

Regional and Sectoral Applications of Artificial Intelligence and the Role of Technological Anxiety

This study analyzes the multidisciplinary applications and socio-psychological effects of artificial intelligence (AI). Through a systematic literature review, 150 relevant Q1-rated publications from Scopus and Web of Science were synthesized. Our analysis spans from macroeconomic technological transformations to deep-seated workplace anxiety. Results confirm that while AI primarily helps address shortages of skilled professionals in healthcare and education, adoption is hindered by psychological barriers such as the cognitive replacement crisis and AI-FoMO (fear of technological lag). Regional analysis reveals sharp disparities: Asia leads in sectoral integration and anxiety research, Europe faces a significant digital divide, while infrastructure constraints limit the adoption and scalability of AI in African countries. The study concludes that successful adoption depends not only on technical metrics but also on trust-building, Explainable AI (XAI) transparency, and stable regulatory frameworks.

Keywords: *artificial intelligence, literature review, regional analysis, sectoral applications, technological anxiety*

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1. Introduction

The scientific study of artificial intelligence has grown rapidly in recent years, necessitating the systematic organization of available results. Our current research analyzes 150 Q1-ranked publications selected from the Scopus and Web of Science databases to reveal patterns in the sectoral and regional application of technology. The study is grounded in the observable duality between the operational advantages of the technology (such as increased efficiency or diagnostic accuracy) and the psychological resistance accompanying its application. The aim of our study is to use the examined publications to answer the question of how AI acceptance varies across different segments of the global economy.

In our analysis, we pay particular attention to critical phenomena identified in the sample, such as the need for explainability and specific forms of technological anxiety. In the latter case, based on the articles examined, we distinguish between the fear of cognitive replacement and the phenomenon of AI-FoMO, which appears in recent literature as anxiety about technological backwardness. The structure of the study follows the logic of the extracted data: after establishing the methodological framework, we first present the scientometric characteristics of the publication sources, then provide a detailed synthesis of regional characteristics, with particular attention to the differences between Asian, European, American, and African research focuses. The introduction establishes the foundation for a systematic review that examines the relationship between technical implementation and socio-psychological effects in light of the available empirical data.

2. Methodology

We conducted a multi-stage, systematic literature review following the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) guidelines to ensure transparency and reproducibility of the analysis. The aim of the study is to comprehensively map the technological, social, and psychological aspects of artificial intelligence. The interrelated steps of data collection, filtering, and categorization are illustrated in Figure 1.

As a first step in data collection, we conducted searches in the international scientific databases Scopus and Web of Science. The research was conducted around two distinct thematic pillars, to which we assigned specific English-language search terms:

- First pillar (regional and sectoral applications): for example, “AI industrial application,” “AI adoption across countries,” “regional AI trends,” “AI in health-care,” “AI in manufacturing,” “AI in finance,” and “industry 4.0 AI.”
- Second pillar (social impacts, anxiety, acceptance, human factors): for example, “AI anxiety,” “fear of artificial intelligence,” “technology acceptance model AI,” “trust in AI,” “algorithmic aversion,” “technostress,” “explainable AI,” and “AI transparency.”

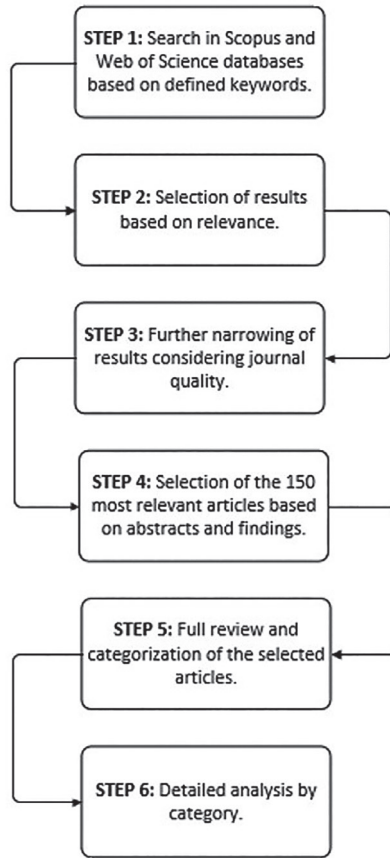


Figure 1. Process of literature selection and analysis (Source: Authors' own elaboration)

The initial search yielded more than 3,000 hits. In the second stage, we significantly narrowed down the number of records through a conscious methodological decision. In doing so, we excluded articles focused purely on mathematical algorithm optimization, engineering code efficiency, or IT architecture.

This was necessary because the focus of the study was not on the internal workings of algorithms or their coding background, but on the practical application of the technology, sectoral wage effects, and human anxiety and acceptance. Since technically focused studies did not provide empirical data on market reactions and the psychology of human-machine interaction, they were not relevant to the present synthesis. To ensure scientific rigor, we limited our selection to journals ranked Q1 according to Scimago Journal Rank (SJR). After a detailed analysis of the abstracts and results, we included 150 publications containing specific empirical data or systematic sectoral analyses in the final synthesis. The selected studies were classified into two main categories: industry and regional trends according to the NACE Rev. 2 classification, and social impacts and technological anxiety.

3. Literature synthesis on the relationship between regional and sectoral adaptation and technological anxiety

The dynamic expansion of the literature on artificial intelligence necessitates the systematization of the results. This study synthesizes the literature from a novel integrative perspective that combines regional, sectoral, and technological anxiety dimensions. In contrast to specific studies focusing on a single sector, our analysis takes an integrated approach. It examines regional and industrial adaptation and the social context of technology simultaneously, with particular attention to the methodological solutions of previous reviews.

3.1. Reviews of the literature to date

The rapid growth in scientific literature on artificial intelligence has given rise to the latest systematic reviews, which have shifted their focus from technological feasibility to organizational integration and trust building (Bolaños et al. 2024). A critical observation regarding *administrative and service support activities* is that developments are often driven by “technological pressure” rather than real needs. As a result, investments often fail to pay off, and successful adaptation requires “decision intelligence” frameworks that optimize human-AI interaction (Di Vaio, Hassan and Alavoine 2022).

In the field of *human health and social work activities*, the technical maturity of diagnostic algorithms is well established, as analyses in the fields of heart disease and oncology have confirmed that the accuracy of these models exceeds that of traditional methods (Ahsan and Siddique 2022; Hoyos, Aguilar and Toro 2021; Nassif et al. 2022). However, these excellent technical metrics cannot be automatically converted into clinical success due to data imbalance, which is why the latest research is already investigating human-machine collaboration models that guarantee patient safety (Andrade et al. 2026). A similar trend can be observed in the *information and communication sector*, particularly in relation to cybersecurity.

The effectiveness of reinforcement learning has been demonstrated in several studies, and the integration of quantum computing and AI promises a breakthrough in drug discovery, although the lack of standardized evaluation frameworks still hinders its widespread adoption (Adawadkar and Kulkarni 2022; Pineda et al. 2026).

In the *education sector*, the literature points out that integration is not an infrastructure issue, but rather a pedagogical and competency issue, where adaptive systems enable personalized education (Chiu et al. 2023; Kabudi, Pappas and Olsen 2021; Lyu et al. 2025). However, the acceptance of technology is hampered by serious psychological barriers and anxiety, which can be addressed by developing “AI literacy” and integrating “prompt engineering” into the curriculum (Bewersdorff et al. 2023; Laupichler et al. 2022; Park 2025). In the field of *financial and insurance activities*, solving the “black box” problem has become a priority; due to the regulatory environment, the use of Explainable AI (XAI) methods is now a legal requirement

to ensure the traceability of decisions (Černevičienė and Kabašinskas 2024; Cil and Yildiz 2025).

In *professional, scientific, and technical activities*, analyses refute fears of full automation, as AI plays a predominantly complementary role, scaling human creativity in research and development and marketing (Bahoo, Cucculelli and Qamar 2023; Johnson et al. 2022; Labib 2024; Truong and Papagiannidis 2022; Gupta et al. 2023; Ha 2022). The fear of identity loss has been identified as a barrier to social acceptance, which can be mitigated by transparent systems and emotional support functions (Jiang et al. 2024; Chaturvedi et al. 2023; Haque, Islam and Mikalef 2023). Finally, in the areas of *transportation and storage*, as well as *electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply*, AI-based predictive maintenance is key to safety and sustainability, although scalability remains a challenge at the smart city level (Garcia et al. 2026; Magdin 2025; Rehman 2026; Rashidieranjbar et al. 2026).

3.2. Regional and sectoral comparison

The development and application of artificial intelligence vary around the world, as different continents and countries approach the technology based on their unique social, economic, and technological characteristics. The following summary examines how certain countries and regions relate to AI, what challenges and opportunities they face, and how they integrate it into their own industries and public policies. The analysis aims to highlight the global and local factors that shape AI research and application.

3.2.1. Asia

Research findings from the Asian region highlight that AI has become a key driver of the macroeconomy. Chinese modelling of *professional, scientific and technical activities* has confirmed that the impact of AI on the labour market is not linear. Machine replacement causes short-term wage pressure but generates a significant 15–20% skill premium for highly skilled workers through the emergence of new job roles (Cheng et al. 2024; Qian et al. 2023). Corporate competitiveness is based on technological orientation (Liu et al. 2024), knowledge management fusion, and trust in agile CRM systems (Chatterjee et al. 2021).

In the *financial and insurance activities* sector, LSTM networks provide consistently more accurate forecasts even in volatile market phases (Cheng et al. 2024). Sustainability studies have revealed a peculiar “U-shaped” relationship: AI implementation initially increases environmental impact, but once the efficiency threshold is reached, it becomes an engine of green growth (Zhao, Gao and Sun 2022). In the *manufacturing* industry, AI has brought about a breakthrough in competitiveness in low-tech sectors (Fu et al. 2024; Liu et al. 2020), while in resource-constrained environments, solutions combined with IoT dominate (Qin 2024).

In the *information and communication* sector, awareness of smart technologies directly increases learning motivation (Deng et al. 2025). Within *transportation and warehousing*, deep reinforcement learning has reduced traffic waiting times by 12% (Guo and Wang 2021), while in logistics planning, multi-objective mathematical models minimize environmental impacts (Dini et al. 2025). In *wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles*, export market forecasts have achieved 98% accuracy (Sohrabpour et al. 2021), and the acceptance of sales systems is most influenced by habits and hedonic motivation (Das and Datta 2024).

Regarding the *electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply* sector, hybrid methods help ensure the stability of smart grids (Dai, Yang and Leng 2022). In *water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities*, BiLSTM models have improved the accuracy of flood protection forecasts (Kareem et al. 2022). In *education* in Hong Kong, the main obstacle remains a lack of teacher knowledge (Cheng and Wang 2023), while in the *administrative and support service activities* sector, researchers identified 15 management constraints in the Indian public sector (Misra et al. 2023). In Japan, government cooperation forms the basis of the medical AI strategy (Ishii et al. 2020), although strict budget constraints and the ethical risks of data-driven decision-making pose a global challenge (Zhu, Zhang and Feng 2022; Marda 2018).

The success of technological adaptation is determined by the dynamic balance between collective fear and individual competence. Eight factors of anxiety have been identified in *professional, scientific, and technical activities* (Li and Huang 2020), where avoidance of uncertainty increases fear (Hitsuwari and Takano 2025). The innovative behavior of highly skilled workers is doubly influenced by AI. While technological features stimulate creativity, the “replacement crisis” and technostress directly undermine motivation (Verma and Singh 2022, 2024).

“Fear of falling behind” (AI-FoMO) has emerged, which simultaneously reduces subjective well-being and encourages learning (Yu 2025; Liao, Fang and Li 2026). In the field of *information and communication*, social media increases literacy, but audio content causes information overload and anxiety (Li et al. 2026; Qiu et al. 2025). In *education*, preparedness and anxiety are inversely proportional: awareness of effects increases risk perception (Liang and Zhai 2025), while teacher support relieves tension through technophilia (Chai and Sha 2025).

In language learning, AI assistants reduced inhibitions by 30% (Zhang, Meng and Ma 2024; Wang and Wen 2025), but overuse can lead to academic stress and loneliness (Wang and Xu 2026).

High anxiety among medical students and librarians stems from systemic unpreparedness and a perceived loss of control (Özbek Güven, Yılmaz and Inceoğlu 2024; Gültekin and Kavak 2025). In the *human health and social work activities* sector, the doctor-patient relationship is asymmetrical: patients fear dehumanization, while doctors fear loss of autonomy (Li and Liu 2025; Li et al. 2025; Yang 2026). Anxiety among pediatric nurses is particularly high, fueled by a loss of empathy (Tutar, Özgörü and Ögür 2025; Ünal and Avcı 2024; Burucu and Polat 2025). In contrast, AI support improves the quality of life of cancer patients, although professionals remain wary of machine replacement (Demir-Kaymak et al. 2024; Soysal, Çalışkan and Turgut 2025).

In *financial and insurance activities*, customers' technological anxiety and risk aversion weaken acceptance (Cintamür 2024; Boustani 2021; Ghazwani et al. 2022). In the *manufacturing* industry, the negative effects of technostress can be mitigated by digital accountability and servant leadership (Zhang et al. 2025; Chen et al. 2025; Malik et al. 2021). Within the *accommodation and food service activities* sector, the perception of GenAI can lead to job insecurity and rule-breaking behavior (Zhao, Yuan and Song 2024; Huang et al. 2025). Finally, in *administrative and support service activities*, the anthropomorphic nature of AI and concerns about design capabilities increase dependency and replacement fears (Çetin 2024; Jo and Park 2025; Zhang and Zhang 2025).

3.2.2. Europe

The most striking finding of European research is the deep territorial divide. Due to the gap between the “expert” northwestern and “novice” eastern regions, the EU cannot be considered a unified digital space. In the field of *professional, scientific and technical activities*, AI-based models in advanced ecosystems already predict R&D performance with high accuracy (de la Paz-Marín, Campoy-Muñoz and Hervás-Martínez 2012), and industrial AI (IAI) has been shown to catalyze innovation in the ten leading European economies (Anser and Adebayo 2026). The development of startup ecosystems is determined by the level of adaptation of neighboring regions and integration into local technology clusters (Vicente, Álvarez-Rodríguez and Suárez-Álvarez 2025; Vásquez, Sandulli and Gallego 2026).

In the *manufacturing* industry, AI supports the transition to a circular economy by increasing resource efficiency (Sjödín, Parida and Kohtamäki 2023), although the innovation gap remains drastic. While 24% of companies in Denmark use the technology, only 1.4% in Romania do so (Brodny and Tutak 2021, 2022, 2024). Energy security remains the top priority in the areas of *electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply*, where federated platforms help test reliable algorithms (Liu et al. 2025; Sarmas et al. 2026).

In the *financial and insurance activities* sector, CatBoost models more effectively predict corporate bankruptcy, while in green finance, algorithms optimize sustainable investments (Jabeur et al. 2021; Wang et al. 2025).

In the *water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities* sector, deep learning aids climate research by detecting Arctic thermokarst formations (Vasile et al. 2025), while in French hospitals, green digital learning improves environmental performance (Benzidia, Makaoui and Bentahar 2021). In *administrative and support service activities* and HR, based on Scandinavian examples, gamification and automated recruitment through chatbots reduce bias (Allal-Chérif, Yela Aránega and Castaño Sánchez 2021; Allal-Chérif 2022; Trocin et al. 2021). In the SME sector, the key to success is the development of internal digital competencies (Arranz et al. 2023). In *human health and social work activities*, EU sustainability is underpinned by federated learning roadmaps (Kommusaar et al. 2026).

In this region, acceptance is not merely a technical process, but a deeply rooted social one, in which trust plays a decisive mediating role. In *professional, scientific and technical activities*, technological self-efficacy directly reduces fear: a higher sense of competence increases trust in automated systems (Montag et al. 2023). AI literacy increases the perception of usefulness while reducing socio-cultural concerns (Schiavo, Businaro and Zancanaro 2024). At the same time, in the field of *administrative and support service activities*, the digital divide translates into technological fear: in eastern regions, 70–90% of the population fears the automated replacement of jobs (Vasilescu et al. 2020).

Among HR professionals, there is tension between the threat and the opportunity for skill enhancement (Guggemos 2024), while the phenomenon of AI-FoMO in the workplace is generated by the loss of decision-making autonomy and the fear of skills becoming obsolete (Méndez-Suárez, Ćukušić and Ninčević-Pašalić 2026). In the *information and communication* sector, a study of the Czech public confirmed that age and education significantly influence the ability to recognize AI content (Moravec et al. 2024). In marketing management, the exploitation of technology is hampered by ethical concerns among managers (Volkmar, Fischer and Reinecke 2022; Capatina et al. 2020), while in the *manufacturing* industry, employee resistance can prevent data-driven insights from being converted into practical sustainability measures (Garcés-Marín, Arias-Pérez and Restrepo-Estrada 2026). Finally, social attitudes are shaped by fundamental values such as altruism and the desire for equality (Kanzola, Papaioannou and Petrakis 2024), while managers remain responsible for green talent management and minimizing uncertainty (Odugbesan et al. 2022).

3.2.3. United States and Australia

The research focus in the United States and Australia is based on the tension between high-level technological developments and social-regulatory constraints. In the field of *human health and social work activities*, deep learning models have already achieved human-level accuracy in medical imaging and diagnostics (Esteva et al. 2019).

In Australia, AI-based triage systems show 98.3% agreement with specialist decisions (Nguyen et al. 2025), and screening for diabetic retinopathy not only improves quality of life but also results in significant cost savings (Hu et al. 2024). Within the Australian Epilepsy Project, a responsible AI framework based on multimodal data supports precision diagnostics (Pedersen et al. 2025).

At the same time, regulation in the US is slow: by 2019, only two complex algorithms had been approved as medical devices (Cheung et al. 2019). However, the corrective potential of AI can mitigate racial disparities in care: an American model has confirmed that algorithms measure patients' pain levels more objectively than doctors, regardless of their skin color (The Lancet Digital Health 2021). In public health, analyzing social media data is effective in predicting the spread of sexually transmitted infections (Young, Crowley and Vermund 2021).

In *professional, scientific and technical activities* in the US, XAI provides more accurate insight into supply chain volatility (Berger 2023). However, in *financial and insurance activities*, operational incidents are severe: technological failures cause an average cumulative yield loss of 21.04% and an increased risk of bankruptcy for service providers (Durongkadej, Hu and Wang 2024). In the *electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply* sector, an XAI analysis of Australian cities revealed that the suitability of solar panel installation is more strongly influenced by population distribution and forest cover than by the amount of solar radiation (Shen et al. 2026). In the case of *administrative and support service activities*, an “application paradox” can be observed: despite technical installation, actual use is inhibited by fear of failure (Sarkar 2025).

Technological adaptation is accompanied by deep psychological and political divisions in both regions. In the Australian auditing sector, the “black box phenomenon” and the opacity of algorithms are causing mistrust in *professional, scientific and technical activities* (Yang, Blount and Amrollahi 2024). In the US labor market, the AI shock has triggered political radicalization: groups threatened by technology are responding to automation with conservative social and left-wing economic views (Jacobs 2024). Psychological resistance is fueled by a prevention-focused mindset, which reinforces fears of job replacement (Sapru 2026).

In the *accommodation and food service activities* sector, anxiety about the introduction of algorithms significantly increases the intention of US hotel employees to leave their jobs (Koo, Curtis and Ryan 2021). In the *human health and social work activities* sector in Australia, the acceptance of AI-based mobile applications is asymmetrical: users are more willing to share data on heart disease than information related to mental health (Vo et al. 2025). In addition, an examination of generative AI revealed deep-rooted biases: 90.8% of images depicting paramedics were male and 90.5% were Caucasian, which differs significantly from the actual, diverse workforce composition (Currie, Hewis and Ebbs 2025). In the field of *information and communication*, the fear of being left out of AI (AI-FoMO) has been validated in the US, which particularly affects the well-being of women and young people, while technological literacy has proven to be an effective protective factor against it (Yu 2025).

3.2.4. Africa and global comparative trends

In Africa, algorithms have become critical tools for bridging the gap in *human health and social work activities*. The 92.25% sensitivity achieved in screening for diabetic retinopathy makes it possible to radically reduce the risk of vision loss even without the presence of a specialist (Mathenge 2019). Mobile-based digital systems have been shown to improve HIV prevention reach indicators and the effectiveness of clinical toxicology diagnoses in Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria (Mbewe et al. 2026; Teferi et al. 2025). In oncology care, AI offers paradigm-shifting opportunities, but its diagnostic potential is hampered by severe infrastructure constraints and a lack of local data assets (Dako et al. 2025; Hughes et al. 2026; Standley et al. 2025).

In the *manufacturing* industry, negative labor market correlations are evident: automation shock accounts for nearly 30% of employment variance, resulting in short-term job losses (Giwa and Ho 2026). In the South African public sector, the lack of specific AI skills in *administrative and support service activities* hinders efficiency gains (Sikhakhane 2025). Meanwhile, in the *information and communication* sector, professional skepticism is managed by harmonizing technology with local value systems, such as the Ubuntu philosophy (Gondwe 2024).

At the global level, the dynamics of *professional, scientific and technical activities* are shaped by differences in research volume and regulatory maturity. While the US produces orders of magnitude more publications on the use of electronic health records, Chinese networks show more intensive international cooperation (Chen et al. 2018). In terms of medical device approval, the US and Europe have adopted algorithms at a similar pace, but the lack of specific regulatory pathways undermines transparency (Muehlematter, Daniore and Vokinger 2021). In the *information and communication* sector, the cost-cutting role of AI dominates (Balmer, Levin and Schmidt 2020). In predicting the attractiveness of the business environment, Cat-Boost models have confirmed that a stable government background is the primary draw for technological investments (Jabeur et al. 2022).

In the *manufacturing* industry, a fusion of Industry 4.0 and sustainability is observed: Asia focuses on robotics, while Europe focuses more on direct environmental goals (Calabrese et al. 2023). The global transformation of *education* systems is moving toward personalization (Bhutoria 2022). In the areas of *electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply*, the performance of the renewable sector is asymmetrically dependent on technological shocks (Urom et al. 2022).

During the analysis of the research corpus, a striking regional gap was identified: none of the studies in the sample dealt with the issue of technological anxiety in Africa. This suggests that research on the continent currently focuses primarily on technology accessibility and overcoming implementation barriers, pushing the psychological consequences into the background. In contrast, global patterns highlight that in the *accommodation and food service activities* sector, revealing AI's presence in hedonistic processes can cause a loss of trust due to an existential threat (Xu et al. 2024).

In *wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles*, consumer preferences are segmented; the human-like design of AI products in Japan and the US reinforces data privacy concerns (Frank 2024). Finally, meta-analyses in *human health and social work activities* confirm the supportive power of the technology: AI assistants are significantly capable of reducing the pain and anxiety of cancer patients (Sezgin and Bektas 2025).

4. Quantitative analysis of the examined publication stock

4.1. Changes in research activity over time

An analysis of the publication dates of the 150 studies included in the review reveals the dynamics of scientific discourse. Based on the data, research intensity has become dominant in the last five years following a longer preparatory phase (Table 1).

Year of publication	Quantity
2012	1
2018	2
2019	3
2020	6
2021	16
2022	21
2023	14
2024	31
2025	36
2026	20

Table 1. Yearly distribution of analyzed publications (2012–2026)
(Source: own elaboration)

Between 2012 and 2018, publication activity was still sporadic; only one or two relevant studies per year could be identified in the sample examined. At this stage, the application of the technology was still limited to a narrow circle, and research focused primarily on basic feasibility issues.

The turning point occurred in 2021, when the number of publications began to rise dramatically (16), indicating the wider spread of the technology in the industry. Activity peaked in 2024 (31 publications) and 2025 (36 publications), confirming that attention has shifted from technical details to practical issues. The 20 publications already recorded for 2026 are particularly significant: these data suggests that by the end of the year, scientific output is expected to exceed all previous levels, reflecting the critical importance of AI across sectors.

4.2. Scientometric analysis of publication sources

We examined the recognition of scientific journals included in the research along two dimensions: the Hirsch index, which indicates global prestige, and the total number of citations, which indicates the actual impact within the sample. Table 2 shows the ranking of the 10 journals with the highest H-index.

The data show that artificial intelligence research has been published in the world's most prestigious medical and scientific journals. The list is led by Nature Medicine with an outstanding value of 653, followed by the multidisciplinary PLoS ONE (467) and the oncology-focused The Lancet Oncology (432). The presence of Science of The Total Environment (399) in fourth place in the ranking indicates the relevance of the technology to environmental science. The social sciences have strengthened their position in the middle of the list: in addition to the new entry

Social Science & Medicine (296), the high index of the Journal of Business Research (292) and the psychology-focused Computers in Human Behavior (275) demonstrates the importance of research into human-machine interaction and social impacts. The bottom of the ranking is closed by more specific technological applications (Renewable Energy – 270, Neurocomputing – 216) and Technological Forecasting and Social Change (209), which forms the main basis of the present research.

Journal	H-index
Nature Medicine	653
PLoS ONE	467
The Lancet Oncology	432
Science of The Total Environment	399
Social Science & Medicine	296
Journal of Business Research	292
Computers in Human Behavior	275
Renewable Energy	270
Neurocomputing	216
Technological Forecasting and Social Change	209

Table 2. Ranking of source journals by H-index (Source: own elaboration)

However, the actual influence within the research field is more accurately reflected by the total number of citations, as shown in Table 3. This comparison reveals a significant shift in the global H-index ranking.

Journal	Total citations
Technological Forecasting and Social Change	7546
Nature Medicine	6026
Computers and Education: Artificial Intelligence	4900
California Management Review	4756
International Journal of Information Management	3995
Journal of Industrial Information Integration	1803
Journal of Management Analytics	1010

Artificial Intelligence in Medicine	930
The Lancet Digital Health	774
Technology in Society	719

Table 3. Ranking of source journals by total citations within the sample
(Source: own elaboration)

Technological Forecasting and Social Change occupies the leading position: the journal not only has the largest publication volume (42) but also dominates in terms of total citations with 7,546 references. Nature Medicine retained its second place with a single publication (6,026 citations), which indicates the outstanding significance of the medical results published. Computers and Education: Artificial Intelligence ranks third with 4,900 citations, reflecting the explosive interest in educational technology. This is followed by leading management and information systems journals: the high citation rates of California Management Review (4,756) and the International Journal of Information Management (3,995) show that corporate decision-making and information management are among the most active areas of research. The second half of the list includes journals on industrial digitization (Journal of Industrial Information Integration) and business analytics (Journal of Management Analytics). The ranking is rounded off by three journals with a more specific focus: Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and The Lancet Digital Health in the field of medical informatics, and Technology in Society, which examines the social embeddedness of technology.

4.3. Regional and sectoral distribution

The third pillar of bibliometric analysis is the examination of the geographical origin of publications and the economic sectors involved. A cross-sectional analysis of the data reveals that the adaptation of artificial intelligence is not proceeding evenly across the global economy, but rather that different regions have different areas of focus and specialization (Table 4).

Region	NACE Rev. 2 sector	Percentage / Sector	Percentage / Region
Africa	Administrative and support service activities	0.8%	7.3%
	Manufacturing	0.8%	
	Human health and social work activities	4.9%	
	Information and communication	0.8%	

Australia	Human health and social work activities	4.1%	5.7%
	Professional, scientific and technical activities	0.8%	
	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.8%	
Asia	Administrative and support service activities	1.6%	43.9%
	Manufacturing	4.1%	
	Human health and social work activities	4.9%	
	Information and communication	2.4%	
	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	2.4%	
	Education	5.7%	
	Financial and insurance activities	1.6%	
	Professional, scientific and technical activities	16.3%	
	Accommodation and food service activities	1.6%	
	Transportation and storage	1.6%	
	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.8%	
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.8%		
Europe	Administrative and support service activities	2.4%	26.0%
	Manufacturing	2.4%	
	Human health and social work activities	0.8%	
	Financial and insurance activities	0.8%	
	Professional, scientific and technical activities	17.9%	
	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	1.6%	

USA	Administrative and support service activities	0.8%	8.9%
	Human health and social work activities	0.8%	
	Information and communication	0.8%	
	Financial and insurance activities	4.1%	
	Professional, scientific and technical activities	0.8%	
Cross-continental	Manufacturing	0.8%	8.1%
	Human health and social work activities	0.8%	
	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	0.8%	
	Education	0.8%	
	Professional, scientific and technical activities	3.3%	
	Accommodation and food service activities	0.8%	
	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.8%	

Table 4. Regional and sectoral distribution of research activity
(Source: own elaboration)

Looking at geographical distribution, Asia clearly dominates, accounting for 43.9% of the total sample. This region also has the most diverse sectoral portfolio. The backbone of research here is professional, scientific, and technical activities, but there is also significant activity in education, human health care, and manufacturing. This diversified presence suggests that technology in the Asian region has already moved beyond the experimental phase and is undergoing widespread socio-economic integration.

Europe is the second largest research center with a 26% share. However, the continent's profile is significantly more concentrated than Asia's: most publications fall into the category of professional, scientific, and technical activities. This pattern indicates that the emphasis in Europe continues to be strongly on research and development and theoretical foundations, while practical industrial applications are less represented in the sample examined.

Africa and Australia exhibit a particularly interesting pattern. Although their global share is lower (7.3% and 5.7%, respectively), their research profile differs markedly from the global average. In both regions, human health and social care is the dominant sector. In Africa, most of the publications examined focus on

healthcare applications, as do a significant proportion of those in Australia. This suggests that in these regions, the primary drivers of artificial intelligence are social welfare and improving the efficiency of the healthcare system.

In the case of the United States, the distribution of publications, which account for 8.9% of the sample, is more balanced, with healthcare and information and communication appearing alongside professional activities. Studies resulting from global cooperation spanning multiple continents typically examine general scientific and technical issues as well as global challenges (e.g., climate change, energy).

Studies resulting from global cooperation spanning multiple continents account for 8.1% of the total sample.

The sectoral analysis according to NACE Rev. 2 highlights the focus areas of research related to artificial intelligence. Based on the data, more than 40% of the publications examined can be linked to a single dominant sector (Table 5).

NACE Rev. 2 sector	Quantity	Percentage
Administrative and support service activities	8	5.3%
Manufacturing	10	6.7%
Human health and social work activities	25	16.7%
Information and communication	7	4.7%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	4	2.7%
Education	14	9.3%
Financial and insurance activities	6	4.0%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	62	41.3%
Accommodation and food service activities	3	2.0%
Transportation and storage	4	2.7%
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	6	4.0%
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1	0.7%

Table 5. Sectoral distribution of publications by NACE Rev. 2
(Source: own elaboration)

Based on the data on sectoral distribution, the primary basis for research activity is professional, scientific, and technical activities, which, with a share of 41.3%, stand out from the field, confirming that the topic of AI anxiety and acceptance is most prevalent at the level of R&D projects and theoretical methodologies. The second most significant area is human healthcare (16.7%), which reflects critical points of contact in medical diagnostics and patient care, while the education sector (9.3%) indicates the academic spread of technology and the importance of digital literacy.

The fourth strongest pillar is manufacturing (6.7%), where the workplace impacts of automation and robotization generate scientific discourse.

In contrast, the volume of research in the other sectors examined is particularly low. This fragmented distribution highlights the fact that while intensive analysis is taking place in the technology and human-centered basic sectors, in-depth research into the psychological effects in the service industry and public utilities is still in its infancy.

4.4. Patterns of AI anxiety and acceptance

Based on sectoral distribution, uncertainty is most prevalent where human expertise is directly affected by automation. Table 6 below details these correlations:

Region	NACE Rev. 2 sector	Percentage / Sector	Percentage / Region
Australia	Professional, scientific and technical activities	2.5%	2.5%
Asia	Administrative and support service activities	2.5%	67.5%
	Manufacturing	5.0%	
	Human health and social work activities	12.5%	
	Information and communication	2.5%	
	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	2.5%	
	Education	10.0%	
	Financial and insurance activities	5.0%	
	Professional, scientific and technical activities	25.0%	
	Accommodation and food service activities	2.5%	
Europe	Professional, scientific and technical activities	15.0%	15.0%
USA	Information and communication	2.5%	7.5%
	Professional, scientific and technical activities	2.5%	
	Accommodation and food service activities	2.5%	

Cross-continental	Human health and social work activities	2.5%	7.5%
	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	2.5%	
	Accommodation and food service activities	2.5%	

Table 6. Patterns of AI anxiety and acceptance (Source: own elaboration)

According to the research results, the study of technological anxiety continues to be overwhelmingly prevalent in the Asian region, where 67.5% of relevant publications originated. This dominance is closely related to the region's extremely intense technological expansion and the economic environment in which the use of AI has become a fundamental expectation at all levels of the service sector. Europe's 15% share indicates a stable research presence, while the US (7.5%) and multi-continental analyses (7.5%) indicate a diversification of global discourse.

An analysis of the data in the table shows that anxiety in the field of professional, scientific, and technical activities is the most significant, as this category accounts for nearly 40% of the sample globally. This confirms that the scientific community's focus is on the resistance of highly skilled intellectual workers to AI. Particularly noteworthy is the strengthening of the healthcare and education sectors, reflecting the fact that in professions where human interaction and trust are critical factors, issues of AI acceptance are a priority.

5. Conclusions and summary findings

The temporal evolution of research activity highlights a critical paradigm shift: the explosive, exponential growth following 2019—which peaked in 2024—indicates that AI research has synchronized with real-time industrial implementation. The focus of scientific discourse has shifted from proving technical feasibility to organizational integration and trust building. This is also supported by the prestige of the sources: while medical maturity is confirmed by the presence of *Nature Medicine*, *Technological Forecasting and Social Change* has become the most influential forum for the analysis of strategic and social impacts.

An analysis of geographical distribution shows clear Asian dominance. This dominance is not only quantitative but also qualitative: Asia has the most diversified sectoral portfolio, with AI being actively explored in almost all economic sectors, indicating the deep socio-economic integration of the technology. In contrast, Europe's profile is more concentrated, with research continuing to focus on professional, scientific, and technical activities, i.e., theoretical and methodological foundations.

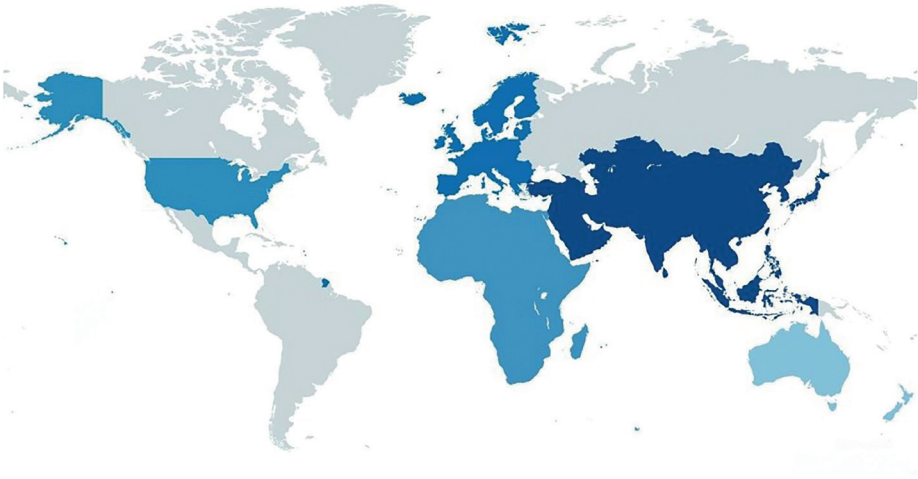


Figure 2. Global research intensity by region
(Source: own elaboration based on MapChart)

The differences in color intensity shown in Figure 2 directly reflect the geographical distribution of the publication stock examined: darker tones indicate the highest research activity, while the number of studies analyzed gradually decreases towards lighter shades. This visual hierarchy highlights the shift in technological focus; the deepest blue color in the Asian region clearly indicates the shift in global research focus to the East, where 43.9% of the sample is concentrated.

Based on the sample studied, the phenomenon of “technological leap” can be observed in developing regions:

In Africa and Australia, research is driven by social constraints, where the primary function of AI is to bridge the shortage of healthcare professionals and increase diagnostic efficiency.

The research focus in the United States is on exploring the tension between innovation breakthroughs and regulatory burdens.

One of the key findings of the research refutes the assumption that fear of AI is limited to less educated groups. According to the data, issues of anxiety and acceptance are most prominent in professional, scientific, and technical occupations. This suggests that the “cognitive replacement crisis” is most intensely felt by the highly educated workforce.

Based on sectoral data, a new correlation can be identified: there is a direct proportionality between research intensity and employees’ sense of threat in intellectual occupations. During the synthesis, the following key correlations emerged:

Interpersonal barrier: In healthcare and education, the primary source of anxiety is not technical inaccuracy, but fear of dehumanization. The solution here is the “augmented intelligence” model, where AI does not replace but supports human decision-making.

Asian testing ground: The high number of anxiety studies in Asia indicates that the fastest technological integration triggers the most intense scientific reflection and the need to build trust.

Need for transparency: In the financial and professional sectors, resolving the “black box” phenomenon, i.e., the use of explainable AI, is no longer an option but a basic condition for legal and social acceptance.

Overall, the publications examined demonstrate that the future of artificial intelligence depends not on further refinement of technical metrics, but on stabilizing the ethical and psychological framework of human-machine symbiosis.

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