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Investigating the Scientometrics of the Studies Conducted in the Field of Islam Based on WOS Database

Reza Karimi[1], Mahdi Mohammadi[2], Mohammad Reza Shah Ahmadi[3]

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Abstract
The present research investigated the status of the studies conducted in the field of Islam, employing scientometric methods. Extracted from Web of Science database, 6,837 articles were surveyed for the growth rate, core journals, core authors, average citation rate, effective authors, countries' contributions, lexical co-occurrence map, most frequent key terms, thematic domains, and published formats. Ravar Matrix, USI Net, and R environment were utilized to analyze the data. The findings indicated that the studies in the field of Islam have had an ascending trend. Studies are published more in article format. Moreover, the average citation rate to the outputs in the field of Islam shows a rise from 2000 to 2008 and a fall from 2008 to 2020. Christianity was the most frequently discussed subject in the studies on Islam, and key terms of "Islam," Islamophobia," and "religion" were the most frequent key terms. Belhaj, Padela, and Prat are the most productive authors in the Islam's field. The journal ISLAM-ZEITSCHRIFT FUR GESCHICHTE UND KULTUR DES ranked first in publishing articles on Islam. Finally, in terms of country, the USA ranked first in publishing outputs on the field of Islam. Some suggestions are also presented by the researchers as to the implications of the research findings.

Keywords: Islam, scientometrics, co-word, co-authorship.

Introduction

The production of science is the foundation of knowledge, which in turn is the bedrock of power. The current era is often described as the "communication age," "post-industrial era," "age of science and technology," and the "globalization era." What these descriptions all have in common is that knowledge and science are the foundations of a country's developments, playing a more significant role in determining the fate of humanity than any

1. Assistant professor, Department Knowledge and Information Science, University of Qom, Qom, Iran: (Corresponding author). Email: karimi@qom.ac.ir
2. Associate professor, Department Knowledge and Information Science, University of Qom, Qom, Iran. Email: Mmohammadi@qom.ac.ir
3. Assistant professor and academic staff member in Department of Language, Tolouemehr Institute of Higher Education, Qom, Iran. Email: shahahmadi@tolouemehr.ac.ir

earlier era. We live in an age when knowledge and science are the driving forces behind progress. As a result, those with the highest expertise in these two fields create the most advanced industries. Scientific publications serve as perfect representations of the level of knowledge as well as specialized information available. Moreover, they play a fundamental role in the complex system of technical and scientific exchanges and disseminating the produced knowledge within different societies. Due to this critical mission, the publication of scientific works, particularly in the form of journal papers and articles, is among the main parameters used by organizations responsible for evaluations during analytic procedures to determine the level of knowledge production. Therefore, along the development and change of scientific systems, today's world has reached a point where knowledge in each country forms its identity and serves as its means of presence in international scientific arena. Without it, such a society would be isolated and would just be a listener without anything to contribute (Abdekhoda, Qazimirsaeed, and Nouruzi 2010, 18).

Today, science is widely acknowledged as the most authentic means of a country's development and scientific discoveries are believed to be crucial factors in evaluating progress. The scrutiny of scientific output has proven to be effective in policy-making and planning towards advancing a country's scientific research capabilities, while also aiding in problem-solving and troubleshooting. Consequently, it has become a focal point for researchers, research centers, and officials involved in scientific development. Despite the variety of information templates, journals remain the most valid form of scientific literature. This is because they provide an authentic space for researchers to express their ideas, thoughts, and scientific findings. Accordingly, it seems necessary to scrutinize scientific papers from multiple perspectives (Shamsi, Heidari, and Chanbari 2020, 43).

By and large, journal papers play a pivotal role in advancing human knowledge and fostering scientific communication among researchers. As time progresses, there is a growing inclination towards using journals, and they are increasingly recognized for their significant contribution to the research community. By leveraging papers, researchers can stay abreast of the latest findings from other research studies, thus avoiding unnecessary duplication of efforts (Asnafi 2006, as cited in Khosravi 2015, 64). The development, progress, independence, and power of nations hinge on research and science production within their borders. Consequently, the type and extent of research conducted serve as key indicators of a society's developmental status, reflecting the level of scientific exchange taking place (Mazaheri, et al. 2016, 443).

It is not just the quantity of science production that matters, but also the quality of the produced works. To evaluate this, numerous formulas and rules are employed in the field of scientometrics, including the number of citations, journals' impact factor, and novel measures for scientometrics. The production

of scientific information plays a crucial role in enduring development, leading to an increased focus on research-based and scientific activities that resulted in the production of scientific information in the last few decades. This is confirmed by the emergence of scientometrics in the 1970s, which is one of the most important and widely used methods for evaluating the quality and quantity of science production in the world (Al-e Mani', Nazari and Bigdeli 2017, 23).

Scientific communities have consistently sought standard indices to assess the status of science development, evaluate and compare the output by researchers in various scientific communities and institutions. Since inadequate information or lack of information sharing can be detrimental to information users, it is necessary for planners and policy makers to understand and evaluate the status of science production and research activities for a country's scientific development (Al-e Mani', Nazari and Bigdeli 2017, 26).

At present, science production indices are employed along with other development indices in order to measure and evaluate a country's development (Nazarzadeh Zare' et al. 2014, 23). Scientometrics is based on analyzing fundamental variables, including researchers, scientific publications, references, and citations. Drawing upon analyses of these variables and a proper combination of the indices based on these variables, scientometrics seeks to uncover the characteristics of science and scientific research (Brown et al, 1995, 70-84, as cited in Morovvati 2016, 114).

Scientometric studies have played a significant role in investigating research conducted by countries, institutions and researchers across various scientific domains. By exploring different approaches to discovering science production from various angles, such as scientific fields, scientific cooperation, scientific effectiveness, scientific growth trends, and important subjects, scientometrics has been able to diagnose weak points, deficiencies, and unacknowledged aspects in different scientific domains. This provides as an appropriate means for scientific development through policy-making at different national, regional, and international levels, bringing them all to the attention of policymakers. Obviously, proper decision and policy-making take place only when there is sound knowledge about the status of science production and their functions in any given field. Furthermore, the representation of the research conducted in different areas on an international scale helps the global community to become familiar with scientific accomplishments in those areas, presenting available challenges and opportunities and leaving its effects on the development of thematic fields (Khaseh, Ahmadinejad, Hejazi 2012, 147).

Islam is one of the most prominent religions having a significant number of followers. Its believers perceive it as the most complete religion that provides guidance for all stages of life through its divine statement mission, the holy Quran. Based on the data available in the WOS database, the most extensive global database, numerous studies based on the knowledge and ideas presented

in the Quran are published every year. With such vast scientific literature available, evaluating the quality of the works produced becomes imperative. The present study aims to evaluate the recorded science conducted in the field of Islam on the Web of Science database to determine the status of the scholarship produced in this field. Furthermore, it seeks to find out what aspects of Islam have been tackled more in the recorded science.

That being said, the present study seeks to find adequate answers to the following questions:

1. How has been the growth rate of scientific outputs made by the researchers in the field of Islam during the given years?

2. In what formats have the scientific outputs within the Islamic field been published?

3. What has been the average rate of citation of the produced scientific outputs in Islamic field?

4. In what thematic domains have the published scientific outputs been?

5. How is the lexical co-occurrence map in the field of Islam?

6. What are the most frequent key terms used in the published scientific outputs in the field of Islam?

7. Who are the most productive and effective authors in the field of Islamic studies?

8. What are the core journals in the field of Islamic studies (based on Bradford Law)?

9. How much have researchers in each country contributed to the publication of scientific outputs in the field of Islam?

Scientometric studies on produced science are crucial to conduct as they provide valuable insights into the state of the art, quality, and quantity of the published research papers, validity and value rate of the journals, and pave the way for the future studies (Selk and Bozorgi 2010). Likewise, Lopez et al (2003) contend that this method is among the most common ways of evaluating scientific endeavors, where researchers employ statistical methods to study, investigates, measure, and evaluate scientific texts.

Different approaches have been employed to investigate scientific productions regarding Islam. Some of these involve studying scientific productions in specific fields in Islamic countries. For instance, Nayyernia, Tabatabaeefar, and Mousavi Movahhedi (2006), and Didegah and Binesh (2010) conducted studies on scientific productions related to Nano in Islamic countries. Zare'-e Naghshbandi and Nouri (2012) studied the articles published about the holy Quran in the medical field on Scopus database by Muslim researchers. Qane' and Rahimi (2009) carried out research into science production related to social sciences among member countries of Islamic Conference Organization from 2006 to 2008. An alternative approach is to examine the science produced in the field of Islam. Notable examples of such studies are mentioned below.

In a scientometric study, Khaseh, Ahmadinejad, and Hejazi (2012) carried out a quantitative analysis of scientific productions on Quranic research on an international scale between 1990 and 2011. Their findings indicated that during the given period, 292 relevant documents have been published, with the University of Michigan ranking first with eight documents, King Saud University ranking second with six documents, and School of Original Africans ranking third with five documents. Among countries, the United States came first with sixty-one documents, England came second with twenty-four documents, and Iran came third with fifteen documents. France, Turkey, Malaysia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Germany, and Egypt received the subsequent ranks. A study of the works in terms of their publication years showed that publishing Quranic studies has significantly risen since 2007, with the years 2005 to 2011 showing the most published works. Among the given years, most publications (thirty-six works) took place in the year 2008. In terms of language, the study indicated that Quranic studies had been published in fourteen languages with English being the most widely used language with 77.4 percent. Exploring Iran's place as for its production of Quranic scholarship showed that among 262 published works, only fifteen studies have been done by Iranian researchers, whereas the total productions by Iranian researchers on ISI database between 1990 and 2011 amounted to 116,189 documents, with only fifteen documents being bout Quranic studies, which is an insignificant share.

In a study of scientific productions on the Quran within the Islamic countries, Morovvati (2016) conducted a scientometric investigation of Quranic scientific productions, surveying Scopus database. Fifty-seven Islamic countries contributed to such productions, which were published by 2014. The findings indicated that out of 1035 available records on Scopus database, 501 had been published by Islamic countries. Additionally, his findings showed that from among fifty-seven Islamic countries, twenty-nine countries had productions on Quranic issues, with twenty-two countries out of these twenty-nine countries having records fewer than ten. In fact, 87.42 percent of the total productions in the Islamic world had been published by seven countries, namely Malaysia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Jordan, Turkey, and Egypt, with Malaysia ranking first with 28.3 percent and Iran ranking second with 23.2 percent Among non-Muslim countries, the US has had the largest cooperation with the pioneering countries. National University of Malaysia, with sixty-one works, and Islamic Azad University in Iran, with nineteen works, were considered the most productive centers. In terms of citations, the most cited works were those of Egypt and Turkey.

In a case study of the available data on Scopus database, Sarwar and Hassan (2015) explored the works published by the Islamic countries between 2000 and 2011. In fact, they were looking for research efficiency, scientific impact, and international cooperation in all regions in the field of sciences and technology. Their findings indicated that among Islamic countries, Turkey ranked first and Iran ranked second. In terms of sciences and technology, more than ten percent

of annual increase was observed in all thematic aspects. The highest percentage of the publications within the Islamic world belongs to the field of dentistry, with a seven percent share out of the twenty-five percent of the best worldwide journals, and regarding the number of citations, it has undergone a remarkable qualitative growth. The data indicate that the effect of the scientific studies in the Islamic world is much less in comparison with that of the developed countries. Likewise, according to the findings, the best colleges of the Islamic world are mainly in Islamic countries. The findings of this case study bring insight into the future of research in the Islamic world, presenting useful information for the scientific community and to the policy-makers of technology and innovation.

Methodology

The present study is based on the scientometric approach. Its population encompasses all the output literature, including 6,837 works, produced by researchers of Islamic studies, and indexed on the global database of WOS. The search was done on 30/04/2021. To recycle the documents on the field of Islam, the following strategy was adopted:

TI= Islam* OR Ak=Islam* Refined by: WEB OF SCIENCE CATEGORIES: (RELIGION OR ETHNIC STUDIES OR ETHICS) Timespan: All years. Indexes: SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, ESCI.

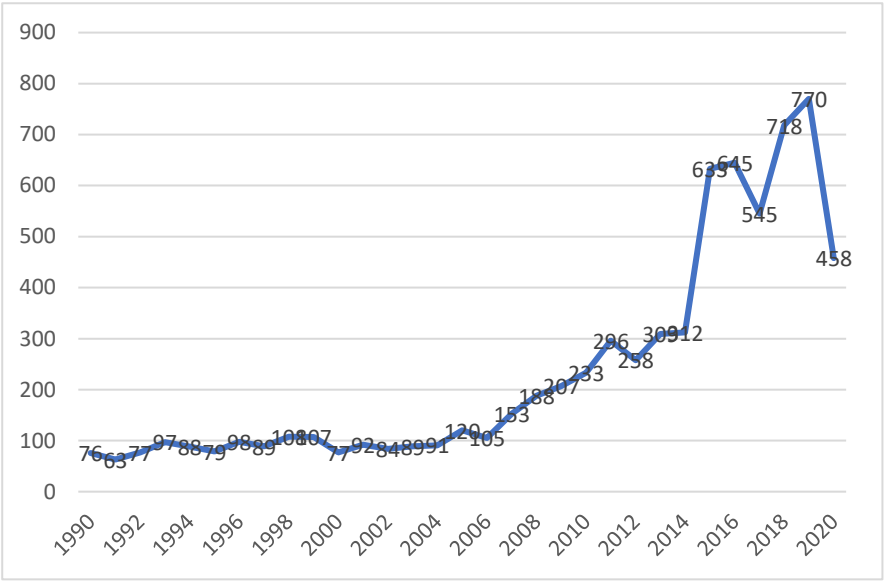
The search output was saved with the format Tab-delimited and Plain-text in the form of text files. These records were in all formats, such as articles, conference abstracts, book reviews and critiques, etc.

To analyze the data, the following software programs were used: Ravar Matrix, USI Net and R environment. The data were transformed into inputs amenable to these software programs. Furthermore, to analyze the data and draw the scientific map, lexical co-occurrence analytical techniques as well as co-authorship network analysis were also employed. Lexical co-occurrence refers to the existence of two words in one document. This method assumes that the words and concepts in a set of documents represent their contents and it is possible to draw a conceptual network by calculating the extent of their co-occurrences. Co-authorship refers to scientific cooperation and collaborated publication of academic works, which leads to the formation of a network that is referred to as co-authorship network or scientific cooperation network.

Findings

Regarding the first question of our study as to “How has been the growth rate of scientific outputs made by the researchers in the field of Islam during the given years?” the findings show that in the field of Islam, 6,837 studies were indexed from 1990 to 2020. Figure one shows the frequency distribution of the published studies during the given years.

Figure 1.
Frequency distribution of the published studies during the given years



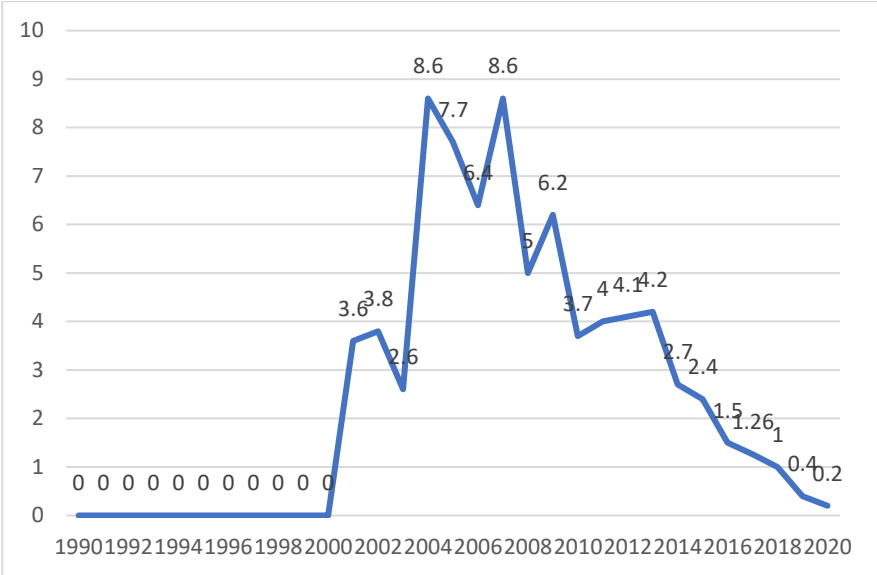
As can be seen in figure one, the rate of academic outputs in this field shows a similar growth during the first fifteen years. However, it shows an ascending trend from 2006. In terms of the growth of the published works in the field of Islam in the years after 2006, the findings of the present study are in line with those of the study conducted by Khaseh, Ahmadinejad, and Hejazi (2011). They also pointed to the growth of the scientific outputs within the Quranic domain after these years.

The study showed that the growth rate of the outputs has reached 6.7 percent in the recent years. To calculate the growth rate of the inputs in the field of studies on Islam, the geometric mean formula was used.

In terms of the second research question, that is, "In what formats have the scientific outputs within the Islamic field been published?" the findings indicated that researchers have published their studies in eleven publishing formats with format, with journal articles having the highest share (3,854 papers; 55.09 percent) on the Web of Science database. Next, "book review and critique" and "viewpoint" come second and third with 2,737 cases (40 percent and 191 cases (2.08 percent) respectively.

As to the third research question dealing with the average citation rate to the produced scientific outputs in the Islamic field, figure two displays its frequency distribution.

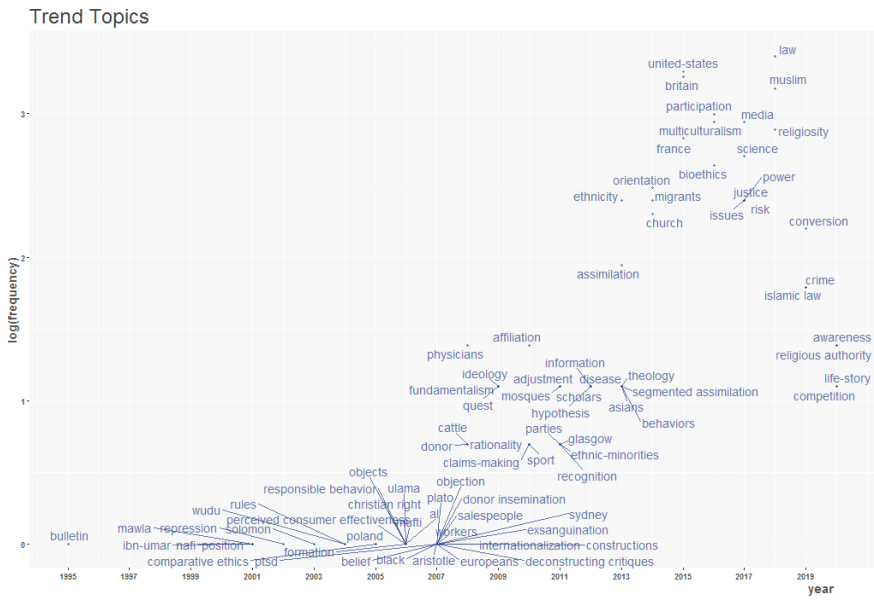
Figure 2.
The average rate of citation to the produced scientific outputs in the Islamic field



As can be observed in figure 2, the average citation rate of the outputs in the Islamic field shows a rise from 2000 to 2008 whereas it shows a descending trend from 2008 to 2020.

The fourth research question pertained to the thematic domains of the published scientific outputs during the given years. The researchers' subjects of interest are shown in figure 3.

Figure 3.
Researchers' areas of interest in the field of Islam



As shown in figure 3, subjects such as terror, comparative ethics, Islamophobia, modernity, and liberalism appeared with a frequency of less than twenty cases among the studies. Subjects such as Islamic religious education, history of Islam, Jihad, migration, and nationalism are among the subjects appearing in less than fifty percent of the cases, while subjects such as Islamic economy, Judaism, Salafism, and ethics appeared more than fifty times in the works. Christianity, with a 126-frequency rate, is the most frequently discussed subject in studies about Islam.

The fifth research question concerned the lexical co-occurrence map in the Islamic field. Table 1 depicts the thematic clusters within the studies on Islam and figure 4 displays their within-group relations.

Table 1.
Thematic clusters within the studies on Islam

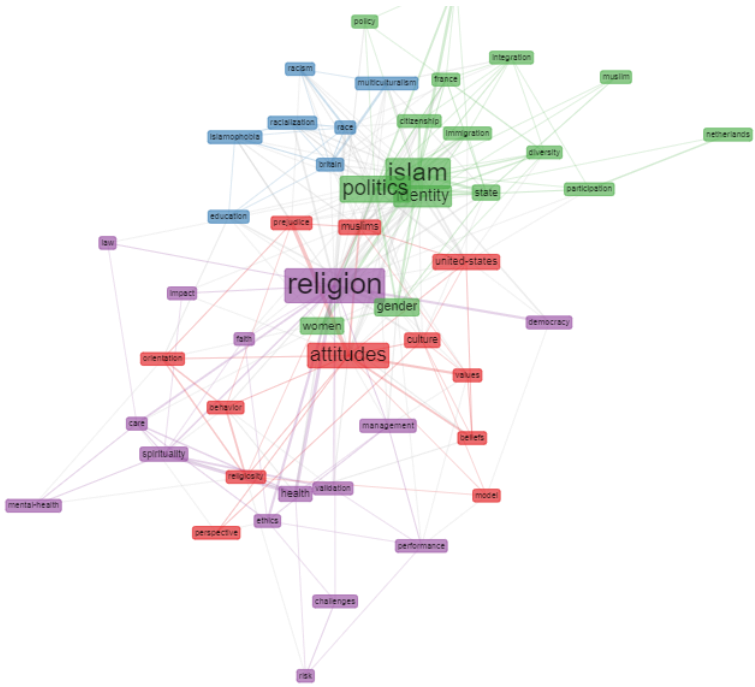
Cluster#1	Betweenness	Cluster#2	Betweenness	Cluster#3	Betweenness	Cluster#4	Betweenness
attitudes	118	Britain	12	Islam	135	religion	355
Muslims	33	race	12	politics	108	health	37
culture	28	education	6	Participation	85	care	23
religiosity	25	Multiculturalism	3	integration	45	Spirituality	21

prejudice	14	racism	1	state	13	ethics	14
orientation	13			women	11	performance	11
United States	13			immigration	8	management	7
values	9			gender	6	challenges	6
behavior	8			identity	4	democracy	6
model	4			The Netherlands	2	validation	5
beliefs	3			Muslim	2	risk	4
perspective	1			policy	1	mental-health	2
				diversity	1	faith	1
				citizenship	1	impact	1

The first cluster contains the most frequent co-occurrences, namely the relation between the themes: Muslims – Attitudes. The most frequent relation in the second cluster is that of Britain – Race. In the third and fourth clusters, the most frequent relations are those of Islam – Politics and Religion – Health respectively.

Figure 4.

Co-occurrence web among the key terms



As can be seen in figure 4, the largest thematic cluster, displayed in violet in the figure and as cluster 4 in the table, has fifteen key terms. The most important key terms in this cluster are "religion" and "health" with the centering rates of 355 and 37 respectively. Another large cluster, displayed as green in the figure and as cluster 3 in the table, has the key terms "Islam" and "politics" with the centering rates of 135 and 108 respectively. Moreover, the third significant cluster, shown as red in the figure and numbered cluster one in the table, has thirteen key terms with the two terms of "attitudes" and "Muslims," where the first has the centering rate of scientific outputs 188 and the second 33. Finally, the last cluster, which is blue in the figure and named cluster 2 in the table, has "Britain" and "race" as its most important key terms with a centering rate of 12.

The sixth question was about the most frequent key terms used in the published scientific outputs in the field of Islam. Table two displays the fifty most frequent key terms and the rate of their frequencies.

Table 2.
Most frequent key terms used in the papers

Words	Occurrences
Islam	1303
Islamophobia	235
religion	210
Islamic law	154
Muslims	151
Christianity	126
Islamic	91
Muslim	83
Islamism	78
identity	77
Sufism	77
gender	72
Quran	72
education	66
secularism	65
Indonesia	61
Turkey	59
ethics	56
Europe	53

Words	Occurrences
Islamic education	53
Judaism	53
Salafism	53
Islamic finance	50
racism	50
nationalism	49
women	49
politics	48
Egypt	47
integration	47
Iran	47
Malaysia	45
terrorism	45
jihad	44
conversion	41
migration	41
religious	39
multiculturalism	38
religiosity	38
modernity	37
orientalism	37
democracy	35
media	34
theology	34
culture	31
France	31
Islamic philosophy	31
Islamic studies	31
law	31
bioethics	30

As demonstrated in table two, 9,956 key terms have been used in 3,854 papers. Each paper, on average, had 2.5 key terms. Based on Bradford Law, the key terms in the Islamic field were 220 cases each of which recurred in the papers at least ten times. The key terms of “Islam,” Islamophobia,” and

"religion" were among the most frequent terms. Of course, to say that they are the "most frequent" might not show the extent of their importance, but their collocations with other terms show their lexical co-occurrence. Table three depicts the lexical co-occurrence as well as their frequencies.

Table 3.

Co-words occurrences and frequencies

Co-words		
keywords	keywords	**Occurrences**
RELIGION	ISLAM	148
CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM	115
MUSLIMS	ISLAM	93
ISLAMISM	IDENTITY	77
SUFISM	EDUCATION	66
QURAN	INDONESIA	61
EDUCATION	TURKEY	59
ETHICS	SALAFISM	53
TURKEY	JUDAISM	53
INDONESIA	ISLAMIC EDUCATION	53
TURKEY	JUDAISM	53
ETHICS	SALAFISM	53
EUROPE	ISLAMIC FINANCE	50
ISLAMIC EDUCATION	RACISM	50

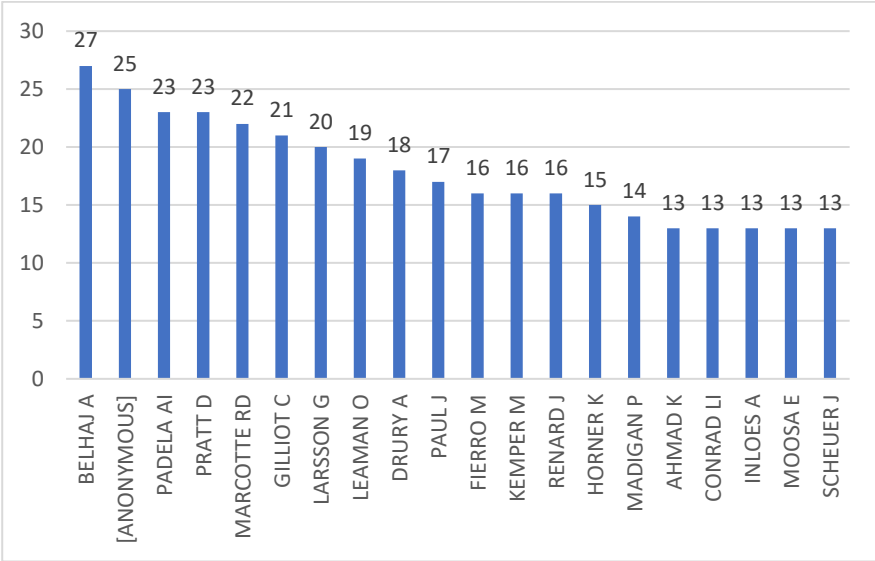
Based on the data presentenced in table 3, the findings show that there were 3,500 keyterm lexical co-words occurred together at least two times in the key terms of the papers. The fourteen-fold titles of the co-words presented in table 3 indicate that they occurred together fifty times or more in the key terms of the papers. The two co-word pairs "Islam – religion" and "Christianity – Islam" have been the most frequent co-words with frequency rates of the 148 and 115 respectively.

The seventh question in this study pertained to the most productive and effective authors in the field of Islamic studies. In the scientometric field, there are special terminologies each having their own specific meaning. Samples of such terminologies include core authors, productive authors, and effective authors. Productive authors are those who have published more works, although their published works may not be well received by other researchers. However, effective authors are those who may have produced less work, but their works

have been well received and cited by more researchers . Figure five displays productive authors and figure 6 displays effective authors in the field of Islamic studies.

Figure 5.

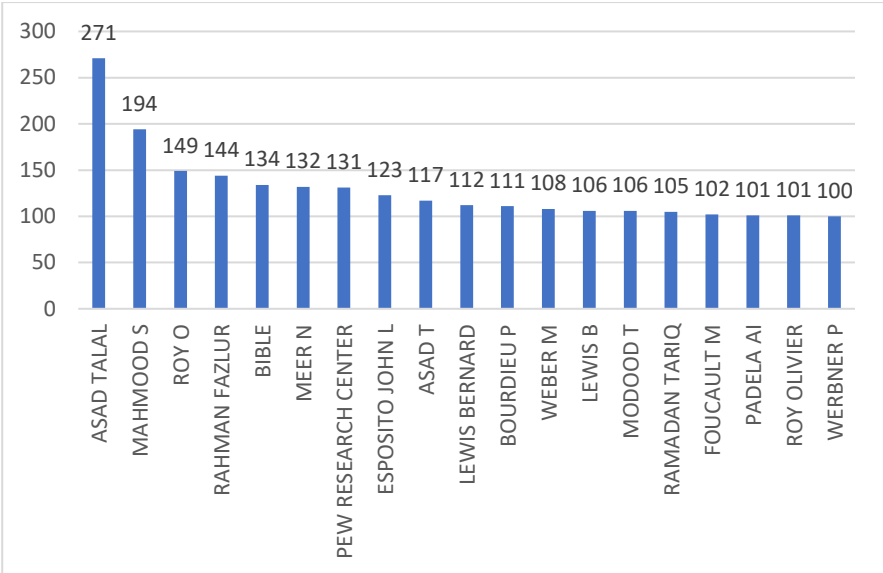
Most productive authors in the field of Islam



As depicted in figure five, overall, 9,217 authors have published their scientific outputs in the field of Islamic studies both individually and cooperatively. Seventy-eight percent of the scientific outputs were published as single-authored and thirteen percent of the works were published as coauthored (two or more authors). Belhaj A, Padela, and Prat are considered as the most productive authors in the field of Islamic studies.

Figure 6.

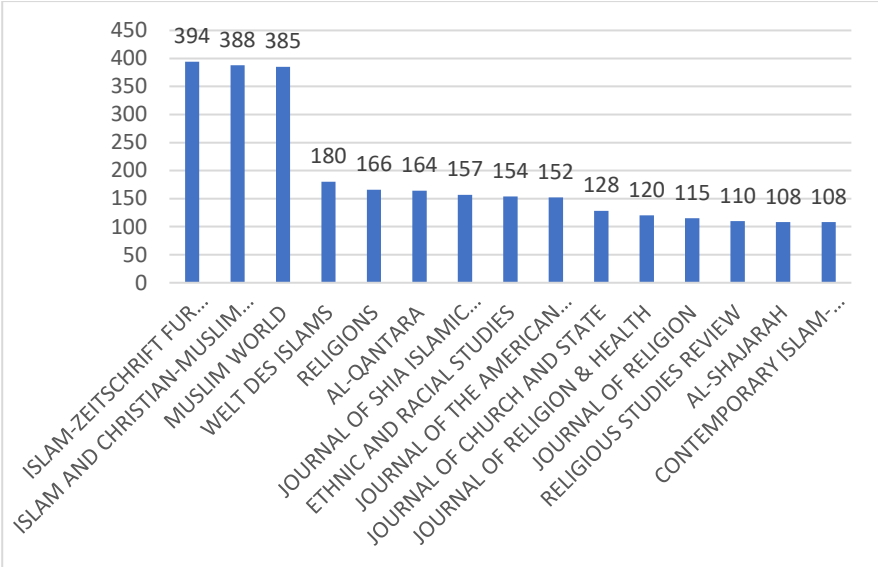
Fifteen most cited authors in the field of Islam



The eighth research question was about the core journals in the field of Islam. As mentioned before, core journals are those in which the most related papers are published. With respect to the increasing number of publications and enormous expenses needed to buy all journals, libraries and information centers have been forced to buy only the core journals on a specific field, rather than buying all related journals. Figure 7 shows fourteen core journals, in the field of Islam, which contained more than one-hundred articles in this regard.

Figure 7.

Core journals in the field of Islam

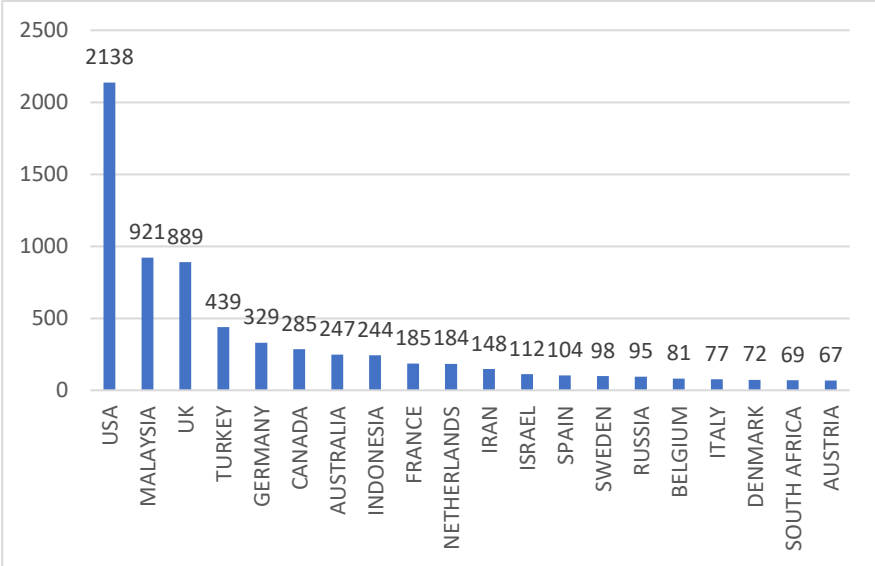


As depicted in figure seven, the journal ISLAM-ZEITSCHRIFT FUR GESCHICHTE UND KULTUR DES ranked first with 394 published papers; the journal ISLAM AND CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS ranked second with 388 papers; and the journal MUSLIM WORLD ranked third, publishing 385 papers. These fourteen journals published 2,829 papers (41.04 percent). As clarified under the discussion about core journals, if a library subscribes to these fourteen journals, it provides its users with around fifty percent of the papers published in the field of Islam.

The ninth and the last research question concerned the contribution of researchers from each country in publishing scientific outputs in the field of Islam. Generally, authors from ninety-two countries published work on Islam during the given years. Figure 8 shows the top twenty countries in terms of science production in the field of Islam plus each one's share in this respect.

Figure 8.

Frequency distribution of the countries' share in science production in the field of Islam



As can be observed in figure 8, American researchers ranked first by publishing 2,138 papers (31.03 percent), with other countries including Malaysia, England, Turkey, Germany, Canada, Australia, Indonesia, France, the Netherlands, and Iran ranking second to twelfth respectively. That the USA ranked first in publishing the outputs on Islam is also found in the study conducted by Khaseh, Ahmadinejad, and Hejazi (2011), which additionally shows that the contributions of Malaysia, Turkey and Iran have also been more than those of other countries. This, of course, can be seen in Morovvati's findings (2016) as well. Investigating the scientific outputs of Islamic countries on Scopus database, he found out that Malaysia, Turkey, and Iran have published the largest number of academic outputs among Islamic countries. Likewise, the same findings have been referred to in the research report presented by Sarwar and Hassan (2015).

Discussion and conclusion

As mentioned in the previous sections, we intended to present a general outlook on the publications concerning the field of Islam on the Web of Science database as the most important international database. We investigated growth rate, core journals, core authors, effective authors, contributions by countries, thematic domains, and published formats. The findings indicated that studies on the field of Islam have had an ascending trend, which was also in line with the

findings of a study done by Khaseh, Ahmadinejad, and Hejazi (2011). This growing trend reached its peak between 2016 and 2018. Ninety-two countries contributed to the publications in this field, with that of the United States being many times as much as that of Islamic countries. This had also been already observed by Khaseh, Ahmadinejad, and Hejazi (2011), Morovvati (2016), and Sarwar and Hassan (2015). The USA alone has carried out thirty percent of the publications in the field. Form among fifty-four Islamic member countries of the Islamic movement, only six out of twenty countries, namely Malaysia, Turkey, Indonesia, Sudan, Iran, and South Africa, have a position in terms of publications in this field. This has also been pointed out in the studies done by Morovvati (2016) and Sarwar and Hassan (2015). Some Muslim countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and those in the Persian Gulf have no place on this list. Among Muslim countries, Malaysia has ranked second, which is by far the best when compared to other Islamic countries. Malaysia's pioneering status among other Muslim countries has also been reported in previous studies contributed by Khaseh, Ahmadinejad, and Hejazi (2011), Morovvati (2016), and Sarwar and Hassan (2015).

Our study of the core journals showed that there is not much consistency between the countries and journals. For instance, Germany comes fifth in terms of productions in this field, although the first and most valid journal is published there. The second top journal is published in England, which ranks third. Moreover, although the USA ranks first regarding the publications in this field, its journals come third. Furthermore, although the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Spain are located after the tenth rank in terms of scientific productions, their journals are among the top five journals in the field. Similarly, from among countries such as Malaysia, Turkey, and Iran, which are famous in the field of Islamic studies, no journal has been able to find its way into the fourteen core journals in the field.

The study of the published formats indicated that all 6,837 documents have been published in eleven formats, with the article format comprising 3,854 (55.09 percent) titles. "Book review and critique," with 2,737 (40 percent) cases and "viewpoint" with 191 (2.08 percent) cases ranked second and third. Accordingly, it can be observed that the format of journal article, regarding its unique characteristics in comparison with other formats, is considered by qualified researchers as one of the most favored ways to communicate scientific information. Nevertheless, the study done by Dehghan (2007) shows that the highest percentage of scientific information productions are published in the form of journal article in Saudi Arabia, project report in Iran, seminar paper in Turkey, and book units in Egypt. Therefore, it can be concluded that although other formats are of importance, both domestically and internationally, the article format is of more importance and validity, in domestic and international settings as well as in most of the fields. Furthermore, it is concluded that

researchers use articles more than other formats. A noteworthy point regarding the outputs on the field of Islam is the format of book critique, which shows its importance among the scholars in the field.

Exploring the status of journals on this field showed that generally 332 journals publish the findings of the studies on the Islamic field. Among them, the contribution of the journals published in the USA is more than that of other countries, so that from among the fourteen top journals in this field, the USA publishes five journals, England publishes three, and Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Spain publish one journal each. No journal from Islamic countries, however, has a place on this list.

In terms of clustering the subjects, the most important is that of healthcare from the perspective of religions, specifically Islam, which has fourteen main key terms. The second important cluster is that of political Islam, encompassing topics such as politics, migration, gender, identity etc. The third important cluster encompasses attitudes, beliefs, culture, and Muslims' behavior. The fourth focuses on the Muslims and the issues related to them in Britain.

The study of the thematic grounds of the published studies indicates that in the 1990s, ethical and individual issues took the center-stage in debates. However, with the development of the societies and the advent of evolutions, other aspects also received attention. With the development of societies and advent of changes, these issues were generalized to other aspects. Consequently, from 2000 on, conducting comparative studies paved the way for starting the codification of executive regulation. In 2005, significant attention was given to issues concerning individuals' equal rights and the implementation of executive regulations to ensure legal security for all. This led to the evaluation of existing rules and identification of deficiencies, which necessitated the codification of more advanced regulations for improved effectiveness. In 2007, there was a focus on codifying legal issues for workers, sellers, and economic subjects leading to the codification of regulations in these areas. The operationalization of Islam's teachings for all members of society created an opportunity for its globalization from 2011. However, the enacted regulations were subject to continuous evaluation and criticism, resulting in the codification of applicable regulations to investigate critical studies, a key area of research in 2013. These endeavors in Islamic sciences opened doors for researchers of different religions, specifically Christianity, to pay more attention to various areas within Islamic sciences.

Suggestions based on the Research Findings

Based on the studies discussed in the literature review and the results of the current study, several practical recommendations can be proposed. These suggestions aim to assist future researchers and individuals interested in this field in conducting further relevant investigations.

1. Regarding the ascending trend of the citations of the articles on the field of Islam since 2008, it is suggested that the researchers produce high-quality articles so that they will be cited by prospective researchers.

2. It is suggested that, besides main topics, fundamental issues of Islam, such as monotheism, Imamate, etc., will also receive attention.

3. It is suggested that, besides comparative studies vis-à-vis Christianity, other religions should also be studied.

4. Regarding the results related to the extent of the authors' contribution to producing the articles as well as the large number of the authors having one article, it is suggested that beginning researchers will become more active in producing scientific works.

5. As for the fact that studying the core journals showed that no journal from Islamic countries is present on the list, it is suggested that Muslim countries will take serious measures to publish high-quality journals.

6. Regarding the fact that prominent Western countries such as the USA, England, Germany, France, Spain, and the Netherlands are active in the field of Islamic studies, it is suggested that researchers in Muslim countries also consider publishing their articles in reputable journals.

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