



# Islamic economics, banking, and finance literature bibliometrics approach: Guideline for journal databases

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## Abstract

**Purpose** – This paper aims to present a comprehensive understanding of performing a bibliometric study that uses a journal as the research data. Moreover, this study also aims to offer guidelines for conducting bibliometric analysis that provides a meaningful discussion about the journal's performance, particularly in Islamic Economics, Banking, and Finance (IEBF) field.

**Methodology** – This study discussed bibliometric as a methodology by adopting a literature review approach on four selected bibliometric articles in the IEBF field that use a journal as their research data. Previous bibliometric studies on IEBF that utilize journals as their research data have a commonality in selecting the journal based on the adequacy and availability of data and the journal's position and impact.

**Findings** – This study highlighted the most used metrics and techniques to present the journal's performance. Importantly, this study suggested that future research must elaborate their findings with the current facts and academic reasons to enrich the discussion.

**Implications** – This study will be benefited the journal editors and scholars in adopting appropriate bibliometric analysis that uses a particular journal as the research data. Consequently, this study will contribute to enhancing the research quality of IEBF.

**Originality** – This study is a pioneer attempt to propose a bibliometric research guideline that utilizes specific journals as the research data.

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## Introduction

In recent years, bibliometric analysis, which originated from library science, has been widely used by researchers in various fields of science, such as nanotechnology (Hugar, 2020), education (Huang et al., 2020), geophysics (Mulet-Forteza et al., 2020), strategic management (Köseoğlu & Parnell, 2020), and entrepreneurship (Deng et al., 2020). Donthu et al. (2021) argued that the intensified research by adopting bibliometric analysis is due to several reasons, namely, the availability of user-friendly software applications enabling researchers to conduct bibliometric studies such as Gephi, Leximancer, and VOS viewer. Second, the importance of bibliometric studies contributes to developing future scientific research topics.

Moreover, bibliometric research methods are increasingly used in studies that seek to uncover research trends in a particular study field (Zakaria et al., 2020). This is because the bibliometric method is appropriate for identifying common research themes, the most prolific authors, and influential articles in a research field (Fahimnia et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2018). Besides, José García-Machado (2018) also underlined that by using the bibliometric method, researchers could gain a deeper understanding of their research field and provide insight into setting research policies. Additionally, Donthu et al. (2021) explained that using bibliometric articles is suggested when the data set is too large for the researcher to review the list of papers manually and the broad research topic.

Adopting bibliometric approaches were also applied in Islamic Economics, Banking, and Finance (IEBF) research. The massive development of IEBF in the last few decades has been shown by statistical measurement of IEBF performance and the increasing total publication related to IEBF literature. Statistically, Islamic Financial Service Board (2019) reported that the Return on Asset (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) of Islamic banks in 2019 reached 1.8% and 16.3%, respectively, which increased compared to the past five years. On the other hand, Ahmid & Ondes (2019) explained that Islamic finance had attracted scholars' attention worldwide, particularly in the United Kingdom after Global Financial Crisis (GFC) in 2008.

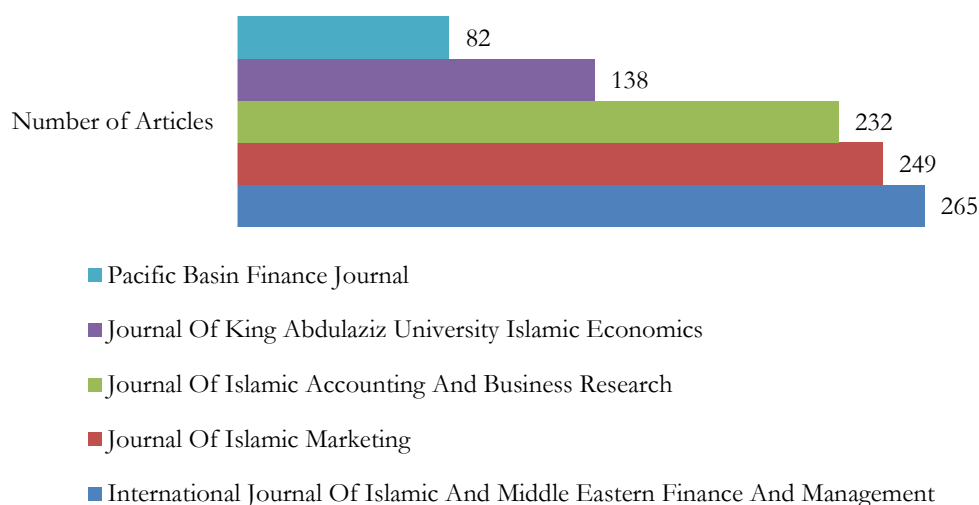
The stability of Islamic finance during the crisis has raised the expectation that Islamic finance would become a practical alternative financial instrument to conventional counterparts. Consequently, the research related to IEBF, particularly in the UK, has massively grown, and the publication itself shows an uptrend line after four to five years of GFC in 2008 (Ahmid & Ondes, 2019). Interestingly, Abdullah Khan et al. (2020) examined the influential articles on Islamic finance research and revealed that the worldwide institution had published Islamic finance studies, authors, and countries without being restricted by religious beliefs, geography, or characteristics of academic institutions. Thus, the significant increase in IEBF studies has called the intention of numerous researchers to adopt the bibliometric approach in analyzing the current status development of IEBF.

An enormous number of researchers has conducted bibliometric research on IEBF, including Ibrahim (2015), Abedifar et al. (2015), Narayan & Phan (2019) on Islamic banking and finance; Biancone et al. (2020) and Alshater et al. (2020) specific on Islamic banking literature; Alshater et al. (2021) in terms of Islamic economics; Tijani et al. (2020) and Abdullah Khan et al. (2020) on Islamic finance studies; M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, Hasan, et al. (2021) in Islamic microfinance literature; Ashraf Khan et al. (2020) on takaful research; Hasan et al. (2015), Amrani et al. (2017), Paltrinieri et al. (2020) and Rahman et al. (2020) examine the research trend on Sukuk; Masih et al. (2018) and M. Kabir Hassan et al. (2018) in terms of Islamic investment and equities literature; Rasul (2019) regarding current status development of halal tourism studies; and Aam Slamet Rusydiana (2021) exploring research development of Islamic finance literature and COVID-19.

The increase of this bibliometric study on IEBF will be benefited both the academician and practitioner. Moreover, A S Rusydiana et al. (2021) argued that the escalation of Islamic finance should be supported by improving Islamic finance theoretically, which will lead to the coherences of practical implementation based on science at the theoretical level. Notably, most of the existing studies mentioned before examined the development of IEBF literature using various journal databases, such as Scopus, Web of Science (WOS), and Dimensions database. However, studies on IEBF that focus on particular journals still need to be completed. Yet, the proliferation of journals that published articles related to IEBF has shown a positive trend. By using search-specific research queries, including "Islam\* bank\*" or "Islam\* stock\*" or "Islam\* Economic\*" or "Islam\* market\*" or "Sukuk" or "zakat" or "waqf" or "Islam\* finance" in the "article title, abstract, and keywords" on September 2021 from the Scopus database, it can be found that articles related to IEBF have published by 160 journals. The top-five journals are listed as presented in figure 1.

The presented data in figure 1 is obtained by limiting the articles based on document type, article only, and source of title, the journal only. Figure 1 portrayed that the International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management (IMEFM) was identified as the leader that has made a massive contribution by publishing 265 articles, followed by the Journal of Islamic Marketing (JIMA) with 249 articles. The third position is the Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research, which produced 232 articles. Of this fact, the massive development of the

journal that focused on publishing IEBF research should be followed by mapping and evaluating the journal's performance using a bibliometric approach.



Source: Scopus Database

**Figure 1.** Source of Title that Published Articles on IEBF

Mokhtari et al. (2021) highlighted the importance of using bibliometrics in journal databases. This study will benefit the journal editorial team to design future policies to improve journal impact. Besides, Baker, Kumar, et al. (2020) underlined that utilizing the bibliometric approach on a specific journal database will enable the editors to evaluate the development and contribution of the journal in a specific study area. The bibliometric study, which utilized journals as the database, has been conducted because a journal is one of the largest sources of transferring knowledge between the researchers and the indicators of research development in any discipline (Abdi et al., 2018). In the same vein, M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021) also stated that an evaluation of the journal would help the editor gain a summary of the previous performance and become a guideline for designing a strategy related to future sub-topic that the journal should address. Moreover, bibliometrics on the journal will also help frequent readers to have a quick overview of the journal's performance and become a guideline for new readers to capture the critical structure of papers published by the journals, which leads to determining the research gap from existing studies and find the robust novelty (M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah, 2021).

Most of the previous bibliometric research that was adopting a particular Journal as their data, providing analyses on the article's trend annual publication, classification of papers by categories, research collaboration patterns, degree of collaboration, most contributed papers, institutions, the geographical distribution of papers, and citation analysis. For instance, specifically in economics and finance journals, Baker et al. (2019) applied bibliometric analysis in Global Finance Journal for thirty years, and Kumar et al. (2020) examined the forty-five years of publications in the International Journal of Social Economics. Specifically, in the Islamic finance research field, several researchers have been assessing the publication trend of Islamic finance journals, including Mubarrok, Sukmana, et al. (2020) demonstrating ten years of development of Al-Iqtishad: Journal of Islamic Economics, Özdemir & Selçuk (2021) evaluating the current development of the Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management, and (M Kabir Hassan, Alshater, Mumu, et al., 2021) analyzing ten years publication on Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research.

As mentioned in the preceding paragraph, a bibliometric study makes several contributions. However, the bibliometric study that assesses the current trend of papers published by specific journals is scarce. This phenomenon is due to the limited data of studies and the need for bibliometric analysis commonly faced by the researcher when adopting data from journal databases. A research guideline for conducting bibliometric analysis has been portrayed by Donthu et al. (2021). This study explained the primary points that should be included in the bibliometric study.

Furthermore, this study also described similar analysis techniques: a meta-analysis and systematic literature reviews. However, to the best of the author's knowledge, there needs to be a current study that demonstrated the rigorous steps in conducting bibliometric analysis that adopted a journal as the study's database. Therefore, the study comprehensively explains how to conduct bibliometric research using specific journals, as the research data is urgently needed.

Based on the fact and research gaps mentioned earlier, this study responds by filling the gaps by providing a guideline to conduct a bibliometric study that adopts journals as the study's database, particularly on IEBF research. This research contributes in two ways. First, this study will benefit the researcher by demonstrating the publication trend of specific journals. Second, this study also becomes an additional reference for the journal's editor to evaluate the journal's publication pattern by using bibliometric analysis. In sum, this paper will be valuable guidelines that will shed light on the existing techniques and procedures in conducting a bibliometric study on journal databases, specifically on IEBF research, enabling Islamic economics and finance scholars to utilize bibliometric analysis based on journal databases meaningfully and appropriately. As a whole, it leads to the massive development of IEBF development theoretically and practically.

## Literature Review

Kannan & Thanuskodi (2019) explained that bibliometrics combines mathematical and statistical methods applicable to various fields of study to analyze written communication in books or other media. In addition, Kumar et al. (2020) state that the bibliometric method is part of information science and libraries that studies bibliographic data. Donohue (1972) explains that bibliometric is a quantitative method to analyze bibliographic data from various sources such as journal articles, books, etc. Paul & Criado (2020) and Xu et al. (2018) explained using the bibliometric method. On the other hand, Shah et al. (2020) and Rahman et al. (2020) revealed that the bibliometric method is a qualitative and quantitative method used to assess bibliographic information from scientific research publications. (Paul & Criado, 2020)(Xu et al., 2018)The researcher could analyze many published studies using statistical tools to reveal the development of literature in a particular study area, including the trends and citations; and joint quotations from specific themes, annual publication trends, the most influential country, authors, journals, and methods. Moreover, the bibliometric approach enables the researcher to discover common research theories and themes from previous studies (Xu et al., 2018).

Furthermore, Ball (2018) states that the bibliometric method quantifies the research impact of a researcher or an institution presented in figures and tables. In line with this statement, Haddow (2018) reported that bibliometrics could also be used to evaluate the research performance of a university, government, and laboratory by assessing the number of article citations produced. In detail, Hamermesh (2018) described that the number of citations could indicate a researcher's contribution to society. Additionally, Ball (2018b) explains that publications with a high number of citations measured that the article has a meaningful impact on the development of literature, while publications with a low number of citations indicate that the article does not contribute significantly to the development of science.

In sum, Paul & Criado (2020) and Xu et al. (2018) describes the nine primary advantages of using bibliometrics from various disciplines, namely: Understanding the core article; analyzing the direction and trend of literature development; identifying the completeness of literature and research gap; portraying the common research themes; revealing the authorship; predicting the future research direction; managing the information flow of the literature; reviewing the distribution of previous literature; and projecting the productivity of authors, journals, institutions, and countries.

## Methodology

This study reviews existing bibliometric articles on IEBF studies that focused on a particular journal. This study adopted the literature review method. Schryen (2015) explained that a literature review is suitable for a study that aims to summarize primary insight and provide implications for

research and practice. Besides, Snyder (2019) stated that the literature review method is appropriate when the study's objective is to offer an overview of specific issues based on previous studies. In short, the literature review method will be suitable for the researcher in providing a new conceptual model that can be used for future research. Hence, the utilization of literature review in this current study aims to design a guideline for future research in conducting bibliometric research that utilizes journal databases as their research data, particularly regarding IEBF literature.

Sukmana (2020) emphasized that the article selection process becomes crucial in conducting a literature review study to ensure the quality of the selected papers and mitigate the researcher bias in reviewing scientific literature (Zupic & Čater, 2015). Thus, this study utilizes the Scopus database, as Baker et al. (2019) suggested, which stressed that Scopus is the primary data source covering many prior studies, especially in the social field. Furthermore, Alshater et al. (2020) also explained that the Scopus database includes more Islamic finance articles than other databases, such as WOS, and generally has better quality than articles appearing in Google Scholar or ProQuest—the selection of articles based on several criteria, which are presented in table 1.

**Table 1.** Process for Screening Papers

Database	Keywords	Papers	Screening	Papers
Scopus	"Bibliometric*" and "Islamic Bank*" or "Islamic Finance" or "Islamic Economic*"	76	Reviewing the article's abstract and methodology to selecting the articles which utilize journal databases as research data	4

**Table 2.** Examples of Existing Articles on IEBF Literature: Journal Database

Author	Journal	Period	Sample	Performance Analysis	Analysis Tools
Mohammad Kabir Hassan, Alshater, Rashid, et al. (2021)	Journal of Islamic Marketing	2010-2020	510 documents	Citation analysis and cross-dimensional keywords analysis.	Rstudio and VOSviewer
Özdemir & Selçuk (2021)	Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management	2008-2019	319 articles	Co-citation; co-authorship; content analysis; and co-occurrence of keywords.	VOSviewer
Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020)	Journal of Islamic Marketing	2010-2020	454 articles	Bibliographic coupling, co-citation, and co-occurrence of keywords.	VOSviewer
Ridhwan et al. (2013)	Journal of Muamalat and Islamic Finance Research	2004-2011	91 articles	Authorship patterns, length of articles, number of articles published, author productivity, contributing institutions, and subject area patterns	Statistical Product & Service Solution (SPSS)

This study applies four research queries, namely, "Bibliometric\*" and "Islamic Bank\*" or "Islamic Finance" or "Islamic Economic\*" within the area "Article Title, Abstract, Keyword" on the Scopus database. The data was curated on September 2021, resulting in 76 papers on IEBF research that adopted bibliometric methods. Moreover, by reviewing the abstracts and methods of 76 articles related to bibliometrics on IEBF, this study excluded 70 articles that utilized various sources of journal databases, including Scopus, WOS, and Dimensions. Hence, this study only included four articles that discussed the current development of IEBF literature from the particular

journal as the research data. Table 1 demonstrates the selection process of the articles. Table 2 lists the selected articles.

Table 2 contains the information regarding selected articles utilized by this research in reviewing bibliometric studies on IEBF that adopted a journal as the research data. Table 2 shows the four articles conducted in the journal that only published articles related to IEBF. Mohammad Kabir Hassan, Alshater, Rashid, et al. (2021) and Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020) used JIMA as their data; this journal focused on marketing, and the articles published on JIMA addressed the needs of Muslims related to product and services and its marketing that following Islamic principles. Moreover, Özdemir & Selçuk (2021) evaluate the performance of IMEFM. This journal published articles discussing Islamic finance, banking, and business management practice. Furthermore, Ridhwan et al. (2013) analyzed the development of the Journal of Muamalat and Islamic Finance Research (JIMFR), which covers articles on Muamalat, Islamic Economics, Finance, and Banking.

## Discussion

### Bibliometric Metrics and Techniques

Bibliometric analysis can be defined into two categories: performance analysis and science mapping analysis (Donthu et al., 2021). Performance analysis shows the quantitative description regarding the current development of a particular study area. In contrast, science mapping analysis reveals qualitative information regarding the relationship between contributors in a particular study area. The following sub-section discusses the performance analysis and science mapping tools adopted by the previous four articles.

### Performance Analysis

Performance analysis aims to provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of the journal's performance, measured by the publication pattern trend, most prolific authors, institutions, and countries (Mohammad Kabir Hassan, Alshater, Rashid, et al., 2021). Besides, M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021) explained that citation analysis would allow the editors and readers to estimate the journal's impact. In addition, Özdemir & Selçuk (2021) also offers the number of papers per issue, trends in authors per paper, and types of papers, and citation analysis which shows the most cited articles, the most productive authors, institutions, and countries in publishing articles, and the applied research methodologies as the journal's general information.

Furthermore, Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020) analyze the number of publications and citations, the most prolific authors, countries, and institutions. In contrast, Ridhwan et al. (2013) present the most comprehensive information regarding quantitative performance, which covers several measurements, including annual publication per year, types of articles published, authorship pattern of articles, the most contributor author, country, and institutions, distribution of articles according to pages, genders of authors and authorship, the number of keywords, and the number of references (see details on (Ridhwan et al., 2013)).

By analyzing the utilized metrics by four bibliometric articles on IEBF, this study ascertains that the most robust measurement to describe the journal's performance is the yearly publication trend and the information related to the most contributors' research constituents. Interestingly, another measurement that can delineate the journal's performance is the SCImago ranking (SJR) and Cite Score comparison between the journals and the other relevant leading journals in IEBF research conducted by Mohammad Kabir Hassan, Alshater, Rashid, et al. (2021). Table 3 presents the most common metrics for performance analysis adopted by existing studies.

Donthu et al. (2021) explain that performance analysis becomes the standard indicator in reviewing the current performance of different research constituents in specific fields. Similarly, M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021) emphasized that the performance analysis will allow the readers to obtain reliable and relevant insight about a particular journal. In sum, performance analysis should inform the basic information that portrays the development of journal performances.

**Table 3.** Metrics for Performance Analysis

Metric	Usage	Example
Publication trend: yearly and per issue	To present the paper's distribution trend published by the journal in a yearly or per-issue measurement.	Yearly: M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021), Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020), and Ridhwan et al. (2013). Per issue: Özdemir & Selçuk (2021) and M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021).
The most relevant research constituents	To reveal the highly productive authors, countries, and institutions contributing to the journal.	M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021), Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020), and Ridhwan et al. (2013).
Paper types	To describe the most preferred types of articles published by the journal, whether a research paper, conceptual, literature review, or case study.	Özdemir & Selçuk (2021), Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020), and Ridhwan et al. (2013).
Trends in authors per paper	To offer the distribution number of collaborated authors in a paper published by the journal.	Özdemir & Selçuk (2021) and Ridhwan et al. (2013).
Ranking analysis	To compare the journal's performance against other relevant journals and identify the leading journal in the IEBF field. Cite Score, SNIP, and SJR score measured this comparison.	M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021), and Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020).
Top cited references	To provide the most cited references by researchers publishing in a particular journal.	M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021).
Top cited articles and authors.	To reveal the most discussed articles and the most influential authors, indicated by the highest total citations in a journal.	Özdemir & Selçuk (2021), M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021), and Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020).
Research object	To identify the country or group of countries utilized as the research object by researchers publishing a journal.	Özdemir & Selçuk (2021).

### Science Mapping Analysis

Science mapping analysis pertains to the interaction and structural connection between the research constituents (Donthu et al., 2021). This and network analysis can portray qualitative information, such as the dominant sub-topic and research collaboration pattern between authors, institutions, and countries in a particular research area (Baker, Pandey et al., 2020). Moreover, science mapping allows the editors and readers to analyze the current phenomena in the structure of science Douhani (2020); in this case, it is the most common sub-topic on IEBF published in specific journals.

Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020) utilized several indicators to describe the science mapping of JIMA, including citation analysis to reveal the most cited document and portray the research cluster based on the topic similarity. Besides, this study also utilized the co-citation of journal analysis, representing two papers from different journals cited in a paper published in the third journal. This information enables the editors to assess the co-citation connection between their journal and others. This analysis also allows the author to identify a similar pattern of the journal's research topic with other journals.

Furthermore, Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020) also applied bibliographic coupling of the institutions and country analysis, which addresses two papers from different institutions/countries cited in a paper published by the journal. Using these metrics, the researchers can discover the common topic discussed by a particular group of institutions/countries. Besides, co-occurrence (co-word) analysis on author keywords was also conducted to reveal the most popular topics published by the journal. This indicator allows the readers, especially the editor, to evaluate the congruency between the published papers with the journal's aim and scope.

By analysing the same Journal, M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021), have adopted specific techniques to present the current development of JIMA, such as co-authorship of author

analysis. This measurement is applied to examine the interaction among scholars in building research partnerships in published articles by JIMA; this has been done by assessing the authors' link strength. In addition, this study also utilized conceptual mapping of the content of the papers by using MCA mapping. This technique allows the researchers to uncover the structural themes of the content published by JIMA. Bibliographic coupling of the documents, keyword co-occurrence by cartography analysis, and hierarchal clustering are also adopted to describe the research topic in JIMA comprehensively.

Özdemir & Selçuk (2021) used citation analysis, including a citation network based on the most cited documents, authors, countries, and institutions. This analysis allows the readers to capture the critical structure of the study's focus development by IMEFM. Furthermore, this study presents the most common and least discussed research on IMEFM articles and adopted co-word analysis on keywords and JEL classification. Table 4 summarizes techniques for science mapping in bibliometrics adopted by a previous study on IEBF research.

**Table 4.** Metrics for Science Mapping

Technique	Usage	Unit of analysis	Data requirements	Example
Citation analysis	To analyze the intellectual dynamics of the journal and group the research constituents based on the topic similarity.	Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documents</li> <li>• Authors</li> <li>• Countries</li> <li>• Institutions</li> </ul>	Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020) and Özdemir & Selçuk (2021).
Co-citation analysis	To identify the leading Journal in IEBF and understand the critical foundational topics discussed by the articles published by the journal.	Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• References</li> </ul>	Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020)
Bibliographic coupling	To analyze the commonality of citing publications from different research constituents and understand the current development of the research topic published by the journal.	Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutions</li> <li>• Countries</li> <li>• References</li> </ul>	Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020) and M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021).
Co-word analysis	Examine the most dominant topics and predict the future topics discussed by the journals based on assessing the paper's content.	Words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Author keywords</li> <li>• JEL codes</li> </ul>	Özdemir & Selçuk (2021) and Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020).
Co-authorship analysis	To identify the research collaboration network between the research constituents and its impact on the journal's development.	Authors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authors</li> </ul>	M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021).

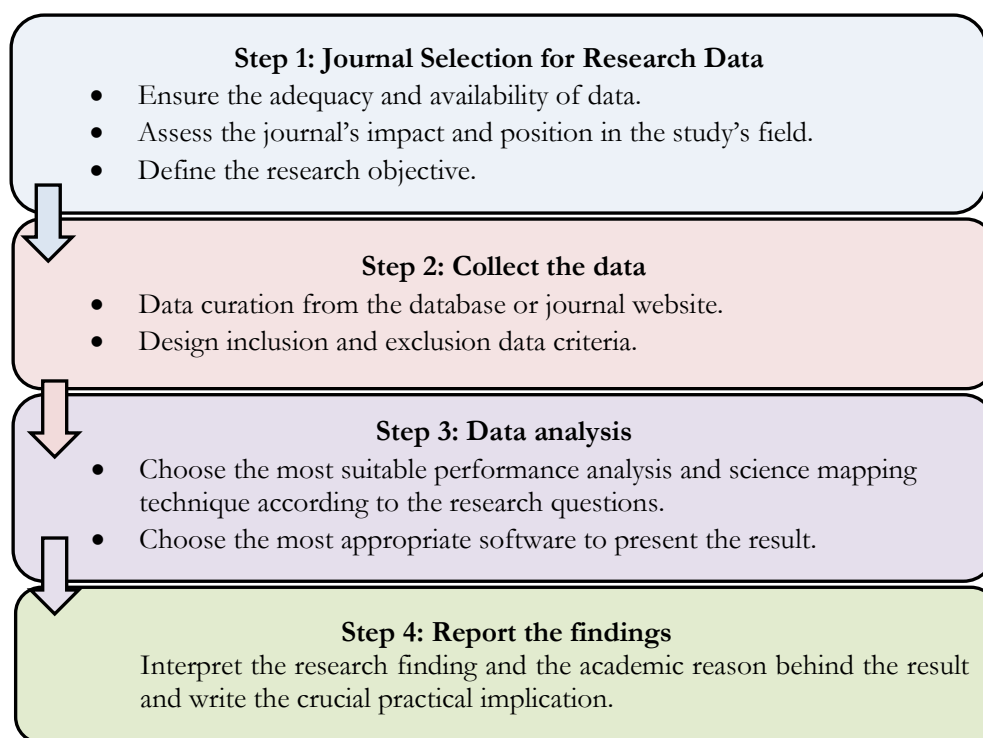
### The Procedure of Conducting Bibliometric Analysis: Journal Database

This section describes the steps for conducting bibliometric analysis and general guidance to produce meaningful and appropriate bibliometric research based on the journal database. Figure 2 illustrates the four bibliometric steps that utilized journals as their research data, and table 5 describes the questions for each step to guide the researcher in performing the bibliometric study.

#### Journal Selection for Research Data

The first step in conducting bibliometric analysis on the journal as the research database is answering the questions "Why the journal needs to be reviewed? Is the journal met the criterion to be selected as research data?". The researchers should ensure the journal's scope and dataset are broad enough to conduct bibliometric because bibliometric analysis should be utilized for large volumes of data (Ramos-Rodríguez & Ruíz-Navarro, 2004).





Source: Author

**Figure 2.** The Bibliometric Analysis Steps: Journal as the Research Data

Previous studies by Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020) and M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021) utilized 510 documents and 454 articles published by JIMA, respectively. At the same time, Özdemir & Selçuk (2021) used 359 articles by IMEFM, and Ridhwan et al. (2013) adopted 91 articles published by JIMFR. By this fact, it can be ascertained that the average data adopted in bibliometric analysis based on a journal database is around 350 documents. Moreover, Rogers et al. (2020) examined the most appropriate total data sample for a bibliometric study. They found that a sample size of fewer than 200 data will lead to less accuracy of research results. Besides, this study also suggests that the qualitative review is more suitable if the sample size is less than 200. In addition, Donthu et al. (2021) stated that a bibliometric study could not be done with low hundreds of data such as 100-300 documents. In sum, these studies also suggested that if the sample size is less than 300, a qualitative review such as a meta-analysis or systematic literature review is more suitable. Thus, the researcher should ensure the journal has at least 300 data of documents to present the impactful bibliometric study.

Moreover, based on prior bibliometric studies on IEBF, there are several considerations in choosing the journal as a research object in performing bibliometric analysis. First, the journal's impact and position in a particular field Özdemir & Selçuk (2021); this research uses IMEFM journal as the research object because of its reputation for being the only Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) indexed journal in the IEBF field. Second, the articles that become the data in bibliometric research are well documented and available online (Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al., 2020). In conclusion, the journal selection should be based on the journal's quality, which can be tracked by the impact on the development of literature and the easiness of curating the data.

Furthermore, in this step, the researchers should define the purpose of the research, for instance, to reveal the latest research on the topic Özdemir & Selçuk (2021); to review journal performance (Mohammad Kabir Hassan, Alshater, Rashid, et al., 2021; Ridhwan et al., 2013); and to evaluate the publication trend and scientific advancement of the Journal (Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al., 2020). Moreover, another study by M Kabir Hassan, Alshater, Mumu, et al. (2021) stated that a bibliometric study aims to identify research trends in journals and the role of journals in journals' theory and practice scientific development.

In addition, M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021) argued bibliometrics is adopted to commemorate the journal's anniversary. Besides, Mubarrok, Sukmana, et al. (2020) explained

that bibliometric is utilized when the researcher aims to analyze and evaluate articles published in journals. Hence, by adopting bibliometric study analysis, the researcher can determine the journal's performance and assess the coherences between the published articles and the journal's research scope.

### Data Collection

After deciding the object and purpose of the research, the second step is retrieving the data. The bibliometric study can be performed using Scopus, Web of Science (WoS), and google scholar (Rahman et al., 2020). A previous study by M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021) and Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020) using the Scopus database; while Ridhwan et al. (2013) adopting the data from the JMIFR website; and Özdemir & Selçuk (2021) utilizing WoS database. The specialized treatment in curating the data from these databases can be different. First, if the researchers use the Scopus/WoS-indexed journal, the data can be obtained by accessing the database. In the Scopus database, in the "Source" menu, the researcher could type the journal's name in the "Title" column. Select the journal name, then select all documents. Export and download data in CSV/RIS format for further analysis (Mubarrok, Ulfi et al., 2020).

Meanwhile, if the researchers utilized data from a journal that Scopus does not index, the researchers can retrieve the data from the journal website. All the documents should be downloaded, and upload the data to Mendeley. Moreover, the researchers should ensure the data information is complete and valid by inspecting the data's title, author, journal name, year, volume, edition, page, abstract, and keywords. Once the data has been reviewed, export the data in the form of RIS for further analysis (Mubarrok, Sukmana, et al., 2020).

Zupic & Čater (2015) and Šumakarīs et al. (2020) explained that the data selection in performing bibliometrics could be based on the document's language, type, and publication period. Moreover, in this step, the researchers should set the exclusion and inclusion criteria to obtain the data which meets the research's objective. The current bibliometric study conducted by Ridhwan et al. (2013) adopted all the documents published by JMIFR from 2004 – 2011. Similarly, M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021) limited their research period to ten years, covering 2010 – 2020 from the JIMA database. Furthermore, Özdemir & Selçuk (2021) used documents published by IMEFM from 2008 – 2019 and excluded the book reviews and editorial documents from their research data. Besides, Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020) covered articles, reviews, and editorial documents from JIMA from 2010 – 2020.

### Data Analysis

The third step is to analyze the data. In this step, the researcher should select the metrics to measure to answer the research objective. The selection of metrics to present the general performance and science mapping result also influences the tools and software used to analyze the data. Prior studies using specific software, including Microsoft Excel, present the general performance analysis, whereas VOSviewer and RStudio can do science mapping analysis. However, another study by Baneyx (2008) suggested that Publish or Perish (PoP) can also be adopted to quantify the journal's general performance. PoP software allows the researcher to identify and analyze the research constituent's performance based on the total citations (Zakaria et al., 2020); thus, it can provide information related to academic productivity (Gagolewski, 2011).

The previous study by Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020) assessed science mapping of JIMA by using citation analysis; moreover, this study also utilizes co-citation analysis, bibliographic coupling, and co-word analysis to reveal the past, present, and predict the future direction of JIMA's development. Besides, Özdemir & Selçuk (2021) employed citation and co-word analysis to offer the present qualitative performance of IMEFM. Furthermore, this study also provides a detailed investigation of the current dominant and minor topics discussed by the papers published by IMEFM. Similarly, Ridhwan et al. (2013) also present the most discussed subject area and the most used keywords on papers published by JMIFR. In addition, M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021) employ bibliographic coupling and co-authorship analysis. Hence, in this step, the researchers should select the metrics analyses and techniques suitable to address the research questions.

## Report the Findings

The last step in carrying out the bibliometric study on journals is running the data and interpreting and reporting the findings. In this step, the researcher is urged to examine the journal's manuscript requirements and follow the writing style of the journal. Prior studies by Ridhwan et al. (2013) mainly reported the general performance analysis of JMIF. In contrast, Mubarrok, Ulfi, et al. (2020), M. Kabir Hassan, Alshater, & Atayah (2021), and Özdemir & Selçuk (2021) focused on the in-depth analysis from science mapping of the journal by providing a brief content analysis on each sub-topic that they discover. Importantly, these studies discuss their finding by elaborating on other relevant researchers' current facts and results. Thus, a bibliometric study on journals should present a significant discussion that engages with the relevant and academic reasons behind the findings.

Furthermore, the researcher should interpret the network analysis and discuss the formed clusters to comprehensively understand the journal's past, current, and future development. For instance, the co-authorship analysis presents the research partnership and collaboration between the authors, countries, and institutions divided into specific clusters that indicate the research constituent's connectedness and similarity. Hence, the researchers should review how the research constituents build the collaboration to propose a valuable recommendation for the editors and readers in accelerating the development of IEBF theoretically and practically.

**Table 5.** Essential Questions to Consider in Each Step of Bibliometrics Study

Step	Question
Step 1: Journal selection for research data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is the journal needed to be reviewed?</li> <li>• Does the journal have broad enough data to perform bibliometrics analysis?</li> <li>• What are the journal's position and impact on the research development?</li> <li>• What is the purpose of the study?</li> </ul>
Step 2: Data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the most comprehensive database to obtain the journal's data?</li> <li>• What are the data selection criteria?</li> <li>• Is the data been reviewed to avoid errors and invalid data?</li> </ul>
Step 3: Data analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What bibliometric metrics and techniques should be applied to answer the research questions?</li> <li>• What is the appropriate software to perform the bibliometric study?</li> </ul>
Step 4: Report the finding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the result well-presented and easy to follow by the readers?</li> <li>• Has the finding been analyzed along with the present fact and strengthened by academic reason?</li> <li>• Does the writing meet the manuscript requirement from the targeted journal?</li> </ul>

## Conclusion

Theoretically and practically, this paper responds to the massive expansion of Islamic economics, banking, and finance. Furthermore, the rapid growth of academic journals that focused on publishing articles related to IEBF calls attention to providing a guideline to evaluate the journal's performance. This paper ascertained that bibliometric analysis is a mixed method that can be useful for editors and readers to obtain comprehensive yet brief pictures related to the journal's performance and current status development. Hence, the editor can determine the most suitable strategy to promote the journal's performance, and the researchers can conduct the most relevant study that fits the journal's characteristics. In detail, this study explained the metrics and techniques that can be utilized in conducting valuable bibliometric studies and presented the procedures that can be helpful guidance in delivering insightful discussions related to the journal's intellectual status. In sum, this study contributes to increasing the quality of research on IEBF and escalates the practical contribution of IEBF to the community.

## Author Contribution

Conceptualization: Indri Supriani

Data curation: Indri Supriani

Formal analysis: Indri Supriani, Ujang Syahrul Mubarok

Investigation: Indri Supriani, Ujang Syahrul Mubarok

Methodology: Indri Supriani, Ujang Syahrul Mubarok

Project administration: Indri Supriani

Supervision: Ujang Syahrul Mubarok

Validation: Indri Supriani, Ujang Syahrul Mubarok

Visualization: Indri Supriani

Writing – original draft: Indri Supriani

Writing – review & editing: Indri Supriani, Ujang Syahrul Mubarok

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