and private laws, laying a theoretical

foundation for the unification of judicial adjudication standards and system improvement of subsequent administrative agreements.

3.2.3 Rights Protection Mechanism

From the CiteSpace keyword co-occurrence network, it can be seen that nodes such as administrative privileges, public interests, and trust interests are closely related to “administrative agreements”, which intuitively reflects that the rights protection mechanism is the core of the research on administrative agreements. The core of this direction is to achieve a dynamic balance between administrative power constraints, public interest protection and counterparty rights protection under the mixed nature of public and private laws in administrative agreements. On the one hand, research focuses on the regulation and control of administrative preferential rights. Academic circles generally agree that administrative agencies have the right to unilaterally change or terminate agreements based on public interests. However, their exercise must be in accordance with the provisions of laws, regulations, and rules, or to avoid serious damage to national interests or social public interests. The behavior of preferential rights must comply with the principle of proportionality and follow the procedural steps of negotiation and reasoning, and the losses of the counterparty must be compensated. (Note 10) This prevents infringement of the trust interests and transaction security of the counterparty. On the other hand, research is dedicated to constructing multiple judicial protection paths for relative rights. During the performance of an administrative agreement, when the counterparty faces risks such as breach of contract by the administrative agency, illegal changes, or abuse of favorable rights, how to provide effective relief to the counterparty becomes a key issue. The academic community not only conducts research on litigation channels, but also actively explores non-litigation dispute resolution mechanisms, trying to balance the substantive status differences between administrative subjects and counterparties from the dual levels of substantive rules and procedural design. In addition, the balance between public interests and private interests is also the focus of research in this direction. Chen Bangfeng believes that the identification of administrative agreements should first recognize the relationship between personal interests and public interests. (Note 11) As an important carrier of public-private cooperation, administrative agreements are essentially the intersection of public interests and private interests. How to coordinate the relationship between the two throughout the entire process of agreement formulation, performance and dispute resolution has become a challenge faced by both theory and practice.

3.2.4 Typical Practical Applications

As the research period progresses and the research perspective continues to deepen, it can be seen from the CiteSpace keyword co-occurrence and timing diagram that the research on administrative agreements has gradually shifted from early macro-theoretical discussions to theoretical research on specific types of agreements. PPP agreements, state-owned land use rights transfer agreements, expropriation compensation agreements, public utility franchise agreements, government purchase service agreements and other typical agreements that are frequently used in practice have gradually become the focus of academic circles. This marks that the research on administrative agreements has

moved from macroscopic abstraction to concrete refinement, and the pertinence and practical orientation of the research have been significantly enhanced. At the practical application level, relevant research has carried out detailed analysis based on the functional positioning and operating characteristics of administrative agreements in different fields. Regarding the government-private capital cooperation project, Zou Huancong focused on the judicial review of the contract between the government and the counterparty. He believed that the review focus of the legality review principle should be highlighted, a mechanism to determine the focus of review based on different demands, and precise rules for the rationality review principle should be established. The intensity of review of the principle of proportionality should be distinguished for different administrative rights and interests, and the accuracy of review should be strengthened to establish a benchmark for typed judicial review. (Note 12) Focusing on agreements that are closely related to people's livelihood, such as land transfer and expropriation compensation, Yang Guoqiang conducted an in-depth analysis of the logic of determining the nature of contracts in existing civil and administrative theories in the qualitative disputes over state-owned land use rights transfer contracts based on the existing focus of disputes over the nature of contracts in judicial practice. It incorporates the reasoning and argumentation paths of relevant judgments, and establishes "the content of rights and obligations in administrative law" as the standard for determining the nature of a contract, providing new ideas for interpreting dilemmas in civil contracts, and providing theoretical reference for dispute resolution, market expectations and government positioning in state-owned land use rights transfer contracts. (Note 13)

The above-mentioned research shows that the practical application of typical administrative agreements is an important content of academic concern. Related research continues to deepen on core issues such as the structure of judicial review and nature identification standards, further improving the responsiveness and explanatory power of administrative agreement theory to practical issues.

3.2.5 Dispute Resolution Mechanism

"Administrative litigation", "administrative reconsideration", "judicial review", "dispute resolution" and "diversified dispute resolution" are also key research contents of administrative agreements. With the continuous expansion of administrative agreement practice scenarios, various performance disputes, qualitative disputes, and rights and interests damage issues occur frequently, and the dispute resolution mechanism has also become the core focus of administrative agreement research. On the one hand, the academic community has conducted in-depth research on the review relief of administrative agreement disputes. Relying on the legislative innovation of the new review law to include administrative agreement disputes within the scope of review, Yan Erbao believes that it is necessary to reconstruct a new model for handling such disputes based on the analysis of administrative agreement disputes and the special attributes of review cases. (Note 14) It provides important theoretical ideas for building a dispute resolution system that conforms to the attributes of administrative agreements. On the other hand, academic circles have focused on the improvement of the administrative agreement litigation system. In view of the practical difficulties caused by the inherent "two-way structure" of

administrative agreements, Fan Qi believes that my country's existing system is compatible and can absorb and debug the contract review and enforcement mechanisms of administrative agreements, and use the accumulation of administrative agreement cases to build a system of public law contract rules. (Note 15) Furthermore, the research also focuses on the diversified resolution of administrative agreement disputes. Given that administrative agreements possess both public law and private law attributes, it explores the connection paths between non-litigious dispute resolution methods such as mediation, negotiation, and arbitration and the administrative reconsideration and litigation procedures. This aims to break through the limitations of a single remedy channel and effectively enhance the effectiveness and adaptability of dispute resolution.

4. Research Trends in Administrative Agreements

Using the CiteSpace software for cluster analysis, a timeline cluster knowledge map of the administrative agreement research field was generated, as shown in Figure 5.

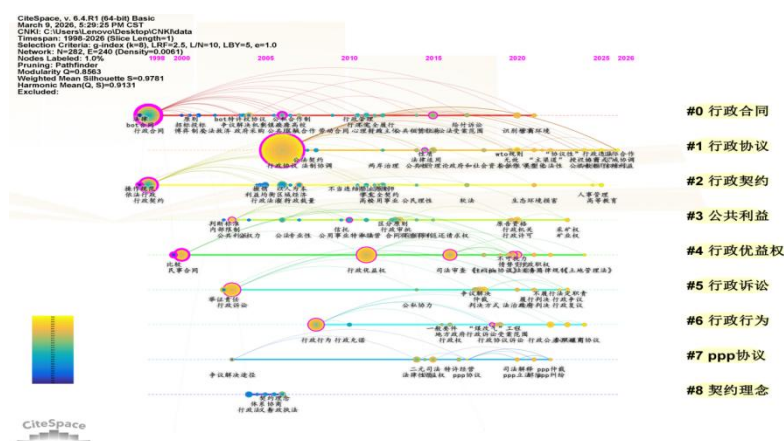


Figure 5. Clustering Map of Administrative Agreement Timeline from 1998 to February 2026

The timeline progress map can depict the relationships between keyword clusters and research hotspots, understand the historical dimensions of keywords within specific clusters, and uncover the phased research focuses and development trends in related fields. (Note 16) From the perspective of the historical evolution trend of key terms, the research on administrative agreements in China can be generally classified into three consecutive and progressive development stages.

4.1 Early Stage

From 1998 to 2014, it was the initial stage of the emergence of research on administrative agreements in China. During this period, the legislation had not yet clearly stipulated administrative agreements. The academic research focused on keywords such as “administrative contract”, “administrative covenant”, and “legal attributes”, and mainly discussed fundamental theoretical issues such as the definition of administrative agreements, the distinction between public and private law attributes, and

the identification of boundaries with civil contracts and unilateral administrative acts, providing theoretical support for the acquisition of an independent institutional status for administrative agreements.

4.2 Mid-term Stage

The period from 2015 to 2020 was a stage of standardized development for research on administrative agreements. With the amendment to the Administrative Litigation Law in 2017, administrative agreements were included in the scope of administrative litigation, providing an important legal basis for the judicial regulation of administrative agreements and becoming a key opportunity to shift the focus of research. Against this backdrop, keywords such as “administrative agreement,” “administrative prerogative,” “public interest,” and “judicial review” gradually became research hotspots. The academic community systematically explored practical issues such as the identification standards of administrative agreements, the principles of judicial review, and the paths to rights remedies, promoting the research on administrative agreements from theoretical speculation to a deep integration of institutional norms and judicial application.

4.3 Recent Period

The period from 2021 to 2026 witnessed the administrative agreement research entering a stage of refinement and sophistication. The continuous accumulation of judicial practice experience provided a solid foundation for theoretical research. In 2024, the “Administrative Review Law” included disputes over administrative agreements in the scope of review remedies, further promoting the complete establishment of the administrative agreement remedy system. Under the joint drive of multiple real factors, administrative agreement research continuously expanded in depth, presenting significant typification and governance orientation. Typical agreements such as “PPP agreements” and “compensation agreements for expropriation”, as well as remedies mechanisms like “dispute resolution”, “diverse dispute resolution”, and “administrative review” became frequent research topics. On one hand, the academic community focused on the differentiated regulatory paths for different types of administrative agreements, and on the other hand, they strived to improve the dispute resolution system for administrative agreements, promoting the organic connection of administrative review, administrative litigation, and diverse dispute resolution mechanisms, making administrative agreement research more in line with the practical needs of national governance modernization and the construction of a service-oriented government.

5. Conclusion and Outlook

This paper uses 957 articles indexed by CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure) as its analysis sample and, with the aid of CiteSpace visualization tools, systematically reviews the current research status, hot topics, and development trajectory of the field of administrative agreements, drawing the following conclusions.

From the perspective of the current research status, the number of publications on administrative

agreements in my country is highly synchronized with legislative revisions and the promulgation of judicial interpretations, and can be roughly divided into three stages: initial development, rapid growth, and a period of decline and in-depth research. Collaboration between authors and institutions is generally relatively dispersed, with core scholars and universities and judicial practice departments constituting the main research force; there is still room for improvement in cross-institutional and cross-regional collaboration. Regarding hot topics, the field of administrative agreements has formed a stable and concentrated research hotspot system, mainly focusing on five major directions for continuous deepening. First, it defines fundamental theories, focusing on conceptual characterization and the distinction between public and private law attributes, addressing the controversy surrounding the positioning of administrative agreements. Second, it establishes rules for judicial review, exploring the applicable paths for legality review, contractual review, and mixed review, striving to align with the dual nature of administrative agreements. Third, it develops rights protection mechanisms, centered on the regulation of administrative prerogative rights, the protection of legitimate expectations, and the balance between public and private interests. Fourth, it examines typical practical applications, extending to specific types such as PPP agreements, land transfers, and expropriation compensation, making the research more concrete and practice-oriented. Fifth, it addresses dispute resolution mechanisms, focusing on administrative review, administrative litigation, and diversified dispute resolution, aiming to build an efficient remedy system. From a developmental perspective, research on administrative agreements has gone through three stages: theoretical foundation building, normative development, and refined deepening. The research focus has gradually shifted from conceptual attribute analysis to institutional application and solving practical problems, and in recent years has shown distinct characteristics of in-depth typological research, improved remedy systems, and strengthened governance orientation.

Overall, research on administrative agreements has deepened in the past three decades, closely following the progress of the rule of law. It has formed a relatively systematic theoretical foundation and research framework, providing important theoretical support for legislative improvement, judicial practice, and the modernization of national governance. However, from the perspective of the overall research structure, future breakthroughs and deepening are needed in four dimensions. First, strengthen cross-institutional and cross-sectoral collaborative research. Breaking the current pattern of scattered authors and insufficient institutional collaboration, we should promote in-depth cooperation between universities, research institutions, and judicial practice departments to form a more cohesive academic community and enhance the overall comprehensiveness and practical relevance of research. Second, deepen the typological research of typical administrative agreements. Focusing on high-frequency application areas such as PPP agreements, land transfers, expropriation compensation, and government procurement of services, we should refine the identification standards, institutional rules, and review criteria for different scenarios, promoting research from generalized analysis to precise analysis. Third, improve the dispute resolution mechanism. Based on the dual attributes of administrative agreements,

we should clarify the functional positioning and application order of administrative review, administrative litigation, and diversified dispute resolution mechanisms, strengthen procedural connections and the unification of adjudication standards, and improve the substantive resolution effectiveness of administrative agreement disputes. Fourth, optimize the judicial review model for administrative agreements. Current judicial practice regarding administrative agreements is still dominated by unilateral review. In the future, a judicial review system that differentiates between the nature of the agreement and conducts separate reviews should be established. (Note 17) Based on the classification of administrative agreement types and the litigation requests of the counterparties, the existing logic for reviewing unilateral actions will be restructured.

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Notes

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