



SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS IN HADITH STUDIES: A BIBLIOMETRIC REVIEW OF THE JOURNAL OF HADITH STUDIES (2016–2024)

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Abstract

This study examines The Journal of Hadith Studies as a platform for scholarly discourse on hadith, addressing contemporary issues and emerging debates in the field. The journal plays a pivotal role in disseminating knowledge, fostering academic discussions, and enhancing public understanding of hadith-related matters. This bibliometric review aims to analyze the publication patterns, thematic research trends, and authorial and institutional contributions to the journal. The findings indicate that each publication series contains an average of nine articles, with the highest number of publications recorded in 2023, accounting for 22.67% of the total output. Thematic studies represent the most frequently explored research domain, comprising 56.39% of published articles. The journal publishes works in three primary languages: Malay, English, and Arabic, with Malay being the predominant language, constituting 30.23% of the total publications. In terms of institutional contributions, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) emerges as the most active contributor, accounting for 34.46% of the articles, while Malaysian authors represent 79.03% of total contributions. Regarding readership, the highest article views were recorded for publications in 2018, coinciding with the journal's inaugural issue, with a total readership of 18,397. This study provides valuable insights into the scholarly landscape of hadith research and is expected to inform future authorship while fostering new ideas that contribute to the advancement of hadith studies.

Keywords: Hadith Studies, Bibliometric Analysis, Publication Patterns, Academic Contributions.

Article Progress

Received: 30 April 2025

Revised: 14 May 2025

Accepted: 29 May 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Hadith, which comprises the recorded sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), is a fundamental component of Islamic scripture and serves as an authoritative source of guidance for Muslims worldwide. It not only functions as an explanation of the Qur'an but also provides practical examples of how its teachings can be applied in daily life. Hadith plays a crucial role in interpreting the Qur'an, offering contextual clarifications of divine revelations (Wan Mokhtar et al., 2018). In recent times, the study of Hadith has become increasingly widespread across the globe. This growing interest is largely due to the fact that many individuals, particularly Muslims, lack sufficient knowledge about Hadith.

The study of Hadith is essential in promoting accurate knowledge and a proper understanding of the Islamic faith and worldview within the Muslim community. Hadith plays a vital role in shaping the moral and ethical foundations of a Muslim's life, as it provides valuable insights into the Prophet's conduct and decision-making (Karim, 2021). Scholars and academicians recognized as experts in Hadith literature continuously strive to study and articulate issues related to the Qur'an and Hadith. Their efforts aim to simplify complex religious matters and present them in a way that fosters clearer understanding among Muslims.

The objective of this study is to conduct a bibliometric analysis of the Journal of Hadith Studies, encompassing all issues from its initial publication up to the latest edition in 2024. This analysis draws

upon the journal's published content to evaluate key dimensions, with the goal of uncovering prevailing themes, research patterns, and scholarly discourse presented by Hadith specialists within the journal.

Journal of Hadith Studies

The Journal of Hadith Studies (JOHS) is an open-access academic platform established specifically to support scholarly discourse in the field of Hadith. As an open-access journal, it provides unrestricted access to its content, allowing readers to freely download, distribute, copy, and search its full texts without incurring any charges. Although the platform operates under institutional oversight, it grants users the right to access Islamic knowledge within its content without requiring prior permission from either the publisher or the authors.

This journal is published by an academic higher institution in Malaysia, namely Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM). It was established by USIM Press (Penerbit USIM) and is managed by the 'Ulum Hadith Research Centre in collaboration with the Faculty of Quranic and Sunnah Studies. As a scholarly platform, JOHS focuses primarily on research and discourse related to Sunnah and Hadith, serving as a dedicated outlet for the advancement of knowledge in these fields.

Since its establishment in 2016, JOHS has served as an active platform for advancing research in the field of Hadith. With the objective of fostering a deeper understanding of Hadith and related issues, the journal provides a scholarly forum for academicians to share their research findings and contribute new ideas. In addition, JOHS aims to assist readers in accessing reliable information and addressing questions related to Hadith. All published articles undergo a rigorous review process to ensure they meet established academic standards. Authors are also encouraged to engage in integrative investigations and offer critical re-evaluations of Hadith to enrich scholarly discourse.

In response to contemporary issues, particularly those related to Islamic perspectives, this journal has published numerous articles addressing such matters. In addition to its biannual publication schedule, the journal occasionally designates specific months for the release of special issues that focus on current and widely discussed topics. Although these special issues are not published every year, the journal maintains an active role in addressing relevant and timely subjects through this dedicated section.

The Journal of Hadith Studies (JOHS) has become increasingly essential due to its consistent publication schedule and timely contributions. By maintaining an active publishing trend, it consistently presents relevant and insightful ideas. Furthermore, the journal welcomes contributions from scholars across various disciplines, including linguistics, history, theology, and cultural studies. This interdisciplinary approach enriches the field of Hadith Studies, ensuring its relevance both for academic purposes and for broader societal engagement.

(<https://journalofhadith.usim.edu.my/index.php/johs/about>).

Relevance in Hadith Studies

The field of Hadith studies focuses on the sayings, actions, and tacit approvals of Prophet Muhammad PBUH, holding significant relevance in various aspects of Islamic thought and practice. As a foundational source for Islamic law, ethics, and theology, alongside the Qur'an, Hadith provides crucial insights into understanding divine commandments while also offering moral and social guidance for Muslims (Kamali, 2005). The scope of Hadith studies extends beyond traditional Islamic disciplines such as history, jurisprudence, and cultural studies. In particular, Hadith plays a pivotal role in the conceptualization of Islamic jurisprudence (Fiqh), complementing Qur'anic exegesis by providing clarity, specificity, and a detailed framework for legal and ethical rulings (Ahmed, 2010).

In the academic perspective, the study of Hadith enlarges over its theological relevance to explore its history and culture. Hadith studies was one of the literatures that express the personal experience and social advance for the early Muslims community while providing the critical of view into the Islamic historical development (Robinson, 2003). Other than reflecting the religious, these traditions also

reflecting with the socio-political factors, which make the Hadith more essential research for the history and social scholars in the early Islamic world.

Moreover, the study of Hadith has experienced significant development among modern scholars through the application of critical methods. Contemporary research increasingly focuses on key aspects of Hadith, such as the analysis of sanad (chain of transmission) and matan (content) to assess the authenticity and reliability of a Hadith. In addition, the use of digital databases has become more widespread in Hadith studies, enabling researchers to visualize clearer patterns and trends in the sanad (Berg, 2000). This methodological approach not only helps identify the strengths of Hadith scholars but also enhances their ability to extend their expertise into other fields such as anthropology, ethics, and comparative religion.

As a result, the study of Hadith remains a crucial undertaking for both traditional Islamic scholars and contemporary academics. By applying traditional methodologies through a modern lens, the field of Hadith studies continues to play a vital role in advancing and enhancing the quality of Islamic studies. It is essential to sustain this scholarly pursuit, incorporating diverse methods and approaches that align with the challenges and realities of modern life.

Bibliometric Research on Islamic Studies

Bibliometric analysis, a quantitative research method, is widely used by scholars to assess information. It plays a crucial role, particularly in the field of Islamic studies. By analyzing several publication data such as articles, conference proceedings, and books, bibliometrics enables researchers to identify trends and evaluate the impact of scholarly contributions. In the context of Islamic studies, which often covers topics such as Islamic theology, jurisprudence, history, and culture, bibliometrics provides valuable insights into the development of knowledge across different times and places (Thelwall, 2016).

One of the major applications of bibliometrics in Islamic studies is the plotting of the scholarly networks and the productivity of research. For instance, by analysing co-authorship and institutional affiliation, it can identify the important contributors, the collaboration within the institution with the author and the distribution of the research activity in the field globally (Moed, 2005). This information is particularly useful for identifying the authoritative scholars and the institutions for the understanding about how the knowledge building has making progress in Islamic studies.

Bibliometrics also facilitates the analysis of thematic trends and emerging areas of interest within Islamic studies. By examining citation patterns and co-occurring keywords, researchers can identify the most influential themes and uncover gaps in the existing literature. For instance, recent bibliometric studies have highlighted growing interest in topics such as Islamic finance, Islamic gender studies, and the application of modern technologies in Islamic education (Mahi et al., 2020). This type of analysis not only provides an overview of current academic priorities but also paves the way for future research by spotlighting underexplored issues or topics.

Regardless of its advantages, the bibliometric be challenges in the field of Islamic studies such as the belittled of non-English publications and the difficulty of categorizing several research. There are many important articles that being written in Arabic, Persian, Malay and other languages still happen as a rare writing in the global databases, which can place a limit on the bibliometric analysis (Arunchalam & Morgan, 2001). The research to combine the regional databases and widen the index of non-English journals are important showing the limitation.

There are several studies that conduct bibliometric research, including a study conducted on Prophetic Food in Journal Articles from 2015 until 2019 written by Syed Hassan and Baharuddin. This article analyzes the food taken by the Prophet in the journal (Syed Hassan & Baharuddin, 2021). In addition, the article written by a group of researcher, entitled Research Trends of Neuromarketing. The article was written to analyze global research in the field of neuromarketing (Alsharif et al., 2020).

In addition to studies using a bibliometric approach, systematic literature review is one of the methods for analyzing data in previous studies or studies in certain fields. Systematic literature review is a

method for scientifically concluding or distinguishing evidence to answer research questions. This systematic literature method is a major method in health science research. The components of a systematic literature review are slightly different from traditional literature research (G. Lame, 2019). Basically, a systematic literature review will involve more than one researcher. Because the method requires observation of many things, it involves dividing the task among more researchers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, a quantitative approach was employed to analyze the data contained in the JOHS platform. By examining each article published over a nine-year period, from 2016 to 2024, and published periodically each year, the study collected data on the fields of study and the languages used in the articles. This approach allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the key themes and topics addressed in the articles. The results of the analysis and data collection were subsequently categorized based on the subject matter of the debate and the language used in each article, creating a cohesive data record.

The quantitative approach involves the use of numerical data collection methods. In this study, the quantitative approach was employed to analyze the publication patterns of articles from 2016 to 2024. Additionally, this approach was used to examine the number of authors and the institutions they represent. Furthermore, the quantitative method was applied to assess the frequency of article visits on the Journal of Hadith Studies platform, identifying the most visited articles and exploring the reasons behind their popularity among readers.

Secondary data refers to information that has been collected, processed, and published by other researchers or institutions, typically for purposes different from the current study. This type of data can be sourced from government publications, reports, academic journals, books, and online records. The primary advantage of using secondary data in research is that it saves time and resources, as it eliminates the need for original data collection. However, the use of secondary data can present certain challenges and limitations, such as outdated information, questionable data quality, or the relevance of the data to the specific research questions at hand (Johnston, 2017). Overall, secondary data is valuable for exploratory research, providing information that can pave the way for future studies.

A tool of analysis refers to any software, framework, or instrument used to evaluate and interpret data collected in a study. These tools assist in managing data, identifying patterns, and evaluating relationships related to the research objectives. For studies employing a quantitative approach, statistical tools such as SPSS and Excel are commonly used, while qualitative studies typically utilize tools like NVivo and ATLAS.ti. The selection of an appropriate analytical tool depends on the type of data and the research methodology being employed. Using the right tools enhances the accuracy of data analysis, thereby facilitating more reliable research outcomes and potentially leading to further avenues of inquiry (Bhattacharjee, 2012).

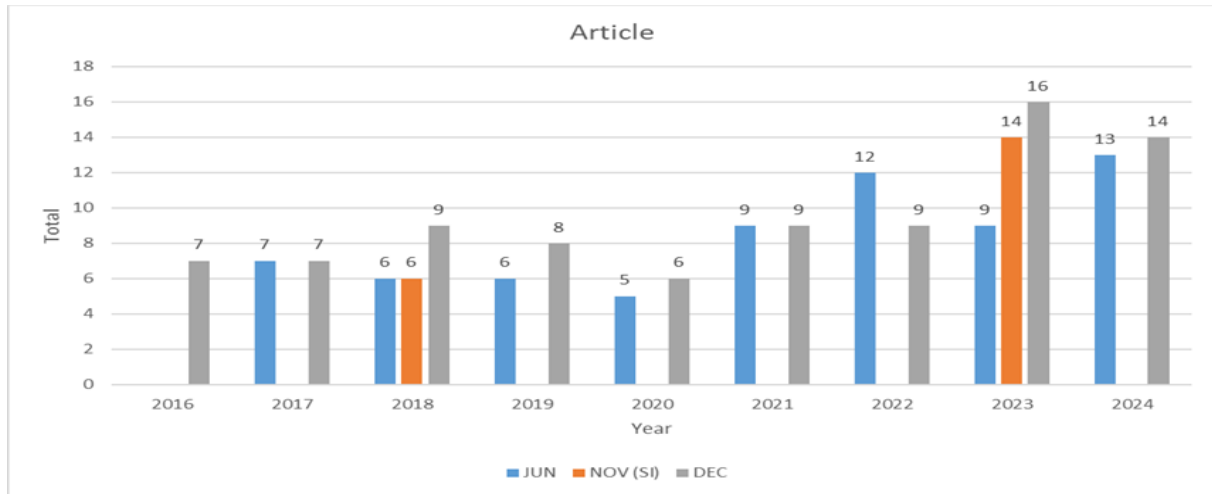
In this study, Excel was utilized as the primary research tool. The data analyzed were transferred into Excel, as it provides a systematic way to record and organize data. Additionally, Excel facilitates the summarization and interpretation of the analyzed data, ensuring that the research findings are both accurate and aligned with the research objectives.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study, based on a comprehensive analysis of the journal's platform, will be presented in quantitative form. The data will be visualized through graphs generated from various aspects of the platform's analysis. For clarity, the data shown in the graphs are derived from a detailed analysis conducted using Microsoft Excel. These graphs will play a central role in the discussion, as both data collection and graph generation are essential components of the bibliometric analysis in this study. The research findings encompass several aspects, including the annual number of articles, the research fields addressed in each article, the languages used, the authors with the most contributions, the countries of origin of the authors, the most-read articles, and the institutions affiliated with the authors.

Annual Number of Articles

Chart 1: Number of Articles



The following chart (Chart 1) illustrates the overall data for the number of articles published each year from 2016 to 2024. Based on the analysis of the journal's platform, articles are generally published in two phases each year, specifically in June and December. However, this pattern differed between 2018 and 2023. During these two years, special publications were introduced for articles related to specific issues, resulting in three publication phases: June, November, and December.

According to the year-by-year analysis, the highest number of articles published was in 2023, which has a percentage of 22.67% from the other year. With a total of 39 articles across the three publication phases. The most significant publication phase in 2023 occurred in December, with 16 articles. Regarding special issue publications, 2023 recorded a higher number of articles which are 14 articles compared to 2018 that only had 6 articles.

Research Field of Article

Table 1 below presents data on the categories of fields covered by all articles published from 2016 to 2024. Based on the analysis, this study identified eight categories of fields that represent the entire body of published articles. These fields are closely related to hadith studies and discussions.

Table 1: Field of Study

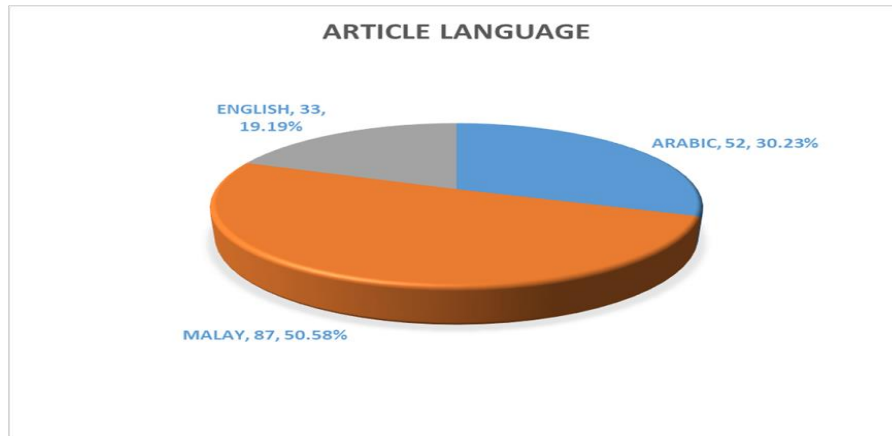
FIELD OF STUDY	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE (%)
THEMATIC STUDY	97	56.39
ORIENTALIST STUDY	7	4.07
HADITH METHODOLOGY	26	15.12
HADITH VERIFICATION/EXTRACTION	6	3.49
HADITH AND TECHNOLOGY	7	4.07
SIRAH STUDY	9	5.23
SCIENTIFIC HADITH	8	4.65
FIGURE STUDY	12	6.98
TOTAL	172	100

The majority of published articles focus on thematic studies, which accounted for the highest number of publications, with 97 articles representing 56.39% of the total. This was followed by articles on the methodology of Hadith studies, which recorded the second-highest number, with 26 articles, or 15.12%. These two fields dominate the publication counts, showing a significant disparity in quantity compared to other fields.

Articles' Language

The pie chart (Chart 2) illustrates the data from the analysis of the languages used in articles published on the Journal of Hadith Studies platform. Authors utilized three languages for publication: Arabic, English, and Malay. According to the analysis, Arabic was predominantly used for articles specifically related to Hadith studies, while English and Malay were more commonly used for articles focused on thematic or biographical studies.

Chart 2: Articles' Language



According to the collected data, the majority of articles were written in Malay, with a total of 87 articles, accounting for 50.58% of all articles across the three languages. Arabic was the second most frequently used language, with 52 articles, representing 30.23% of the total. English had the smallest proportion, with 33 articles, comprising 19.19% of the overall data.

Authors' Countries Origin

Table 2: Authors' Countries Origin

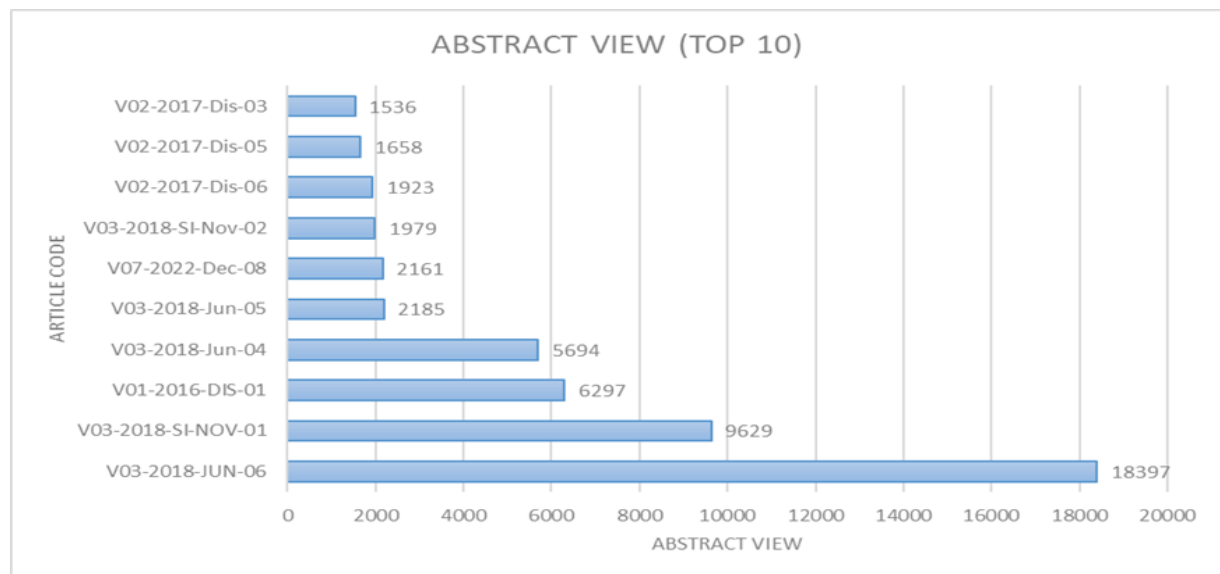
REGION	TOTAL OF AUTHORS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Bangladesh	4	1.5
China	1	0.37
Egypt	1	0.37
India	4	1.5
Indonesia	13	4.87
Iraq	3	1.13
Ivory Coast	1	0.37
Jordan	3	1.13
Kuwait	1	0.37
Libya	2	0.75
Mesir	2	0.75
Morocco	1	0.37
Nigeria	5	1.87
Palestin	1	0.37
Russia	1	0.37
Saudi Arabia	4	1.5
Sudan	2	0.75
Syria	3	1.13
Thailand	3	1.13
Yaman	1	0.37
Malaysia	211	79.03
TOTAL	267	100

The country of origin of the authors is another aspect analyzed in this study. The aim was to determine whether all authors contributing to this journal platform are exclusively from Malaysia, where the platform was established, or if authors from other countries are also involved. The findings revealed that authors from outside Malaysia also contribute to the platform's publications.

The JOHS platform was established in Malaysia, and the result shows that majority of authors come from Malaysia. According to the statistics, Malaysian authors dominate with a total of 211 contributors. This number is significantly higher and automatically has the biggest percentage, which is 79.03% compared to authors from other countries. In second place, authors from Indonesia contributed by 13 individuals with 4.87%, followed by Nigeria with 5 authors and has 1.87% of percentage in third place.

Abstract View

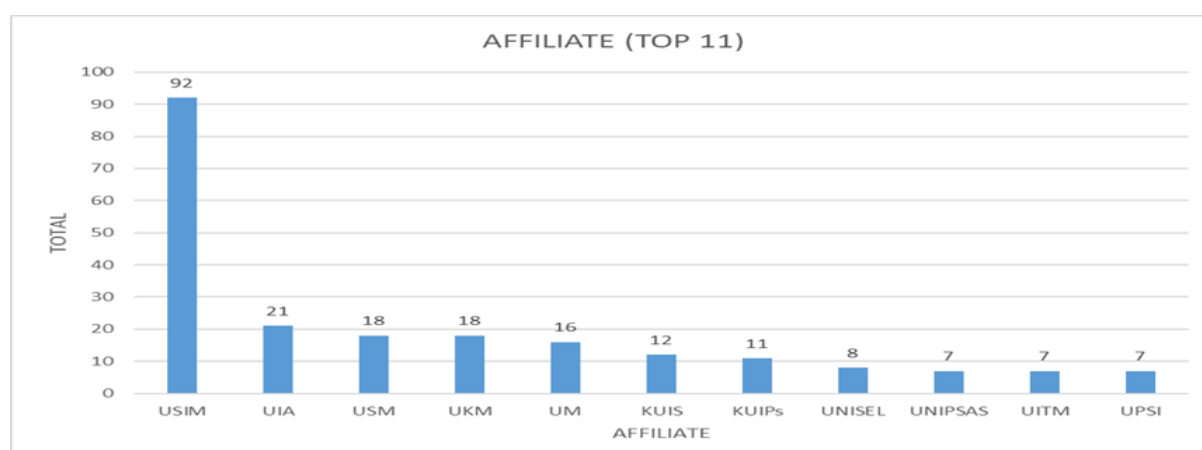
Abstract views are one of the aspects analyzed in this study to assess how frequently and extensively an article is viewed or read by the public. This analysis also aims to identify which fields are most frequently accessed, reflecting the primary areas of interest for readers seeking knowledge on Hadith. Additionally, it offers valuable insights to authors, helping them understand which topics should be prioritized in their writing, ultimately improving the usability and functionality of the JOHS platform.



Based on the analysis depicted in Chart 3, the article with the highest abstract views was published in the first phase of 2018, during June, with a total of 18,397 views. This article, titled “الأحاديث الواردة في ”مجالات إدارة التنمية الإسلامية الماليزية (جاكيم) جمعاً ودراسة“”, was authored by two individuals: Mohd Khairul Nizam Zainan Nazri from Malaysia and Emad Moahmed Ahmed Yousif from Iraq. The article explores a field related to *takhrij al-hadith* and is written in Arabic.

Authors' Affiliate

Based on the analysis, as shown in the graph, the majority of the affiliates or institutional association are educational institutions, such as universities and colleges. The study found that the affiliates of the authors are not limited to Malaysia but also include institutions from other countries. However, for this analysis, the researcher focused on the top 10 affiliates, all of which are based in Malaysia, as recorded on the Journal of Hadith Studies platform.

Chart 4: Authors' Affiliate

Based on Chart 4, the top affiliate is Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), with a total of 92 authors, accounting for the highest percentage at 34.46%. This is followed by Universiti Islam Antarabangsa (UIA) with 21 authors, representing 7.87%, and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), each with 18 authors, which constitutes 6.74%. Universiti Malaya follows with 16 authors (5.99%), while Kolej Universiti Islam Selangor (KUIS) has 12 authors (4.49%), and Kolej Universiti Islam Perlis (KUIPs) records 11 authors (4.12%). Universiti Selangor (UNISEL) has 8 authors (3%), while Universiti Islam Pahang Sultan Ahmad Shah (UNIPSAS), Universiti Teknologi Mara (UITM), and Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) each contribute 7 authors, accounting for 2.62%.

CONCLUSION

Bibliometric analysis, a quantitative research method, plays a significant role in Islamic studies by helping researchers assess publication data, such as articles, conference proceedings, and books, to identify trends and evaluate scholarly contributions. This approach is particularly useful in understanding the development of knowledge in Islamic theology, jurisprudence, history, and culture across different times and places. By analyzing co-authorship, institutional affiliations, citation patterns, and co-occurring keywords, bibliometrics helps identify influential themes, gaps in literature, and key contributors in the field. Recent studies have highlighted growing interest in areas such as Islamic finance, gender studies, and the integration of modern technologies in Islamic education, offering valuable insights for future research and knowledge development.

In conclusion, this study was conducted through bibliometric analysis, focusing on the Journal of Hadith Studies platform. The study examined several key aspects, including the pattern of article publication, themes or fields of debate in each article, the contributions of authors from various countries, collaborating institutions, article readership frequency, and the languages used in writing. Utilizing quantitative approaches, this study collected and organized data from the Journal of Hadith Studies, with Microsoft Excel serving as the primary tool for analysis.

The findings underscore the importance of journals and articles as platforms for scholarly discussion in Hadith, addressing various issues and contributing to the expansion of knowledge in Islamic studies. This study highlights the diverse themes explored in the journal, reflecting the dynamic and evolving nature of Hadith knowledge. Furthermore, the analysis reveals that the journal has attracted authors from multiple countries and external institutions, promoting the exchange of knowledge and advancing the development of Hadith studies.

In further expanding the impact and reach of the "Journal of Hadith Studies" platform, there are several suggestions that can be given. The first is that the journal platform should be active in attracting global interest and participation by inviting and welcoming contributions from academics and Islamic

institutions. This will provide different views or perspectives and further expand research and knowledge in the field of Hadith. In addition, the platform should also foster and encourage more discussions and debates about different knowledge by supporting studies related to Hadith studies with other studies such as in the fields of sociology, history, and studies on the latest law.

Increasing accessibility through an open-access platform is an important step to ensure that scholarly contents in the journal can achieve higher reading statistics, including article writers. Furthermore, bibliometric study analysis should be carried out by journal publishers or article writers to control and monitor the latest trends and research gaps for future issues. Finally, efforts should be made to increase the capacity for article writing in the journal. For example, holding workshops or special mentoring programs to produce new academics, especially for developing countries. This needs to be worked on to improve the quality and quantity of article publications. This effort will then ensure that the journal platform continues to remain a platform that can increase knowledge in the field of Hadith and in the field of Islamic studies.

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