Exploring the Concept of Islamization of Knowledge from Scholarly Perspectives

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Abstract

The study investigates the process of Islamization of Knowledge by conducting a bibliometric analysis of documents published in the Scopus database between 2010 and 2024. The findings demonstrate a favourable yearly pattern of publications and emphasise Malaysia's prominent position in this domain, with notable contributions from two well-known universities. The study also shows Muslim thinkers' diverse vocabulary and conceptual methodologies. This analysis serves as a helpful point of reference for future studies. It contributes to a deeper comprehension of the process of Islamization of Knowledge by identifying areas where further research is needed.

Keywords: Bibliometric Study, Islamization of Knowledge Concept, Scholar

1.0 Introduction

Knowledge has an essential role in Muslims' lives, both here on earth and in the hereafter, serving as a guide and driving force to their happiness. In contrast to secularism and liberalism in the West, who see knowledge as linked to the freedom to organise anything according to their own blinding methods, Muslim scholars hold the belief that knowledge is vast, valuable, diverse, and ever-evolving and that there is no division between religious and general knowledge.

Colonialists' secular policies based on the idea of a knowledge dichotomy and dualism have created severe challenges for Islamic educational systems across the globe. A significant moral and intellectual crisis has hit society due to these ethical and moral principles, originating from a system that separates revelation from reason and denies supernatural knowledge (Amir, 2023).

To reintroduce scientific sources within an Islamic framework, Ismail al-Faruqi rewrote textbooks and other academic works from an Islamic teaching point of view (Irma Novayani, 2017; Abrori & Nurkholis, 2019). Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas also recognised and agreed upon this when, in 1977, during the first World Conference on Islamic Education in Mecca, the Idea of Islamization of Knowledge was established; the result was an intellectual crisis is a crisis that really plagues humanity, in order to increase this awareness, Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas has honed and further refined this idea by publishing several books entitled "Islam and Secularism" in 1978 (Muslem, 2019), with the support of the concept from Muslim scholars and scientists this idea has been further developed with the First Conference in Switzerland, followed by the Second Conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, 1983 as a result of this agreement the establishment of an Islamic university named the International Islamic University established in Malaysia in 1983, to solve problems and lack of education and with the aim of defending the principles and philosophy of transformation and change, this conference continued with the Third Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1984, and the Fourth Conference in Khartoum, Sudan in 1987 (Amir, 2023).

1.1 The Concept of Islamization of Knowledge

Science is essential to our everyday lives and is a bedrock for a nation's progress and cultural development. "Knowledge" comes from the Arabic root "al-'alm," which means "knowledge" in English. According to the Oxford Dictionary, the scientific method is characterised by the systematic study of the physical universe and the structure and behaviour of nature via observation and experimentation (Dafrita, 2015; Rukmi et al., 2021).

The Islamization of Knowledge is an intellectual movement that addresses epistemological and methodological concerns. However, external factors such as the state of "ummah lethargy" contribute to its challenges. These factors include political and military divisions, stagnant social and economic development, reliance on the West, high levels of illiteracy despite abundant natural resources like oil, and a disconnect from Islamic teachings and culture. Syed Naquib Al-Attas believes that the Islamization of Knowledge seeks to liberate individuals from superstitious practices, mythological beliefs, mystical

ideologies, local customs that contradict Islamic teachings, and limitations imposed by language comprehension and secular thinking (Irma Novayani, 2017).

Ismail Al-Faruqi explained that Islamization of Knowledge is defined as rearranging information, rethinking arguments and rationalisation related to the information, and reevaluating conclusions and interpretations, as well as making predictions about a plan based on observations and available information to achieve the goal of making this field more transparent to the Islamic vision and help achieve the goal, to achieve the level of Islamization of this knowledge, the principle of monotheism is the basis of thinking, manhaj (method) and lifestyle. (Irma Novayani, 2017).

Compared to Mohd. Kamal Hasan, who differentiates between the use of the terms "Islamisisation" and "Islamization", sees that "Islamization" is a conference process towards Islam. This term is related to the view of Islam in the sense of Islamization, which focuses on theology, ontology, axiology, eschatology, and epistemology. In contrast, the term "Islamisisation", which generally refers to adaptation to Islamic principles, has a broader meaning and includes all religious knowledge, Science and technology that includes values, norms, standards, and criteria accepted by Islam, including goodness, integrity, cleanliness, and various noble values that coincide with Islamic Sharia that non-Muslims also practice (Anwar & Al-baqi, 2020).

Therefore, Abdul Hamid Abu Sulayman and Taha Jabiral-Alwani explain why the need for the Islamization of Knowledge is critical in the Muslim community that is experiencing "community lethargy", a crisis of thought and "historical division" This means that Muslims have a wrong perception of knowledge and just mindlessly following the knowledge taken from the West, as well as separating between Sharia sciences and other sciences such as social sciences and humanities, where Sharia sciences are considered sciences that require careful concentration and narrow specialisation and are focused on the afterlife, compared to other sciences that are seen according to modern and secular systems that are modelled according to Western thought. Therefore, there is a need to improve the relationship between Sharia science and other sciences known as "revelation-intelligence" science. (Anwar & Al-baqi, 2020).

The studies conducted in Islamization of Knowledge encompass various disciplines, including social sciences, Science, and technology. There is still a need for further research in this area, particularly in establishing connections with other fields through reputable and indexed journals. This research guides Muslims, highlighting the inseparable relationship between Islam and knowledge and contributing to the advancement. The article investigates the Islamization of Knowledge and its connection to other scientific disciplines. The study utilises bibliometric analysis and dimensional applications for data management in journals published between 2010 and 2024.

The research focuses on the Islamization of Knowledge as a primary criterion for identifying relevant publications in Scopus-indexed journals. The article addresses various research questions, including:

RQ1: What are the current research patterns concerning the Islamization of Knowledge, as shown in yearly publications?

RQ2: Who are the prominent authors in Islamization of Knowledge research studies?

RQ3: Countries

RQ4: What is the highest number of citations in the article?

RQ5: What are the popular keywords related to the study, and have they evolved/ changed during the last ten years? Contribute to the creation of a thriving edutainment environment.

2.0 Literature Review

The article "*From Aslamat al-Maᶜrifa to al-Takāmul al-Maᶜrifī: A Study of the Shift from Islamization to Integration of Knowledge*" by Mourad Laabdi and Aziz Elbittioui (2024), study about a contemporary study of the integration of knowledge that focuses on the placement of two important concepts, namely Islamization (*aslama*) and integration (*takāmul*) in integrating Islam and Science. It is not merely an epistemological and philosophical framework but a pragmatic methodology involving various fields, including science, that originates from Western thought and isolates Islamic knowledge and other sciences. *Aslamat al-ma`rifah* is the pinnacle of Science to provide an 'Islamic' resolution to previous Science that ignores Islamic thought and philosophy in line with the views and influence brought by Muhammad Naquib al-Attas, Ismail al-Faruqi and Taha al-Alwani in their works. The three main objectives of the study are a) a review of the use of concepts other than the concept of 'Islamization' and the extent of acceptance of the use of the concept of 'integration', b) research on the use of the isltilah *al-Takāmul al-Maᶜrifī* in premodern Islam and contemporary, c) investigating the practical implementation of integration and focusing particular attention on the field of higher education. The study results show that this transition is an opportunity to recognize the concept that is brought, which is *al-Takāmul al-Maᶜrifī*, as well as the ability to urgently use the knowledge integration paradigm. However, its application and implementation have not yet been fully realized.

A study conducted by Aulia Rakhmat in her article Religion and Reason in Contemporary Islamic Ethics: A Comparative Study of Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas and Taha Abderrahmane Thought. This study is a comparative study between 2 intellectual figures, namely Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas and Taha Abderrahmane related to the position of reason and religion in contemporary Islamic ethics; this study uses library research to analyze data by using primary sources obtained from the works of al-Attas and Taha in addition to using other than journals and books related to the topic of discussion. The study's results show a significant difference between the views of these two figures compared to similarities. Among the differences found are a) each has its characteristics in defining human beings, b) related comparisons. c) the concept of ethics and virtue. d) the role of reason in making ethical decisions, and e) in the concept of ethics, al-attas is inclined to a philosophical approach, while Taha is more inclined to Sufism. However, both agree that reason alone cannot be the sole guide of ethical values, it requires religious guidance to achieve the overall good.

Another study that has discussed about the Islamization of knowledge is a study written by Salih Ali Ashora in his article: The Manifestations of the Islamic Thought and Discourse of Abdul Wahhab Al-Masiri between 1980 and 2008. This study is an effort and attempt by Al-Masiri's to restore the position of humans in civilization, which is seen as humans as main actor with precedence over nature in the view of Islamic knowledge. This is shown in his rejection of the model brought by Western thinkers and calls on the community to use the model of Islamic discourse as inspiration. The study adopted a historical-analytical approach by defining the thematic and temporal framework of the research, focusing on the period between 1984 and 2008. The results of the study show that Al-Masiri's has rejected western thought regardless of whether it occurs in the system of the west; he also emphasizes the difference between modern and old Islamic discourse, which is seen to be different in terms of appearance despite having the same basis of thought, apart from that Al-Masiri's is also trying to create a new Islamic discourse that is in line with the needs of the country and cultural progress.

3.0 Methodology
Bibliometric analysis, a quantitative approach to examining written publications, is used in the research. Researchers may better understand a topic with its help, pinpointing strengths, shortcomings, and opportunities for innovation (Donthu et al., 2021). Although "scient metrics" is used in a more specialised context, the word "bibliometrics" is often linked with the more general term "informetric" (Egghe & Rousseau, 1990; Wolfram, 2003). Scopus is an abstract and citation database with books, conferences, and scientific journals worldwide. It was used to gather the research data. Scopus data is based on carefully reviewed and indexed high-quality material. Scopus is now a dependable bibliometric data source for study analysis (Baas et al., 2020). In addition, the Scopus database allows for the evaluation of information via keywords, which organise the data into separate categories and provide detailed percentages and totals. Various visual representations, including graphs and charts, are available for the collected data.

3.1 Data search strategy
The study utilised a screening phase to ascertain the appropriate search phrases to retrieve relevant articles. The study commenced by searching the Scopus database using the search term "Islamization of knowledge" field in the "TITLE-ABS-KEY (Islamization AND knowledge) AND PUBYEAR > 2009 AND PUBYEAR < 2025". The search was obtained on June 6, 2024, and further refined by including articles published between 2010 and 2024. Additionally, the search covered all fields of Social Science and Technological Science. This process resulted in the compilation of a total of 96 articles. Subsequently, the query string underwent revision to ensure that the search phrases " Islamization of knowledge" are specifically directed at the concept and perspective scholars. A total of 96 outcomes were generated from this procedure, then subject to further examination to exclusively incorporate research papers written in English, Arabic and other Languages while

excluding article reviews. The ultimate refinement of the search phrase yielded 96 articles, which were subsequently utilised for bibliometric analysis. As of 2024, this study focuses on publications from the Scopus database that pertain to the various methodologies employed in instructing the concept and perspective scholars.

3.2 Data analysis

Data sets containing the study publication year, publication title, author name, journal, citation and keyword in PlainText format were acquired from the Scopus database from 2010 to 2024. They were analysed in VOSviewer software version 1.6.15. This software was utilised to analyse and form maps using VOS clustering and mapping methods. VOSViewer is an alternative to the Multidimensional Scaling (MDS) approach (Van Eck & Waltman, 2010). It is similar to the MDS approach in terms of its aim, which focuses on placing items in the low-dimensional area so that the distance between them accurately reflects the relatedness and similarity of any two items (Appio et al., 2014). Unlike MDS, which is focussed on the computation of similarity measures such as Jaccard indexes and cosine, VOS implements a more suitable technique for normalising co-occurrence frequencies (Van Eck and Waltman, 2007), such as the association strength (AS_{ij}), and it is calculated as:

$$AS_{ij} \frac{1}{4} C_{ij} W_i W_j$$

Which is "proportional to the ratio between, on the one hand, the observed number of co-occurrences of i and j and, on the other hand, the expected number of co-occurrences of i and j under the assumption that co-occurrences of i and j are statistically independent" (Van Eck & Waltman, 2010, p. 531). Hence, with the help of this index, the VOSviewer places items in the form of a map after reducing the weighted sum of the squared distances between all item pairs. According to Appio et al. (2016), the LinLog/modularity normalisation was implemented. Furthermore, by applying visualisation techniques through VOSviewer to the data set, patterns built on mathematical relationships were uncovered, and analyses such as keyword co-occurrence, citation analysis and co-citation analysis were performed.

4.0 Discussion

The objective of this study is to present an overview of the characteristics and trends in "the concept of Islamization of Knowledge." The findings of this review were discussed in accordance with the research questions. This study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the characteristics and patterns observed in the research conducted on the readiness of the topic. The findings in this review were analysed in alignment with the research inquiries by using available data analysis approaches and bibliometric analysis.

4.1 Research Question 1

What are the trends in the "Islamization of knowledge", as indicated by the year of publication? Which countries have been the most prolific in conducting publications

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throughout the past decade? Table 1 illustrates the research trajectory of publishing quantities from 2010 to 2024, focusing on the Islamization of knowledge among scholars. This research demonstrates the significance of fluctuations in publishing numbers in terms of increases and decreases. The highest number of publications was 17 documents published in 2023. In addition, no publication was published in 2015. We notice that the publications were published in the same number in 2010 and 2011, representing one article and eight published in 2016, 2017 and 2018. Meanwhile, 11 articles in 2020 and 2021, followed by 4 articles, were published in 2022 and 2024. We can observe that the number of publications decreased by a significant number, which is from 2023 to 2024. This shows the awareness and attention of the researchers in producing articles with the concept of the topic "Islamization of Knowledge" in various fields of study. The data set analysis revealed the publications according to the top 10 countries. The primary countries with the highest number of publications are Malaysia (20), Indonesia (14), the United States (11), Turkey (7), United Kingdom (5), and the countries of France, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, and Spain respectively (3). According to the data presented in Figure 1, it can be observed that these writers are from Southeast and West Asian countries. The Asian countries that research this topic are only Malaysia and Indonesia, which pay much attention to the practice and appreciation of Islam, knowledge and Science, and it can be seen that Malaysia is the country that produces the most research because of the presence of institutions that care about research related to this topic. Western countries, especially the United States, have dominated this study because the beginning of research started here and expanded to other Western countries such as the United Kingdom, France, and Spain. See in figure 1.

Table 1: Number of Articles Published According to the Last 10 Years

Year	Documents
2024	4
2023	17
2022	4
2021	11
2020	11
2019	9
2018	8
2017	8
2016	8
2015	0
2014	5
2013	2
2012	7
2011	1
2010	1

(Source: scopes web page)

Documents by country or territory

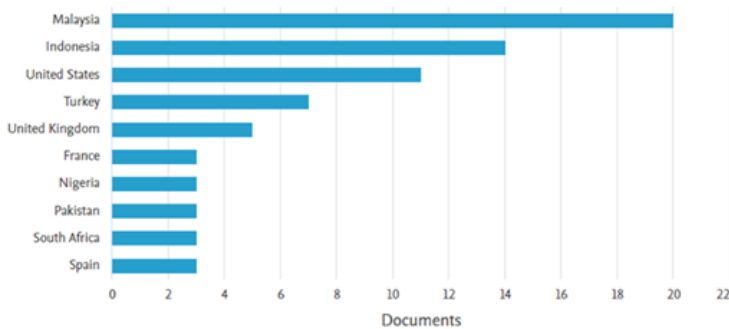Compare the document counts for up to 15 countries/territories.

Figure 1: The Top 10 Countries of Most Publish
(Source: scopes web page)

4.2 Research Question 2

What publications and authors have the highest citation counts in "The Concept of Islamization of Knowledge"? The criteria for the content analysis conducted on the article with the highest number of citations included the title of the articles, the years in which they were published, the authors involved, and the name of the journal in which they were published. Table 2 lists several articles with their respective citation counts, providing insights into the most influential works and their authors in the field. The most cited article is "Islamic Branding: A Conceptualisation of Related Terms" by B.A. Alserhan, published in 2010, with 146 citations. The high citation count significantly impacts subsequent Islamic marketing and branding research. Following Alserhan's work, the next most cited article is "Crisis in Islamic Economics: Diagnosis and Prescriptions" by A. Zaman, published in 2012, with 26 citations. The third most cited article is "Common Identity Framework of Cultural Knowledge and Practices of Javanese Islam" by S. Susilo and I. Syato, published in 2016, with 23 citations. D. De Weese's article, "Islamization in the Mongol Empire," published in 2012, also ranks among the most cited with 20 citations. F. Ahmed has two highly cited articles, indicating his significant contribution to the field. "Exploring halaqah as a research method: A tentative approach to developing Islamic research principles within a critical 'Indigenous' framework" (2014) and "An exploration of Naquib al-Attas' theory of Islamic education as ta'dīb as an 'Indigenous' educational philosophy" (2018) have 20 and 10 citations, respectively. All in all, the most cited articles in this table reflect a range of influential research topics, from Islamic branding and economics to cultural practices and historical studies. These articles have shaped their respective fields, providing foundational insights and influencing subsequent research.

Table 2: The top citations and authors

Authors	Title	Year	Cited by	Publisher
Alserhan B.A.	Islamic branding: A conceptualisation of related terms	2010	146	
Zaman A.	Crisis in Islamic economics: Diagnosis and prescriptions	2012	26	King Abdulaziz University Scientific Publishing Center
Susilo S.; Syato I.	Common identity framework of cultural knowledge and practices of Javanese Islam	2016	23	Postgraduate Program State Institute of Islamic Studies
De Weese D.	Islamization in the Mongol empire	2012	20	Cambridge University Press
Ahmed F.	Exploring halaqah as research method: A tentative approach to developing Islamic research principles within a critical 'indigenous' framework	2014	20	Routledge
Ragab I.A.	The Islamic perspective on social work: A conceptual framework	2016	15	SAGE Publications Ltd
Dzilo H.	The concept of 'Islamization of knowledge' and its philosophical implications	2012	14	
Salomon N.	Evidence, secrets, truth: Debating Islamic knowledge in contemporary Sudan	2013	12	
Ahmed F.	An exploration of Naquib al-Attas' theory of Islamic education as ta'dīb as an 'Indigenous' educational philosophy	2018	10	Routledge
Pahlevi R.W.	Mapping of Islamic corporate governance research: a bibliometric analysis	2023	10	Emerald Publishing
Formichi C.	From fluid identities to sectarian labels: A historical investigation of Indonesia's shi'i communities	2014	9	UIN Sunan Kalijaga
Mateo M.P.	The mosque as an educational space: Muslim women and religious authority in 21st-century Spain	2019	8	MDPI AG
Tahir S.	Islamic economics and prospects for theoretical and empirical research	2017	8	King Abdulaziz University Scientific Publishing Center
Müller D.M.	BUREAUCRATIC ISLAM COMPARED: CLASSIFICATORY POWER and STATE-IFIED RELIGIOUS MEANING-MAKING in BRUNEI and SINGAPORE	2018	8	Cambridge University Press
Evstatiev S.	Milletic secularism in the Balkans: Christianity, Islam, and identity in Bulgaria	2019	7	Cambridge University Press

(Source: scopes web page and Harzing software)

4.3 Research Question 3

What are the prevailing terms associated with the field of study, and have they undergone any modifications or transformations over the past decade? A bibliometric analysis was conducted to construct networks of methodologies for instructing the concept of Islamization of knowledge among scholars and researchers and to identify the most commonly occurring keywords and existing trends in this field. This task's achievement is contingent upon using several software tools. Specifically, the VOSviewer software is employed for network construction, offering robust capabilities for co-occurrence and citation analysis (Van Eck. N. J & Waltman, 2013).

The co-occurrence network is constructed by analysing the co-occurrence patterns of keywords (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017), (Callon et al., 1991), and the size of the circles in the network represents the relative frequency of the keywords, while the thickness of the lines reflects the strength of the co-occurrence relationship between the terms.

This study will also look from the perspective of bibliometric coupling since the data obtained in keyword co-occurrence and co-authorship show few relationships between the keywords or from the co-authorship. Bibliometric coupling analysis is commonly employed in bibliometric investigations. It is based on the concept that publications that cite similar articles share research points and contribute to the same objective (Jarneving, 2007). The primary rationale for employing bibliographic coupling over co-citation analysis is based on

the premise that two publications can be connected even if they do not cite each other and that authors may only have access to some publications in the relevant field for examination. Bibliographic coupling reveals the resemblance between two connected research that cannot be discerned from direct citation linkages, as demonstrated by Zupic and Cater (2015).

Figure 2 refers to the density visualisation map of the co-occurrence of the items based on the topic The Concept of Islamization of Knowledge: A Bibliometric Exploration of Research Trends and Influential Works. It can be identified that the areas shining with bright yellow represent the hotspots of the topic. In contrast, green areas indicate less critical or less debated items in this topic. Nodes covered in yellow shining, such as Islamization of knowledge, Islamization and Islam, indicate keywords that have been widely researched, while those covered in green have yet to be widely researched. In addition, it shows the interrelationships of the terms with the other terms.
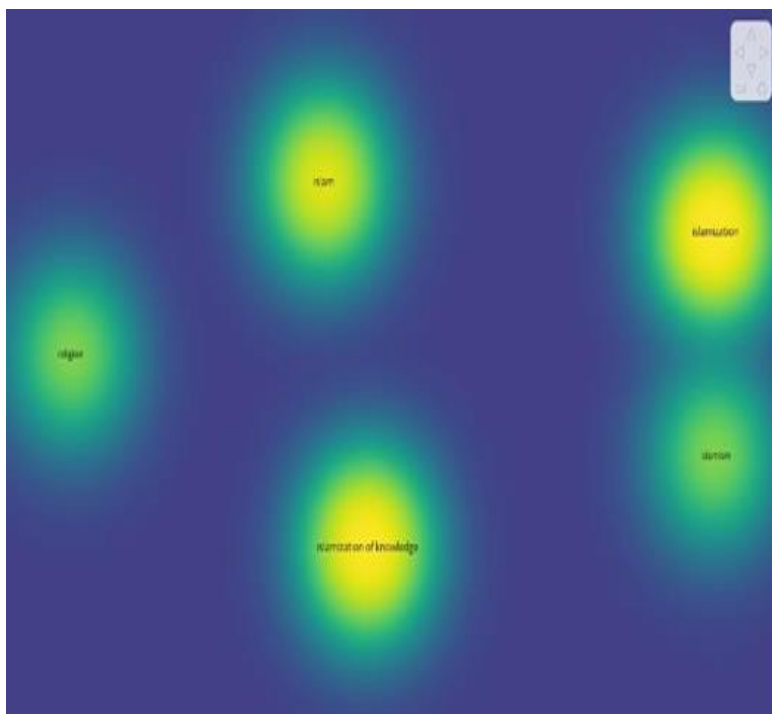

Figure 2: The co-occurrence density visualisation.
(Source: VOSviewer)

According to the bibliographic coupling realised for the Scopus database, it was depicted that there was a publication between 96 documents with a citation number of 146. Figure 3 shows the overlay visualisation where Publications with the same research points

are given in the same colour group and arcuated links between the publications demonstrate the citation relations between the publications; here it can be seen that most citations are in the purple node, is (Ahmad, 2014) with a total of 20 citations, and (Dzilo, 2012) with a total of 14 citations, while (Ragab, 2016) which is in the blue node with a total of 15 citations, and the closer the relationship with each other shows a strong citation relationship. It can be observed that those far from the nodes (Bahri, 2018) only have 1 citation.
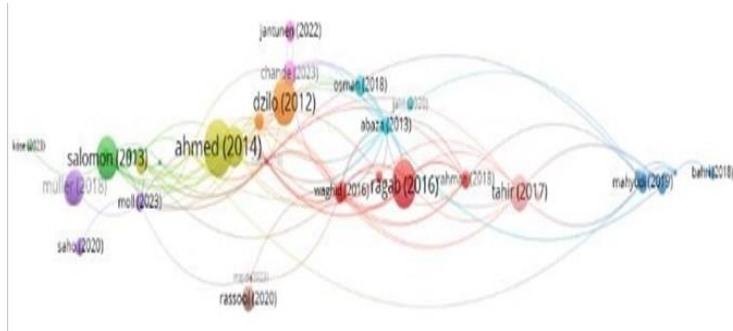

Figure 3: The bibliographic coupling overlay visualization
(Source: VOSviewer)

5.0 Conclusion

This study records the research approach to Islamization of Knowledge from 2010 to 2024 through bibliometric analysis. The analyst reported a modest rise in publications from 2010 to 2023. This study primarily focuses on the essential contributions of social sciences, arts and humanities, economics and business. The study mainly focuses on five keywords: Islam, Islamization, Islamization of Knowledge, and Religion, with significant contributions from Malaysia from International Islamic University and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Furthermore, the most prominent co-citations are observed in the works of Ahmed (2014), Dzila (2012), and Ragib (2016). The study's scope is restricted by its dependence on the Scopus database, primarily due to limitations in accessing other sources.

Furthermore, the bibliometric method encompasses citation analysis, keyword analysis, author cooperation analysis, co-citation dropout, and bibliographic coupling analysis. These techniques serve to enhance research insights. Consequently, forthcoming investigations will gain advantages from a broader array of databases and a more thorough bibliometric methodology, guaranteeing a more exhaustive and profound comprehension of the topic. Further research can enhance the understanding and influence of the Islamization of knowledge among scholars and researchers: Analysing the trends in publications throughout time. Perform an extensive longitudinal investigation to comprehend the reasons contributing to the variations in publication figures, encompassing geopolitical, economic, and cultural aspects.

We can conclude that the use of the concept of Islamization of knowledge in the field of study is still at a shallow level and is not widespread, especially in the field of science and technology studies, compared to the scope of access in Social Science midwifery, besides the use of this term is quite limited since the study relies on available data from specific databases (e.g., Scopus), publications not indexed in these databases may have been excluded, potentially missing essential contributions.

Article Contribution to Related Field of Study

A VOSviewer software analysis was conducted to identify significant patterns and prevalent keywords. The study uncovers: A co-occurrence network illustrates the connections between commonly appearing phrases, revealing the interconnections between certain concepts.

Bibliometric coupling is a method that emphasises the associations of publications that reference similar works, regardless of whether they directly reference each other. The analysis reveals that publications are categorised into clusters based on shared research themes, with notable citation connections among specific pivotal articles. Studying the Islamization of knowledge has attracted considerable academic attention, especially in areas and institutions with robust Islamic cultural and educational structures. The findings suggest that ongoing funding is required to advance research in this field and effectively incorporate Islamic viewpoints into diverse academic areas. Policymakers and funding bodies should acknowledge the significance of this discipline and allocate sufficient resources to support and enhance scholarly endeavours.

Efforts should be undertaken to encourage the incorporation of Islamic viewpoints in humanities and social sciences and technological and scientific domains to achieve cross-disciplinary integration. Promoting international collaboration has the potential to enhance this field by including a wide range of ideas and approaches in the discussion. In summary, the study highlights the changing nature of research in the Islamization of knowledge and its expanding reach across several academic fields.

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