

# Exploring Trends And Dimensions In Islamic Leadership Research: A Bibliometric Approach

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#### Abstract

This research aims to explore trends and measure the extent of studies related to Islamic leadership in Indonesia that were published in the Scopus database between 2013 and 2023. The research method used is quantitative, utilizing bibliometric analysis, R-packages software, and the Biblioshiny Web Interface to conduct in-depth data analysis and visualization. The results of this study show that the theme of Islamic leadership in Indonesia continues to attract the interest of academics and researchers. One of the most influential works is Sholikhah's publication in 2019, which has been cited 32 times. Diponegoro University is the institution with the highest number of publications (13), while Indonesia is the most productive country in this study, with a total of 319 citations. This bibliometric analysis is limited to data obtained from Scopus, without considering other national and international databases. This study provides a comprehensive literature review on Islamic leadership in Indonesia, making it accessible as a reference for researchers in this field. Additionally, this study offers recommendations for future research, emphasizing the importance of expanding the databases used and addressing other understudied aspects. Thus, this research not only provides an overview of existing research trends but also contributes to the development of knowledge in the field of Islamic leadership in Indonesia.

Keywords: Islamic Leadership, Bibliometric, Indonesia

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Leadership is a process whereby one steers a group toward goals by holding a shared vision. This means an individual's ability to influence, encourage, direct, and move others so that they accept the leader's views and direction (Abdelwahed et al., 2024; Alghamdi et al., 2022; Egel & Fry, 2017). Leadership is more than just giving orders or instructions. Still, it comprises features for motivating and inspiring and the ability to have influence over individuals or groups in the achievement of goals. In the context of an increasingly complex world development, with changing societal demands and expectations, understanding the role and practice of leadership in Islam holistically becomes essential (Anfa et al., 2023; Damayanti & Sutianingsih, 2023). This includes the leaders' behavior in different aspects of life,

consideration of Sharia principles, religious ethics in decision-making making, and the ability to communicate, consult, and serve the ummah in the spirit of leadership (Sultoni et al., 2017; Wahid et al., 2019).

Leadership in an Islamic context has become a subject of more and more importance and relevance due to the significant influence that Islamic values and principles have at the political, social, and economic levels, not to leave out the religious level as well (Egel & Fry, 2017). Islamic leadership using the framework of Islamic values thus plays a critical role in the direction and setting of the fabric of society (Al Ghifary Slamet et al., 2020). The development of literature on Islamic leadership is becoming crucially vital, particularly within the Indonesian setting, which has cultural and religious diversity (Nurhadi, 2020; Zaim et al., 2024).

Researchers' observations suggest that the study of Islamic leadership has also been addressed by previous researchers in three important categories. First and foremost is the domain of the role of women in the context of Islamic leadership (Alghamdi et al., 2022)Darwisyah et al. Second, related to the influence of Islamic leadership on employee performance (Abdelwahed et al., 2024; Astuti et al., 2020), Finally, consisting of research on the basic concepts of Islamic leadership (Bashori et al., 2020). To be exact, there has not been any literature study focusing on the bibliometric approach concerning Islamic leadership. In this regard, bibliometric studies are emerging as one of the effective ways to identify patterns, trends, and contributions of scientific work within a research domain (Abiba & Putra, 2023; Amanda, 2023).

The sustainability of this research is essential, considering that Indonesia has a population of 237.56 million, where majorities of the population are Muslims, representing a percentage of 86.7% of the total population of the country. In a worldwide context, this number represents around 12.30% of the global Muslim population, roughly estimated at 1.93 billion, with varied social and cultural features. Hence, the main aim of this study is to evaluate the level of development and performance of scientific publications on the role of Islamic Leadership in Indonesia.

This study is also intended to provide an overview of the development of scientific publications throughout the world in general by paying attention to any aspects such as keywords, whether the author is alone or has established cooperation on scientific publications that include keywords 'Islamic.' 'Leadership,' and 'Indonesia.' With the help of the R-Packages and Biblioshiny web interface, the data processed and analyzed through visual techniques will be summarized in the following key points: 1) global publications; 2) publication and citation trends; 3) most productive and relevant authors; 4) most relevant affiliations and their highest number of citations; 5) country scientific production and most cited countries; 6) topic publication trends; and 7) keyword trends. It is hoped that the results of this study can be disseminated and contribute new things to further research on Islamic leadership in Indonesia.

# 2. RERESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study maps the scholarly literature by taking a bibliometric approach. Bibliometric analysis is a traditional research methodology in library and information science; it refers to the statistical and mathematical analysis of scholarly publications. It provides quantitative insights into research trends and patterns, thus enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of libraries. This study uses tools developed through the R programming language, which facilitate the analysis and visualization of data and, in turn, make the processes accessible. The analysis has had the application of the Bibliometrix R-package (Alshater et al., 2022; Kabir Hassan et al., 2018; Singh & Malik, 2022).

The research is basing its findings on the Scopus database, which is extensively known and relied upon by global researchers. The contents indexed by the leading publishers in the database are checked duly (Bello & Haneef, 2022). Scopus is used and is famous for its rigorous content indexing from leading publishers whose content is subjected to an independent review (Rusydiana, 2019). Among the benefits of using Scopus is providing relevant and upto-date information where researchers have access to the most recent data. High search and grouping features in Scopus allow users to conduct comprehensive literature reviews, identify experts, and track research trends. The usefulness of Scopus is implemented through wide use in indexing scholarly articles, being informed about research trends, appraising impacts from research, and acquiring indepth knowledge on aspects of a particular field of study (Amanda, 2023). By using these benefits, the current study has ensured accessing high-quality and relevant information, thereby aiming to produce solid findings that contributing to scholarly literature.

At the beginning of the study, the keywords "Islam \* AND Leadership \* AND Indonesia" were input to get a search in the Scopus database, which produced 202 documents. The search was limited to documents published from 2013 to 2023 that are in the final stages of publication, articles from journals, and those published in the English language. A total of 137 articles from documents were included for review. This research covers documents from business studies, economics, multidisciplinary studies, arts, and social sciences. Figure 1 presents a comprehensive overview of the search terms used in six subsequent steps. Finally, the R-Packages software was also used

with the Biblioshiny Web Interface to assist researchers in analyzing the collected metadata. Employing a robust bibliometric methodology and the vast data available in the Scopus database to be used to its full potential, this research presents valuable insights into the scholarly landscape of Islam, leadership, and Indonesia, thereby contributing meaningfully to the existing body of knowledge.

#### **Figure 1. Flowcart PRISMA**



# 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

# 3.1. Result

#### Main Information

In this research, the author leverages publications released from 2013 to 2023, focusing specifically on one type of document, namely articles. Through a search in the Scopus Database using the keywords 'Islamic,' 'Leadership,' and 'Indonesia,' conducted over approximately a decade, 137 documents were successfully identified. The analysis of these documents reveals several key insights into the development of scholarly publications on Islamic leadership. The annual growth rate of publications in this field stands at 22.59%, indicating a robust and accelerating interest in the topic. On average, there are 2.81 publications per year. These publications have garnered substantial attention, with an average of 4,146 citations per year per document, highlighting the impact and relevance of the research. Furthermore, these articles collectively reference 6,362 sources, illustrating the extensive research foundation supporting this field.

Out of the 137 identified documents, a total of authors have contributed, 405 reflecting collaborative effort in the academic community. Of these documents, 35 are the work of a single author, while the remaining are collaborative works. Notably, 37 documents are written by a single author, indicating a mix of solo and joint research efforts. Additionally, the international collaboration index of authors reaches 15.33%, suggesting a significant level of global cooperation in the study of Islamic leadership in Indonesia. These findings underscore the growing scholarly interest and collaborative nature of research in Islamic leadership, particularly in the context of Indonesia, as documented in the Scopus Database over the past decade.

**Table 1. Main Information** 

#### **Publication Trends and Citation Trends**

Table 2 provides a clear overview of the changing publication trends over the period from 2013 to 2023. Through detailed analysis, it is evident that these trends have shown a consistent increase, reflecting growing academic interest in the subject. Notably, there was a significant surge in publications in 2019, with the total reaching 23. This marked a pivotal year, as it set the stage for the peak observed in 2020. During this peak, scholarly publications related to Islamic leadership reached an all-time high of 25.

Following this peak, 2023 and 2019 each recorded 23 publications, demonstrating sustained interest and research activity in this field. The data indicate that not only has there been a year-on-year increase in publications, but the subject of Islamic leadership has maintained a strong presence in scholarly discourse. Moreover, the average growth rate of publication trends focusing on Islamic leadership has been calculated at 22.59%, underscoring a robust upward trajectory. This growth rate highlights the expanding body of research and the increasing recognition of the importance of Islamic leadership in contemporary studies.

**Table 2. Publication Trends** 

Tahun	Artikel
2013	3
2014	2
2015	0
2016	6
2017	3
2018	9
2019	23
2020	25
2021	22
2022	21
2023	23

Further observations regarding the development of publication trends can be explained in detail through the analysis of Figure 2. The figure clearly demonstrates that there is a consistent annual increase in the number of publications addressing the theme of Islamic leadership.

#### **Figure 2. Publication Trends**



In contrast to the publication pattern, the citation trends from year to year exhibit notable fluctuations. Specifically, in 2014, there was a significant decline recorded, amounting to 0.3. This trend continued with decreases in 2017 and 2023, each showing a decline of 0.57. However, this dynamic shifted in 2019, marked by a substantial increase of 1.37 in citation

trends. This increase in 2019 is particularly noteworthy as it suggests a positive impact resulting from the scholarly works published during that year. To gain deeper insights into these changes, further data analysis can be pursued by examining the detailed information provided in Table 3 and visual representations in Figure 3. These resources will facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the trends in citations and their implications for the field of Islamic leadership research, highlighting pivotal years and areas of notable impact.

Table 3. Citation Trends					
Year	N	MeanTCp erArt	MeanTCpe rYear	Citable Years	
2013	3	9.67	0.88	11	
2014	2	3	0.30	10	
2016	6	10.33	1.29	8	
2017	3	4	0.57	7	
2018	9	7.11	1.19	6	
2019	23	6.83	1.37	5	
2020	25	4.92	1.23	4	
2021	22	2.95	0.98	3	
2022	21	1.76	0.88	2	
2023	23	0.57	0.57	1	





#### The Most Productive and Relevant Authors

Bibliometric analysis was employed to provide detailed information about the most productive authors in the study of Islamic leadership. Figure 4 illustrates the results of a search using specific keywords to identify authors who have made significant contributions to this field. The analysis reveals that there is no single dominant author producing a notably high number of works. Instead, each author typically has 2-3 scholarly publications related to Islamic leadership. In Figure 4, the blue dots represent the number of publications by each author, with the size of the circle indicating the total number of published works. The darker shade of blue within the circle reflects a higher citation level for the author's publications.

For this analysis, the top 20 authors were selected as a sample. Among them, notable contributors include Abdullah M, Ekowati VM, Kustati M, and Supriyanto AS, who have demonstrated productivity in the field of Islamic leadership research. This bibliometric approach offers insights into the distribution of scholarly output among authors and highlights individuals who have made substantial contributions to the literature on Islamic leadership.



**Figure 4. Most Productive Authors** 

In the related study, the author provides a more detailed and nuanced understanding. In Figure 5, it is explained that Abdullah M, Ekowati VM, Kustati M, and Supriyanto AS are the most productive authors, each having three scholarly publications. On the other hand, other authors have two scholarly publications. Research productivity can be measured by the number of scholarly publications produced by each author. In this context, authors with three scholarly publications are considered the most productive, indicating a significant contribution to generating new knowledge or advancing understanding in a specific research domain.





### Most Relevant Affiliation and Highest Citations Based on the analysis results, the most dominant affiliation is Diponegoro University with a

contribution of 13 publications, followed by Airlangga University contributing 11 publications. Meanwhile, the third position in the highest number of publications is held by Muhammadiyah University Yogyakarta with a total of 9 publications. Other affiliations have more limited contributions, ranging from 4-7 publications, as depicted in Figure 6.





In the search results in Figure 7, it is explained that the publication with the most significant impact is the work titled "The Role of Spiritual Leadership in Fostering Discretionary Behaviors: The Mediating Effect of Organization Based Self-Esteem and Workplace Spirituality" by Sholikhah Z, published in 2019, and has been cited 32 times. The article discusses the leader's role in promoting discretionary behavior. The research aims to examine the role of two mediating variables in the relationship between spiritual leadership and organizational citizenship behavior (OCB). The two mediating variables used in this study are organization-based self-esteem (OBSE) and workplace spirituality as intrinsic motivation for followers and self-concept factors. Based on the research results, OBSE partially mediates the relationship between spiritual leadership and OCB, with a positive effect of workplace spirituality on OCB, and teachers with good personalities display extra-role behaviors in the workplace.

#### **Figure 7. Highest Citations**



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# Country Scientific Production and Most Cited Countries

Based on the analysis results, the most productive authors contributing articles on Islamic leadership predominantly originate from Indonesia, comprising a total of 355 authors. Following Indonesia, Malaysia ranks second with 21 authors, and the United Kingdom holds the third position with 7 authors, as illustrated in Table 4 and Figure 8. These findings highlight Indonesia's significant role in scholarly contributions to the field of Islamic leadership, with a substantial number of authors actively engaged in research and publication on this topic.

Table 4.	Country	Scientific	Production
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Region	Freq
Indonesia	355
Malaysia	21
Uk	7
China	6
Australia	5
South Korea	5
Usa	4
Lebanon	3
Netherlands	3
Switzerland	2

Figure 8 provides detailed insights into the citation counts across different countries in the context of research on Islamic leadership. According to the data presented, Indonesia emerges as the most productive country, accumulating the highest number of citations totaling 319. This underscores Indonesia's significant influence and scholarly output in the field of Islamic leadership. Following Indonesia, China ranks second with 37 citations, followed closely by the Netherlands with 32 citations. The United States and Australia also contribute with 27 and 15 citations, respectively. Additionally, several other countries have recorded citation numbers ranging from 3 to 14. These findings highlight Indonesia's substantial citation impact and prominence in the academic discourse surrounding Islamic leadership research. The data from Figure 8 underscore Indonesia's leading role in producing impactful research contributions within this specialized field.



#### **Trending Publication Topics**

The thematic map in this study is crucial for analyzing extensively published topics, aiming to assess their density and centrality. It categorizes themes into four quadrants based on these characteristics. Themes in the upper-right quadrant attract attention due to their high density and centrality, suggesting they are ripe for further exploration and research. Conversely, the upper-left quadrant features themes that are specific and less common, showing high density but lower centrality. Themes in the lower-right quadrant are fundamental despite having low density, indicating their pivotal role in the research landscape. In contrast, themes in the lower-left quadrant depict a declining trend. Therefore, future research should investigate the interrelationships among these themes to advance understanding in the field.

#### **Figure 9. Thematic Map**



Figure 10, depicted as a WordCloud, visually represents the top 50 main themes derived from keywords in research concerning women within the context of Islamic education. Each word's size in the WordCloud corresponds to its frequency of occurrence in publications: larger words indicate more prominent topics in the research. For instance, prominent words such as Indonesia, Leadership, Human, and Islam highlight key trends and focal points within the research. These words underscore the significant themes and areas of emphasis in scholarly investigations related to women in Islamic education.

Figure 10. WordCloud



Based on the topic trends depicted in Figure 11, there has been a noticeable evolution in the focus of research over recent years. In 2021, Islamic leadership and transformational leadership emerged as key topics of investigation. The year 2020 saw significant interest in topics such as Indonesia, leadership, and Islamic education. Conversely, in 2018, the dominant themes revolved around Islam, performance, and motivation. These trends reflect shifting priorities and evolving research interests within the field of Islamic leadership and related studies. The variation across different years highlights dynamic areas of inquiry, influenced by current events, scholarly debates, and emerging theoretical frameworks. These insights from Figure 11 provide valuable context for understanding the trajectory and thematic evolution of research in this domain.





#### **Trend Keywords**

Figure 12 visually presents search trends based on keywords in scholarly literature, highlighting the frequency of usage and indicating the main focus of research related to Islamic leadership in Indonesia. Among the most frequently used keywords, "Indonesia" appears the most, with a frequency of 17 times (14%), followed by "leadership" mentioned 12 times (10%), "human" and "Islam" each appearing 7 times (6%), and "article" appearing 6 times (5%). These keywords underscore the primary themes and areas of emphasis in scholarly literature on Islamic leadership in Indonesia. The frequency of these keywords reflects their significance in shaping research topics and discussions within this field. The data presented in Figure 12 provides a clear illustration of the prominent themes and key areas of focus driving academic inquiry in relation to Islamic leadership in Indonesia.

Figure 12. Tree Maps



#### 3.2. Discussion

Based on the findings of this research, several intriguing aspects emerge. Firstly, there has been a notable increase in research interest in Islamic leadership in Indonesia from 2013 to 2023, reaching its peak in 2020. This upward trend likely signifies a growing recognition of the importance of Islamic leadership in both academic and practical spheres. However, it's essential to recognize that citation patterns do not always mirror publication trends. Despite fluctuations, 2019 saw a significant surge in citations, suggesting impactful scholarly contributions during that period.

Examining the most prolific authors reveals a balanced landscape without a dominant figure, yet individuals like Abdullah M, Ekowati VM, Kustati M, and Supriyanto AS play prominent roles. Understanding their specific contributions can shed light on their influence on Islamic leadership scholarship. University affiliations also play a crucial role, with institutions such as Diponegoro University, Universitas Airlangga, and Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta emerging as major

knowledge hubs. This diversity in institutional contributions enriches the literature on Islamic leadership with varied perspectives.

The significance of citations as a measure of impact is underscored by the popularity of the most cited article, "The Role of Spiritual Leadership in Fostering Discretionary Behaviors" by Sholikhah Z, highlighting the relevance of spiritual dimensions in leadership within the Indonesian context. Indonesia's prominence in Islamic leadership research is evident from its extensive author contributions and substantial citation rates, surpassing contributions from other countries like Malaysia and the United Kingdom.

Thematic analysis through maps and WordClouds provides a comprehensive view of research focus areas, identifying themes with high density and centrality that indicate potential for further development. The evolving trends in research topics over the years reflect the dynamic nature of Islamic leadership literature. In conclusion, this research significantly contributes to understanding the breadth, evolution, and impact of Islamic leadership studies in Indonesia. These insights not only inform future research directions but also offer practical guidance for leadership in various Indonesian contexts and serve as a foundation for policy development in this field.

## 4. CONCLUSION

This study provides an analysis of scholarly publications focusing on Islamic Leadership in Indonesia. The findings underscore the continued allure of this topic for further investigation, supported by a notable increase in annual publications. Notably, the article "The Role of Spiritual Leadership in Fostering Discretionary Behaviors: The Mediating Effect of Organization Based Self-Esteem and Workplace Spirituality" by Sholikhah Z, published in 2019, has garnered significant attention with 32 citations, highlighting its substantial impact. Indonesia emerges prominently as the leading contributor to literature on Islamic Leadership, reflecting the study's specific aim to gauge the extent of discourse within the country. A noteworthy revelation is the keen interest of foreign scholars in researching this theme in Indonesia, suggesting opportunities for future collaborations between local and international researchers from countries such as China, the USA, UK, Netherlands, and Malaysia, where prolific authors have explored related topics.

Despite its contributions, the study acknowledges limitations, particularly regarding the ad hoc selection of keywords affecting data processing. Future research endeavors are encouraged to delve deeper into nuanced relationships, such as those involving gender, humanity, and Islamic principles. Moreover, dissemination of findings in reputable international journals is advocated to enrich the global academic discourse. Overall, this research not only underscores the significance of Islamic Leadership as a compelling research area in Indonesia but also advocates for broader scholarly engagement and collaboration to advance understanding and knowledge dissemination in this field.

# 5. LIMITATION AND FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

- a. The Scopus database was used in this bibliometric investigation. In the future, data extraction from other databases can be explored. Additional keywords can be incorporated into the keyword search to include more relevant articles on this topic in the analysis.
- b. To comprehend the studies in-depth, reading abstracts, manual article selection, and scientific mapping are complementary and essential. Therefore, researchers may decide to conduct a systematic literature review (SLR) and metaanalysis in the future.
- c. Comprehensive content analysis of publications in this field of study can provide more information about relevant ideas and models.
- d. To enhance theory and practice, it is essential to examine how academic researchers and industry professionals have contributed to this discipline.

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