MAPPING THE TREND OF ISLAMIC ECONOMIC STUDIES INDEXED IN SINTA WEBSITE: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT - Research on Islamic economics experienced rapid development in recent years along with the development of Islamic economics as a branch of science throughout the world, especially in Muslim countries. This paper aims at mapping and observing the trend of Islamic economic studies listed on SINTA, the official Indonesian indexing website. The sampling data for this study is 114 published papers obtained from the website. The data are analyzed using quantitative descriptive with bibliometric analysis method. This study found that most papers are published by “Al-Iqtishad: Jurnal Ilmu Ekonomi Syariah”, owned by Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University. The qualitative approach is most used by research samples in this study with 74 papers (64.91%), while quantitative is only used by 40 papers (35.08%). It also found that Islamic economic research in Indonesia is dominated by Islamic bank topics with several general bank keywords, such as efficiency, profitability, liquidity, and Non-Performing Finacing (NPF). This study suggested that further researchers conduct more studies on Islamic or Sharia values implemented within Islamic banks since it is the main difference between Islamic and conventional banks. Further studies can also observe broader problems like poverty and how the Islamic economy has overcome this issue.

Keywords: SINTA, bibliometric analysis, Islamic economic research


Kata Kunci: SINTA, analisis bibliometrik, penelitian ekonomi Islam

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INTRODUCTION

Islamic economics has various definitions collected from neoclassical economics (starting from the 20th century). Mannan (1986) said that Islamic economics is a social science that studies the economic problems of a people imbued with the values of Islam. Islamic economics also examines human falah (well-being) achieved by organizing the resources of the earth on the basis of cooperation and participation (Khan, 1994). Meanwhile, Chapra (2001) stated that Islamic economics may be defined as that branch of knowledge that helps realize human well-being through allocating and distributing scarce resources that conform to Islamic teachings without unduly curbing individual freedom or creating continued macroeconomic and ecological imbalances.

The development of Islamic economics as a branch of science and the current economic system has received many positive responses at the global level. This development impacts the increasing number of learning centers and educational programs offered at various campuses to form human resources in the field of Islamic economics and develop ideas and thoughts about Islamic economics through the study and research in this area. Along with the increase in understanding and human resources, financial institutions that operate with Islamic principles began to emerge in the 1970s and continue to proliferate (Suryani, 2012).

Global attention related to Islamic economics has an impact on research in the field, which has experienced rapid development since the middle of the last decade. The rapid growth in this research raises challenges in understanding and determining the direction of Islamic economic research develops, as well as identifying interconnected topics within. The academicians as well as the practitioners need to build clarity by conducting researches in order to confirm Islamic economics in the practical field, then those researches need to be published by selected journals so society may understand its importance.

SINTA (Science and Technology Index) is an indexing website for journals initiated by the Director General of Strengthening Research and Development, Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education of the Republic of Indonesia with the involvement of experts from various institutions. Its goal is to provide Indonesians with access to citations and expertise. Fast, quick, and comprehensive web-based research information system for assessing the performance of Indonesian researchers, institutions, and publications. SINTA
provides benchmarking and analysis, as well as identification of each institution's research strength in order to form collaborative alliances, analyse research trends, and maintain expert directories (www.sinta.ristekbrin.go.id). SINTA provides rank of every indexed journal. The ranks are ranging from SINTA 1 to SINTA 6; the highest rank is SINTA 1 and the lowest rank is SINTA 6. Higher rank means journal has higher reputations in the context of impact, index, and citations.

This paper aims to investigate the map and trend of Islamic economic research that has been published and indexed by SINTA. The importance of finding those patterns is to identify the identity of Islamic economics based on the research articles. Those patterns will be clustered based on author, title, and keywords. In order to achieve the purpose, this paper employs bibliometric analysis to find a general overview of the research field. Earlier researchers have employed bibliometric analysis in their studies (Mondal and Roy, 2018; Marlina et al., 2021; Agustina et al., 2021; Rusydiana, 2021; Aminy et al., 2021). Those researchers use bibliometric analysis to determine the map, trend, and pattern of research in various topics. The remaining of this paper is structured as follows; section 2 discusses Literature Review, section 3 introduces Research Method, section 4 is the Results and Discussion, and the last section provides a conclusion.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Research in Islamic economics has many themes with macro and micro issues. Based on Ahmed (2010), Islamic banking and finance is the subject of academic interest on Islamic economic researches. Zaher and Hassan (2001) also stated that there are high growths in Islamic finance and banking study in Muslim countries and around the world. This growth is influenced by factors including the introduction of broad macroeconomic and structural reforms in financial systems, the liberalization of capital movements, privatization, the global integration of financial markets, and the introduction of innovative and new Islamic products. Biancone et al. (2020) also shows that the literature on Islamic finance focuses on banking, rates, comparisons with traditional banks and portfolios, analysis of governance and control structures.

The addition to previous argument, studies on Islamic banking as one topic in Islamic economics generally focuses on how the performance of Islamic banking institutions in their efforts to compete with conventional banking.
Subaweh (2008) compared the performance of Islamic banks and conventional banks. This study found no significant difference between the performance of the two types of banking institutions. In addition, research related to what factors affect the performance of Islamic banks has also been in the spotlight, like studies conducted by Istan and Fahlevi (2020), Syofyan (2017), and Setyawati et al. (2017).

The conversion process of conventional banks into Islamic banks is an issue that needs to be studied further. Budiman (2021) and Hilman (2018) found that the change in the form of conventional banks to be Islamic banks is one of the efforts to boost and improve the performance of regional Islamic banks in Indonesia. This process was successfully done with an increase in Islamic bank performance as a result (Fahdiansyah, 2021).

Research in the field of Islamic economics also takes the zakah topic as an issue to be observed (Ibrahim, 2011). Dantes (2012) tried to measure how far productive zakah can have an impact on business progress for zakah recipients. The result indicated that productive zakah affects the increase of income, consumption, savings, investment, productivity, and employment. In other research, Kholid (2018) found that zakah impacts accelerating poverty reduction.

Research on zakah is also closely related to the topic of zakah management itself, both in the management institution and its management. This research related to the governance of zakah institutions cannot be separated from the discussion of how well the performance of the zakah management institutions themselves (Lubis et al., 2018). In addition, issues on zakah management and community contributions in managing zakah has also become one of the topics discussed such as in research conducted by Izzuddin, et al (2021) and Aziz, et al (2018). These two studies agreed that localization and involving the community to make zakah management institutions more community-oriented is an opportunity to develop and advance the management of zakah institutions themselves. Discussions about zakah management also cannot be separated from efforts to measure the extent to which zakah management performance. Research conducted by Lubis, et al (2018) and Al-Ayubi, et al (2018) tries to explore and study further the issue of zakah management performance. Furthermore, along with advances in technology in the field of finance (fintech), research in this field began to develop as was done by Hudaefi, et al.
(2020) which shows that zakah management institutions in this era have also begun to adapt to financial technology in an effort to collect zakah funds.

The theme of waqf including its obstacles has also become one of the topics widely discussed by Islamic economics researchers (Ibrahim, 2014). According to Uluyol, et al (2021), waqf played a powerful Islamic social finance instrument throughout Islamic history. It is an instrument that the benefit of waqf is perpetual theoretically and immovable. Waqf provides cost-free services such as mosques, education services, and health services. However, Islamic scholars also advocate movable or productive waqf in order to fulfill human lives development and transformation through various methods, such as utilizing local economic instrument (Ibrahim & Ilyas, 2016), property waqf (Noipom & Hassama, 2017), educational sectors (Ibrahim et al., 2015), including cash waqf (Uluyol, 2021).

Cash waqf is the cash which have underlying asset of the perpetual religious endowments (Uluyol, 2021). Aziz (2017) tried to examine how the role of waqf bodies in developing the prospect of cash waqf, while Abdullah (2017) and Rusydiana and Devi (2017) examined the governance of cash waqf. In other study, Al Arif (2012) found that cash waqf has an important role in poverty alleviation efforts in Indonesia. Furthermore, Hasan (2010) conducted research on cash waqf related to applying cash waqf as a means of religious investment, education, and social services.

**METHODOLOGY**

This study is a descriptive quantitative research with bibliometric analysis. Bibliometric analysis is helpful in most researches for many purposes, including general overview of a research field and the analysis on researchers (Bjork et al., 2014).

The necessity of applying bibliometric analysis in this study is to picture the map and trend of Islamic economics researches. It provides the academic interest in each area of Islamic economics study. According to Pritchard (1969), bibliometrics is the application of mathematical and statistical methods to books and other means of communication. Comparing with the contemporary definition, Mulet-Forteza, et al (2019) stated that bibliometric analysis is the instrument for analyzing the evolution of disciplines based on intellectual, social, and conceptual structures and for identifying the leading trends. Bibliometric mapping is an important research topic in the bibliometric field.
(Borner et al., 2003). Two distinguishable bibliometric aspects are the construction of the bibliometric map and the graphical representation of the map. In the bibliometric literature, the greatest concern is in the construction of the bibliometric map (Rusydan et al., 2021).

Two computer applications are used to help researchers conducting this study, namely Microsoft Excel and VOSviewer. Microsoft Excel is needed to gather and analyse all data from research samples, including research topics and articles’ identities. VOSviewer can map papers and the authors. This application can be used to create maps of authors or journals based on co-citation data or maps of keywords based on co-occurrence data (Van Eck & Waltman, 2010).

This study uses non-probability purposive sampling technique in selecting research samples. This technique is the deliberate choice of a participant due to the qualities the participant possesses. It is a non-random technique that does not require any underlying ideas or a predetermined quantity of participants. The researcher determines what information is required and sets out to discover persons who can and will offer it based on their knowledge or experience. (Etikan et al., 2016).

Papers obtained in this study should use English as the primary language in the articles and got cited at least one time by other articles. The cited articles were used as observed articles because total of citation reflected the impact of cited articles on further researches in the same field, which is Islamic economic research area in this context. In addition, the journals in which the article published are accredited in SINTA indexing website, ranging from SINTA 1 (S1) to SINTA 3 (S3). The journals also need to have the words “ekonomi syariah” or “ekonomi Islam” as part of the title. All articles should also discuss topics or issues related to Islamic economics. Year of publication is ranging from 2014 to 2020. Articles’ identities that should be extracted as the data in this study are articles title, research topics, authors name, research method, number of citations, and name of publishing journals.

According to the criteria above, we selected 114 articles as research samples in this study. The number of articles and journals as the publishers can be seen in Table 1 below.
Table 1. Number of Articles in Various Journals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name of journal</th>
<th>Number of articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Al-Iqtishad: Jurnal Ilmu Ekonomi Syariah</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Equilibrium: Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Falah: Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Economica: Jurnal Ekonomi Islam</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Iqtishoduna: Jurnal Ekonomi Islam</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Maqdis: Jurnal Kajian Ekonomi Islam</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Journals are the publishers of scientific articles resulting from the authors' thoughts and research. Journals in Indonesia are typically initiated by universities and considered scientific media for lecturers, academicians, and researchers to publish their research papers. Most of those journals have been accredited by the SINTA indexing website, a journal indexing program initiated by the Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education of the Republic of Indonesia.

The contribution of journals in this study is shown in Figure 1. The most contributing journal is a journal published by Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, namely Al-Iqtishad: Jurnal Ilmu Ekonomi Syariah. This journal has been accredited by the SINTA indexing website with SINTA 2 (S2) rank. The percentage of its contribution to the study is 78% followed by other journals. Regarding the year of publications, the number of articles produced is highly
fluctuating. The highest number of articles is found in 2016 with 31 articles, while the lowest is 2014 with only 3 articles.

Table 2. Number of Articles Produced Based on Year of Publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Year of publication</th>
<th>Number of articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


We categorized articles into two research methods generally applied by researchers: quantitative and qualitative. The research method used in this study is dominated by qualitative with a contribution percentage of 64.91%, while quantitative only reached 35.08%.

Table 3. Total Articles Based on Research Method Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Research method</th>
<th>Total articles</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Quantitative</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>35.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Qualitative</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>64.91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


We also classified articles based on their research topics. Research topics are essential to be categorized and analyzed as Islamic economic research has vast issues and focus. Indonesia is one of the countries concerning Islamic economic research since most Indonesian people are Muslims, approximately 87.2% (227 million people). Various topics should be studied to cover all parts of Islamic economics so that Muslims are interested in interacting with the Islamic-regulated economic system and its products.

Islamic banking is the most discussed among the observed articles in this study. This research topic has been addressed in 50 articles, followed by Islamic capital market in 11 articles, zakah in 11 articles, Islamic financial institutions in 7 articles, and others. Details can be seen in Figure 2.
The citation is a play of similarity and difference, identity and alterity, an interdiscursive calibration of a citing and a cited event, and it is self-reflexive about it. (Nakassis, 2013). The number of citations from all research articles as the research samples in this study varies among journals. According to Table 4 we found that the most cited articles come from Al-Iqtishad: Jurnal Ilmu Ekonomi Syariah, which Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University publishes with its total of as many as 1,182 citations. Followed by Iqtishoduna: Jurnal Ekonomi Islam in the second position reached 79 citations, Economica: Jurnal Ekonomi Islam with 49 citations, Equilibrium: Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah with 36 citations, Maqdis: Jurnal Kajian Ekonomi Islam with 15 citations, and the last is Falah: Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah with 13 citations.

Table 4. Total Citations of Each Journal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name of journal</th>
<th>Total citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Al-Iqtishad: Jurnal Ilmu Ekonomi Syariah</td>
<td>1,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Iqtishoduna: Jurnal Ekonomi Islam</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Economica: Jurnal Ekonomi Islam</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Equilibrium: Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Maqdis: Jurnal Kajian Ekonomi Islam</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Falah: Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


We ranked articles based on their citations with the purpose of identifying the most cited publications among the observed articles. We found that the most
cited one was written by Irfan Syauqi Beik (2015) entitled “Construction of CIBEST model as a measurement of poverty and welfare indices from Islamic perspective” published by Al-Iqtishad: Jurnal Ilmu Ekonomi Syariah. This article got 68 citations at the time of this study was conducted. It means that Islamic economic researchers are highly interested in using the CIBEST model developed by Irfan Syauqi Beik and Laily Dwi Arsyianti for their current and further studies in the Islamic economic area, particularly to measure poverty and welfare based on Islamic perspective. The five most cited articles can be seen in Table 5 below.

Table 5. The Most Cited Articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Article title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Total citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Construction of CIBEST model as measurement of poverty and welfare indices from Islamic perspective</td>
<td>Irfan Syauqi Beik, Laily Dwi Arsyianti</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ibnu Taimiyah and His Concept of Economy</td>
<td>Muhammad Hifdil Islam</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Effects of service quality, customer trust and customer religious commitment on customers satisfaction and loyalty of Islamic banks in East Java</td>
<td>Rachmad Hidayat, Sabarudin Akhmad, Machmud Machmud</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Financial Ratio and Its Influence to Profitability in Islamic Banks</td>
<td>Erika Amelia</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Islamic bank service quality and its impact on Indonesian customers’ satisfaction and loyalty</td>
<td>Muniaty Aisyah</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Furthermore, we used a word cloud to observe several words that appeared in all research samples. Word cloud is a visualization of words that came up within articles. It aids in determining whether a text is relevant to a specific information requirement. One of its flaws is that it just provides a statistical summary of isolated words, disregarding linguistic knowledge about the words and their relationships. As the result, most systems employ word clouds to summarize text in a static manner, with no or limited interactive features. (Heimerl et al., 2014).

The minimum of appearances for a single word used in this study is 1,000 times. The bigger the font size of the word, the more often the word appeared within articles. The most frequent word used in this study is “Islamic”. This word can
refer to Islamic economics, Islamic banks, Islamic financial institutions, or others related to Islamic economic ecosystem. The other word with the same meaning as the word Islamic is “Sharia”, but it does not appear to be more popular than “Islamic”. This can be seen in word cloud visualization below.

![Word Cloud](image)


**Bibliometric analysis**

We used VOSviewer for bibliometric analysis purposes. We conducted a bibliometric analysis on researchers’ co-authorship in order to find the pattern of collaborations among them. Several authors had connections with other writers. It means that these authors were collaborating with other researchers to produce articles, either becoming the first author or not. This connection can be visualized using VOSviewer computer applications.

We found that several authors like Irfan Syauqi Beik, Farhan Ahmed, Afzal, Bayu Taufiq Possumah, Nurul Huda, Ahmad Rodoni, Euis Amalia, and Sutan Emir Hidayat were collaborating in writing articles. The connections of their names with other authors’ name proved it.
We also observed keywords based on their co-occurrences within articles. The purpose of this observation is to identify the most discussed keywords within the observed articles; thus, we will understand the most discussed topic in Islamic economic research field, particularly in SINTA-indexed research publications. We categorized 38 keywords into 7 clusters. These keywords came up in papers and have relations with other keywords within 1 cluster. Clusters we created using VOSviewer are as follows:

a) Cluster 1: company, customer, customer loyalty, customer satisfaction, effect, service, and service quality
b) Cluster 2: development, growth, halal tourism, Indonesia, intention, Islamic financial institution, and waqf
c) Cluster 3: bank, efficiency, Islamic rural bank, profitability, sharia bank, and spin
d) Cluster 4: a conventional bank, financing, Islamic bank, liquidity risk, and NPF
e) Cluster 5: Jakarta Islamic index, performance, return, risk, and Sukuk
f) Cluster 6: domestic credit, Islamic banking, Malaysia, and Pakistan
g) Cluster 7: poverty, strategy, zakah, and zakah institution

If we analyzed discussion among keywords in each cluster, we could conclude that cluster 1 talked about the company, services, and customers, cluster 2 explained various Islamic economic ecosystems, clusters 3, 4, and 6 discussed...
conventional and Islamic bank and other keyword related to bank topic, cluster 5 talked about Islamic capital market, and cluster 7 explained zakah and its relation with poverty, as well as strategy to reduce poverty through instrument of zakah.

Figure 5. Network visualization of keywords

Several countries were mentioned in the articles, such as: Indonesia, Malaysia, and Pakistan. Based on Figure 5, the word “Indonesia” has many networks and connections with other words, and it has a bigger dot than other words. It means that the word “Indonesia” appeared in almost all research samples. One of the reasons is researches mainly conducted in Indonesia, since most of the authors are Indonesian researchers and academicians.

Malaysia and Pakistan are two countries appeared within publications. This indicates that researchers who have published papers in SINTA-indexed journals are interested in doing research in these two nations in addition to Indonesia, which is the most often mentioned country in the articles.

We found that research on Islamic economics in SINTA-indexed journals is mainly dominated by Islamic and conventional bank topic. Cluster 3, 4, and 6 confirmed this finding. The differences between both banking system and products have been analysed by Islamic economic academicians and researchers (Aminy & Sauqi, 2020). But it is not considered as part of the discussion in the observed papers. Several keywords related to bank are quite general, such as: efficiency, profitability, liquidity, and Non-Performing Financing (NPF). All of these keywords indicated that the authors were more
interested to conduct research on bank financial performance instead of other perspectives, like bank services to their customers.

**CONCLUSION**

This study was conducted in order to benefit researchers in term of identifying the most cited article and the most discussed topic in Islamic economic field and to investigate the map and trend of current Islamic economic research articles, particularly those studies that are published in SINTA-indexed journals.

Islamic economic research in Indonesia is still dominated by Islamic bank topic. Several keywords related to bank financial performance indicators were applied on both banking systems, Islamic and conventional banks. Meaning that researches on Islamic bank are not different from researches on the conventional one.

Islamic economics is not only talking about Islamic bank. Poverty issues could be another main concern by Islamic economic researchers since zakah as Muslim obligation mentioned in the Qur’an (Holy Book of Islam) can be one alternative instrument to reduce and alleviate poverty.

Cash waqf is an Islamic economic instrument developed with a purpose to gain sustainable benefits without reducing the amount of used funds (Meylianingrum et al., 2020). Cash waqf can also be studied to be another solution to overcome poverty issues and empower SMEs without violating Sharia or Islamic law.

From this conclusion we suggested that further researchers explore Islamic or Sharia values implemented within Islamic banks, which is the main difference between Islamic and conventional banking systems. In addition, we also expect further researchers to conduct more studies on wider Islamic economic area since Islamic economics covers all part of economic activities in human lives.

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