

# Mapping waqf research: A 15-year bibliometric study of Malaysia and Indonesia

Hanim Misbah, Fuadah Johari

Islamic Finance and Wealth Management Institute (IFWMI), Faculty of Economics and Muamalat,  
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia

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### Corresponding author:

Hanim Misbah  
[hanim@usim.edu.my](mailto:hanim@usim.edu.my)

### Author's email:

[fuadah@usim.edu.my](mailto:fuadah@usim.edu.my)

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Center for Islamic Economics Studies  
and Development, Faculty of Business  
and Economics, Universitas Islam  
Indonesia

## Abstract

**Purpose** – This study conducted a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of waqf research from 2010 to 2024, focusing on publications from Malaysia and Indonesia.

**Methodology** – Utilizing the Scopus database, the analysis covers 648 documents sourced from 262 journals, books, and other publications, highlighting the substantial academic interest in waqf. This study identifies key trends, influential authors, and thematic developments in waqf research.

**Findings** – The results show an annual growth rate of 12.61% in waqf publications, with a diverse range of topics, including governance, sustainability, and the integration of waqf with modern financial instruments. Malaysia and Indonesia have emerged as leaders in waqf research, contributing significantly to global discourse. The analysis underscores the collaborative and international nature of waqf research and its integration within broader socioeconomic frameworks.

**Implications** – This bibliometric study provides valuable insights into the evolution of waqf research, informing future studies and policy developments to enhance the socioeconomic impact of waqf initiatives.

**Originality** – This study provides a unique comparative bibliometric analysis of waqf research from Malaysia and Indonesia between 2010 and 2024. The originality lies in the detailed comparison of how these two countries contribute to the global waqf discourse. The analysis highlights both similarities and differences in research focus, showing how each country's unique socioeconomic context shapes its waqf studies, thereby enriching the overall understanding of waqf within broader socioeconomic frameworks.

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## Introduction

Research on waqf, an Islamic socio-financial institution of philanthropic endowments, has witnessed significant growth over the past 15 years. Waqf plays a crucial role in socioeconomic development and poverty alleviation in Muslim-majority countries, evolving from traditional forms of land and property endowments to include modern financial instruments such as cash waqf, corporate waqf, and innovative models such as crowdfunding. This evolution reflects the increasing recognition of waqf's potential to contribute to sustainable development goals (SDGs) and address contemporary social issues.

This study focuses specifically on Indonesia and Malaysia because of their pioneering role in waqf research and practice. These countries have made substantial progress in implementing waqf models, supported by favorable institutional frameworks, legal reforms, and increasing

integration with modern financial systems. Given the distinct socioeconomic landscapes and regulatory environments in both nations, examining them in tandem allows for a deeper understanding of the factors driving successful waqf initiatives and offers valuable lessons for other countries looking to harness the power of waqf for socioeconomic development. In particular, a comparative analysis of these two countries provides insights into the impact of regional and cultural variations on the implementation and effectiveness of waqf programs.

The literature on waqf, especially in the context of modern socioeconomic frameworks, has expanded significantly in recent years. Key studies have explored the evolution of waqf from traditional land endowments to contemporary forms, such as cash waqf and corporate waqf. Foundational works by Cizakca (1998) and Kahf and Mohomed (2017) explored the historical and legal dimensions of waqf, while recent studies such as Saiti et al. (2019) analyzed the financial viability of cash waqf and its role in poverty alleviation and community development. Additionally, Hassan et al. (2017) emphasize the importance of governance and accountability within waqf institutions, advocating for standardized frameworks to ensure transparency and efficiency in managing waqf assets. Mohsin and Muneeza (2019) highlight the integration of waqf with modern financial systems, particularly through the use of waqf-based sukuk and crowdfunding platforms, to address the challenges of aligning waqf practices with contemporary financial regulations and technological advancements. More recently, the temporary waqf model has been introduced as a means to facilitate family waqf implementation in Malaysia, broadening the scope of waqf instruments and enhancing participation among Muslim families (Ab Rahman et al., 2024).

While these studies have significantly contributed to understanding waqf evolution, there remains a gap in comparative research that systematically examines waqf practices across different geographical contexts and time periods. Although previous research has focused on individual aspects of waqf, such as its historical development, integration with modern financial systems, and country-specific implementation, few studies have undertaken a comprehensive analysis of waqf across multiple regions. This study aims to fill this gap by providing a comparative analysis of waqf data from Malaysia and Indonesia. This approach not only highlights the evolution of waqf in response to socio-economic, technological, and regulatory changes but also benchmarks the success factors that drive impactful waqf initiatives.

Furthermore, this study offers a novel contribution by addressing the lack of systematic comparisons of waqfs across different geographies. This goes beyond the existing methodologies), Misbah et al. (2022), and Sukmana (2020) by introducing a comparative framework that accounts for regional nuances and offers actionable insights for policymakers and practitioners in the waqf sector. By doing so, this study not only enhances the academic discourse on waqf, but also provides practical recommendations for improving waqf policies and practices.

Through its innovative methodology, this study provides unique empirical insights into the intersection of waqf and social finance, offering a novel avenue for future research and advancing the relevance of waqf within the broader discourse of social finance. Ultimately, this study aims to position waqf as a vital tool for addressing global social and economic challenges, ensuring its scalability and impact in the evolving landscape of social finance.

## Literature Review

### *Waqf research over time: Publication activity, historical trends, and thematic evolution*

Waqf research has been marked by a discernible acceleration in scholarly output over the past decade, with particular inflection points identified after 2016 and a notable surge from 2018 onwards (Timur et al., 2025; Misbah et al., 2022; Busari et al., 2024; Syibly, 2024). Timur et al. (2025) presented a meticulous bibliometric analysis showing manuscript productivity on cash waqf increasing steadily since 2016, culminating in marked growth from 2018 through 2023. This expansion is aligned with heightened policy and academic interest in the role of waqf in addressing socio-economic challenges and supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Corroborating this trend, Misbah et al. (2022) noted that, although the number of waqf publications has risen, total citations have not increased at the same rate, implying a phase of rapid proliferation that may still be maturing in terms of global research impact. Busari et al. (2024) also reported

a sharp uptick in research relating to Islamic wealth management, with waqf increasingly recognized as a critical dimension in the broader Islamic social finance field since the late 2010s. Syibly (2024), focusing on Indonesia and Malaysia, highlighted the relatively modest but growing body of journal articles on cash waqf, with 106 from Indonesia and 40 from Malaysia between 2018 and 2023, indicating not only growth but also a persistent need for enhanced research output and literacy.

A regional analysis underscores the prolific contributions of Indonesia and Malaysia. Apriantoro and Septianozakia (2024) documented a substantial research stream and vibrant publication activity on productive waqf within these countries, echoing findings by Abubakar and Aysan (2022), who identified both as regional leaders shaping the Islamic social finance discourse. Napitupulu et al. (2024) and Alshater et al. (2022) further contextualize this surge by mapping institutional and author networks, reinforcing Southeast Asia's centrality to contemporary waqf research.

#### *Thematic Clusters and Research Streams*

Bibliometric analyses have consistently uncovered distinct thematic clusters within waqf literature. Qurrata et al. (2024) organized the emerging research around accountability in Islamic social finance, sustainability within Islamic microfinance, the role of intellectual capital, effectiveness of management, and waqf institutional performance measurement. Similarly, Alshater et al. (2022) identified central research streams including cash waqf endowment, Islamic accountability and waqf, integration of waqf into Islamic social finance frameworks, and governance for waqf endowment.

Kashi et al. (2025) expanded these categories, documenting the evolving network of waqf research through cluster and content analyses and highlighting the increasing role of governance, digital innovation, and integration with Islamic commercial finance. Akhter et al. (2025) pointed out additional streams such as management and distribution of Islamic social finance (ISF) funds, Islamic microfinance for poverty alleviation, and the growing intersection with Islamic fintech. Recent thematic evolution is marked by a growing focus on technology, green infrastructure, and sustainability applications. Mohamed and Akande (2025) found that the integration of waqf into sustainable and green infrastructure financing remains under-explored but is an emerging trend mirrored in the identification of new research on waqf's role in environmental sustainability and alignment with SDGs. Jamil et al. (2024) highlighted the increased scholarly attention to online digital media and the effectiveness of technology adoption by waqf institutions. There is also a marked uptick in studies exploring productive waqf (Apriantoro & Septianozakia, 2024), waqf-crowdfunding integration (Suhairi et al., 2025), and educational aspects—such as the mapping of waqf education themes in Islamic finance curricula (Wahyudi et al., 2023).

The clustering of waqf research thus reflects a move from foundational topics to multidimensional themes encompassing governance, technology adoption, performance measurement, sustainability, and integration across various sectors. Notably, bibliometric mapping by Uluyl et al. (2021) and Maulina et al. (2023) suggests a fragmented landscape with emerging cross-disciplinary connections, underscoring the continuing dynamism of waqf research.

#### *Influential Journals, Authors, and Institutions*

The mapping of influential journals, authors, and institutions reveals several core nodes. Syibly (2024) and Timur et al. (2025) both identified the prominence of journals from Southeast Asia, such as the *Millah: Journal of Religious Studies* and the *Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research*, as primary outlets for cutting-edge waqf research. Ascarya's work was highlighted as the most influential manuscript in the Indonesian context (Timur et al., 2025).

Alshater et al. (2022) noted the intellectual impact of Malaysian researchers in advancing the waqf agenda, supported by citation and co-authorship networks. The institutional landscape is dominated by leading Malaysian and Indonesian universities and research centers, which act as both knowledge hubs and breeding grounds for scholarly collaboration (Abubakar & Aysan, 2022; Napitupulu et al., 2024).

Notably, while Malaysia and Indonesia remain dominant, recent bibliometric mapping points to increasing scholarly activity from the Middle East and other regions, suggesting a gradual diffusion of waqf research paradigms globally (Uluyl et al., 2021). Journals such as *Sustainability*

(Switzerland), and the Journal of Islamic Monetary Economics and Finance, are also highlighted as influential publication venues shaping global waqf discourse (Misbah et al., 2022; Kashi et al., 2025).

*Waqf research: Key challenges, under-explored areas, and persistent gaps*

Despite notable advances in bibliometric and systematic reviews of waqf-related research, several significant areas remain insufficiently explored. A recurrent limitation is the lack of in-depth studies on the potential of waqf for promoting green infrastructure and sustainable development. Mohamed and Akande (2025) identify a persistent gap in the literature regarding waqf's direct applications in building projects and green infrastructure, emphasizing that although waqf is increasingly discussed as a financing tool for sustainability, focused empirical application and policy studies are scarce. Their analysis reveals that this under-exploration restricts the sector's ability to advance environmental objectives within the broader sustainable development framework.

Similarly, research on digital waqf platforms and technological innovation is comparatively nascent. Suhairi et al. (2025) highlight the limited transparency and public participation in traditional cash waqf management and note that academic analysis of digital waqf platforms' governance models, regulatory challenges, and strategies to increase engagement through technology remain underdeveloped. Their work finds technology integration, particularly in the context of crowdfunding, is underexplored, resulting in few actionable insights for platform developers and regulators aiming to modernize waqf administration.

The performance measurement of waqf institutions also suffers from research deficiency. Qurrata et al. (2024) point out that existing studies insufficiently address the operational effectiveness and outcome assessments of waqf institutions, especially concerning their sustainability contributions. This research gap hinders the formulation of performance benchmarks, best practices, and accountability standards tailored to the unique structure of waqf entities.

Attention to productive waqf, while rising, is still limited relative to the potential societal impact. Syibly (2024) underscores a paucity of research products—particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia focused on productive waqf, sukuk linkage, and micro-enterprise support, areas vital for amplifying waqf utility in socio-economic development. Likewise, Apriantoro and Septianozakia (2024) observe that only a segment of current literature engages with productive waqf's connections with financing innovation, crowdfunding, and poverty alleviation, indicating scope for greater examination of these mechanisms and their policy implications. Suhairi et al. (2025) further stress the scarcity of research at the intersection of cash waqf and crowdfunding, identifying a gap in strategies that could democratize access and unlock broader societal benefits through digital means.

Neglect of social finance topics, particularly waqf and zakat, constitutes another longstanding challenge. Bello and Haneef (2022) demonstrate this imbalance by noting social finance themes are marginalized in favor of Islamic banking and finance in the literature, despite the foundational welfare objectives of the Islamic economics discipline. This neglect potentially results in missed opportunities for leveraging waqf to address poverty, inequality, and humanitarian crises at both local and global levels.

Thematic and methodological gaps are evident in educational waqf research. Wahyudi et al. (2023) draw attention to the limited scholarship on waqf as an instrument in Islamic financial education, insurance education, and capital market learning. Such omissions restrict knowledge transfer and innovation in both waqf theory and practice.

Finally, Uluyol et al. (2021) emphasize the need for more fundamental and application-oriented research on waqf's evolving role. They categorize existing literature into three streams fundamentals, cash waqf, and Islamic social finance applications but warn that core foundational research remains inadequate for the strategic advancement of waqf in modern financial systems.

Recently, bibliometric analysis has become an essential method for mapping research trends and identifying influential works within specific academic fields. In the context of waqf, several bibliometric studies have been conducted to analyze the development, trends, and impact of research on this Islamic socio-financial institution. A foundational bibliometric study by Alshater et al. (2022) examined the growth of waqf literature over the past two decades and identified key themes and prominent authors in the field. Their analysis revealed a steady increase in waqf-related publications,



with significant contributions from scholars from Malaysia and Indonesia. This study lays the groundwork for understanding the evolving landscape of waqf research and its global reach.

Recent bibliometric studies have focused on specific aspects of waqf. For instance, [Misbah et al. \(2022\)](#) conducted a bibliometric analysis of waqf in the context of sustainability, highlighting the evolving theme in waqf. Their study identified a growing trend towards sustainable development, regional planning, and information management in reflecting the dynamic trend of waqf research. Another significant study by [Uluyol et al. \(2021\)](#) utilized bibliometric methods to analyze the thematic evolution of 30 years waqf research, which showed a diversification of research topics, with increasing attention to governance, sustainability, and the role of waqf in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This study highlighted the multidisciplinary nature of waqf research, encompassing fields such as economics, finance, law, and social sciences.

Overall, bibliometric studies of waqf offer valuable insights into the development, trends, and impact of research in this field. By mapping the research landscape and identifying key contributors and themes, these studies have provided a comprehensive understanding of waqf research and its evolution. The findings from bibliometric analyses can inform future research directions, enhance collaboration among scholars, and promote the practical application of waqf in addressing contemporary socioeconomic challenges.

Despite the growth and diversification of waqf research, several issues have persisted. There is a lack of standardized frameworks for waqf management and governance, leading to inefficiency and mismanagement of waqf assets. To develop and implement standardized frameworks for waqf management and governance, it is essential to address existing inefficiencies and disparities in current systems. A comprehensive approach can enhance the effectiveness of waqf institutions, ultimately benefiting the socio-economic status of Muslim communities through legal and regulatory frameworks ([Hassan et al., 2022](#); [Mustaffa et al., 2022](#)), governance frameworks ([Hassan et al., 2022](#); [Kamaruzaman & Bin Ishak, 2023](#)), and financial models and sustainability ([Kamaruzaman & Bin Ishak, 2023](#); [Zulkifli et al., 2022](#)). The integration of waqf into modern financial systems poses challenges in terms of regulatory compliance and operational transparency. Additionally, the socioeconomic impact of waqf initiatives varies widely across regions due to differences in legal frameworks, cultural contexts, and institutional capacities. This disparity highlights the need for a comprehensive and harmonized approach to waqf research and practice.

### **Comparative Analysis of Waqf Development in Malaysia and Indonesia**

Malaysia and Indonesia represent two of the most prominent countries in advancing waqf research and implementation, making their comparisons essential for understanding the dynamics of waqf development in diverse socio-political and cultural contexts. Both nations share a strong Islamic heritage and have positioned waqf as a vital tool for socioeconomic development. However, differences in legal frameworks, governance structures, and institutional capacities provide a unique opportunity to analyze the factors influencing waqf's effectiveness and sustainability.

Malaysia and Indonesia have distinct legal and regulatory systems governing waqf, which significantly impact the management and utilization of waqf assets. In Malaysia, waqf falls under the jurisdiction of state religious councils with specific frameworks designed to enhance governance and transparency ([Hassan et al., 2022](#); [Mustaffa et al., 2022](#)). Indonesia, on the other hand, has implemented a more decentralized approach that allows greater community involvement, but often faces challenges in standardization and accountability ([Zulkifli et al., 2022](#)). Comparing these frameworks offers valuable insights into how regulatory environments influence waqf efficiency and socioeconomic outcomes.

Governance is a critical determinant of waqf success. Malaysia has developed centralized institutions such as the Department of Waqf, Zakat, and Hajj (JAWHAR), which oversees the strategic planning and coordination of waqf initiatives ([Kamaruzaman & Bin Ishak, 2023](#)). By contrast, Indonesia relies on community-based organizations, which often struggle with resource constraints and limited institutional capacity. Analyzing these governance structures can shed light on the role of institutional frameworks in ensuring transparency, accountability, and sustainability in waqf management ([Hassan et al., 2022](#)).

Both Malaysia and Indonesia have explored innovative financial models, such as waqf-linked sukuk and cash waqf, to enhance the socioeconomic impact of waqf. Malaysia has demonstrated leadership in integrating waqf with Islamic finance by leveraging its well-established Islamic banking infrastructure (Zulkifli et al., 2022). With its focus on grassroots initiatives, Indonesia has pioneered digital waqf platforms to increase accessibility and public participation. Comparing these approaches highlights how modern financial systems can be adapted to maximize waqf potential for poverty alleviation and sustainable development (Kamaruzaman & Bin Ishak, 2023; Hassan et al., 2022).

The socio-economic impact of waqf initiatives varies significantly between the two countries and is influenced by cultural contexts, institutional capacities, and community engagement. Malaysia's centralized governance has enabled large-scale waqf projects, such as affordable housing and healthcare facilities, whereas Indonesia's decentralized model has empowered local communities to address immediate needs through waqf (Misbah et al., 2022). These differences underscore the importance of tailored strategies that align with local contexts, while striving for broader socioeconomic objectives.

Comparing Malaysia and Indonesia provides a comprehensive understanding of how diverse governance models, legal frameworks, and financial systems influence waqf's development and effectiveness, offering valuable lessons for best practices in waqf management and insights for other countries aiming to leverage waqf as a tool for socio-economic development. This comparison is particularly relevant in addressing the fragmented and inconsistent nature of waqf research and practice across regions, where countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia have made significant strides in integrating waqf into their socio-economic frameworks, while others have lagged due to inadequate institutional support and regulatory challenges. To bridge these gaps, this study conducted a bibliometric analysis of waqf research over the past 15 years, identifying trends, gaps, and key contributors to the field. By mapping the research landscape, it aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of waqf research, highlight best practices, and propose strategies to improve waqf management and governance globally, ultimately enhancing the socioeconomic impact of waqf initiatives and contributing to sustainable development.

## Research Methods

The bibliometric analysis focuses on the topic of "Waqf," an Islamic socio-financial institution of philanthropic endowment, with a specific emphasis on its development in Malaysia and Indonesia. To ensure that all analyzed articles specifically pertain to waqf in these two countries, the study utilized Scopus as the primary database. Scopus provides an extensive repository of peer-reviewed literature across multiple disciplines, which makes it ideal for this analysis. The search was limited to article titles to ensure that the primary focus of retrieved articles was directly related to waqf. The search scope was confined to a specific time frame from 2010 to 2024, with a filter applied to include only studies from Malaysia and Indonesia. This timeframe allows for an examination of recent trends and developments in waqf research during this period, ensuring that the analysis is current and relevant.

A carefully constructed search string was used to accurately capture all pertinent articles. The search string includes various spellings and forms of the term "waqf," specifically "Waqf OR waqaf OR awqaf."

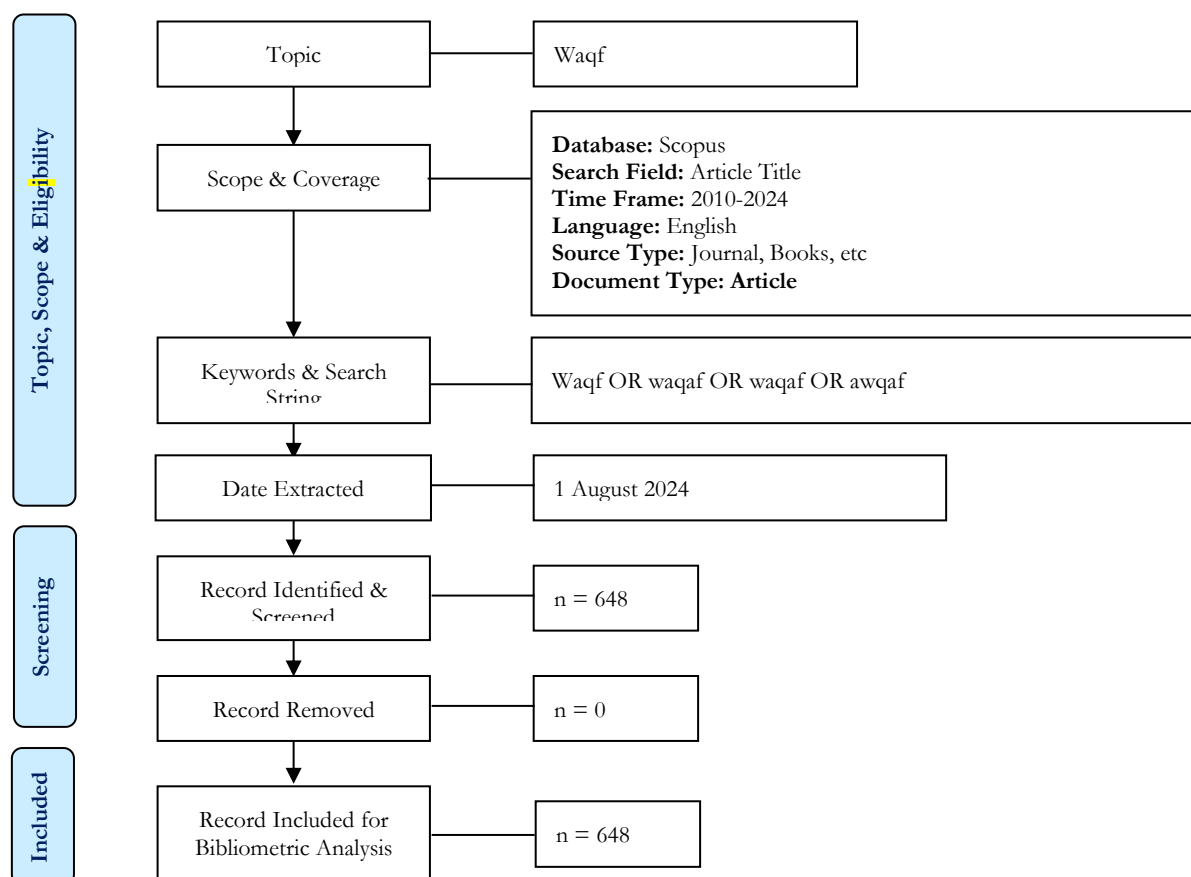
However, Arabic ("وقف"), Turkish ("Vakıf"), and Urdu ("وقف") terms are not included in the search string. This decision is made due to the limitations of article understanding, as the researcher is only proficient in English and Bahasa Malaysia. Including non-English and non-Malay terms would risk retrieving articles that are not accessible for thorough analysis, potentially compromising the study's focus and accuracy. Therefore, the search strategy prioritizes languages that the researcher can fully understand to ensure that the analysis remains rigorous, relevant, and feasible within the scope of this study.

Additionally, related concepts such as "Islamic philanthropy" and "social finance" are not incorporated into the search string. These terms could potentially expand the scope of the analysis, including those that are likely to reduce the number of relevant articles for inclusion. The basic and

generic keywords, such as "Waqf," "waqaf," and "awqaf," have already yielded a limited number of articles for review. Adding broader terms like "Islamic philanthropy" and "social finance" could result in a more generalized set of articles, which may not focus specifically on waqf or the study's core objectives. As a result, the inclusion of these additional keywords would risk diluting the focus of the study and reducing the relevance of the dataset. Therefore, the decision was made to retain the current, more specific search string to ensure that the analysis remained focused and that the articles reviewed were directly relevant to waqf research.

The data extraction process was conducted on August 1, 2024, providing a snapshot of the available literature. During this phase, 648 records were identified by using the Scopus database. Each record was carefully reviewed to assess its relevance to the study's specific focus on waqf in Malaysia and Indonesia. The review process involved examining both article titles and abstracts to confirm the alignment of the data with the objectives of the study. This thorough review ensured that only relevant articles were included in the analysis, thus minimizing the risk of bias. Notably, no records were removed during the screening phase, as all identified records were deemed relevant to the study's focus on waqf. This comprehensive extraction ensured that the dataset was robust and fully aligned with the objectives of the study, as every record directly pertains to waqf research in the context of Malaysia and Indonesia.

Following data extraction, all relevant records were included in the bibliometric analysis to ensure a robust and representative dataset. The analysis explored various aspects of waqf research, including publication trends, influential authors, and thematic developments. By incorporating a diverse set of relevant records, this study offers valuable insights into waqf research and its evolution in these two countries.



**Figure 1.** Flow Diagram of search strategy  
Source: Authors' own research

In summary, the methodology and data collection process for this bibliometric analysis were designed to ensure comprehensive, accurate, and rigorous results (see Figure 1). By refining the keyword search to include multiple forms of the term "waqf" and focusing on relevant

languages, and by conducting a thorough review of article titles and abstracts, the study captures a complete and relevant dataset. This approach strengthens this analysis and provides valuable insights into waqf research trends, patterns, and key contributions in Malaysia and Indonesia from 2010 to 2024. The structured methodology facilitates a deeper understanding of the waqf research landscape, setting a stage for future studies in the field.

## Results and Discussion

### Descriptive analysis

#### *Overview -main information*

As shown in [Table 1](#), the bibliometric analysis spans publications from 2010 to 2024, encompassing a wide range of research on waqf. With data sourced from 262 different journals, books, and other publications, the analysis covers 648 documents, highlighting the substantial academic interest in waqf over this 14-year period. The annual growth rate of 12.61% indicates a steadily increasing focus on this area, while the average document age of 4.58 years reflects the relative recency of the research. Each document has been cited an average of 5.574 times, suggesting a moderate level of impact within the scholarly community. Collectively, these documents reference 23,661 sources, underscoring the extensive literature base that informs waqf research.

**Table 1.** Overview main information

Description	Results
Main information about data	
Timespan	2010:2024
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	262
Documents	648
Annual Growth Rate %	12.61
Document Average Age	4.58
Average citations per doc	5.574
References	23661
Document contents	
Keywords Plus (ID)	378
Author's Keywords (DE)	1468
Authors	
Authors	1291
Authors of single-authored docs	164
Authors collaboration	
Single-authored docs	183
Co-Authors per Doc	2.77
International co-authorships %	16.67
Document types	
article	452
book	2
book chapter	86
conference paper	60
editorial	2
note	1
review	45

Source: Authors' own research

The research on waqf is diverse, as evidenced by the 378 unique keywords derived from cited references, providing additional context to the thematic focus of the studies. The authors used 1,468 distinct keywords to describe their research, indicating a broad spectrum of specific interests within the overarching topic of waqf. This variety of keywords points to the multifaceted nature of waqf research encompassing various subfields and areas of focus.

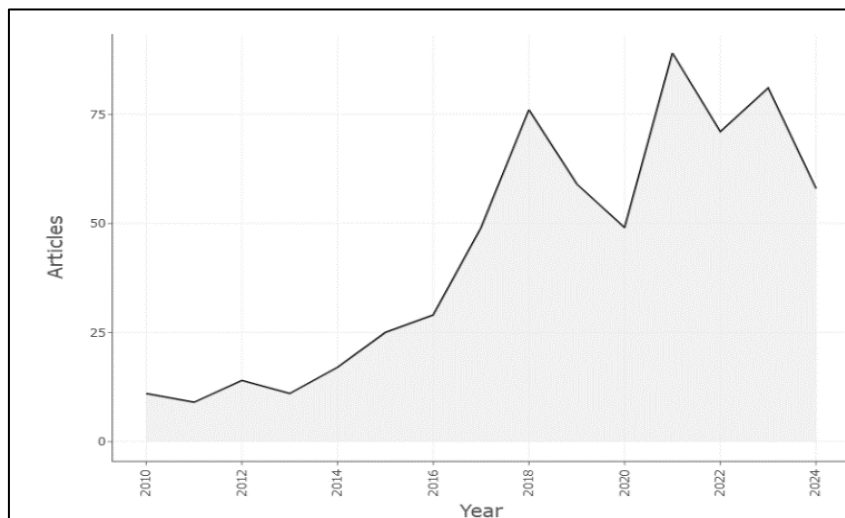


The analysis included contributions from 1,291 authors, demonstrating a wide network of researchers involved in waqf studies. Of these, 164 authors published single-authored documents, indicating a significant amount of individual research. Overall, 183 documents were single-authored, indicating that independent research is a notable component of the field. On average, each document had 2.77 co-authors, highlighting the collaborative nature of waqf research. Furthermore, 16.67% of the documents involved international co-authorship, reflecting a considerable degree of cross-border collaboration among researchers.

The majority of the documents analyzed were journal articles, with 452 articles constituting the primary medium for disseminating research findings. Additionally, two books and 86 book chapters provide comprehensive and detailed explorations of specific topics within larger volumes. Conference papers account for 60 documents, indicating active participation in academic conferences and dissemination of preliminary research findings. The dataset also includes two editorials, which offer commentary on the state of waqf research, and one note, which might be brief communication or observation. Furthermore, 45 review articles were part of the analysis, summarizing, and synthesizing existing research on various aspects of waqf.

Bibliometric analysis provides a thorough overview of waqf research from 2010 to 2024, revealing a growing interest and substantial body of work on the topic. This analysis highlights the collaborative and international nature of waqf research, with a diverse range of document types contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the field. The moderate citation impact and extensive references indicate that waqf research is well integrated within the broader academic discourse. Overall, this analysis offers valuable insights into the trends, patterns, and key contributions of waqf research, informing future studies and developments in this field.

#### *Annual publication trends*



**Figure 2.** Annual publication trends

Source: Authors' own research

The initial slow growth phase (2010-2014), [Figure 2](#), could mirror a period of limited academic focus on wakafs. This might be attributed to factors such as the relatively nascent stage of wakaf studies compared to other Islamic economic or financial concepts or perhaps a lack of comprehensive data and research infrastructure. The subsequent rapid increase (2015-2018) can be interpreted as growing scholarly interest in wakafs. This surge might coincide with a heightened awareness of the wakafs' potential for economic development, social welfare, and its role in Islamic Social Finance. The decline in 2019 might represent a temporary phase of consolidation or a shift in research focus towards specific wakaf-related subfields. It is possible that researchers began to search deeper into particular aspects of wakafs, leading to a temporary decrease in the overall number of publications. The key lesson for Indonesia and Malaysia is the importance of fostering a sustainable and dynamic academic ecosystem for wakafs. This requires active collaboration among universities, policymakers, and wakaf

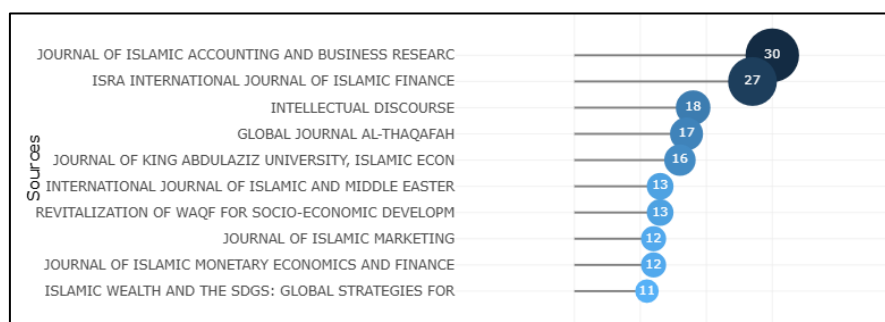
institutions to address evolving challenges, encourage innovation, and fully harness the transformative potential of wakafs in driving socioeconomic development.

## Sources

### *Most relevant sources*

The bibliometric analysis in Figure 3 identifies the most relevant sources contributing to the field of Islamic social finance. The Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research leads the list with 30 articles, followed closely by the ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance, which has published 27 articles. Intellectual Discourse and the Global Journal of Al-Thaqafah also show significant contributions, with 18 and 17 articles, respectively. The Journal of King Abdulaziz University, Islamic Economics, and the International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management have 16 and 13 articles, respectively, reflecting their substantial impact on discourse. Notably, the Revitalization of Waqf for the Socio-Economic Development series and the Journal of Islamic Marketing both have 13 and 12 articles, respectively, indicating focused research efforts in these areas. Additionally, the Journal of Islamic Monetary Economics and Finance and the compilation on Islamic Wealth and the SDGs each contributed 12 and 11 articles, respectively, highlighting their roles in advancing knowledge and strategies for socio-economic impact through waqf.

For Indonesia and Malaysia, these trends provide a critical lesson: the development of impactful Islamic social finance research hinges on fostering specialized academic platforms and integrating them with broader socioeconomic agendas. Both countries can benefit from investing in dedicated journals and research initiatives that explore the intersection of waqf, Islamic finance, and sustainable development. This approach can enhance academic contributions while addressing local and global challenges and cementing leadership in the field.



**Figure 3.** Most relevant sources

Source: Authors' own research

### *Bradford's law*

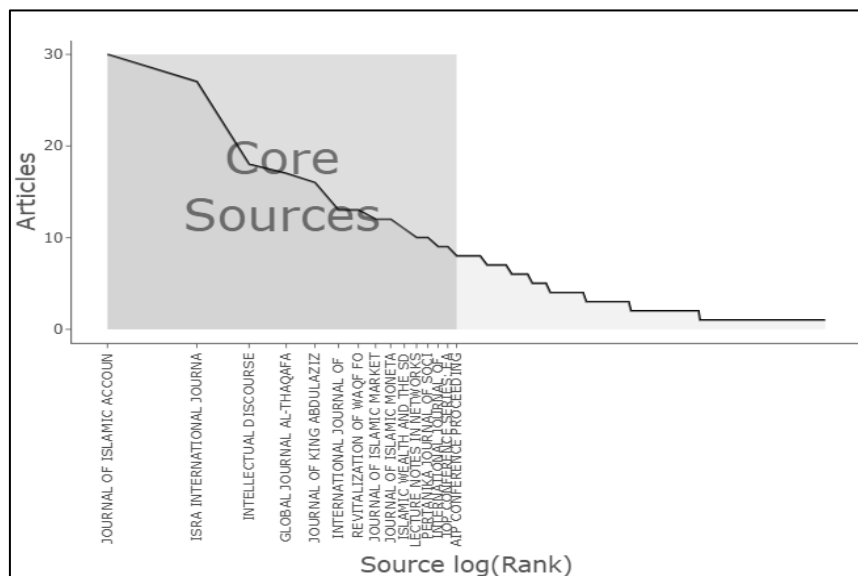
Bradford's Law (see Figure 4) is a bibliometric principle that helps identify core journals in a specific field of study by dividing the journals into three zones, each containing a similar number of articles. The graph visually represents Bradford's law in the context of waqf research over the past decade. This analysis allowed us to understand which journals are the most prolific and influential in the field of waqf studies. The graph clearly shows that the core sources, or the "nucleus" of journals, where the majority of waqf-related articles are published, consist of a few key journals. These journals are crucial for researchers in the field because they contain the highest concentration of relevant articles. The core sources identified in the graph include the "Journal of Islamic Accounting," "ISRA International Journal," "Intellectual Discourse," "Global Journal Al-Thaqafa," and "Journal of King Abdulaziz." Among these, the "Journal of Islamic Accounting" leads in terms of the number of articles published, followed closely by the "ISRA International Journal."

The distribution of articles follows the typical pattern described by Bradford's law, where a few journals (core sources) publish a large number of articles on waqf, while a greater number of journals publish fewer articles each. This pattern is evident from the steep decline in the number of articles as we move from core sources to other journals, highlighting that core sources are central

to waqf research. This concentration underscores the importance of these core journals for anyone conducting research or seeking comprehensive information in the waqf field.

According to Bradford's law, journals can be divided into three zones: Zone 1 (Core Sources) includes a few journals that publish the majority of articles, such as those listed above. Zone 2 consisted of journals that published a moderate number of articles. Although these journals are still important, they are not as central as those in Zone 1. Zone 3 includes journals that published the least number of articles on waqf. These journals might cover a wide range of topics, with waqf as a minor focus. Understanding these zones helps researchers prioritize their reading and publishing efforts effectively. Understanding the distribution of articles according to Bradford's law is highly beneficial for researchers in the field of waqf. This allows them to focus their reading on core journals to access the most relevant and influential articles. When selecting journals for publication, researchers can aim for core journals to reach a wider and more specialized audience. Moreover, libraries and institutions can prioritize subscriptions to core journals to ensure access to significant research in the field. This strategic approach can enhance the impact and efficiency of both research and dissemination.

In conclusion, the application of Bradford's law to waqf research over the past decade highlights the concentration of influential articles within a few core journals. By focusing on these core sources, researchers and institutions can maximize their engagement in the most impactful and relevant research in the field. This understanding can guide researchers in their literature reviews, publication strategies, and resource allocation, ultimately contributing to more robust and targeted waqf research.



**Figure 4.** Bradford's law  
Source: Authors' own research

#### *Source impact measure (H)*

From [Table 2](#), the bibliometric analysis of journals related to waqf revealed varying levels of impact and influence within the academic community. The ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance has had a high h-index of 13, g-index of 17, and a notable m-index of 1, reflecting substantial citation counts (TC = 322) and a considerable number of publications (NP = 27) since its inception in 2012. Similarly, the Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research shows a strong presence, with an h-index of 12, accumulating 315 citations across 30 papers since 2011. Other notable journals include Humanomics, with an h-index of 8 and a TC of 200 since 2010, and the International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management, which has an h-index of 7 and has garnered 303 citations since 2013. Newer journals, such as the Journal of Islamic Marketing (h-index of 6) and the International Journal of Ethics and Systems (h-index of 4), also demonstrate emerging influence in the field. Overall, the data show diverse contributions and a growing scholarly interest in waqf and related disciplines.

Malaysia and Indonesia need to strategically invest in academic journals and platforms that emphasize both foundational research and emerging waqf trends. Promoting interdisciplinary collaborations and aligning waqf research with critical socioeconomic challenges, such as poverty alleviation and sustainable development, can significantly enhance both regional and global impacts. Strengthening existing academic journals or establishing new ones dedicated to waqf and Islamic social finance will not only advance knowledge in the field, but also position these countries as leaders in bridging theory and practice for socio-economic transformation.

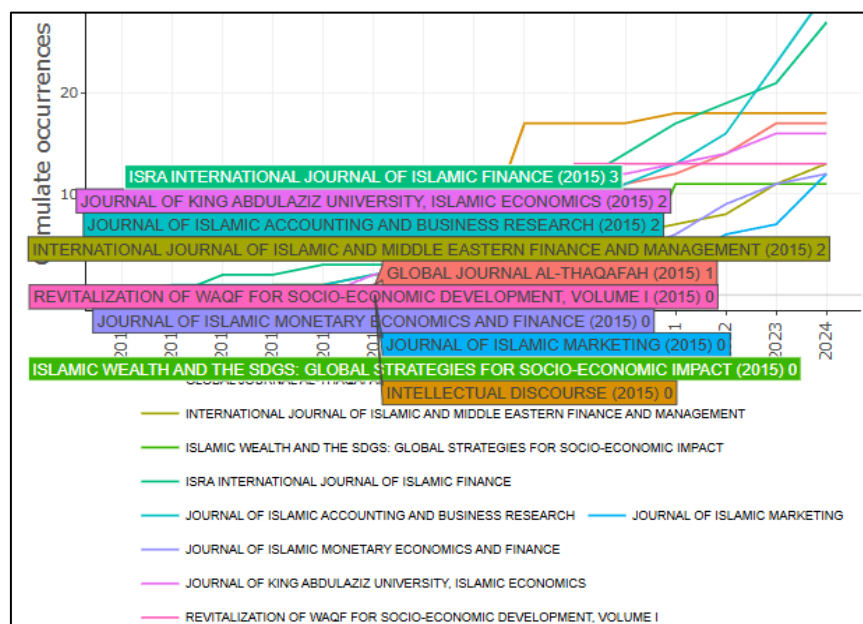
**Table 2.** Source impact measure: H

Element	h_index	g_index	m_index	TC	NP	PY_start
ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance	13	17	1	322	27	2012
Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research	12	17	0.857	315	30	2011
Humanomics	8	8	0.533	200	8	2010
International Journal of Islamic And Middle Eastern Finance and Management	7	13	0.583	303	13	2013
Journal of Islamic Marketing	6	12	0.75	169	12	2017
Journal of King Abdulaziz University, Islamic Economics	6	9	0.6	98	16	2015
Global Journal Al-Thaqafah	5	6	0.5	62	17	2015
Intellectual Discourse	5	7	0.556	62	18	2016
Islamic Law and Society	5	7	0.417	51	7	2013
International Journal of Ethics and Systems	4	7	0.8	63	8	2020

Source: Authors' own research

#### *Trend analysis of waqf research from 2010, 2015, and 2024*

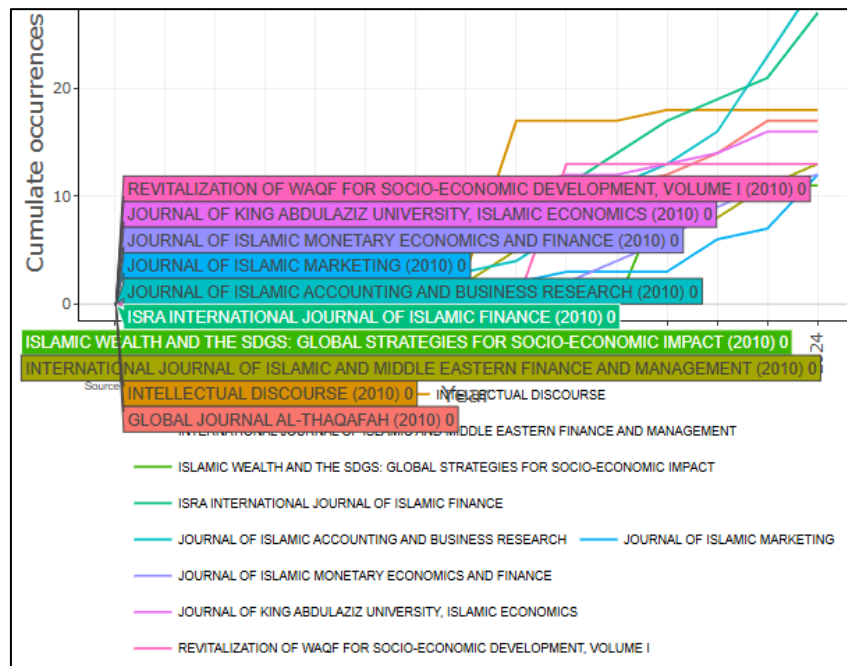
In 2010 (see Figure 5), the field of waqf research was still developing, with a limited number of articles published in various journals. The leading journals at this time included the "Journal of Islamic Accounting," "ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance," "Intellectual Discourse," and "Global Journal Al-Thaqafa." These journals served as core sources for waqf research, each contributing a modest but significant number of articles to the field. The cumulative occurrence of articles was relatively low, indicating a nascent stage of waqf research. The focus during this period was primarily on the foundational aspects of waqf, including its historical development, legal frameworks, and socio-economic impact.



**Figure 5.** Trend analysis of waqf research 2010

Source: Authors' own research

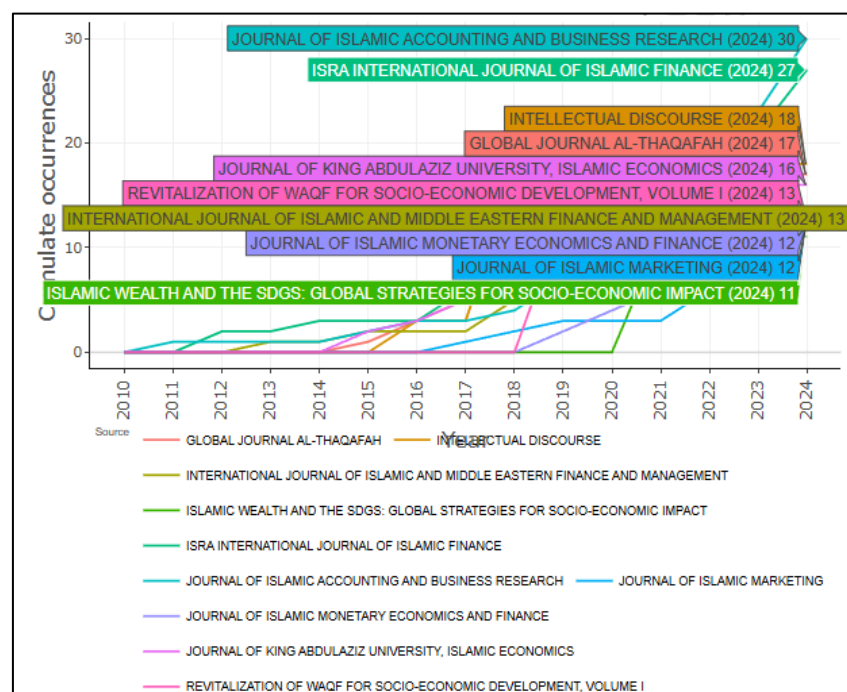




**Figure 6.** Trend analysis of waqf research 2015

Source: Authors' own research

By 2015 (Figure 6), there was a noticeable increase in the number of publications and a broader range of journals contributing to waqf research. The "ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance" and the "Journal of King Abdulaziz University, Islamic Economics" emerged as prominent sources, reflecting the growing interest in Islamic finance and its intersection with waqf. Additionally, journals such as the "Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research" and the "International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management" began to feature more waqf-related articles, indicating diversification of research topics. The cumulative occurrences of articles showed a significant upward trend, highlighting the expanding body of literature and the increasing recognition of waqf as an important area of study within Islamic finance and socioeconomic development.



**Figure 7.** Trend analysis of waqf research 2024

Source: Authors' own research

In 2024 (see [Figure 7](#)), waqf research reached a mature stage, with a substantial increase in the number of articles and a well-defined core group of journals leading the field. The "Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research" became the most prolific source, with a cumulative occurrence of 30 articles, followed closely by the "ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance" with 27 articles. Other significant contributors included "Intellectual Discourse," "Global Journal Al-Thaqafa," and the "Journal of King Abdulaziz University, Islamic Economics." This trend indicates that the solidification of these journals is a key platform for waqf research. Additionally, the range of topics expanded to include contemporary issues, such as the role of waqf in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), innovative waqf management strategies, and the integration of waqf with modern financial instruments. Cumulative occurrences in 2024 reflect a well-established and dynamic field with a diverse and rich body of literature.

Over the past decade, waqf research has experienced significant growth and diversification. Starting from a limited number of publications in 2010, the field has expanded in terms of both the volume of research and the range of topics covered. By 2015, there was a noticeable increase in scholarly activity, with more journals contributing to the waqf discourse. By 2024, waqf research had matured, characterized by a high number of publications and a well-defined core group of influential journals. This evolution reflects the increasing recognition of waqf's importance in Islamic finance and socio-economic development as well as the growing academic interest in exploring innovative solutions and contemporary applications of waqf.

## Authors

### *Most relevant authors -number of documents*

[Table 3](#) provides a detailed overview of the most relevant authors in waqf research, highlighting both the number of articles published and their fractional contributions to these articles. Understanding these data helps to appreciate not only the volume of work each author has produced, but also the extent of their individual contributions, especially in collaborative efforts. Mohammed Mo was the most prolific author, with 14 published articles. This indicates a significant contribution to the field of waqf research and reflects the author's active involvement. Similarly, Sukmana R, with 12 articles, demonstrated robust engagement in this research area, followed closely by Kassim S, who published 10 articles. Other notable contributors included Ismail S, Johari F, and Rahman AA, each with nine articles, and Hassan R and Mahamood SM, each with eight articles. Hassan and Laila also made substantial contributions, with seven articles each. The number of articles published by these authors showcases their active participation and influence on waqf research.

The fractionalized article metric offers a nuanced view of each author's contribution, accounting for co-authorship. For instance, while Mohammed MO published 14 articles, their fractional contribution was 4.12, suggesting extensive collaboration and smaller individual roles in each article. R's fractional contribution is slightly higher (4.20 for 12 articles, indicating a significant involvement in co-authored papers. Kassim S's fractional contribution of 3.33 for 10 articles also reflects a collaborative approach.

Ismail S and Johari F, with nine articles each, have fractional contributions of 1.81 and 1.59, respectively, indicating frequent collaboration with others. In contrast, Rahman, with a fractional contribution of 3.88, showed a higher individual input in their nine articles, suggesting a more substantial personal role in their publications. Hassan R, with a fractional contribution of 3.00 for eight articles, and Mahamood SM, with 2.67, both exhibited balanced contributions through collaboration. Hassan MK and Laila N, with fractional contributions of 2.25 and 1.72, respectively, also demonstrate a collaborative research approach.

The analysis reveals that waqf research is heavily collaborative, with prominent authors contributing through co-authored works, highlighting the importance of collective scholarly efforts to advance the field. For Indonesia and Malaysia, this underscores the need to foster collaborative networks and partnerships among researchers to enhance the depth and breadth of waqf-related studies.

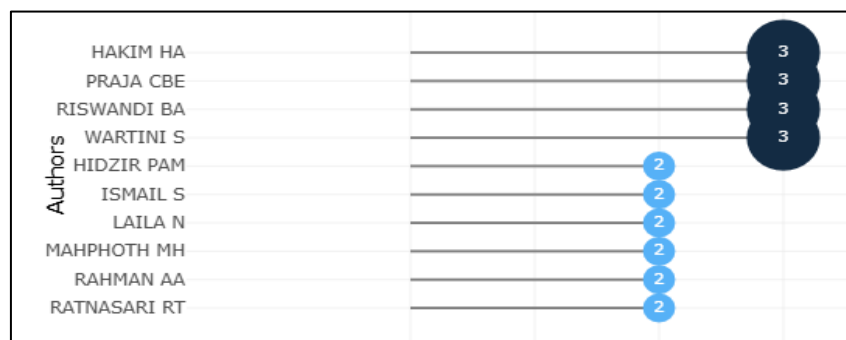
**Table 3.** Most relevant authors -number of document

Authors	Articles	Articles Fractionalized
Mohammed MO	14	4.12
Sukmana R	12	4.20
Kassim S	10	3.33
Ismail S	9	1.81
Johari F	9	1.59
Rahman AA	9	3.88
Hassan R	8	3.00
Mahamood Sm	8	2.67
Hassan MK	7	2.25
	7	1.72

Source: Authors' own research

#### *Most local cited authors – Local citations*

The highlights from Figure 8, authors who have received the most local citations within the field of waqf research (refer to the number on the round circle on the right-3 means cited three times locally in the research analyzed). Four authors—Hakim HA, Praja CBE, Riswandi BA, and Wartini S—are at the top of the list with three (3) local citations each. These authors are recognized as influential contributors within the local academic community, indicating that their work is frequently referenced by other researchers in the same field. Subsequently, a second tier of authors, including Hidzir PAM, Ismail S, Laila N, Mahphoth MH, Rahman AA and Ratnasari RT, each received two local citations. This demonstrates that their contributions are also well-regarded and significantly referenced, albeit slightly less frequently than the top four. Overall, these data underscore the impact and relevance of these authors' research within the local academic context, highlighting their prominent role in advancing the understanding and development of waqf-related studies. For Indonesia and Malaysia, this serves as a call to further nurture and support local scholars, enhancing their capacity to produce impactful, widely referenced research that strengthens regional leadership in waqf-related studies.

**Figure 8.** Most local cited authors – local citations

Source: Authors' own research

#### *Authors' Production over Time*

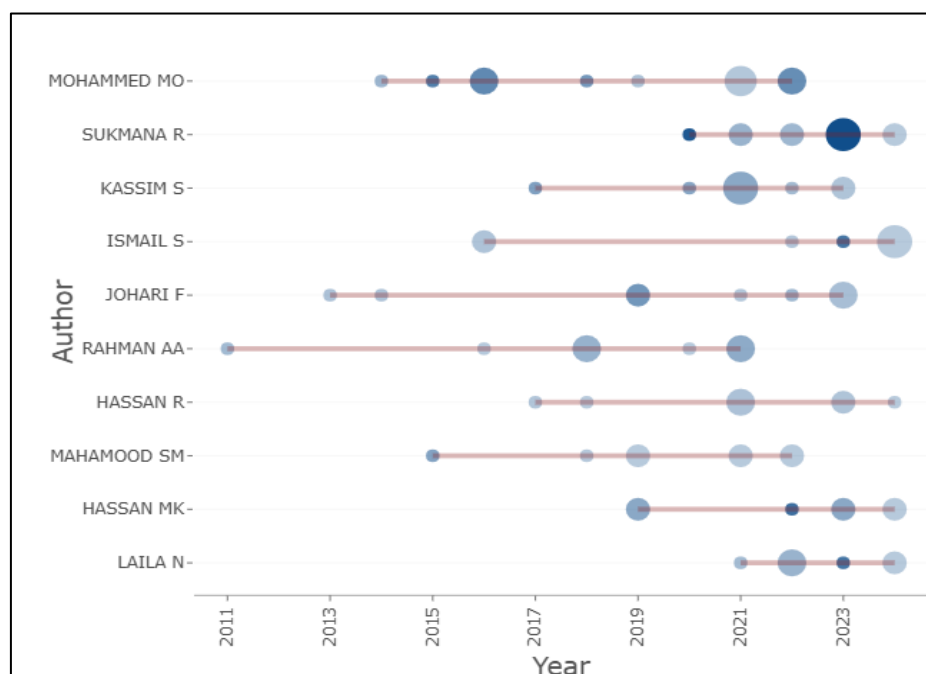
In 2010, the field of waqf research was in its developmental stage, with a limited number of articles published in various journals. Key journals during this period included the "Journal of Islamic Accounting," "ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance," "Intellectual Discourse," and "Global Journal Al-Thaqafa." These journals served as core sources for waqf research, with each contributing a modest but significant number of articles. Prominent authors such as Mohammed MO and Sukmana R began were beginning to establish their presence, laying the groundwork for their future contributions.

By 2015 (refer to Figure 9), there was a noticeable increase in the number of publications and a broader range of journals contributing to waqf research. The "ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance" and the "Journal of King Abdulaziz University, Islamic Economics" emerged as prominent

sources, reflecting the growing interest in Islamic finance and its intersection with waqf. Authors like Kassim S and Ismail S saw their publication activity became more pronounced during this period. The diversification of research topics included more nuanced discussions on the socioeconomic impacts of waqf and innovative management strategies, indicating maturation in the field.

In 2024, waqf research reached a mature stage, characterized by a substantial increase in the number of articles and a well-defined core group of journals leading the field. The "Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research" became the most prolific source, followed closely by the "ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance." Authors such as Mohammed MO and Sukmana R demonstrated significant peaks in their publication activities, with larger nodes indicating more influential work. This period also saw a marked increase in international collaborations and high-impact research addressing contemporary issues, such as waqf's role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mohammed has shown consistent publication activity since 2013, with notable peaks indicating significant and ongoing contributions to waqf research. Sukmana R saw a marked increase in publications from 2017 onwards, with a substantial impact in recent years, reflecting his growing recognition in the field. Kassim S maintained a steady output, with notable contributions during the mid-2010s and in recent years, demonstrating continuous relevance. Ismail S exhibited sporadic but impactful publications, particularly in recent years, highlighting targeted and significant research efforts. Johari F has been a persistent presence with influential works scattered across the timeline, consistently contributing valuable insights. Rahman AA has a strong and steady publication record since 2014, with significant impacts in certain years, highlighting his consistent contributions. Hassan R displayed periodic contributions with peaks of influential work, indicating a strategic approach to impactful publications. Mahamood SM showed steady contributions, especially in recent years, indicating ongoing engagement and influence in the field. Hassan MK demonstrated increased activity and impact in recent years, suggesting a growing presence in waqf research. Laila N reflected intermittent but notable contributions, particularly in recent years, indicating targeted and influential research efforts.



**Figure 9.** Authors' production over time

Source: Authors' own research

Several strategies can be employed to further increase the visibility and impact of waqf research. Encouraging more collaboration within and across institutions can enhance the quality and reach of publications. Targeting high-impact journals identified through bibliometric analysis can maximize exposure and citations. Expanding international research partnerships can diversify



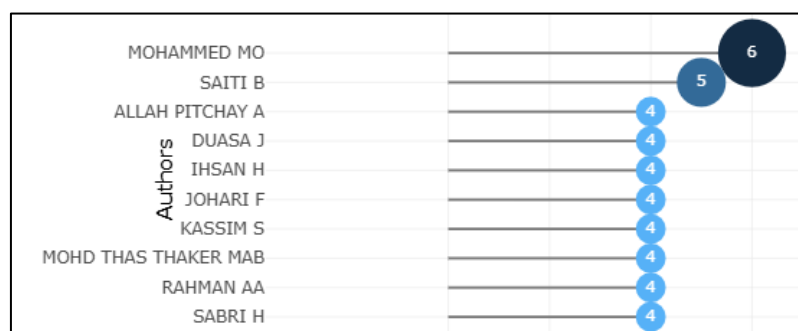
research perspectives and increase global visibility. Making research available on digital platforms and through open-access journals can help reach a broader audience. Presenting research at national and international conferences can help to gain recognition and foster collaboration. Promoting research findings on social media and academic networking sites can effectively disseminate research.

The synthesis of the authors' production and trends in waqf research from 2010, 2015, and 2024 reveals a dynamic and evolving field with significant contributions from key authors. The data highlight the importance of sustained research efforts and strategic and impactful publications. By employing strategies to increase visibility and impact, researchers can further advance the field of waqf studies, ensure that their work reaches, and influence a broader academic and practical audience.

#### *Author impact measure: H*

Figure 10 shows that the H-index is a key metric that measures both the productivity and citation impact of an author's publications. The chart reveals that Mohammed MO leads with an H-index of 6, indicating substantial productivity and influence, as he has at least six publications, each cited at least six times. Following him, Saiti B has an H-index of 5, showing significant contributions to the field. Several other authors, including Pitchay A, Duasa J, Ihsan H, Johari F, Kassim S, Mohd Thas Thaker MAB, Rahman AA, and Sabri H, each have an H-index of 4, reflecting their consistent and impactful contributions to waqf research.

To enhance their visibility and impact, authors should focus on publishing high-quality research addressing significant issues in waqf, thereby increasing the likelihood of citations. Collaborating with other researchers can also lead to higher quality outputs and broader dissemination. Targeting high-impact journals that are widely read and cited can significantly boost the H-index of an author. Engaging in interdisciplinary research can attract a broader audience and increase the citation potential. In addition, promoting research through national and international conferences can enhance visibility and provide opportunities for feedback and collaboration. Utilizing digital platforms and open-access journals can further increase the readership and citations. By implementing these strategies, authors can enhance their citation counts and H-index, thereby solidifying their reputation and influence in waqf research.



**Figure 10.** Author impact measure: h  
Source: Authors' own research

#### **Affiliations**

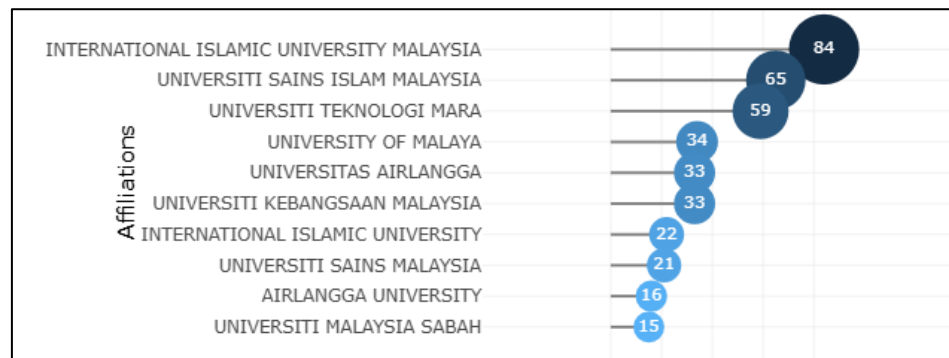
##### *Most relevant affiliations – articles*

Figure 11 highlights the affiliations with the most relevant articles in the waqf research. Leading the list is the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) with 84 articles, indicating its significant contribution and leadership in the field. The Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) follows with 65 articles, showcasing its strong involvement in waqf research. Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) was also a major contributor with 59 articles.

Other notable institutions include the University of Malaya (UM) with 34 articles and Universitas Airlangga and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), each with 33 articles. International Islamic University and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) have 22 and 21 articles,

respectively, reflecting their active participation in this research area. Airlangga University and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) also contributed 16 and 15 articles, respectively.

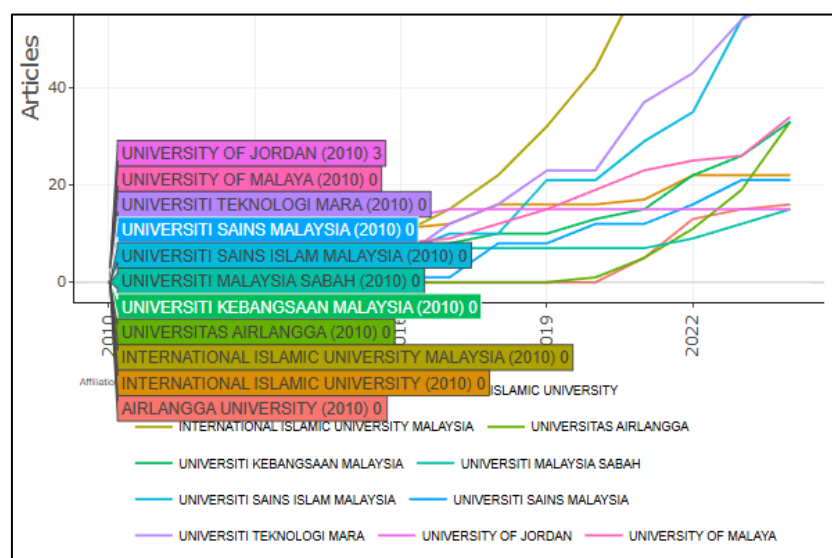
The analysis highlights the leadership of institutions such as IIUM and USIM in Malaysia and Universitas Airlangga in Indonesia in advancing waqf research, underscoring the critical role of institutional support, academic focus, and collaboration in impactful regional expertise in the field.



**Figure 11.** Most relevant affiliations – articles  
Source: Authors' own research

#### *Affiliation's production over time*

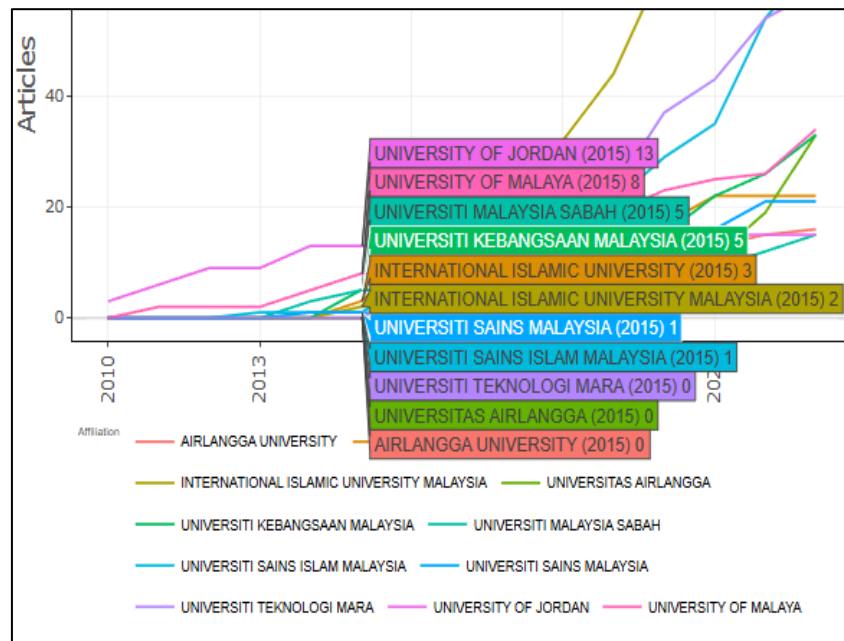
In 2014, as shown in Figure 12, the landscape of waqf research was characterized by modest contributions from various institutions. International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) had a growing presence, but overall, the number of articles published by leading institutions remained relatively low. Universities such as Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) began to establish themselves in this research domain. The focus of this period was on building a foundation for future research and collaboration.



**Figure 12.** Affiliation's production over time -2010  
Source: Authors' own research

By 2020, as shown in Figure 13, the field of waqf research had seen significant growth. IIUM has emerged as a leading institution, with a substantial increase in the number of published articles. The USIM and UiTM also demonstrated significant growth, contributing more robustly to the research landscape. Other institutions, such as the University of Malaya (UM), Universitas Airlangga, and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), showed noticeable increases in their research

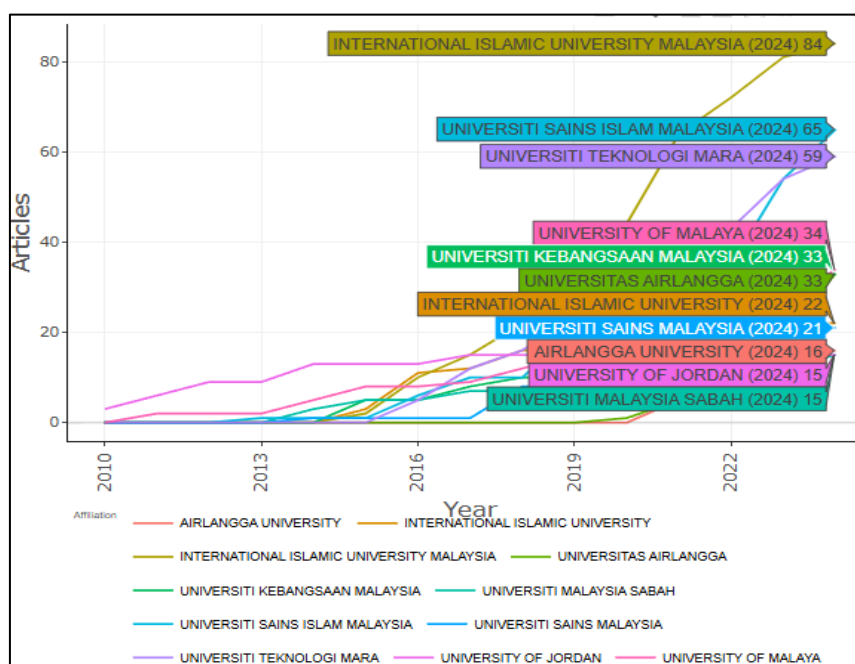
output. This period marked a phase of expansion and consolidation, with more institutions actively participating in and contributing to the body of knowledge on waqf.



**Figure13.** Affiliation's production over time 2015

Source: Authors' own research

In 2024 (Figure 14), the trend of increasing contributions continued, with IIUM solidifying its position as the most prolific institution, with 84 published articles. USIM and UiTM yielded 65 and 59 articles, respectively. The University of Malaysia (UM) also made significant strides and published 34 articles. UKM and Universitas Airlangga contributed 33 articles, indicating strong involvement. Other institutions such as the International Islamic University, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) maintained their active participation with substantial contributions. This period highlights the maturation of waqf research, with a diverse range of institutions contributing significantly and consistently.



**Figure 14.** Affiliation's production over time 2024

Source: Authors' own research

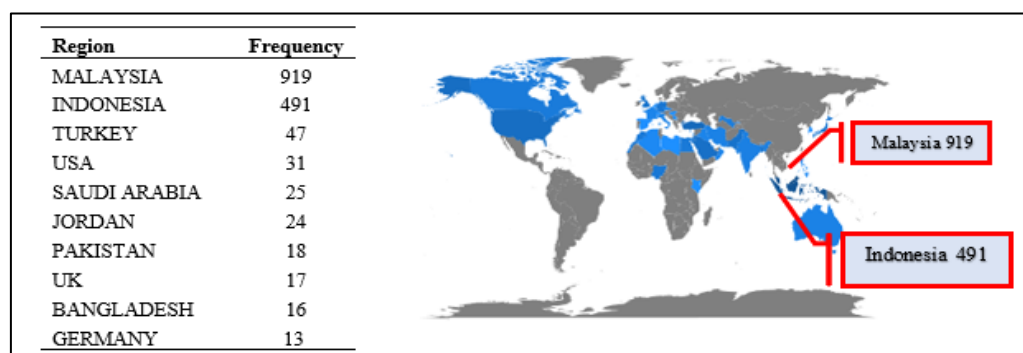
From 2014 to 2024, waqf research has seen remarkable growth and diversification. IIUM, USIM, and UiTM have emerged as leading contributors, significantly increasing their research output. This trend indicates a broader and more collaborative research environment with multiple institutions actively engaging in waqf studies. This growth reflects increasing academic interest and institutional support for waqf research, leading to a richer and more comprehensive understanding of this important field.

## Countries

### *Country specific production*

Figure 15 illustrates the country-specific production of waqf research, highlighting the significant contributions of various regions. Malaysia has emerged as the leading contributor, with 919 publications, showcasing its dominant role in waqf research. This high frequency reflects Malaysia's strong academic interest and institutional support for exploring and developing waqf studies. Indonesia was the second-largest contributor, with 491 publications. The substantial number of publications from Indonesia indicates robust academic engagement in waqf research, paralleling Malaysia's focus on Islamic financial practices and socio-economic development through waqf.

Other notable contributors include Turkey, with 47 publications, and the USA, with 31, indicating a moderate level of interest and research activity in waqf. Saudi Arabia and Jordan also contributed significantly to 25 and 24 publications, respectively, reflecting their regional importance in Islamic studies and waqf practices. Pakistan, the UK, Bangladesh, and Germany, with 18, 17, 16, and 13 publications, respectively, show an emerging interest and participation in waqf research. These contributions, while smaller in number, highlight the growing recognition of the importance of waqf in various socioeconomic contexts globally. Overall, the data underscore the leading roles of Malaysia and Indonesia in waqf research, with substantial contributions from other countries, reflecting a diverse and expanding global interest in this field.



**Figure 15.** Country specific production

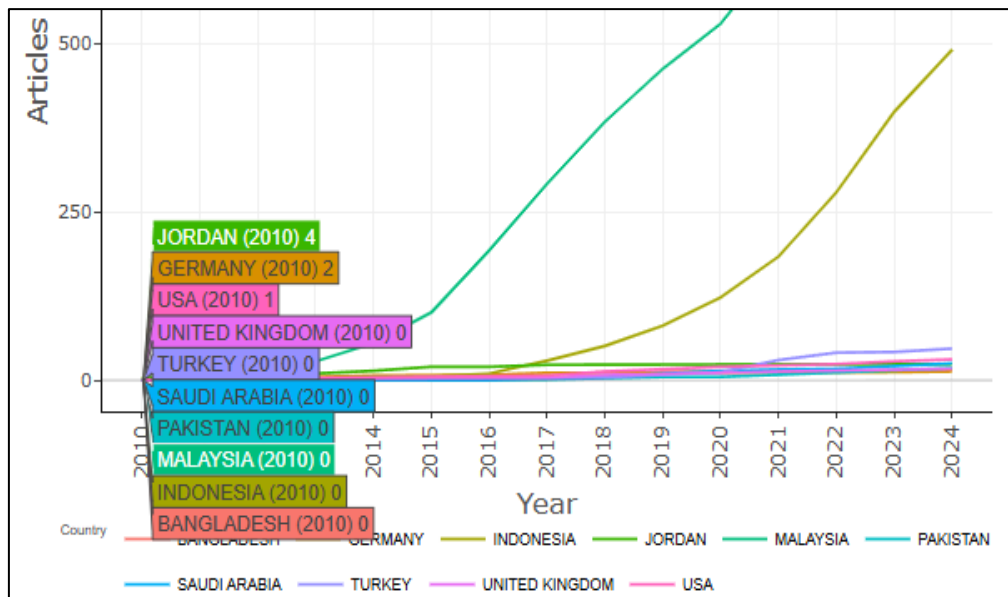
Source: Authors' own research

### *Countries' production over time*

In 2010 (shown in Figure 16), the landscape of waqf research showed relatively low activity in various countries. Malaysia and Indonesia began to establish themselves as key contributors, but the number of publications was still modest. Other countries, such as Germany, the USA, and Jordan, also had some presence, but overall, the research output in waqf was limited. This period was marked by the initial stages of academic interest and foundational research efforts in the waqf field.

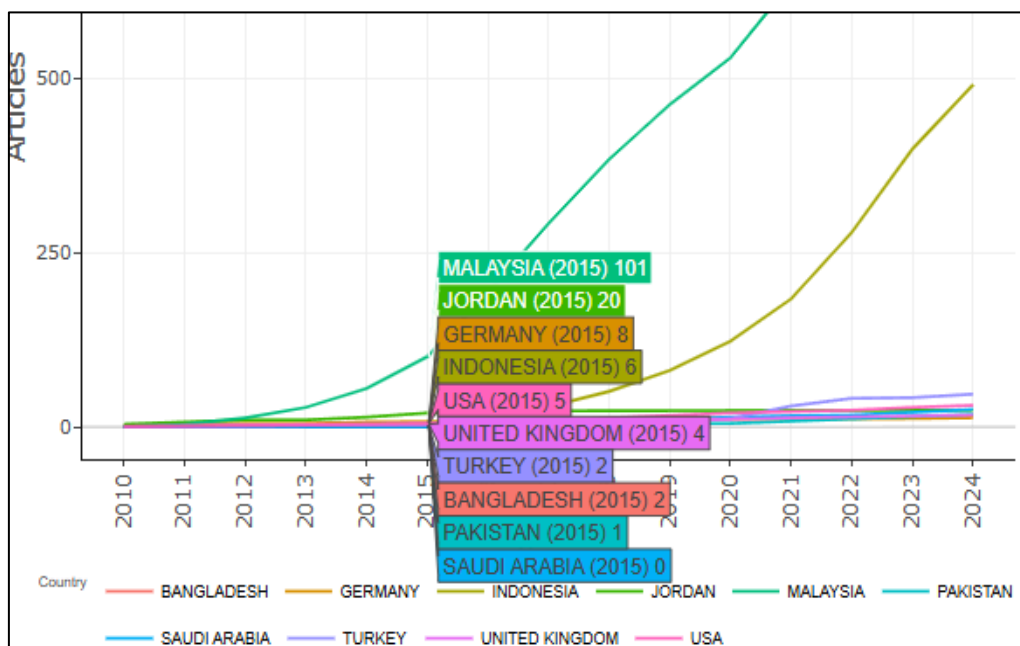
By 2015 (see Figure 17), there was a noticeable increase in waqf research output across several countries. Malaysia saw a significant rise, with over 100 publications, demonstrating its growing leadership in the field. Indonesia has also shown substantial growth, contributing increasingly to the body of knowledge. Countries such as Jordan, Germany, and the USA had more publications than in 2014, reflecting broader international engagement in waqf research. This period highlighted an expansion phase in which more countries began to contribute actively to waqf studies.





**Figure 16.** Countries' production over time -2010

Source: Authors' own research

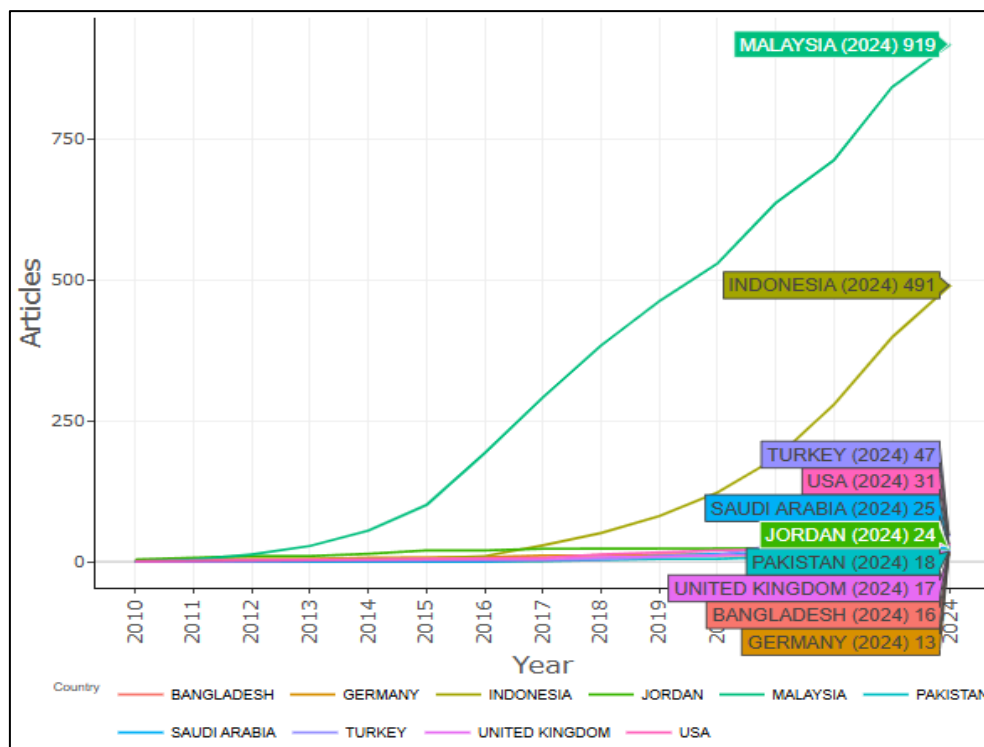


**Figure 17.** Countries' production over time -2015

Source: Authors' own research

In 2024 (refer to Figure 18), the trend of increasing research output continued, with Malaysia solidifying its position as the dominant contributor with 919 publications. Indonesia also maintained strong growth, with 491 publications. Other countries, such as Turkey, the USA, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan, showed significant contributions, indicating their established roles in waqf research. The increasing numbers from countries such as the UK, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Germany reflect growing global interest and deeper academic engagement in the field. This period represents a mature and dynamic phase of waqf research, with diverse and widespread contributions.

From 2014 to 2024, waqf research experienced significant growth and diversification. Malaysia and Indonesia have emerged as leading contributors, driving many of their research activities. The trend shows increasing participation from a wide range of countries, reflecting global recognition of the importance of waqf studies. This growth underscores the expanding academic interest and institutional support for waqf research, leading to a richer and more comprehensive understanding of this field.

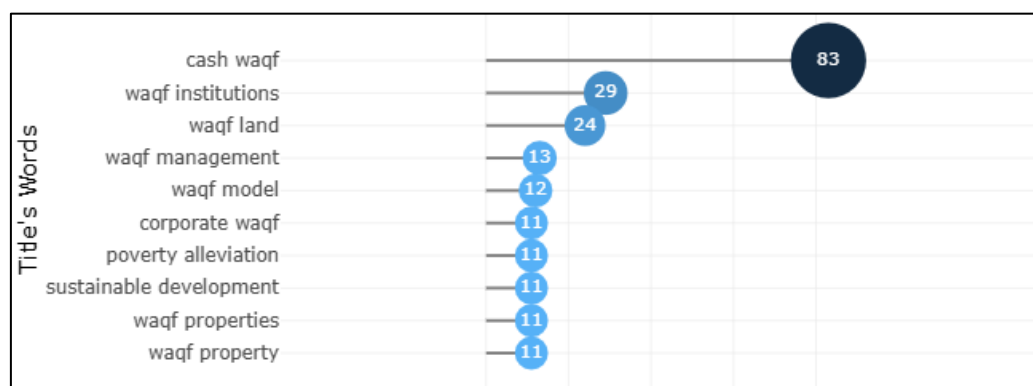


**Figure 18.** Countries' production over time 2024

Source: Authors' own research

*Words occurrences field: Titles, bigram and number of words =10*

Figure 19 displays the most frequently occurring words in the titles of waqf research articles, highlighting the key areas of focus within the field. The term "cash waqf" appears most frequently, with 83 occurrences, indicating significant research interest in this form of endowment, reflecting its growing importance in contemporary Islamic finance and philanthropy. "Waqf institutions," with 29 occurrences, suggests a strong focus on the structures and organizations responsible for managing waqf properties and resources, emphasizing their role in effective administration. The term "waqf land," occurring 24 times, shows substantial interest in the management, utilization, and challenges associated with land endowed for waqf purposes. "Waqf management," with 13 occurrences, highlights strategies for optimizing the use of waqf resources, ensuring their sustainability and effectiveness.



**Figure 19.** Words occurrences

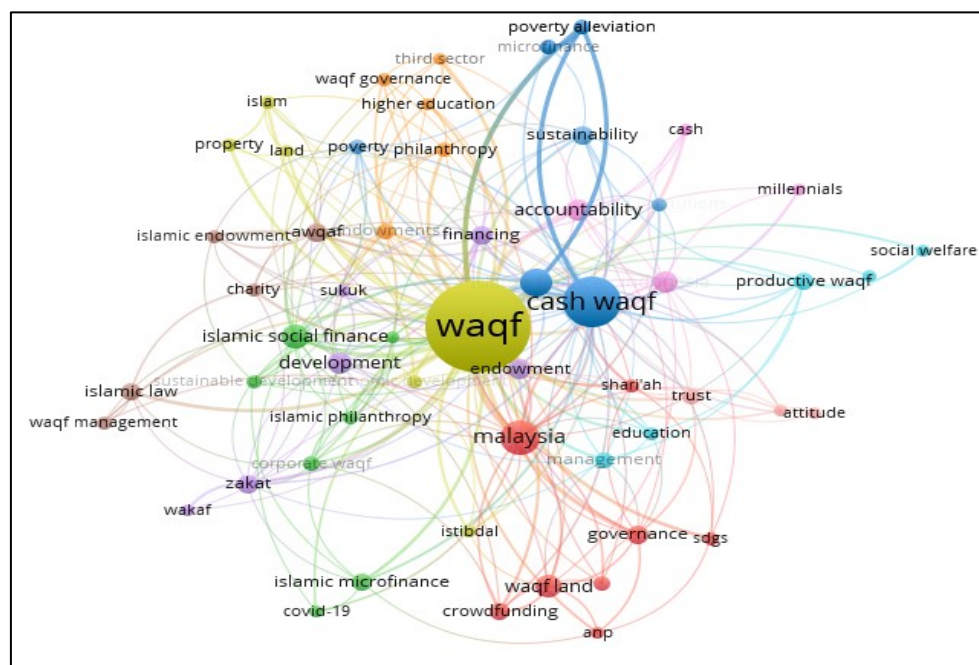
Source: Authors' own research

The term "waqf model" appears 12 times, pointing to research on various frameworks and methodologies for implementing waqf, including innovative models and best practices. "Corporate waqf," with 11 occurrences, reflects an interest in integrating waqf principles within corporate structures, exploring how businesses can engage in waqf activities to contribute to social welfare



Other notable themes include the management and utilization of waqf properties, with terms like "waqf land," "waqf properties," and "endowment" indicating research on the physical assets of waqf. Emerging areas of interest, such as "corporate waqf," "crowdfunding," and "Islamic microfinance" Islamic microfinance, demonstrate innovative applications of waqf principles to enhance financial inclusion and community development. The dense interconnections between keywords in the network reflect a multidisciplinary approach to waqf research, addressing the financial, social, legal, and management dimensions simultaneously. This comprehensive examination aims to understand and enhance the role of waqf in contemporary society, highlighting its potential for promoting socioeconomic development and addressing social issues. Overall, the network revealed a diverse and dynamic research landscape focused on leveraging waqf for broader societal benefits.

The co-occurrence network highlights the multidisciplinary nature of waqf research, emphasizing themes such as governance, sustainability, and innovative applications such as crowdfunding and Islamic microfinance, offering Malaysia and Indonesia a roadmap to leverage waqf as a transformative tool for socioeconomic development through integrated Islamic finance practices.



**Figure 21.** Co occurrence and author keyword

Source: Authors' own research

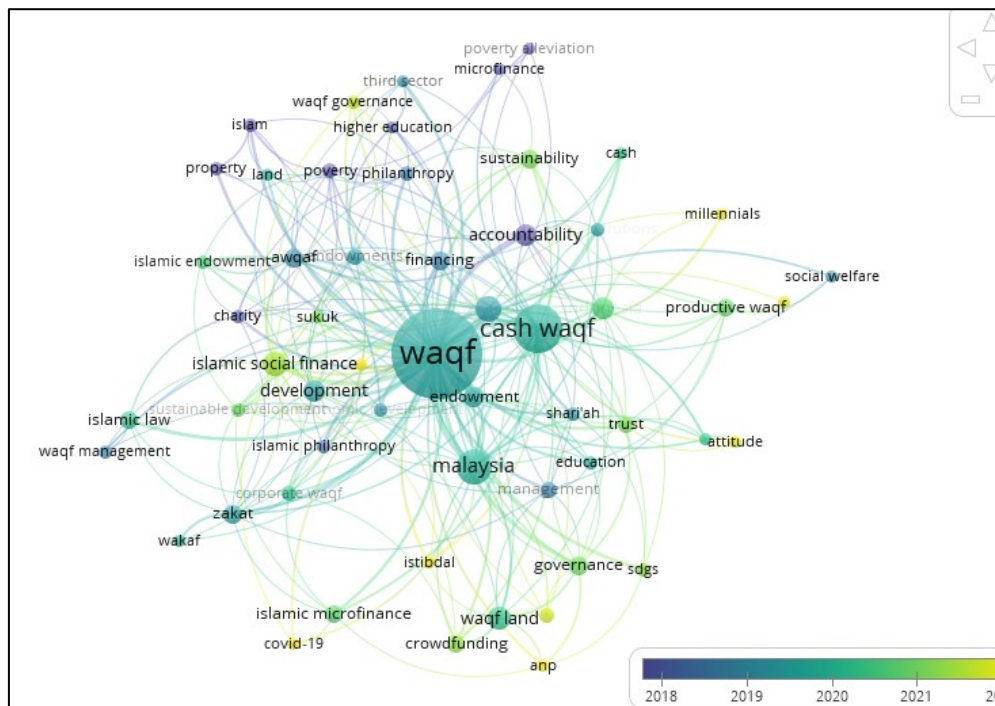
#### *Overlay visualisation*

The overlay visualization in Figure 22 illustrates the co-occurrence of author keywords in waqf research over time, with the color gradient indicating the evolution of research themes from 2018 to 2022. At the core, "waqf" remains the most central and frequently occurring term, reflecting its foundational role in the research landscape. The keyword "cash waqf" also stands out, signifying a strong and consistent focus on this modern endowment form. The terms "accountability," "sustainability," and "poverty alleviation" are prominently connected to both "waqf" and "cash waqf," indicating ongoing research into how these financial tools can be managed for greater transparency and effectiveness in addressing socio-economic issues.

The visualization also highlights the significant role of "Malaysia" in waqf research, linking it to diverse topics such as "governance," "development," and "Islamic social finance." This suggests a comprehensive examination of waqf practices within the Malaysian context and their broader implications. Emerging themes like "corporate waqf," "crowdfunding," and "Islamic microfinance" connected in recent years, showcasing innovative approaches and expanding the traditional scope of waqf. Additionally, the integration of terms related to "sustainable development goals" (SDGs) and "covid-19" reflects the dynamic and responsive nature of waqf research,



adapting to contemporary global challenges and priorities. This interconnected network strengthens the multifaceted and evolving nature of waqf studies, with strong emphasis on leveraging waqf for sustainable and inclusive development.



**Figure 22.** Overlay visualisation

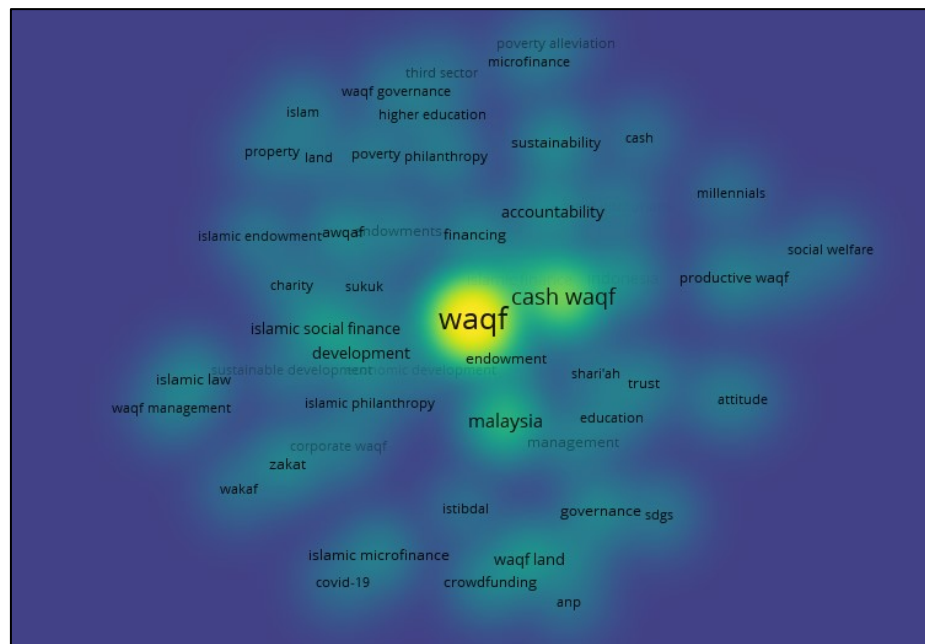
Source: Authors' own research

#### *Density visualization*

Density (Figure 23) shows a visualization map that highlights the concentration and intensity of research topics within the field of waqf by showing the frequency of keyword occurrences and their interconnectedness. At its core, the term "waqf" is the most densely populated area, indicating its central role in the research landscape. Surrounding "waqf," several high-density clusters emerge, signifying key areas of focus and active research. The most prominent cluster is centered around "cash waqf," which is closely linked to terms like "accountability," "sustainability," and "poverty alleviation." This cluster indicates a strong research interest in how cash waqf can be managed effectively to achieve transparency and socioeconomic goals. The presence of "sustainability" and "poverty alleviation" within this cluster reflects the emphasis on leveraging cash waqf for long-term social and economic benefits.

Another significant cluster involves "Malaysia," which is a focal point of waqf research. This cluster was connected to keywords such as "governance," "development," and "Islamic social finance," indicating comprehensive studies on the implementation and impact of waqf practices in Malaysia. The connections within this cluster highlight Malaysia's role as a leading contributor to waqf research and its efforts to integrate waqf into broader socioeconomic development frameworks. Smaller but notable clusters include themes like "Islamic microfinance," "corporate waqf," and "crowdfunding," indicating emerging areas of innovation in waqf applications. These clusters suggest that researchers are exploring new ways to utilize waqf principles to enhance financial inclusion and support community development. Additionally, the terms "Islamic law," "sukuk," and "Islamic endowment" within the network reflect the integration of waqf within the broader Islamic finance system, addressing legal and financial aspects of waqf management.

Density visualization reveals the dynamic and evolving nature of waqf research, with clusters around themes such as cash waqf, governance, and innovative financial mechanisms, offering Malaysia and Indonesia strategic insights to focus on sustainability and socioeconomic development through advanced waqf applications and integrated financial systems.



**Figure 23.** Density visualization  
Source: Authors' own research

## Conclusion

Bibliometric analysis of waqf research from 2010 to 2024 reveals several critical insights into the development, trends, and impact of this field. The steady annual growth rate of 12.61% indicates increasing academic interest in waqf, reflecting its importance in socioeconomic development and poverty alleviation. The diverse range of research topics, including governance, sustainability, and modern financial instruments, highlights the multifaceted nature of waqf studies and their relevance in contemporary Islamic finance.

One notable finding was the significant contribution of Malaysia and Indonesia to waqf research. These countries have not only led to a large number of publications, but also in the development of innovative waqf models and practices. The strong academic infrastructure and institutional support in these countries have facilitated extensive research, making them pivotal players in global waqf discourse. This prominence underscores the role of the local context in shaping waqf practices and research priorities, suggesting that other regions could benefit from tailored approaches that consider their unique socioeconomic conditions and cultural backgrounds.

The analysis also points to growing international collaboration in waqf research, with 16.67% of the documents involving international co-authorship. This trend is indicative of the global relevance of waqf and the shared interest in leveraging its potential for socioeconomic development. International collaboration can enhance the quality and impact of research by bringing diverse perspectives and expertise, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of waqf practices across different contexts.

However, this study also acknowledges several limitations in the current waqf research landscape that merit further exploration. A prominent limitation is the absence of standardized frameworks for waqf management and governance. While innovative models, such as cash waqf and corporate waqf, have gained traction, their effective implementation is frequently impeded by regulatory and operational inconsistencies across different contexts. These inconsistencies highlight a critical gap in the harmonization of governance structures and regulatory policies, which are essential for ensuring transparency, accountability, and efficiency in waqf management. Addressing these challenges requires future research to focus on developing robust and standardized frameworks that can bridge these gaps and support the sustainable growth of waqf as a socio-financial institution.

Future research should focus on addressing disparities in the socio-economic impact of waqf initiatives across regions, which are influenced by differences in legal frameworks, cultural

contexts, and institutional capacities. By fostering a more comprehensive and harmonized approach, future studies can contribute to more equitable and effective waqf practices that maximize their socio-economic benefits.

Additionally, future research should explore the integration of waqf with contemporary challenges, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and modern financial instruments. Innovative models such as waqf-based sukuk, crowdfunding platforms, and other emerging financial tools demonstrate the potential of waqf to adapt to evolving socioeconomic needs. Investigating these models can further reveal how traditional waqf principles can be aligned with global development agendas, addressing critical issues, such as poverty alleviation, sustainable development, and financial inclusion. This research agenda can unlock the transformative potential of waqf as a key instrument in modern social finances.

In summary, this bibliometric analysis provides a comprehensive overview of waqf research from 2010 to 2024, highlighting the key trends, influential contributions, and existing challenges. These findings show the importance of continued research and collaboration to enhance the understanding and practice of waqf. By addressing governance issues, leveraging modern financial instruments, and drawing lessons from successful case studies, future research can contribute to the sustainable and impactful global development of waqf initiatives.

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### Author Contributions

Conceptualization: Hanim Misbah, Fuadah Johari

Data curation: Hanim Misbah

Formal analysis: Hanim Misbah, Fuadah Johari

Investigation: Hanim Misbah, Fuadah Johari

Methodology: Hanim Misbah

Project administration: Hanim Misbah

Supervision: Hanim Misbah

Validation: Hanim Misbah

Visualization: Hanim Misbah

Writing – original draft: Hanim Misbah

Writing – review & editing: Hanim Misbah, Fuadah Johari

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