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Global Contributions to Islamic Turāth Book: A Bibliometric Analysis

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ABSTRACT

The Islamic turāth books encompass a broad and rich range of knowledge in various disciplines, contributing significantly to the global intellectual heritage. However, there is a need to understand global trends, contributions, and collaborative networks in Islamic literary research. The study aims to identify global research trends on Islamic turāth books based on the year of publication. The study also seeks to determine the most productive contributors and the number of their publications. The next step is to determine the leading affiliate organisations that publish in this field, and the last is to analyse the co-authorship networks among countries involved in Islamic turāth research. The research used bibliometric methods to analyse data from the Scopus database, covering articles from 2000 to 2023. Data includes the author's name, journal title, citation, keyword, and year of publication. The VOSviewer software is used to create visual maps and perform analysis using VOS clustering and mapping techniques. This study focuses on high-impact journals, as stated by the Clarivate Analytics Effect Factor Journal Citation Reports (JCR). The data set covers 2000–2023, obtained using specific search terms related to the Islamic turāth books in the Scopus database. The study reveals a significant increase in publications from 2011 to 2020, with the highest increase in 2023, reflecting growing interest and international cooperation in Islamic studies. Hachim, S.K., and Kadhim, M.M., were the top contributors with 11 publications, respectively, followed by Rheima, A.M., with eight publications. The highest publishing organisation is al-Turāth University, with 27 publications, followed by al-Mustaqbal University and Islamic University Najaf, each with 21 publications. The United States and Iraq show a broad cooperation network for the co-authorship networks. The United States has 11 links and 19 links with 117 documents, while Iraq has 13 links, 36 links, and 28 documents. Other important contributors include Germany, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, and Saudi Arabia.

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INTRODUCTION

The Islamic *turāth* (legacy) books are an extensive and rich source of information covering various fields, including science, literature, theology, law, philosophy, mysticism, history, ethics, linguistics, geography, arts, architecture, and multiple forms of cultural expression. Muslim intellectuals and scholars have actively contributed to the creation, sharing, and preservation of knowledge since the early days of Islam by penning publications that are now staples in Islamic studies. The international contributions to Islamic *turāth* texts show how different civilisations and cultures have impacted and significantly contributed to this literary treasure trove.

The Islamic world developed into a global centre of scholarship during the Golden Age of Islam, which lasted from the eighth to the fourteenth century, drawing academics worldwide. Cities like Timbuktu, Baghdad, Cairo, and Cordoba became centres of writing and study, acting as hubs for creating, translating, and sharing information. In addition to producing original works, Muslim academics translated classical works into Arabic from Greek, Persian, Indian, and other languages, then combined them with Islamic ideas (Daniel & Makdisi, 1984; Hitti, 2008).

How different Muslim countries have created their intellectual traditions demonstrates how the world has contributed to Islamic *turāth* literature. For instance, there were notable advances in science and philosophy in Andalusia and flourishing mysticism and poetry in the Persian Gulf. Local academics in the Malay world contributed their insights to Islamic literature by penning various works in the *Jāwi* script (Azra, 2022).

Against the backdrop of globalisation, scholars who are not Muslims but are nevertheless interested in Islamic studies contribute to Islamic *turāth* books. Collaborating across cultures and disciplines not only enhances our comprehension of the Islamic intellectual legacy but also fortifies the interdependent global knowledge network (Savage-Smith, 1978)

As a result, the worldwide contributions to Islamic *turāth* literature bear witness to the richness of ideas and cultures that cut across time and space. This legacy is not merely the property of the Muslim community; it is also an essential component of the global intellectual heritage and should be valued and conserved by all.

The research questions in this article are:

1. What are the global research trends on Islamic *turāth* books based on the year of publication?
2. Who are the key contributors, and how many research publications contribute globally to the book of Islamic *turāth*?
3. Which affiliated organisation publishes the most articles on Islamic *turāth* books?
4. What is the extent of co-authorship between countries in the research on Islamic *turāth* books?

METHODOLOGY

According to Van Eck and Waltman (2010), bibliometrics is the compilation, organisation, and analysis of bibliographic data from scientific publications. It includes sophisticated methods like document co-citation analysis and general descriptive data like publishing journals, publication year, and significant author classification (Wu & Wu, 2017). Effective literature reviews, bibliography creation, and dependable results require an iterative process of appropriate keyword selection, literature search, and analysis (Fahimnia et al., 2015). Search term adoption, preliminary search result screening, and search result refinement are covered in the following section. High-quality journals are indicated by their specification of the impact factor of the Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports (JCR) (Meier, 2011). Therefore, the study tried

to limit it to prestigious publications because they could help clarify the theoretical framework pertaining to the development of the field of study.

This study employs bibliometric analysis to examine global research trends related to Islamic *turāth* books. The data were sourced from the Scopus database, selected for its comprehensive coverage of high-quality publications in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Scopus is an ideal platform for such research because of its extensive indexing of peer-reviewed literature and ability to perform detailed bibliometric analysis.

DATA SEARCH STRATEGY

In the fields of humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, searching, analysing, and sharing information can be done through Scopus, an excellent research platform. The Scopus database enhances the efficiency and productivity of the research process. The Scopus database has been selected because it indexes the best publications on educational subjects and provides data for bibliometric research. The authors have examined related studies in the Scopus database. Several preferred terms and the most comprehensive searches were conducted. Internet searches were conducted on the Scopus database website. Three search terms were selected: "book," "Islamic," and "*turāth*." Furthermore, there were language restrictions. These were the final search phrases used. A study using screening procedures involved selecting search terms to obtain articles by typing in the advanced document search the words book AND of AND Islamic AND *turāth* (PUBYEAR > 2000 AND PUBYEAR < 2023). 606 papers were retrieved from the Scopus database for analysis through bibliometric methods. Selection began in 2000 because the previous years had low and flat data. The selection of years ended in 2023 because we wanted to see as many contributions as possible to Islamic *turāth* books within that timeframe.

DATA ANALYSIS

The VOSviewer software version 1.6.15 was used to evaluate the dataset extracted from the Scopus database from 2000 to 2023. The dataset includes author names, journal titles, citations, keywords, and publication years of the research. This application was utilised to create maps and conduct analyses using VOS clustering and mapping techniques. Van Eck and Waltman (2010) proposed VOSviewer as an alternative to the Multidimensional Scaling (MDS) approach. Like MDS, VOSviewer focuses on placing objects in low-dimensional space so that the distance between any two objects accurately reflects their level of relationship and similarity. Once the square distance sizes between all pairs of items are reduced, VOSviewer arranges objects into a map-like structure. According to Appio, LinLog/modularity normalisation has been performed. Applying visualisation techniques using VOSviewer to the dataset and conducting studies such as keyword similarity, citation analysis, and co-citation analysis also leads to pattern discoveries based on mathematical relationships.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. What is the trend of global research studies on Islamic *turāth* books according to the year of publication?

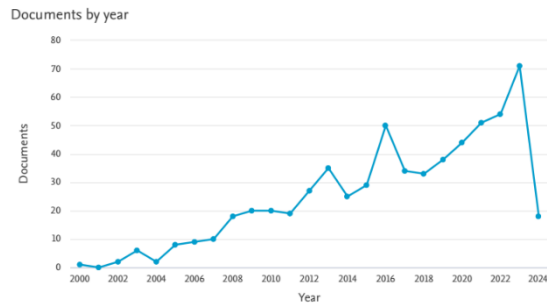


Figure 1: Research trend of global research studies on Islamic *Turāth* books according to the year of publication

Source: Authors

Table 1: Number of publications according to the year

Year	Number of publications
2000 - 2010	96
2011 - 2020	334
2021 - 2024	176

Source: Authors

The figure and table above show the trend of global contributions to Islamic *turāth* books in the form of written studies by year, from 2000 to 2023. Based on the displayed data, we can observe several interesting patterns and trends in the dissemination and publication of studies related to Islamic *turāth* books:

(i) Period 2000-2010

In the first decade (2000–2010), the number of documents published each year was relatively low, starting with almost no publications in 2001 and gradually increasing to about 20 by 2010. This increase indicates a growing interest in studying Islamic *turāth* books, although at a modest level. The total percentage for the first decade is 15.84%, with 96 publications produced.

(ii) Period 2011-2020

From 2011 to 2020, the number of documents published increased significantly. The years 2015 and 2016 showed a notable surge, with the number of documents reaching about 29 to 50. However, there was a slight decline in 2017 before the number of publications consistently increased again afterwards. This stable upward trend reflects the growing awareness and attention to the importance of Islamic *turāth* books among global scholars.

This makes the total percentage for the second decade 55.11%, with 334 publications produced.

(iii) Period 2021-2023

In the last period (2021–2023), we can see an extraordinary surge in 2023, with the number of documents reaching nearly 71. This is the highest peak shown throughout the study period. This sharp increase may be due to factors such as increased access to digital resources, greater interest

in studying Islamic history and heritage and increased international collaboration in this field. Although it has not reached an entire decade (10 years), the percentage for this period is 29.04%, with 176 publications.

2. Who and how many research publications provide a global contribution to Islamic *turāth* books?

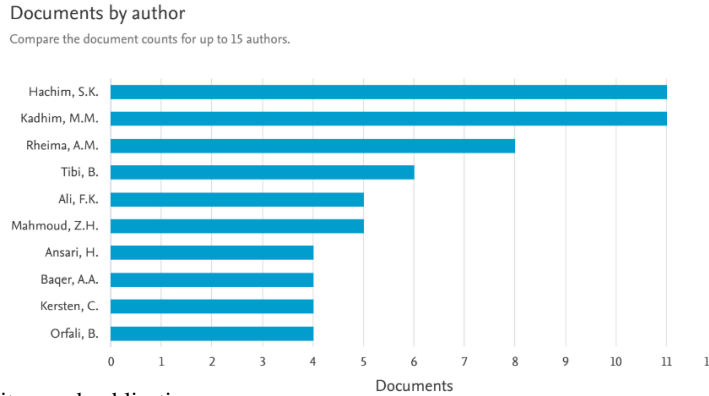


Figure 2: Top writers and publications
Source: Authors

The figure above depicts the number of documents published by various authors and their contributions to the global study of Islamic *turāth* books. Each bar represents the number of publications by a specific author, highlighting the main contributors in this field. As shown, the selected authors and publications are limited to the top 10 authors.

Hachim, S.K., and Kadhim, M.M., are the top contributors, each with 11 publications (17.74%). Rheima, A.M., follows closely with eight publications (12.90%). Tibi, B., has contributed six documents (9.67%). Meanwhile, Ali, F.K., and Mahmoud, Z.H. have five publications (8.06%). Furthermore, Ansari, H., Baqer, A.A., Kersten, C., and Orfali, B. each have four publications (6.45%).

3. Which affiliated organisation publishes the most articles?

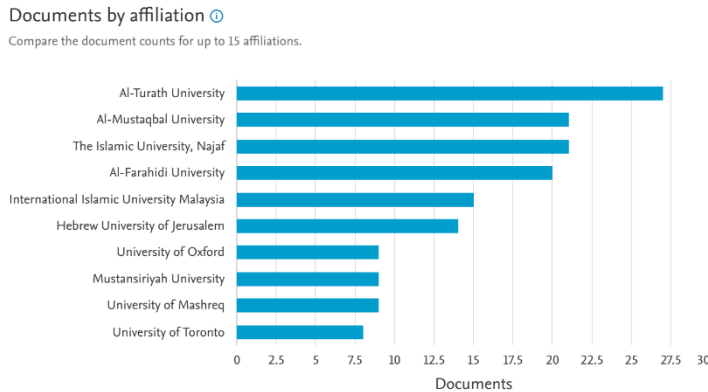


Figure 3: The affiliated organisations that published most articles
Source: Authors

Table 2: List of affiliated organisations that published most articles

Affiliated organisation	Number of articles
al-Turāth University	27
al-Mustaqbal University	21
The Islamic University, Najaf	21
al-Farāhīdī University	20
International Islamic University Malaysia	15
Hebrew University of Jerusalem	14
University of Oxford	9
Mustansiriyah University	9
University of Mashreq	9
University of Toronto	8

Source: Authors

The quantity of documents released by different organisations is displayed in the figure and table above, showing their contributions to the international study of Islamic *turāth* literature. Each bar represents the number of publications by a particular institution, highlighting the top universities in this field. Only the top 10 universities in terms of publication output were included in this analysis. With 27 documents (17.64%), al-Turāth University has the highest number of publications overall. With 21 publications apiece (13.72%), al-Mustaqbal University and the Islamic University of Najaf come in close second and third. Al-Farāhīdī University is also noteworthy, having published 20 articles (13.07%). The International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) contributed 17 documents (11.11%). There are 14 documents (9.15%) that the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has published. Each of the three universities—Oxford, Mustansiriyah, and Mashreq—has nine publications (5.88%). Lastly, the University of Toronto has submitted eight documents (5.22%).

4. What of the country's co-authorship is provided in the book of Islamic *turāth*?

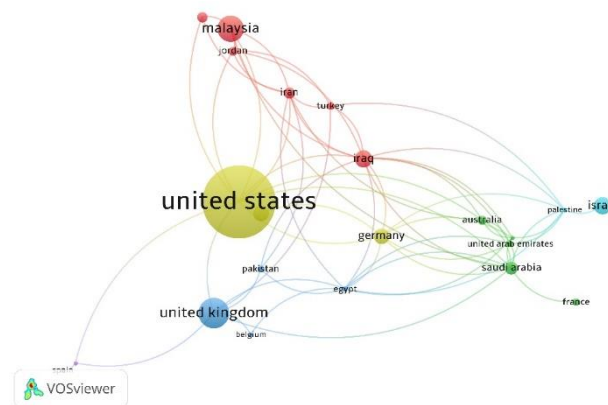


Figure 4: The country's co-authorship is provided in the book of Islamic *Turāth*

Source: Authors

Figure 4 is a visualisation from VOSviewer software, depicting the co-authorship network of countries in the context of Islamic *Turāth* publications. Here is an expanded analysis of the data presented:

Table 3: Co-Authorship Network Analysis in Islamic *Turāth* Publications

Country	Description
United States (Cluster 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Number of Links: 11 (ii) Total Link Strength: 19 (iii) Total Documents: 117 (iv) The United States stands out significantly in this network, indicating many co-authored documents and collaborations with various countries. This high level of engagement highlights the United States' role as a central node in Islamic <i>turāth</i> research, reflecting solid academic connections and contributions to this field.
United Kingdom (Cluster 3):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Number of Links: 7 (ii) Total Link Strength: 9 (iii) Total Documents: 49 (iv) The United Kingdom, represented in Cluster 3, shows significant academic involvement with 49 documents. Its position indicates moderate collaboration, suggesting active but less extensive participation compared to the United States.
Malaysia (Cluster 1):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Number of Links: 6 (ii) Total Link Strength: 11 (iii) Total Documents: 42 (iv) Malaysia is an essential participant in Cluster 1, which includes countries like Iraq. With 42 documents, Malaysia's academic output in Islamic <i>turāth</i> is significant. Link strength 11 suggests active collaboration with other countries, emphasising Malaysia's role in international scholarly networks.
Iraq (Cluster 1):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Number of Links: 13 (ii) Total Link Strength: 36 (iii) Total Documents: 28 (iv) Iraq holds a significant position within Cluster 1, with the highest number of links (13) and strong link strength (36), despite having fewer documents (28) compared to Malaysia. This indicates that, while Iraq may produce fewer publications, its collaborations are highly interconnected, making it a crucial player in this network.
Germany (Cluster 4):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Number of Links: 8 (ii) Total Link Strength: 12 (iii) Total Documents: 25 (iv) Germany, another member of Cluster 4, along with the United States, has a moderate presence with 25 documents. Its link strengths of 12 and 8 links denote a balanced involvement in collaborative research, underscoring its academic contributions to Islamic <i>Turāth</i> studies.
Saudi Arabia (Cluster 2):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Number of Links: 11 (ii) Total Link Strength: 16 (iii) Total Documents: 21 (iv) With 21 documents, Saudi Arabia has 11 links and a link strength of 16, indicating a significant level of international collaboration and active involvement in the global academic community focused on Islamic <i>turāth</i>.

Source: Authors

The analysis of the network of co-authors in Islamic *turāth* publications, as shown in Table 3, recorded the six highest countries in the production of published documents. The countries listed in Table 3 are sorted by the highest index of document publications without focusing on cluster rankings.

As for the position of the cluster, the characteristics of the cooperation that takes place can be discussed from the point of view. One of the features that can be seen in Cluster 1 is the regional cooperation between Malaysia and Iraq. This means that the countries in Cluster 1 have frequent and intense interactions with each other. These collaborations often focus on regional issues or topics of mutual interest in Islamic turāth, leveraging geographical proximity and cultural affiliation to facilitate sharing. The type of contribution that exists between these two countries is that they both contribute to the regional body of Islamic turāth literature, producing publications that reflect the regional historical, religious, and cultural context. Malaysia produced 42 documents, with a link strength of 11. Malaysia actively collaborates with neighbouring countries, emphasising its role in regional academic networks. While the government of Iraq, despite fewer documents (28), shows the highest number of links (13) and the strength of strong links (36), demonstrating deep and multifaceted cooperation in the region.

In addition, Cluster 2 involves Saudi Arabia and surrounding countries such as Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. The true nature of cooperation in Saudi Arabia is international cooperation. Saudi Arabia has a network of academic connections beyond its immediate region. These countries provide contributions that can bridge regional and global perspectives and increase the breadth and impact of their research in Islamic turāth. Saudi Arabia produced 21 documents, 11 links, and 16 links. Saudi Arabia plays a vital role in fostering cooperation between regional countries and contributes to various scholarly works in Islamic turāth.

Cluster 3 is the Specific Collaborative Pattern and Academic Influence, comprising the countries of the United Kingdom (U.K.) and Belgium. The specific collaborative pattern in Cluster 3 involves selective collaboration, focusing on partnerships that yield impactful research. The U.K. collaborates with particular countries to produce in-depth studies and influential works on Islamic turāth. U.K. academic institutions have a good influence in the field, often spearheading projects that set research agendas and standards. The U.K. produced 49 documents, and with nine links, the U.K. showed significant academic involvement. His collaboration, although less in number, is strategically important, emphasising quality over quantity.

The last is Cluster 4, which focuses on Western and Global Contributions, consisting of the United States (U.S.), Germany, Israel, and France. The nature of the cooperation that takes place between these countries is the Coalition of Western Countries with Global Contributions. Cluster 4 features Western countries that are contributors to Islamic tourism research. These countries engage in broad and diverse collaborations, often leading international research initiatives and contributing to global knowledge bodies. Contributions from these countries are often comprehensive, combining advanced research methodologies with extensive resources, resulting in high-impact publications. With 117 documents, 11 links, and 19 link strengths, the U.S. stands out as the central node, reflecting its extensive academic connections and contributions. While Germany received 25 documents, eight links, and 12 link strengths, Germany also played an important role, balancing its involvement in collaborative research of an academic nature.

This collaborative network, as shown in Figure 4, is based on the co-author data collection. This means the researcher has co-authored a particular research article with other researchers from other countries. Additionally, these collaborative networks can be formed due to citation data. The data in these citations are research articles that cite each other with related research articles. Next is the result of the Scopus database, which consists of author names, author combinations, citations, keywords, and others to form bibliographic data through VOSviewer.

This detailed analysis provides a comprehensive understanding of the global landscape of Islamic turāth research, highlighting key contributors and the nature of their collaborations. This data underscores the importance of international academic networks in advancing the study and understanding of Islamic heritage and knowledge.

CONCLUSION

The study of Islamic *turāth*'s books, covering the period from 2000 to 2023, reveals some insights into global research trends, leading contributors, productive organisations, and international cooperation networks. The study highlights a significant increase in publications related to Islamic *turāth*'s books, especially since 2011. This increase indicates an increasing global interest and academic involvement in this field. Data show that 2011 to 2020 witnessed the most significant increase, with 334 publications covering 55.11% of total outputs. This increase shows that the awareness of the Islamic study of *turāth* among scientists worldwide is increasing, although not comparable to other fields that are rising higher. This trend continued to rise well from 2021 to 2023, reaching a peak in 2023 with 71 publications, representing 29,04% of the total, despite a period covering less than a decade.

Essential contributors in this field include Hachim, S.K., and Kadhim, M.M., respectively, with 11 publications, followed by Rheima, A.M., with eight publications. These authors represent the forefront of research in this field, consistently producing critical academic papers. Other vital contributors also included Tibi, B. (6 publications), Ali, F.K., and Mahmoud, Z.H. (5 publications, respectively), and Ansari, H., Baqer, A.A., Kersten, C., and Orfali, B., each with four publications.

Al-Turāth University is the highest-publishing institution, with 27 articles strongly emphasising Islamic *turāth* studies. Other prominent organisations include al-Mustaqbal University and Islamic University Najaf, each with 21 publications, and al-Farāhīdī University, with 20 publications. These institutions also play an essential role in advancing research in this field. The International Islamic University of Malaysia produced 15 publications, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (14), and the University of Oxford (9).

This study identifies a strong network of international cooperation. The U.S. and Iraq showed extensive cooperation, with the U.S. having 11 contacts and 117 documents and Iraq having 13 connections and 28 documents. This collaboration emphasises the global nature of research in the Islamic *turāth* book. Other countries also have good contributions and strong cooperation networks, including the U.K. (7 links, 49 documents), Malaysia (6 links, 42 documents), Germany (8 links, 25 documents), and Saudi Arabia. (11 links, 21 documents). The increasing number of publications indicates increased access to digital resources and increased academic interest in the Islamic heritage of *turāth*. This trend will likely continue, driven by technological advances and increased global interest in cultural and intellectual history. The extensive international cooperation highlighted in the study shows opportunities for further interdisciplinary and cross-cultural research. Strengthening this network can improve the quality and impact of future research in Islamic *turāth*. The leading institutions identified in the study play an important role in promoting research. Through the support and expansion of the capacity of these institutions, we can further increase the academic contribution of the study of the book of *turāth*.

Using bibliometric tools such as VOSviewer to analyse large data sets from databases such as Scopus emphasises the importance of comprehensive data analysis methods in understanding research trends. These tools' continued development and use can provide a deeper insight into various academic fields. In short, a study of *turāth*'s Islamic books from 2000 to 2023 revealed increased academic interest from individuals, institutions, and international cooperation networks. The discovery emphasises the global nature of *turāth*'s Islamic research and its essential role in the broader intellectual heritage.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflicting interests with the funders and agree that they conducted this research without any self-benefits or commercial or financial conflicts.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

The first author collected the necessary data, while the second author designed the research methodology. The third and fourth authors contributed by editing the manuscript according to the provided format, and the fifth author reviewed and corrected the grammar of the writing.

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