

<https://doi.org/10.52541/isiri.v64i2.6975>

Analysis and Discussion

The Scholarly Impact of *Islamic Studies*: A Google Scholar Citation Analysis

RAUF AHMED*

Abstract

The impact of academic journals is often assessed through citation metrics, publication history, and database accessibility. This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the Islamic Studies journal based on Google Scholar citation data. By evaluating citation distribution, author impact, and longitudinal trends, this study highlights the journal's scholarly significance. The data was retrieved using Publish or Perish (PoP) software, ensuring comprehensive citation tracking. The findings offer insights into citation trends, influential authors, and strategies for enhancing the journal's visibility and impact.

Keywords

Islamic Studies, Google Scholar, citation analysis, academic impact, journal visibility, interdisciplinary research, open-access publishing.

Introduction

Academic journals serve as vital repositories of scholarly knowledge, with their influence often measured through citations, indexing, and accessibility in major research databases. *Islamic Studies*, an established journal in the field, has played a pivotal role in shaping discourse on Islamic jurisprudence, finance, and history. This study aims to evaluate its impact by analysing citation trends, highly cited papers, author collaboration patterns, and indexing coverage. Understanding the journal's citation impact can offer valuable insights for researchers, policymakers, and journal editors in enhancing its academic reach.

Methodology

To ensure a robust analysis, data was collected from Google Scholar. A compilation of 1,000 scholarly articles, capturing citation counts, author

* Librarian, Dr Muhammad Hamidullah Library, Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

details, and publishing metadata.¹ The study employs bibliometric methods to assess citation impact, author collaboration, and research visibility. Statistical tools were used to analyse citation trends over time.

Results and Discussion

Citation Analysis

A review of 1,000 articles from the journal reveals significant scholarly influence:

1. Total articles: 1,000
2. Total citations: 11,499
3. Average citations per paper: 11.50
4. Average citations per year: 182.52
5. Most cited article: “*Ribā* and Interest” by Fazlur Rahman (1964), 302 citations
6. Oldest article published in: 1962
7. Most recent article published in: 2024

These figures indicate that the journal maintains a strong academic presence, with several papers having long-term influence.

Citation Trends and Growth

The journal has been published for over six decades, reflecting sustained scholarly activity. The average citation per year (182.52) highlights consistent engagement with its publications. Older articles, particularly those from the 1960s, continue to receive citations, demonstrating their lasting relevance. The age-weighted citation rate (AWCR: 471.07) and AWCR per author (449.21) indicate sustained impact over time. Citation accumulation patterns show that most citations occur within the first five years after publication, with a gradual decline by the twentieth year.

Author Influence and Collaboration Trends

The dataset indicates an average of 1.11 authors per paper, suggesting that most articles are authored individually or by small teams. The journal remains dominated by single-author contributions, aligning with traditional academic publishing trends in Islamic studies. Encouraging multi-author research and interdisciplinary collaborations may enhance citation rates and academic impact.

Key Themes and Highly Cited Articles

Islamic Law and Finance

1. “*Ribā* and Interest” by Fazlur Rahman (1964), 302 citations

¹ <https://bit.ly/4lRqbWE>.

2. “*Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah: The Objectives of Islamic Law*” by Mohammad Hashim Kamali (1999), 234 citations

Islamic Economics

1. “Islamic Economics: A Survey of the Literature” by Asad Zaman (2009), 214 citations

Historical and Colonial Perspectives

1. “Minute, Dated the 2nd February 1835” by T. B. Macaulay (2015), 191 citations
2. “Ottoman Observers of Ottoman Decline” by Bernard Lewis (1962), 154 citations

These highly cited articles highlight the journal’s role in Islamic jurisprudence, economic theory, and historical studies.

Indexing and Visibility

1. Google Scholar Coverage: 33.6%
2. h-Coverage: 26.7%
3. g-Coverage: 33.6%
4. Highly Cited Papers: 2

While the journal has a moderate citation footprint, an increased emphasis on open-access availability and indexing in databases such as Web of Science could enhance its global reach.

Publisher and Open-Access Trends

1. Ninety-eight per cent of high-impact papers are published via JSTOR, highlighting reliance on traditional academic repositories.
2. Some articles are available on open-access platforms like Academia.edu and SSRN, potentially increasing citations.
3. A shift toward open-access publishing could significantly boost readership and scholarly engagement.

Decadal Citation Trends:

1. 1990s: Highest activity (208 publications), averaging 20.8 per year, with a maximum of 32 and a minimum of 17
2. 2000s: Strong presence (192 publications), averaging 19.2 per year, with a maximum of 27 and a minimum of 15
3. 1980s: Significant output (165 publications), averaging 16.5 per year, with a maximum of 21 and a minimum of 13
4. 1960s: Foundational contributions (143 publications), averaging 17.9 per year, with a maximum of 23 and a minimum of 11
5. 2010s: Noticeable decline (123 publications), averaging 12.3 per year, with a maximum of 20 and a minimum of 6

6. 1970s: Moderate activity (121 publications), averaging 12.1 per year, with a maximum of 15 and a minimum of 7
7. 2020s: Declining trend (48 publications so far), averaging 9.6 per year, with a maximum of 16 and a minimum of 1

The 1990s marked the peak of academic activity, closely followed by the 2000s, while the 1980s and 1960s also registered substantial scholarly contributions. By contrast, the 2010s and especially the 2020s reflect a downward trend, raising important questions regarding publication frequency, indexing completeness, and evolving scholarly priorities.

Top Ten Authors

1. A. Hasan, 27 Articles (2.70%)
2. F. Rahman, 21 Articles (2.10%)
3. M. M. M. Mahroof, 11 Articles (1.10%)
4. F. A. Shamsi, 9 Articles (0.90%)
5. M. H. Kamali, 9 Articles (0.90%)
6. M. Iqbal, 8 Articles (0.80%)
7. Y. Kazmi, 8 Articles (0.80%)
8. A. R. Naqvi, 7 Articles (0.70%)
9. J. Macdonald, 7 Articles (0.70%)
10. M. K. Masud, 7 Articles (0.70%)

The distribution of authors highlights both diversity and concentration, with the top two authors, A. Hasan and F. Rahman, accounting for approximately 4.8% of the entire corpus, thus signifying their substantial scholarly output and academic influence. There is a noticeable decline in the number of publications beyond these leading contributors, further emphasizing their distinctly prominent roles. Nevertheless, the broad range of contributors indicates healthy scholarly activity and intellectual pluralism, reflecting a variety of thematic interests, methodologies, and disciplinary specializations within Islamic studies or related scholarly fields. This authorial analysis effectively identifies leading figures within the academic corpus, providing valuable insights into scholarly influence as evidenced by quantitative productivity. The prominence of a select group of authors underscores their significant role in shaping academic discourse, rendering their works foundational references for future research.

Top Ten Most-Cited Articles

1. “*Ribā* and interest” by F. Rahman (1964), 302 citations
2. “*Maqāṣid al-Sharīah*: The Objectives of Islamic Law” by M. H. Kamali (1999), 234 citations

3. "Islamic Economics: A survey of the literature: II" by Asad Zaman (2009), 214 citations
4. "Minute, Dated the 2nd February 1835" by T. B. Macaulay (2015), 191 citations
5. "Ottoman Observers of Ottoman Decline" by B. Lewis (1962), 154 citations
6. "Global Terror and the Rise of Xenophobia/Islamophobia: An Analysis of American Cultural Production Since September 11" by M. S. Awan (2010), 107 citations
7. "Islamization of Knowledge: A Critical Overview" by S. V. R. Nasr (1991), 85 citations
8. "'*Ṭabaqāt*' - Biography: Law and Orthodoxy in Classical Islam" by G. Makdisi (1993), 81 citations
9. Dream, Imagination and 'Ālam al-Mithāl" by F. Rahman (1964), 76 citations
10. "Some Conceptual and Practical Aspects of Interest-free Banking" by M. Uzair (1976), 71 citations

This compilation of widely-cited academic works highlights significant intellectual contributions spanning Islamic law, economics, history, philosophy, and socio-political analysis. Notably, the selected works reflect diverse methodological approaches and interdisciplinary engagements, underscoring the continued relevance of classical themes alongside contemporary challenges. The frequent citations of authors such as Fazlur Rahman and Mohammad Hashim Kamali illustrate their pivotal role in influencing Islamic intellectual thought. The presence of seminal historical critiques, including Macaulay's minute and Bernard Lewis's historical analysis, demonstrates the broad thematic and temporal range represented within Islamic and related scholarly discourses.

Future Directions and Recommendations

To enhance its academic impact, the *Islamic Studies* journal should 1) encourage interdisciplinary research in Islamic law, history, and finance; 2) promote co-authorship and international collaborations to diversify perspectives and boost citation rates; 3) enhance digital accessibility and indexing in major research databases; 4) publish more review articles and thematic issues on emerging topics; and 5) engage with contemporary debates to ensure relevance in modern Islamic studies scholarship.

Conclusion

This analysis demonstrates that the *Islamic Studies* journal has a strong citation presence, long-standing academic history, and influential publications. However, expanding Google Scholar coverage, fostering

collaborative research, and embracing open-access models could further elevate its academic standing. Future research should examine geographical citation distribution and thematic citation trends to provide a more nuanced understanding of the journal's global scholarly impact.

* * *