



THE PRESERVATION AND TRANSMISSION OF HADITH THROUGH MODERN TECHNOLOGY: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

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Abstract

The preservation and transmission of Hadith, which constitute a fundamental source of Islamic knowledge, have historically relied on rigorous scholarly methodologies grounded in oral transmission, written documentation, and critical verification. In recent decades, the rapid development of digital technologies has significantly transformed these processes, introducing new tools and platforms that influence how Hadith are preserved, accessed, and disseminated. This study provides an overview of the evolving role of technology in Hadith studies, highlighting both its contributions and its implications for contemporary scholarship. The primary purpose of this article is to examine how modern technological advancements support the preservation and transmission of Hadith while maintaining the integrity of established scholarly principles. It explores the ways in which digital databases, online platforms, and advanced computational tools enhance accessibility, improve research efficiency, and facilitate global dissemination. At the same time, it highlights the challenges associated with digital environments, including issues of authenticity, reliability, and ethical responsibility. This study adopts an analytical and descriptive approach, drawing upon existing literature in Hadith studies and digital humanities. It analyses the application of various technological tools, such as searchable databases, mobile applications, and artificial intelligence, in managing and studying Hadith texts. The findings indicate that technology plays a significant supportive role in strengthening the preservation and transmission of Hadith by increasing accessibility, enabling advanced analysis, and promoting wider engagement with prophetic traditions. However, the study also emphasizes that technological tools cannot replace the critical role of scholarly expertise and methodological rigor. The significance of this research lies in proposing a balanced perspective that integrates technological innovation with classical principles, ensuring that the authenticity and integrity of Hadith studies are preserved in the digital age.

Keywords: *Hadith studies, Technology, Preservation, Transmission.*

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INTRODUCTION

The preservation and transmission of Hadith, which comprise the sayings, actions, and approvals of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), have historically been central to the development of Islamic knowledge and practice. As the second primary source of Islamic law after the Qur'an, Hadith play a vital role in shaping religious, legal, and ethical frameworks within Muslim societies. Classical scholars developed sophisticated methodologies to ensure the authenticity and reliability of Hadith, including the sciences of *isnād* (chain of transmission) and *ilm al-rijāl* (evaluation of narrators) (Azami, 2002; Brown, 2009). These traditional methods laid a strong foundation for preserving the integrity of the Prophet's teachings over centuries.

In the contemporary era, rapid technological advancements have significantly transformed the landscape of knowledge preservation and dissemination. Digital tools, including online databases, mobile applications, and cloud-based storage systems, have made vast collections of Hadith more

accessible than ever before. Platforms such as digital libraries and Hadith search engines allow users to retrieve narrations instantly, compare sources, and explore classifications with ease (Ahmed & Nordin, 2021). This transformation has not only facilitated academic research but also expanded public engagement with Hadith across diverse linguistic and geographical contexts.

Moreover, the rise of online learning systems and social media has redefined the modes of Hadith transmission. Virtual classrooms, webinars, and e-learning platforms enable scholars to teach Hadith to global audiences, transcending traditional geographical limitations (Hassan & Ismail, 2020). At the same time, social media platforms serve as powerful tools for disseminating Hadith to the wider public, promoting awareness and encouraging religious learning in everyday life (Ali & Saeed, 2021). Multimedia technologies, including audio and video resources, further enhance understanding by presenting Hadith in more engaging and accessible formats. Despite these advancements, the integration of technology into Hadith studies is not without challenges. Concerns regarding authenticity, misinterpretation, and the lack of scholarly oversight highlight the need for a balanced approach that combines technological innovation with traditional methodologies (Rahman & Salleh, 2022). Therefore, examining the role of technology in the preservation and transmission of Hadith is essential to understanding both its opportunities and its limitations in the modern era. This study aims to explore how contemporary technological tools contribute to the preservation and transmission of Hadith while critically analyzing the associated challenges. By doing so, it seeks to provide a comprehensive perspective on the evolving relationship between classical Islamic scholarship and modern digital innovation.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF HADITH PRESERVATION AND TRANSMISSION

The preservation and transmission of Hadith—the sayings, actions, and approvals of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)—represent one of the most significant intellectual and religious efforts in Islamic history. From the earliest period of Islam, Muslims developed rigorous methodologies to ensure the authenticity and accuracy of Hadith, combining oral transmission with written documentation. This historical process evolved through several phases, reflecting both the needs of the Muslim community and the challenges of preserving religious knowledge.

Early Oral Transmission during the Prophetic Period

During the lifetime of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), Hadith were primarily transmitted orally. The Companions (Ṣaḥābah) played a crucial role in memorizing and conveying the Prophet's teachings. Arab society at the time had a strong oral culture, with exceptional memory skills that facilitated the accurate preservation of information (Azami, 2002). The Prophet himself encouraged the transmission of his teachings, as reflected in the famous statement: "Convey from me, even if it is one verse" (al-Bukhari). Although the primary mode was oral, there is evidence that some Companions recorded Hadith in written form. Notable examples include the Ṣaḥīfah of 'Abdullāh ibn 'Amr ibn al-'Āṣ, known as al-Ṣaḥīfah al-Ṣādiqah, which contained numerous Hadith written with the Prophet's permission (Brown, 2009). This demonstrates that written preservation, though limited, existed alongside oral transmission during the Prophetic era.

Transmission in the Era of the Companions and Successors

After the death of the Prophet (peace be upon him), the responsibility of preserving and transmitting Hadith fell to the Companions. They exercised great caution in narrating Hadith to avoid errors or fabrications. Some Companions, such as Abū Hurayrah, 'Ā'ishah, and Ibn 'Umar, became prominent narrators, transmitting thousands of Hadith to the next generation (Lucas, 2008). The Successors (Ṭābi'ūn), who learned from the Companions, continued this tradition. During this period, the geographical expansion of the Islamic empire led to the spread of Hadith across different regions, including Iraq, Syria, and Egypt. This expansion created both opportunities and challenges, as variations in transmission began to emerge. As a result, scholars started emphasizing the importance of verifying narrations and identifying reliable transmitters (Motzki, 2010).

Emergence of Isnād and Verification Methods

One of the most distinctive features of Hadith preservation is the development of the isnād (chain of transmission) system. This method involves tracing each Hadith back through a chain of narrators to the Prophet. The isnād system became a critical tool for assessing authenticity, as scholars examined the reliability, integrity, and memory of each narrator (Brown, 2009). The science of 'ilm al-rijāl (biographical evaluation of narrators) also emerged during this period. Scholars meticulously documented the lives of narrators, evaluating their trustworthiness and precision. This rigorous methodology helped distinguish authentic Hadith (ṣaḥīḥ) from weak (ḍa'īf) or fabricated (mawḍū') ones (Azami, 2002). The emphasis on verification reflects the early Muslim community's commitment to preserving the integrity of the Prophet's teachings.

Compilation of Hadith Collections

By the second and third centuries of Islam, the need for systematic compilation of Hadith became increasingly evident. This led to the development of major Hadith collections. Early compilations, such as the Muwaṭṭa' of Imam Mālik, combined Hadith with the practices of the people of Madinah (Lucas, 2008).

The third century AH marked the golden age of Hadith compilation, with the emergence of the six canonical collections (Kutub al-Sittah), including Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī and Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim. These works were distinguished by their strict criteria for authenticity, particularly the continuous and reliable isnād. Imam al-Bukhārī, for instance, applied highly rigorous standards in selecting Hadith, ensuring their authenticity and reliability (Brown, 2009). These compilations not only preserved Hadith but also organized them into thematic chapters, making them more accessible for scholars and students. The written preservation of Hadith marked a significant shift from reliance on oral transmission to a more structured and systematic approach.

In summary, the historical development of Hadith preservation and transmission reflects a dynamic and meticulous process that evolved over time. Beginning with oral transmission during the Prophetic era, the process expanded through the efforts of the Companions and Successors, who emphasized accuracy and caution. The introduction of the isnād system and the science of narrator evaluation ensured the authenticity of Hadith, while the compilation of major collections provided a lasting written record.

This rich tradition highlights the dedication of early Muslim scholars to safeguarding the teachings of the Prophet (peace be upon him). Their methodologies continue to influence contemporary Hadith studies, demonstrating the enduring significance of this intellectual legacy.

DIGITALIZATION OF HADITH STUDIES

Digitalization refers to the process of converting information, texts, and scholarly resources into digital formats that can be stored, accessed, and transmitted through electronic systems. In the context of Hadith studies, digitalization involves transforming manuscripts, printed books, archival records, and educational materials into searchable and reusable digital resources. It goes beyond simple scanning, since it also includes metadata creation, indexing, and analytical systems that support new forms of research and dissemination (Bunt, 2022; Sulaiman & Hashim, 2023). A wide range of technologies is currently used in the Preservation and Transmission of Hadith, below we will highlight some prominent technologies.

Digital database:

One of the most prominent is the digital database, which compiles collections of Hadith, Qur'anic exegesis, fiqh, and biographical literature in structured searchable environments. These systems often include full-text search, cross-referencing, topic tagging, and linguistic indexing, allowing users to navigate extensive corpora efficiently (Sulaiman & Hashim, 2023). Searchable databases help researchers locate variants rapidly, while computational tools assist in examining narrator networks and

textual similarities. At the same time, public-facing digital platforms widen access to prophetic traditions beyond traditional institutions (Sulaiman & Hashim, 2023).

Mobile Applications and Hadith Platforms

Mobile applications have become one of the most effective tools for Hadith transmission in the digital age. Applications such as *Sunnah.com*, *Hadith Collection (Kutub al-Sittah)*, and *Maktaba Shamila* provide users with easy access to authenticated Hadith collections. These platforms allow users to search Hadith by keywords, narrators, or topics, making the study process more efficient compared to traditional methods (Ahmed & Nordin, 2021).

Furthermore, many of these applications incorporate advanced features such as grading of Hadith (ṣaḥīḥ, ḥasan, ḍaʿīf), cross-referencing between collections, and multilingual translations. This has significantly improved both accessibility and understanding, particularly for non-Arabic speakers (Rahman, 2022). Digital Hadith platforms also ensure preservation by storing vast collections in cloud-based systems, reducing the risk of loss or physical damage.

Online Learning Systems and Virtual Classrooms

Online learning systems and virtual classrooms have revolutionized the traditional teacher-student model in Hadith transmission. Platforms such as Moodle, Google Classroom, and Zoom enable scholars to conduct structured Hadith lessons remotely. These systems facilitate live lectures, recorded sessions, assignments, and discussions, maintaining the continuity of isnād-based learning in a modern format (Hassan & Ismail, 2020).

Virtual classrooms also allow students from different geographical locations to study under qualified scholars without the need for physical travel. This global accessibility has revived interest in Hadith sciences and expanded the reach of traditional Islamic scholarship. Additionally, online certification programs and ijāzah (authorization) systems are now being adapted to digital formats, preserving the authenticity of transmission while embracing technological convenience (Yusuf & Karim, 2023).

Social Media and Public Dissemination

Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter (X), Instagram, and YouTube play a crucial role in the public dissemination of Hadith. Scholars and Islamic organizations use these platforms to share daily Hadith, short explanations, and thematic series that reach millions of users instantly. This rapid dissemination helps in promoting Islamic teachings and increasing awareness among younger generations (Ali & Saeed, 2021).

However, the use of social media also presents challenges, particularly regarding the authenticity of shared content. Unverified or weak Hadith may circulate widely without proper scholarly validation. To address this issue, many verified pages and channels now include references to original sources and Hadith classifications, promoting responsible sharing (Rahman & Salleh, 2022). Despite these concerns, social media remains a powerful tool for informal education and outreach.

Multimedia Tools (Audio, Video, Interactive Learning)

Multimedia tools have significantly enhanced the learning and transmission of Hadith by catering to diverse learning styles. Audio recordings of Hadith recitations and explanations allow users to engage with content while commuting or performing daily activities. Podcasts and Islamic lecture series have gained popularity as accessible formats for continuous learning (Khan, 2021). Video platforms such as YouTube and dedicated Islamic educational websites provide visual and auditory explanations of Hadith, often accompanied by slides, animations, and real-life applications. This approach improves

comprehension and retention, especially for complex topics in Hadith sciences such as isnād analysis and matn criticism (Ismail & Rahim, 2020).

Interactive learning tools, including quizzes, flashcards, and gamified applications, further enhance user engagement. These tools encourage active participation and self-assessment, making Hadith learning more dynamic and appealing, particularly for younger audiences. The integration of artificial intelligence in some platforms also allows personalized learning experiences, adapting content based on user progress and preferences (Zulkifli & Ahmad, 2023).

In Conclusion, Technological tools have fundamentally transformed the transmission of Hadith in the modern era. Mobile applications and digital platforms have made Hadith collections more accessible and searchable, while online learning systems have expanded educational opportunities beyond physical boundaries. Social media has enabled rapid dissemination, and multimedia tools have enriched the learning experience through diverse formats. Despite these advancements, maintaining authenticity and scholarly rigor remains essential. The integration of traditional methodologies with modern technology offers a balanced approach, ensuring that the transmission of Hadith continues to uphold its foundational principles while benefiting from contemporary innovations. As technology continues to evolve, its role in Hadith transmission is expected to grow, further bridging the gap between classical scholarship and modern accessibility.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES IN HADITH STUDIES

In addition to traditional digital tools, advanced technologies are increasingly being integrated into Hadith studies. Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning have emerged as powerful tools for processing large datasets of Hadith texts. These technologies can assist in classification, pattern recognition, topic modeling, and thematic analysis, enabling researchers to uncover insights that were previously difficult to obtain through manual methods alone (Alqahtani et al., 2024; Sulaiman & Hashim, 2023).

Recent developments demonstrate the use of machine learning models to process extensive Hadith corpora, including tasks such as text segmentation, thematic tagging, semantic similarity detection, and automated categorization. Such systems have shown promising levels of accuracy in structured textual tasks, highlighting their potential to support scholarly research and accelerate large-scale corpus analysis (Alqahtani et al., 2024). Similarly, computational methods such as clustering algorithms and network analysis have been used to identify thematic relationships within Hadith texts and trace patterns among narrators, contributing to more systematic and evidence-based analysis (Uriawan et al., 2025).

Natural language processing (NLP) technologies further enhance textual analysis by enabling computers to understand and interpret linguistic structures in Arabic and multilingual Hadith datasets. These tools can assist in identifying wording variations, detecting similarities between narrations, extracting named entities, and supporting translation efforts. In multilingual contexts, NLP also helps make Hadith resources more accessible to global audiences through improved translation and search functions (Campbell & Tsuria, 2021). Data visualization technologies likewise play an important role by representing complex relationships—such as transmission chains, narrator networks, and thematic connections—in graphical formats that simplify interpretation and reveal hidden patterns (Asgari-Bidhendi et al., 2025).

Despite their potential, advanced technologies must be used with caution. While they offer powerful analytical capabilities, they cannot replace the critical judgment, contextual understanding, and methodological expertise of human scholars. The science of Hadith requires nuanced evaluation of narrator reliability, historical context, legal implications, and interpretive tradition—areas where automated systems remain limited. Recent studies emphasize that digital tools enhance efficiency and accessibility but should be integrated with traditional scholarly methodologies to maintain authenticity, reliability, and academic rigor (Aydin, 2023; Bunt, 2022).

CHALLENGES AND RISKS IN USING TECHNOLOGY FOR HADITH PRESERVATION AND TRANSMISSION

The integration of modern technology into Hadith preservation and transmission has brought significant benefits, including improved accessibility, efficiency, and global dissemination. However, alongside these advantages, several challenges and risks have emerged that may affect the authenticity, reliability, and proper understanding of Hadith. These challenges must be carefully addressed to ensure that technological advancements do not compromise the integrity of this essential Islamic knowledge.

Issues of Authenticity and Verification

One of the most critical challenges in using technology for Hadith transmission is ensuring authenticity. Digital platforms and mobile applications often provide vast collections of Hadith, but not all sources maintain strict scholarly standards. Weak (*ḍa'īf*) or fabricated (*mawḍū'*) Hadith may be circulated without proper verification, especially on websites and social media platforms (Rahman & Salleh, 2022).

Unlike traditional methods, where scholars rigorously evaluate the chain of transmission (*isnād*) and the text (*matn*), many digital users rely on quick searches without verifying the credibility of sources. This creates a risk of misinformation and misinterpretation, potentially leading to incorrect religious practices (Ali & Saeed, 2021). The absence of qualified scholarly supervision on some platforms further exacerbates this issue.

Lack of Standardization and Scholarly Control

Another significant challenge is the lack of standardization across digital Hadith platforms. Different applications and websites may use varying criteria for classifying Hadith authenticity. Some platforms provide detailed grading systems, while others offer minimal or no information about the status of a Hadith (Ahmed & Nordin, 2021).

This inconsistency can confuse users, particularly those without formal training in Hadith sciences. Moreover, the decentralization of information on the internet makes it difficult to regulate content effectively. Unlike traditional institutions of learning, which operate under established scholarly authority, digital platforms often lack oversight, leading to variations in quality and reliability.

Misinterpretation and Contextual Errors

Technology has made Hadith widely accessible to the general public, but this accessibility also increases the risk of misinterpretation. Hadith often require contextual understanding, including knowledge of historical circumstances (*asbāb al-wurūd*), linguistic nuances, and related texts. Without proper guidance, users may interpret Hadith in isolation, leading to misunderstandings (Hassan & Ismail, 2020).

Social media platforms, in particular, tend to promote brief and decontextualized content. Short Hadith posts or quotes may omit essential explanations, resulting in oversimplification or distortion of meaning. This can have serious implications, especially when such content influence's public opinion or religious behavior.

Digital Preservation and Data Security Risks

While digital storage offers advantages in preserving large volumes of Hadith literature, it also presents risks related to data security and long-term preservation. Digital data can be vulnerable to cyberattacks,

data corruption, or accidental loss. Without proper backup systems and cybersecurity measures, valuable Hadith databases may be compromised (Zulkifli & Ahmad, 2023).

Additionally, the rapid evolution of technology may render certain formats or platforms obsolete over time. This raises concerns about the sustainability of digital preservation efforts. Ensuring the longevity and integrity of digital Hadith resources requires continuous maintenance, updates, and migration to new technologies.

Overreliance on Technology

Another challenge is the growing overreliance on technology at the expense of traditional learning methods. While digital tools provide convenience, they may reduce direct engagement with qualified scholars and classical texts. The traditional teacher-student relationship, which plays a crucial role in transmitting not only knowledge but also understanding and methodology, may be weakened (Yusuf & Karim, 2023).

This shift can lead to a superficial approach to Hadith studies, where users prioritize quick access over deep comprehension. The absence of critical analysis and scholarly mentorship may ultimately affect the quality of learning and transmission.

Ethical and Intellectual Property Concerns

The use of technology also raises ethical issues related to intellectual property and content ownership. Digital Hadith resources are often shared without proper attribution or authorization, potentially violating the rights of scholars and publishers. Additionally, the commercialization of Islamic applications may prioritize profit over accuracy and authenticity (Khan, 2021).

There are also concerns about the misuse of Hadith for ideological or political purposes. Digital platforms can amplify selective or biased interpretations, influencing audiences in ways that may not align with authentic Islamic teachings.

CONCLUSIONS

While technology has significantly enhanced the preservation and transmission of Hadith, it also presents notable challenges and risks. Issues of authenticity, lack of standardization, misinterpretation, data security, overreliance, and ethical concerns must be addressed to maintain the integrity of Hadith scholarship. A balanced approach that combines technological innovation with traditional scholarly methodologies is essential. By integrating expert supervision, standardized verification systems, and ethical guidelines, the Muslim community can harness the benefits of technology while safeguarding the authenticity and proper understanding of Hadith. This ensures that the rich legacy of the Prophet's teachings continues to be preserved and transmitted accurately in the digital age.

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