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# **BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS: TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF ISLAMIC STUDIES THEORIES AND METHODS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS**

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#### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis tren, pola sitasi, dan kolaborasi dalam penelitian yang terkait dengan teori dan metode Studi Islam selama lima tahun terakhir sebagai pemahaman mendalam tentang perkembangan teori dan metode dalam Studi Islam, mengidentifikasi kontribusi signifikan dari jurnal, peneliti, dan lembaga, serta mengunakap kesenjangan penelitian yang dapat menjadi peluang untuk pengembangan lebih lanjut. Metode bibliometrik yang digunakan meliputi pengumpulan data dari Google Scholar menggunakan aplikasi Publish or Perish, yang kemudian divisualisasikan dengan perangkat lunak VOSviewer untuk menganalisis pola kolaborasi, tren publikasi, dan jaringan sitasi. Penelitian ini juga mengintegrasikan analisis kuantitatif dan kualitatif untuk memberikan interpretasi yang lebih kaya terhadap data. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa publikasi dalam Studi Islam mengalami peningkatan signifikan pada tahun 2023 dengan jumlah penelitian tertinggi, meskipun terjadi penurunan pada tahun 2024. Temuan utama lainnya mencakup dominasi metode tradisional seperti interpretasi dalam penelitian, meskipun pendekatan kontemporer seperti fenomenologi dan metode komparatif terus berkembang. Namun, terdapat kesenjangan dalam integrasi lintas disiplin dan kolaborasi internasional yang lebih luas. Kebaruan dan kontribusi penelitian ini terletak pada pendekatan komprehensif dalam menggabungkan metode bibliometrik dan analisis kualitatif untuk memetakan perkembangan teori dan metode Studi Islam, serta mengidentifikasi kesenjangan penelitian yang belum terjawab. Studi ini tidak hanya memberikan wawasan tentang tren dan pola ilmiah terkini tetapi juga menawarkan rekomendasi strategis untuk meningkatkan kualitas dan relevansi penelitian di bidang ini di masa depan.

*Kata Kunci:* Studi Islam; Analisis Sitasi; Visualisasi VOSviewer; Tren Penelitian; Kolaborasi Akademik.

#### Abstract

This study aims to analyze trends, citation patterns, and collaborations in research related to the theory and methods of Islamic Studies over the past five years to provide an in-depth understanding of the development of theory and methods in Islamic Studies, identify significant contributions from journals, researchers, and institutions, and uncover research gaps that could be opportunities for further development. The bibliometric method used includes collecting data from Google Scholar using the Publish or Perish application, which is then visualized with VOSviewer software to analyze collaboration patterns, publication trends, and citation networks. The study also integrates quantitative and qualitative analysis to provide a richer interpretation of the data. The results show that publications in Islamic Studies experienced a significant increase in 2023 with the highest number of

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studies, although there was a decline in 2024. Other key findings include the dominance of traditional methods such as interpretation in research, although contemporary approaches such as phenomenology and comparative methods continue to evolve. However, there are gaps in cross-disciplinary integration and broader international collaboration. The novelty and contribution of this research lies in its comprehensive approach in combining bibliometric methods and qualitative analysis to map the development of Islamic Studies theory and methods, as well as identifying unanswered research gaps. The study not only provides insight into the latest scientific trends and patterns but also offers strategic recommendations to improve the quality and relevance of research in this field in the future.

**Keywords:** Islamic studies; Citation Analysis; VOSviewer Visualization; Research Trends; Academic Collaboration.

### INTRODUCTION

Islamic Studies is a discipline that covers various aspects of Islam, ranging from theology, history, and law, to social and cultural studies (Apriantoro & Susanto, 2024). In recent decades, the study has grown rapidly as the need for a deeper understanding of Islam in a global context has increased (Rijal, 2023). Research in this field focuses not only on the classical texts of Islam, but also on how Islam interacts with modern challenges, such as globalization, technology, and religious pluralism (Waltman, 2010). This diversity of approaches reflects efforts to address the challenges of globalization, modernity, and the need to understand Islam in the context of an increasingly complex society (Azwar et al., 2024).

However, there are challenges in Islamic studies, including the lack of innovative methodological approaches and the need for integration between classical and contemporary approaches (Yustisia, 2008). Previous studies are still limited in mapping the dynamics of scientific development in Islamic Studies as a whole (Jayanegara et al, 2021). Traditional methods, such as classical interpretation and hadith science, are often considered to be less responsive to modern social and cultural contexts, while modern approaches, such as hermeneutics and critical analysis, are often considered to ignore the authenticity and authority of religious texts (Amir, 2023).

In addition, there is a methodological gap between text-based Islamic sciences (naqli) and empirical-based social sciences (aqli) (Khaerulasfar, 2020). This poses a challenge in integrating the two approaches harmoniously, resulting in fragmentative or even contradictory interpretations (Sumanti et al., 2024). Another problem is the dominance of Western perspectives in Islamic study methodologies, which sometimes do not fully fit the context of Islamic epistemology itself (Jannah et al., 2020). Therefore, there is a need for many studies on methods and theories that are more inclusive, contextual, and relevant to the current reality of Muslims without sacrificing the basic values of Islamic teachings (Ilham, 2020).

Muzaini et al., (2024) emphasized the importance of understanding various research methods in the study of religious leaders to obtain a comprehensive perspective. On the other hand, Rijal, (2023) reviews how contemporary

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interpretation methodologies continue to evolve, reflecting responses to the challenges and needs of Qur'an interpretation in the modern era. Furthermore, Lutfi & Yulianingsih, (2018) highlighted the importance of integration between social research methods and Qur'anic perspectives, emphasizing an interdisciplinary approach that is increasingly relevant in Islamic Studies. Yustisia, (2008) also emphasizes the importance of a gender perspective in Islamic literature research, adding a critical dimension to the analysis. Ghozali et al., (2024) also examine the importance of a multicultural approach in Islamic education, reflecting the response to cultural diversity in contemporary Muslim society. For this reason, a study using bibliometric analysis in Islamic studies is needed. Bibliometric analysis has great potential to identify emerging topics, uncover patterns of collaboration between researchers, and provide strategic insights for the development of this discipline (Judijanto et al., 2024).

In recent years, several literature studies have emerged to understand the development of Islamic Studies. However, the literature review still has limitations in its scope and approach. Priambudi et al., (2022) focuses on trends in Muslim behavior but does not include an in-depth bibliometric analysis of Islamic Studies theories and methods. Research by Huda et al., (2023) provides insight into the productivity of authors and institutional affiliations, but its focus is limited to the field of Islamic Education and does not include the mapping of the Islamic Studies literature as a whole. Judijanto & Halim, (2024) conducted a network analysis of co-authorship but the focus was limited to the topic of knowledge sharing and did not include the analysis of collaboration patterns in Islamic Studies in general. The study by Supriani & Mubarrok, (2024) focuses more on the topic of religiosity and does not provide an in-depth analysis of theories and methods in Islamic Studies as a whole.

Therefore, a more comprehensive literature review is needed that maps the literature of Islamic Studies quantitatively, analyzes patterns of collaboration between researchers and institutions, and utilizes modern bibliometric analysis technology to provide a deeper understanding of the evolution of theories and methods in this discipline (Darmawati, 2022). The urgency of this paper is increasing along with the need to develop Islamic Studies in a more adaptive and data-based manner. In the midst of the era of digitalization and scientific transformation, the integration of traditional methods in Islamic Studies with modern analytical techniques is the main key in ensuring that this discipline remains relevant and continues to develop (Keskin, 2021). By mapping trends and patterns in the scientific literature, this article provides a foundation for the development of more strategic research, supports cross-institutional collaboration, and improves the quality of literature in Islamic Studies.

This study aims to analyze trends, citation patterns, and collaborations in the scientific literature related to Islamic Studies theories and methods over the past

five years. In addition, this study seeks to identify the main contributions of journals, researchers, and institutions in this discipline, as well as uncover research gaps that can be the basis for the development of future theories and methods of Islamic Studies. With this objective, this research can make a significant contribution to the development of science, especially in understanding the dynamics of the development of Islamic Studies theories and methods. The results of this study can also be a reference for academics, researchers, and policymakers in designing research development strategies in this field.

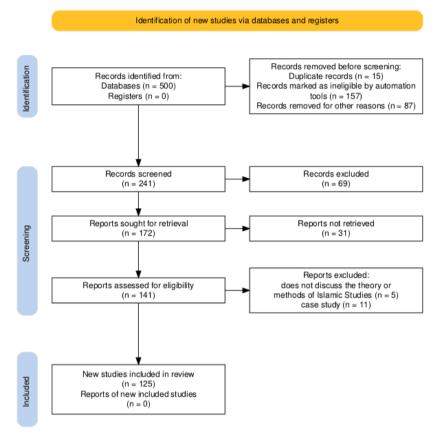
# METHOD

The research approach used in this study is a bibliometric analysis-based literature review. This approach allows researchers to quantitatively analyze scientific literature to identify trends, citation patterns, and collaboration patterns in research related to "Islamic Study Methods" in the last five years. Bibliometric analysis is very useful for mapping the development of theories and methods in a scientific field, as well as evaluating the contribution of researchers and journals to the advancement of knowledge in Islamic Studies. This approach also allows for the identification of research gaps that could be opportunities for further study.

To obtain valid and representative data, this research was carried out through several systematic stages. The data collection process is carried out using Google Scholar with the help of Publish or Perish software to ensure extensive and systematic coverage. The keywords used in the search include "Islamic Study Method", "Islamic Study Approach", and "Islamic Studies" to get relevant articles. The time frame of the study is limited to the period 2020–2024 to ensure that the analysis carried out reflects the latest developments in this field. From the initial search results, as many as 500 articles were obtained that met the basic search criteria. At the identification stage, there were 15 duplicate articles, the next exclusion was 157 articles that were before 2020 and other reasons such as articles that were not open access were excluded as many as 87.

Furthermore, the screening stage of articles that passed the initial selection was then further evaluated through a full reading of the text to assess the suitability of the content with the research objectives. The inclusion criteria are articles written in English or Indonesian to fit the wider academic scope. So that in addition to these two languages, there are 62 articles in the exclusion. Then articles that do not present a clear methodology or do not make a significant contribution to the study of Islamic Studies theories and methods were also eliminated and articles that discussed implementation or case studies in exclude were then selected as many as 125 articles that were considered the most relevant and qualified for further analysis. The stage of this literature review uses the PRISMA procedure described in Figure 1.

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## Figure 1. Article Selection Analysis Flow

Of the 500 articles, 125 articles were found that were selected for more indepth analysis, the author used the help of Publish or Perish as depicted in figure 2. The app allows access to rich bibliographic data, including information on relevant citations, authors, and journals. It is important to identify influential publications.

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Figure 2. Article Filtering Using Publish or Perish

After finding 125 articles from publish or perish, the articles were analyzed using the help of VOSviewer. VOSviewer is used to visualize citation network maps, collaboration between researchers, and keyword distribution. The software is ideal for visualizing citation patterns, collaborations, and thematic networks in the scientific literature, providing a comprehensive understanding of the structure of the science. Furthermore, the article is also quantitatively analyzed supported by qualitative interpretation to provide deeper insights.

# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Based on data analyzed using Publish or Perish and visualized with VOSviewer, research related to Islamic Studies theories and methods shows a pattern of fluctuations over the past five years. The search results using Publish or Perish with the keyword "Islamic Studies" for the 2020–2024 time range resulted in 125 articles covering various themes in the discipline of Islamic Studies. These articles show a total of 30,996 citations with an average of 6,199 citations per year and an average of 61.99 citations per article. With an h-index of 88 and a g-index of 149, research in this field shows significant academic impact, especially in several key sub-disciplines such as Qur'an and Tafsir; Hadith and Musthalah Hadith; Fiqh and Ushul Fiqh; Faith and Knowledge of Kalam; Sufism and Islamic Thought; History and Islamic Civilization; and Contemporary Islamic Studies.

In the last five years, studies on "Methods of Islamic Studies", "Approaches to Islamic Studies", and "Islamic Studies" have shown significant developments, reflecting the dynamics and diversity in these disciplines. Various scientific journals have become a forum for academics to publish their latest findings, offering diverse and in-depth perspectives. Overall, developments in Islamic studies methods and approaches over the past five years demonstrate a continuous effort to understand and interpret Islamic teachings in a broader and contemporary context. Through publications in various journals of Islamic studies, academics contribute to a rich and diverse discourse, which in turn enriches our understanding of Islam and its applications in various aspects of modern life.

In Islamic Studies in the last five years, this discipline has shown strong relevance in answering the needs of modern society. To support further development, a more in-depth analysis of citation trends and collaboration patterns is needed to ensure that Islamic Studies can continue to evolve adaptively and relevant in the global context. Meanwhile, the number of articles discussing Islamic studies in the last 5 years is explained in figure 3.

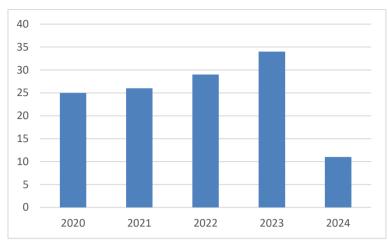


Figure 3. Number of Study Methods Research 2020-2024

Figure 3 shows a trend graph of the development trend of the number of research methods in the last five years with a total of 34 studies. From 2020-2024, the search for published research is 125 studies. It is known that in 2020 there were 25 studies. In 2021 there were 26 studies, in 2022 there were 29 studies and in 2023 there were 34 studies but in 2024 it decreased by 11. Thus, 2024 is the year with the least number of research publications compared to the previous five years. This illustrates that the publication of articles discussing Islamic studies has contributed a lot to Islamic science that can be used.

The next stage of the article is visualized using VOSviewer to produce 10 main theme clusters. The largest cluster related to "Islamic education" shows a strong focus on research in this area. Other clusters include themes such as "learning methods" and "qualitative approaches," which demonstrate the diversification of research methods. However, themes such as "Islamic research methods in the digital context" are still underexplored, providing new research opportunities

Research related to Islamic study methods was carried out by visualizing networks, overlays, and density on VOSviewer. The mapping results on VOSviewera are characterized by a bibliometric network consisting of network visualization, overlay visualization, and density visualization.

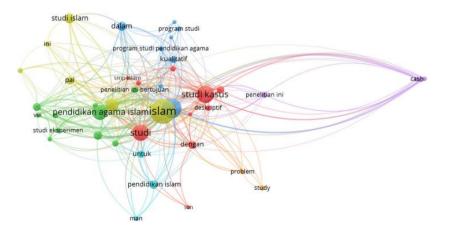


Figure 4. Network Visualization

Table 1. Results of Analysis of Each Cluster Color

The author used the keyword "Islamic study method" to search Google Scholar literature and analyzed it through VOSviewer, resulting in 10 clusters containing 43 items and 321 links each with green, yellow, red, blue, purple colors that can be explained in table 1.

<b>Cluster Color</b>	Description
Green	"Islamic education", "experimental studies", "study
	programs", and some terms related to religious education in
	a more technical way.
Yellow	Islam", "with", "religious education", "religious education
	study program". Focus on Islamic religious education in
	general.
Red	"descriptive", "problem", "study", and "research". This cluster
	is concerned with case-based and descriptive research
	methodologies.
Blue	"qualitative", "research-based learning", and several terms
	that refer to specific educational methods in the Islamic
	context.
Purple	"Case" stands alone with direct links to various other clusters,
	representing a focus on a broad case study approach.

From table 1 above, it can be concluded that the green cluster focuses on Islamic religious education, with an emphasis on experiments and methodologies for educational studies. The yellow cluster is related to Islamic studies in general, especially those related to religious education programs. The red cluster describes a case-based study, with a focus on descriptive research and the problematics encountered in Islamic studies. The blue cluster focuses on Islamic education in the realm of study programs, qualitative methods, and research-based learning. The purple cluster, which is a representation of the term "case" that connects various clusters, shows the relevance of the case study approach in religious and Islamic education.

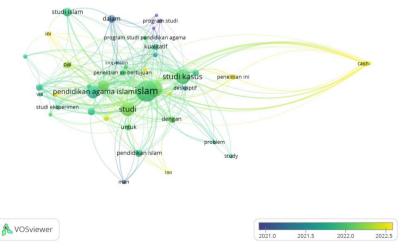


Figure 5. Overlay Visualization

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Figure 5 shows that this research was mostly conducted in 2023 with 7 clusters consisting of 43 items and 321 links. The visualized image is a bibliometric map generated using VOSviewer, displaying a network of keywords in research related to "Islam" and "Islamic religious education." The largest node in this visualization shows that the terms "Islam" and "Islamic religious education" have a high frequency of occurrence, indicating that these two keywords are the main focus in the analyzed research. The relationship between keywords is indicated through a connecting line, where the thicker the line, the stronger the association between the terms.

In addition, the colors in the visualization depict the time dimension, with blue indicating the dominant term in 2021, while green to yellow signifies a more recent trend, which is around 2022 and above. One of the keywords that is yellow, namely "cash," indicates that this term is starting to appear or gain relevance in recent research. Overall, this image helps in understanding research patterns, shows how certain concepts in Islamic education are evolving, as well as provides insight into the direction of research that has become increasingly popular in recent years.

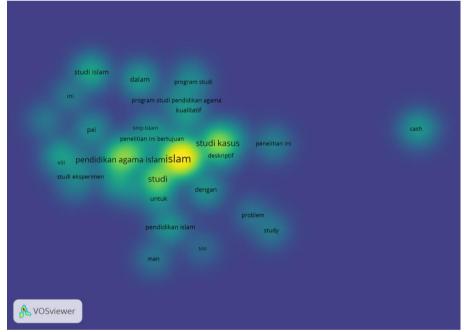


Figure 6. Density Visualization

Figure 6 is a heatmap-based bibliometric map generated using VOSviewer, which displays the distribution of keyword density in research related to "Islam" and "Islamic religious education." The color in this visualization shows the intensity of the frequency of occurrence of a keyword in the analyzed research. Yellow indicates the most frequent keywords, while green to blue indicates a lower occurrence rate.

From this visualization, the keywords "Islam" and "Islamic religious education" appear to be most dominant in striking yellow, suggesting that both terms appear frequently in related research. In addition, words such as "case study,"

"study," and "Islamic education" also appear quite often, albeit with a lower intensity than the main keywords. The word "cash," which is on the right side of the map in a dimmer color, indicates that although this term appears in the dataset, its frequency is still relatively small compared to other keywords.

Overall, this heatmap provides a clearer picture of the concentration of themes in the analyzed research, helping to identify the most discussed topics as well as the growing research trends in Islamic education studies.

From the results of the analysis of 125 articles on Islamic studies, it was obtained that the study of Islamic Studies includes various methods and approaches that develop in accordance with the scientific dynamics and challenges of the times. In general, Islamic Studies is an interdisciplinary field that discusses aspects of Islam from a theological, historical, legal, cultural, and social perspective (Abdallah, 2020). This study is not only carried out by classical scholars in the form of the study of the yellow book in Islamic boarding schools or madrasas, but also develops in a modern academic environment that applies scientific methods and multidisciplinary approaches (Kaplan, 2019). Therefore, the methods and approaches used in Islamic Studies are a crucial aspect in determining the depth of analysis and the objectivity of the study results (Belhaj, 2023).

In the development of academic studies, the approach of Islamic Studies is increasingly complex with the interaction between Islamic traditions and modern scientific paradigms (Raihani, 2016). On the one hand, there is a tendency to maintain the traditional text-based approach as the main foundation in understanding Islam (Pettalongi, 2022). On the other hand, there is a thought that encourages an interdisciplinary approach that combines social sciences, such as hermeneutics in the study of interpretation, a feminist approach in Islamic gender studies, and postcolonial theory in understanding Islamic history (As'ad, 2023). This has led to an academic debate about the extent to which these approaches can be used without eliminating the transcendent essence of Islamic teachings (Otterbeck, 2021).

Criticism of methods and approaches in Islamic Studies also often appears in academic discussions (Oruc, 2022). One of the main criticisms of the normative-theological method is its tendency to be considered too textualist and not provide space for contextual interpretation that is more relevant to the conditions of the times (Alkandari, 2023). In contrast, the historical-empirical approach is often criticized for being too secular and ignoring the aspects of Islamic spirituality that are at the core of its teachings (Saraçoğlu, 2022). Therefore, the idea of the need for an integrative approach in Islamic Studies has emerged, namely an approach that not only prioritizes textual and historical aspects but also considers the broader social, cultural, and political context (Doolabi, 2021).

Overall, it shows that Islamic Studies is a dynamic and growing field. The approach used cannot be singular, but must be adaptive to the changing times

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without losing the essence of Islam itself. Therefore, a balance between normative and empirical approaches, as well as the integration of classical and modern methods, is needed so that Islamic Studies can provide a more comprehensive and relevant understanding for the lives of contemporary society.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The results of the literature review show the dominance of traditional methods such as text interpretation, which reflects the strong roots of Islamic scholarship, although contemporary approaches such as phenomenology and comparative methods are beginning to develop. In addition, the study identifies strong collaboration patterns in Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia, while collaboration with researchers from other regions is still limited. By presenting the visualization of network maps and thematic clusters, this article makes an important contribution in understanding the development of the literature, identifying research gaps, and offering a strategic basis for the development of this discipline.

Future studies may further explore contemporary methods such as digital humanities, big data analysis, or experimental approaches, which are still rarely used in Islamic Studies. In addition, an exploration of the dominance of the most frequently used theories and methods can provide insight into the future direction of research. Analyzing the identified research gaps can also be a valuable addition, especially considering the interdisciplinary aspects of Islamic studies. In addition, it is recommended that a more detailed temporal analysis be included to see the dynamics of topic changes from year to year. Finally, a discussion of the academic and practical implications of the research findings can enrich the contribution of this article to the development of Islamic studies globally.

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