



Islamic Finance in Africa: An Analysis Using Bibliometrix R-Tool

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Islamic finance in Africa is a growing sector, offering financial services that adhere to Islamic principles (Shariah), including the prohibition of interest (riba) and speculative activities (gharar). This industry plays an essential role in addressing the continent's development challenges by providing innovative financial solutions that promote economic inclusiveness and ethical practices. This study quantitatively analyzes the literature on Islamic finance in Africa spanning from 1992 to 2024 using articles indexed in Scopus. It adopts a combination of bibliometric and content analysis approaches. The findings indicate Hasan M. Kabir as the most prominent author, the United Kingdom with the most relevant quantity of authors, and Africa as the prevailing keyword. Addressing the absence of prior bibliometric studies, this inaugural research covers: (1) Islamic finance and African development (2) Islamic banking drives investment in Africa and (3) Islamic finance in East Africa.

Keywords: Islamic Finance; Africa; Economic Growth

OPEN ACCESS

ISSN 2775-4251 (Online)

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Received: 30 October 2024

Accepted: 19 December 2024

Published: 31 December 2024

Citation:

(2024) Islamic Finance in Africa: An Analysis Using Bibliometrix R-Tool.

Journal of Islamic Economic Literature

5. 2.

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INTRODUCTION

Islamic finance is among the most rapidly expanding sectors on a global scale. It is established and governed in accordance with Islamic law, or Shariah, and is fundamentally rooted in Islamic principles, emphasizing the prohibition of *riba* (interest) and the elimination of exploitative practices within the economic framework (Al-Zumai & Al-Wasmi, 2016; Mansoor Khan & Ishaq Bhatti, 2008). The sector is composed of three primary segments: Islamic banking, Islamic asset and fund management, and *Takaful*, also known as Islamic insurance (Dhai, 2015). Islamic finance in Africa originated in the 1970s, with Egypt being the first country to adopt Islamic banking, albeit on a limited scale due to political sensitivities. Over time, the sector has expanded across the continent as more African nations have embraced Islamic financial products (Faye et al., 2013).

The progression of Islamic finance is significantly influenced by social, economic, and political contexts. Numerous studies have highlighted that political factors can either impede the sector's growth, as exemplified by the case of Egypt, or facilitate its development, as demonstrated in countries like Malaysia and Iran (Sa'id, 2020). In the context of Tunisia, findings by (Gazdar et al., 2021) suggest that political orientation does not play a pivotal role in shaping the acceptance of Islamic finance. However, religious beliefs emerge as a key determinant influencing the adoption of Islamic finance, as noted by (Bananuka et al., 2020). Sa'id (2020) notes that the development of Islamic banking, a vital component of Islamic finance in Nigeria, has been largely driven by socio-economic conditions, including the prosperity of the Muslim population and the economy's underachievement. Moreover, (Augustine, 2022) highlights that Islamic Banking and Finance (IBF) is not defined solely as a religious financial framework but rather as an ethical system that caters to both individuals and corporate entities, irrespective of their religious background.

Youssouf & Mostafa (2024) conclude that economic growth in North African countries is more inclusive than in the West African Economic and Monetary Union when comparing the periods before and after the adoption of Islamic finance in these regions. The lack of data on Islamic financial institutions in the studied countries poses a challenge to evaluating their contributions to national economies. Ibrahim et al., (2024) concluded that the Islamic banking sector aligns effectively with the socio-economic context of the

continent by providing inclusive financial solutions. However, obstacles such as insufficient awareness, prevalent misconceptions, and legal restrictions hinder public comprehension of Islamic banking practices.

Despite these challenges, (Mboutchouang Kountchou et al., 2023) highlight that Islamic finance has a positive impact on women's empowerment in Africa, particularly in the areas of political, economic, and social empowerment, although its influence on domestic empowerment appears negligible. Moreover, these effects are more pronounced in middle-income nations compared to low-income ones, with the greatest impact observed in countries where Islamic finance is more prevalent.

In conclusion, Islamic finance, through its social redistribution mechanisms such as *zakat*, *waqf*, and *sadaka*, along with its financing instruments like *Musharaka* and *Mudaraba*, contributes to the achievement of sustainable development goals (Lawal & Imam, 2016).

The main aim of this study is to fill the gap in existing literature by conducting a bibliometric analysis of Islamic finance within the African context. As a result, this research represents the first attempt to undertake a bibliometric review on this topic using R software. This paper explores 3 main topics: (1) Islamic Finance and African Development; (2) Islamic Banking Drives Investment in Africa; and (3) Islamic Finance in East Africa.

RESEARCH METHOD

Data Selection Strategy

The data utilized for this analysis was obtained from the Scopus database, which is highly regarded for its robust dissemination of scientific research in the field of social sciences (Burnham, 2006). Scopus is preferred for its user-friendly data compilation features (Herrera-Franco et al., 2020). Scopus was chosen over Google Scholar and Web of Science due to its higher standards for article quality and relevance. Google Scholar includes numerous unaudited and lower-quality articles that lack scientific rigor, while Web of Science, despite having content similar to Scopus, also encompasses a significant amount of unrelated material on Islamic finance in Africa. Table 1 presents a comparative overview of Islamic finance in Africa based on data from the Scopus database.

Google Scholar returned approximately 879,000 results, while Scopus identified 83 articles specifically focused on Islamic finance in Africa. The

Web of Science displayed 259 results on the topic, of which 235 were categorized as articles. However, many of the articles from the Web of Science were either partially aligned or entirely irrelevant to the query, although a significant portion of these results overlapped with the articles listed in Scopus (Erol et al., 2014; Falagas et al., 2008; Patel et al., 2022; Pranckuté, 2021). A keyword analysis was performed to identify relevant articles within the Scopus database. Out of the 83 retrieved documents, one erratum was excluded, leaving 82 articles for the bibliometric review. These selected studies encompassed a 32-year timeframe, ranging from 1992 to 2024. Studies using bibliometric analysis in research on other Islamic finance topics for example can be seen in Khalifah et al., (2024), Mi'raj & Ulev (2024), Napitupulu, et al., (2024); Yenice et al., (2022), Rusydiana (2021), Ozdemir & Selçuk (2021), and also Rusydiana et al., (2023).

Analytical Tools

Two software tools were employed to address the research questions: RStudio and Microsoft Excel. The R software, particularly with its "drc" package, is utilized for statistical analysis of dose-response curves. It facilitates non-linear regression modeling, simplifies curve fitting, evaluates biological effectiveness, and provides graphical outputs. These features make R an

accessible and efficient tool for both academic and practical applications in various research fields (Calenge, 2006; Knezevic et al., 2007). Microsoft Excel was ultimately utilized to organize the data systematically and perform essential modifications to text, figures, and tables.

Analysis types

The analysis was divided into three segments: general performance, citation analysis, network and content evaluation. The general performance segment provides an overview of the growth of literature over time, highlighting key authors, countries, sources, words and affiliations. We also conducted a citation analysis, and identified authors, publications, and journals with the greatest number of citations. Finally, we carried out network and content analyses, along with clustering based on bibliographic coupling, co-citation, and co-occurrence techniques and Factorial analysis. In addition, Content analysis offers the advantage of employing systematic textual evaluation to investigate concepts, themes, and relationships within documents, thereby enhancing validity, promoting deeper insights, and ensuring reliable results (Kolbe & Burnett, 1991; Krippendorff, 2004). The figure below shows an overview of this study.

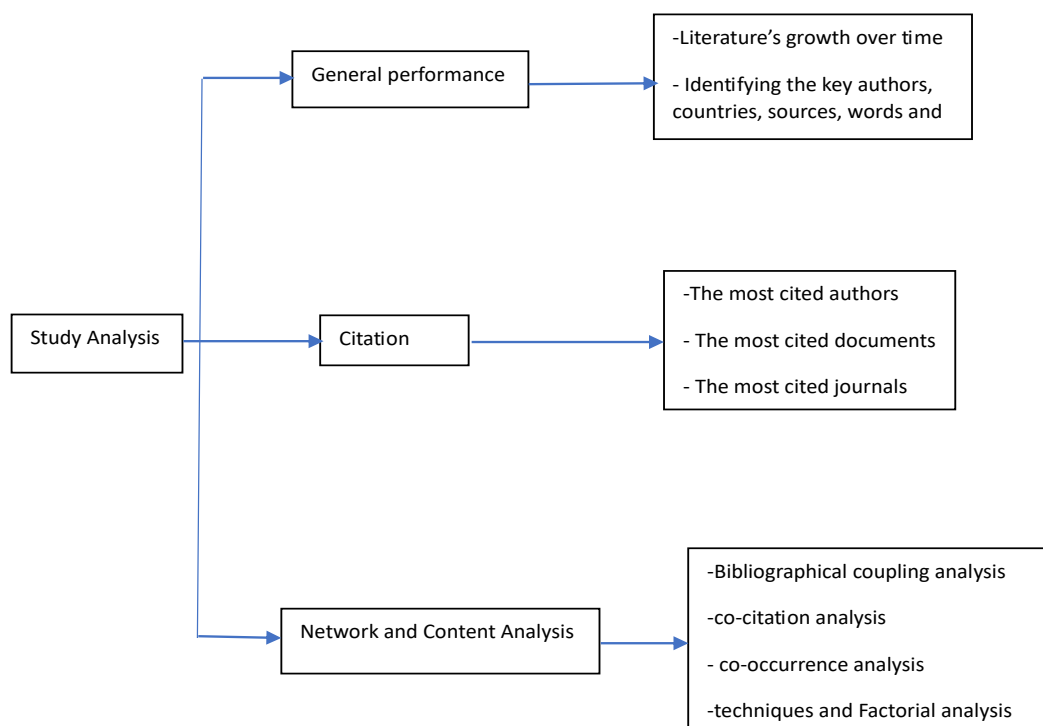


Figure 1. Study analysis

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1. Data Description

Description	Results
MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT DATA	
Timespan	1979:2024
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	66
Documents	84
Annual Growth Rate %	4,06
Document Average Age	8,49
Average citations per doc	7,869
References	0
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	151
Author's Keywords (DE)	239
AUTHORS	
Authors	157
Authors of single-authored docs	31
AUTHORS COLLABORATION	
Single-authored docs	36
Co-Authors per Doc	2,11
International co-authorships %	23,81
DOCUMENT TYPES	
article	49
book	7
book chapter	21
conference paper	3
review	4

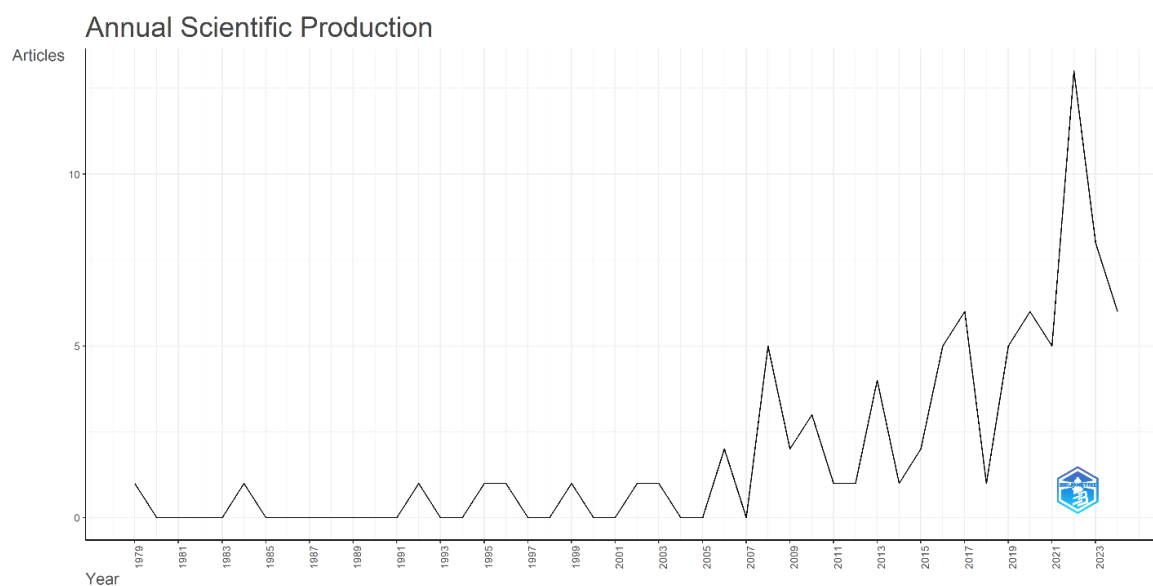


Figure 2. Annual scientific production

This study discusses the development of journals that become articles in research on the theme of Islamic finance in Africa. The graph above shows the development of the annual occurrence of each journal from 1979 to 2023. Where the graph illustrates that

research with the theme of Islamic finance in Africa tends to increase in its publication. The figure 2 also shows a year that experienced significant development such as 2022 and experienced a decline in the year after that.

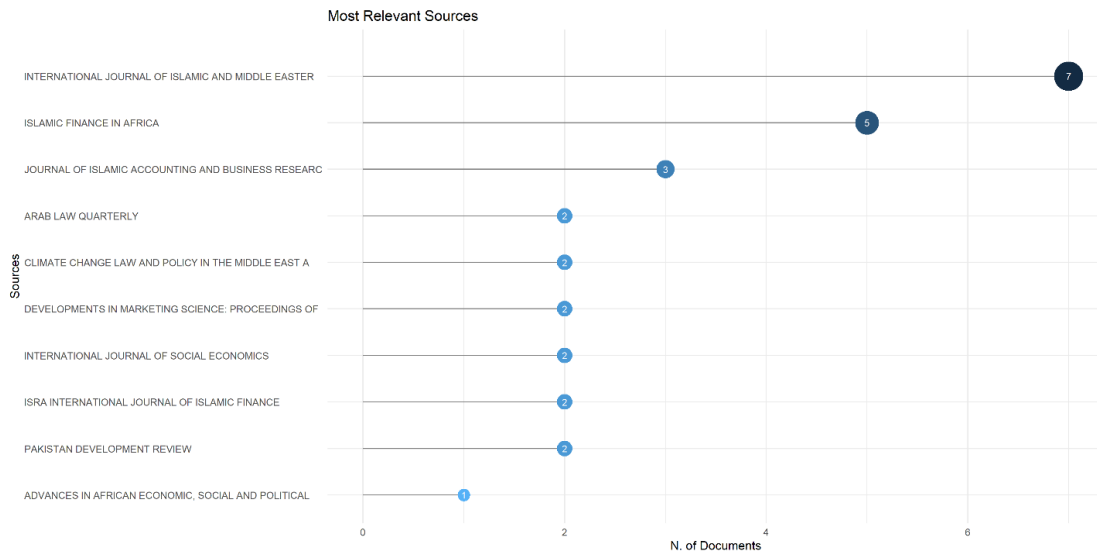


Figure 3. Most relevant sources

The figure above shows the number of research documents published by each journal based on their relevance to the theme of Islamic finance in Africa. The data shows a list of the top journals that publish and the interval of the number of documents published in blue circles. The darker the blue color and the larger the number indicates the more quantity and relevance to the research theme, the number of documents published by all journals ranges from 0 to 7 documents.

number of publication documents more than 7 documents shown in the form of a dark blue circle compared to other journal circles. This is because the journal is relevant to the theme discussed. As for journals that are in the bottom position with the number of publications of 1, there is 1 journal marked in bright blue. This means that the quantity and relevance to the theme of Islamic finance in Africa is still lacking. In addition, overall there are 10 journals listed in the most relevant sources data.

International Journal of Islamic and Middle Easter is a journal that is in the top position with the

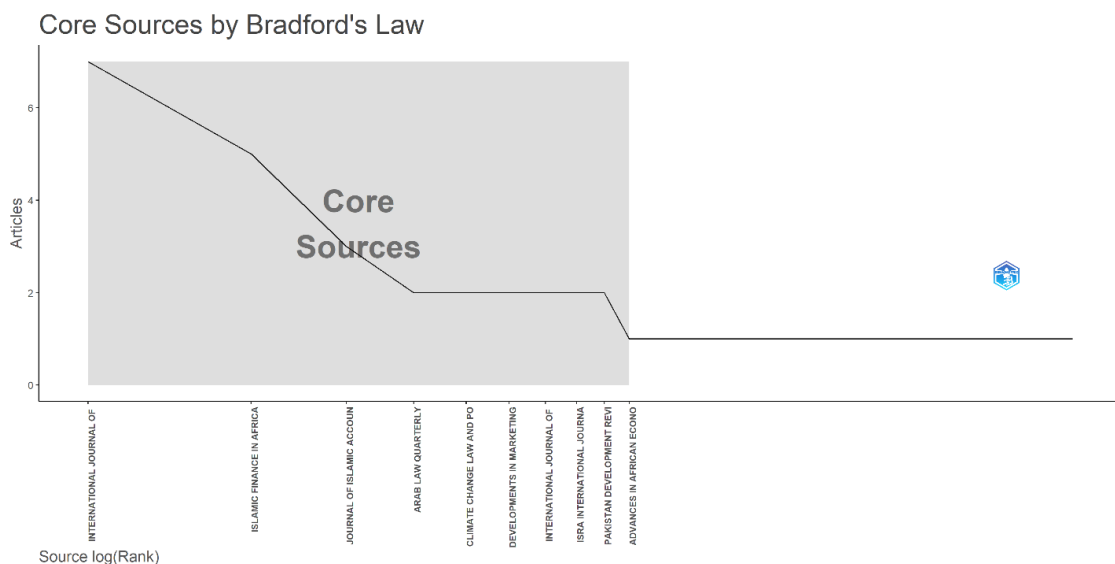


Figure 4. Bradford's law

The figure above is a classification of journals based on Bradford's law, which is a classification of journals based on their level of productivity, which is divided into several parts, including core journal groups, medium journal groups and broad journal groups. The core journal group is shown by the shaded part and labeled core sources. Journals that fall into this category are journals with the highest level of productivity in the theme of Islamic finance in Africa during the specified time period.

Based on this figure, the top journal with the highest publication quantity of more than 10 research documents is the International Journal of Islamic and Middle Easter. Furthermore, in the second position there is Islamic Finance in Africa with a total of 5 publications and followed by other journals that are included in the core journal category with the theme of Islamic finance Africa.

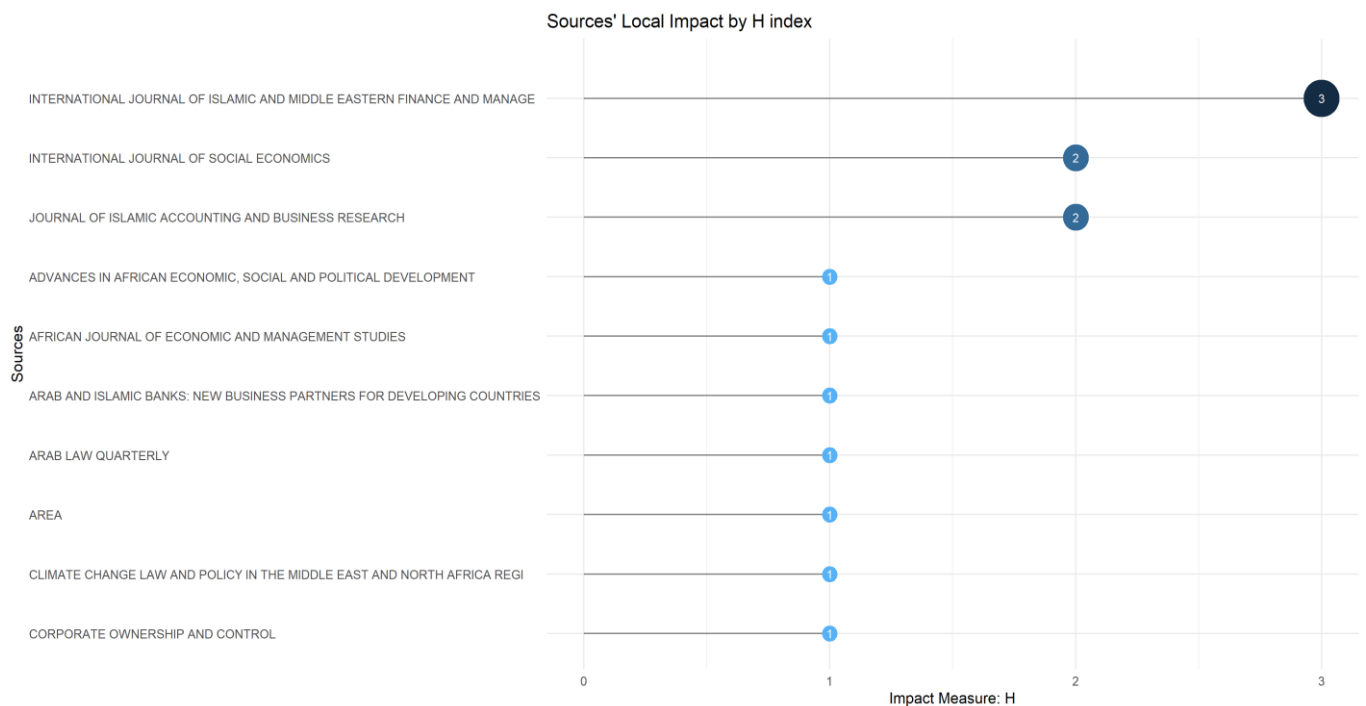


Figure 5. Sources' local impact

The calculation of journals is not only done based on the quantity produced or their relevance. However, this research is also carried out based on the impact of each journal that publishes papers on the theme of Islamic finance in Africa by calculating the journal's h-Index which is depicted in the form of a blue-colored circle. In addition to showing the h-Index value obtained in the size of the circle above, it also illustrates the impact generated by the journal through the blue color displayed. The darker the blue color on the diagram, the greater the impact of the journal or the sources.

The data above shows that the International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern occupies the top position with an h-Index of 3 marked in dark blue.

IMEFM is the only title aiming to give an interdisciplinary and holistic view on Islamic finance and business management practices in order to inform these two intertwined communities. The title is also keen to consider work from emerging authors. It is the only Impact Factor (IF) journal on Islamic finance. IMEFM publishes quality and in-depth analysis on current issues within Islamic and Middle Eastern finance and management.

While in the second position with h-Index 2 there are 2 journals. As for the bottom journal with h-Index 1, there are 7 journals marked in bright blue on the diagram, which indicates the low impact generated by the journal.

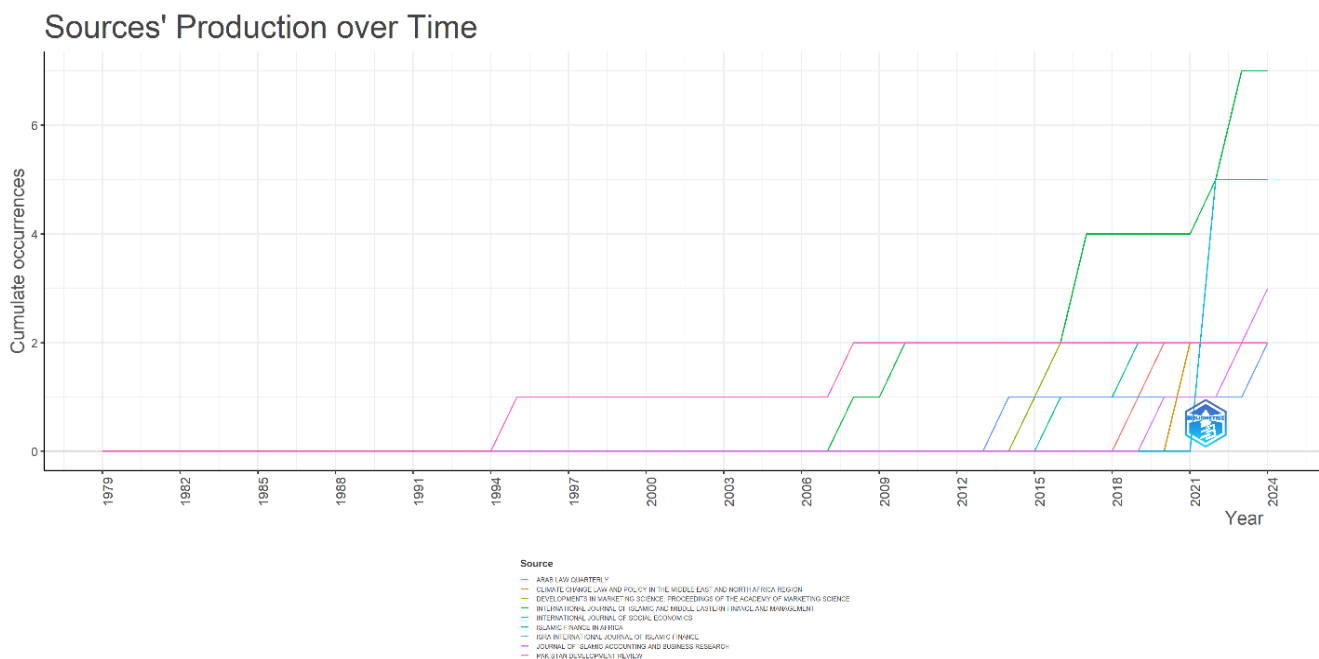


Figure 6. Sources' production over time

This study also discusses the development of journals that are the source of research on the theme of Islamic finance Africa. The curve above shows the development of the annual occurrence of each journal from 1979 to 2024 where the curve illustrates that research with the theme of Islamic finance in Africa

tends to increase in its publication. The curve above also shows that each journal experienced development in different years and each source experienced a significant increase. Not only that, sources that first made publications such as Pakistan Development Review since 1994.

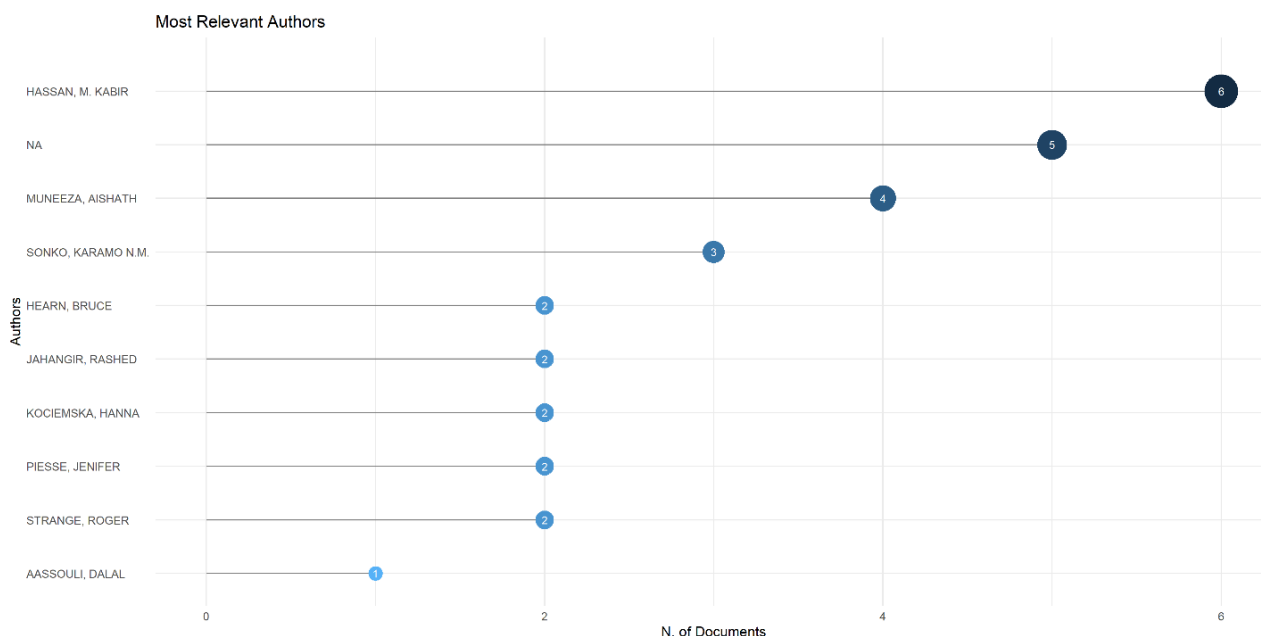


Figure 7. Most relevant authors

The figure above shows the number of research authors published by each journal based on their relevance to the theme of Islamic finance Africa. The data shows a list of the top authors who published and the number of documents published in blue circles. The

darker the blue color and the larger the number indicates the more quantity and relevance to the research theme, the number of documents published by each author ranges from 0 to 6 documents.

Hassan, M. Kabir is the author who is in the top position with the number of publication documents more than 6 documents shown in the form of a dark blue circle compared to other author circles. This is because the author is relevant to the theme discussed. As for the authors who are in the lowest position with the

number of publication documents 1 there is 1 author marked in bright blue. This means that the quantity and relevance to the theme of Islamic finance in Africa is still lacking. In addition, overall there are 10 authors listed in the most relevant authors data.

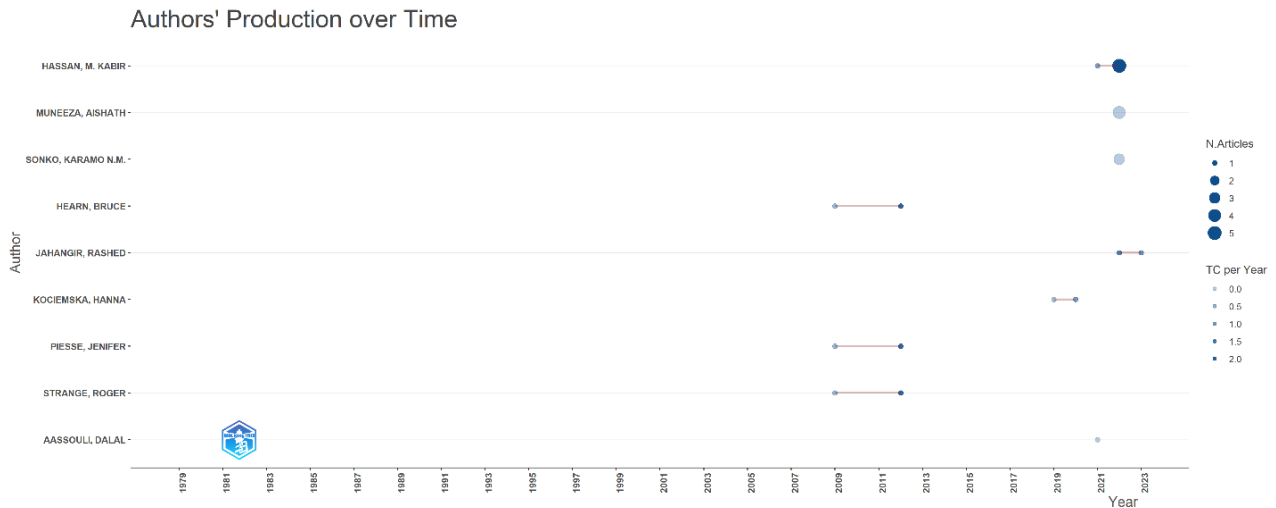


Figure 8. Authors' production over time

In addition, productivity can not only be measured on journals, but on authors in particular. The figure above shows the productivity of several authors during the study period from 1979 to 2023. The productivity is shown by the number of circles on the red line from the beginning of the author publishing his research until the last year the author is recorded publishing his research. In addition, the size of the circle in the red line shows the quantity of papers published according to the applicable year.

The figure above presents an overview of authors who have written research related to Islamic finance in Africa for a long time or have not written for a long time. There are 3 authors who have published research related to Islamic finance in Africa since 2009. In addition, the author who has the most published journals is occupied by Hassan, M. Kabir marked by a larger circle than the others.

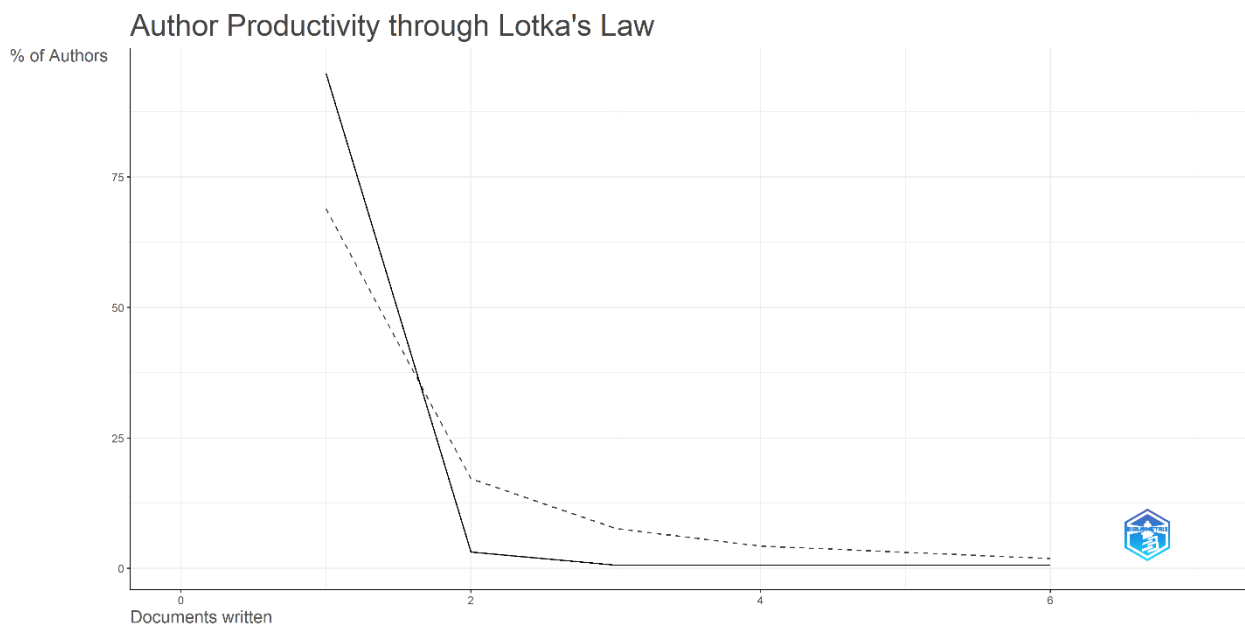


Figure 9. Lotka's law

The figure above is a classification of writers based on Lotka's Law, which is a classification of writers based on their level of productivity.

Based on the curve, the results are inversely proportional, indicating that the more journals

published, the lower the percentage of authors and the highest publication quantity is more than 1 with a high percentage. Furthermore, the highest percentage is more than 75%.

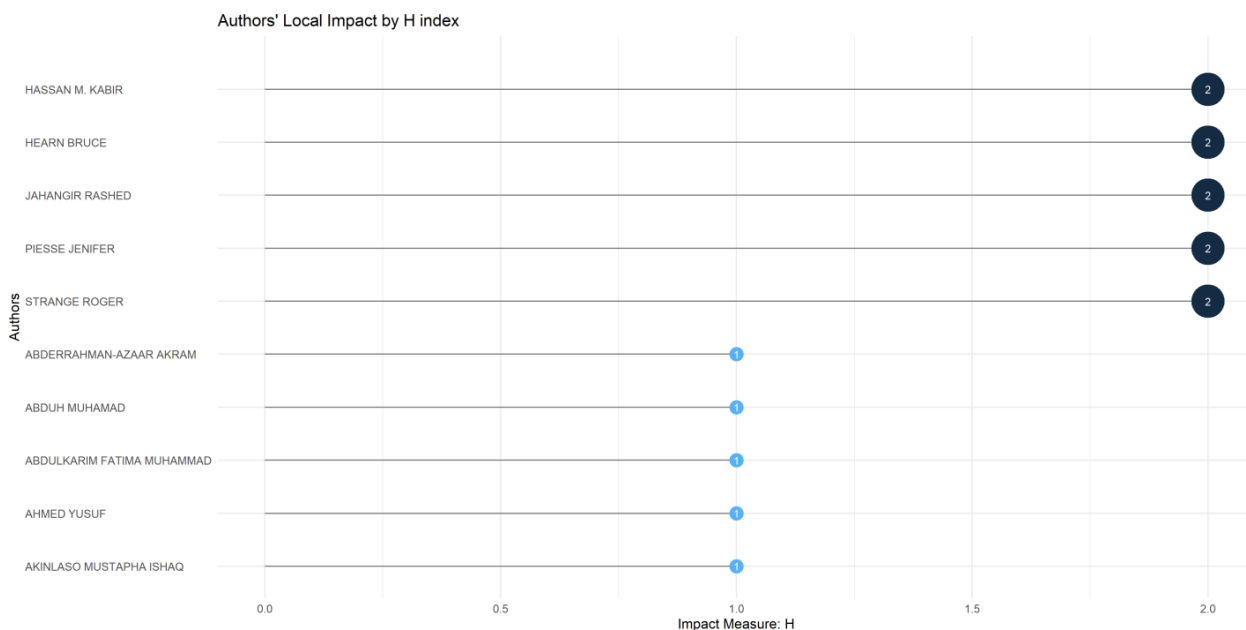


Figure 10. Authors' local impact

Authors who have published their papers can also be sorted based on the impact generated based on the h-Index. The value of the author's h-Index ranges from 0 to 2. The amount of impact produced by the author is marked with a dark blue color in the circle above. Where from the picture above shows that the

author with the highest h-Index obtained an h-index of 2 as many as 5 marked with a dark blue circle color that illustrates maximum impact. While the lowest author obtained an h-Index of 1 as many as 5 authors marked with a light blue circle color that describes a lower impact.

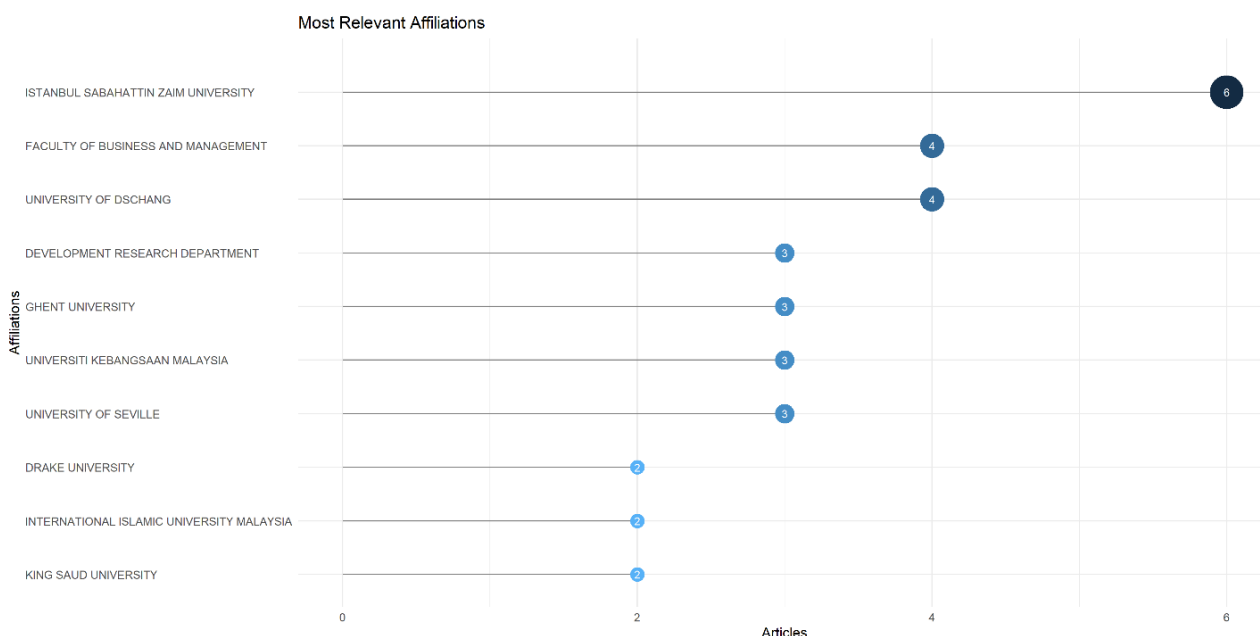


Figure 11. Most relevant affiliations

Then, the figure above shows the number of research affiliations published by each university based on their level of relevance to the theme of Islamic finance Africa. The data shows a list of the top universities that publish, and the number of documents published in blue circles. The darker the blue color and the larger the number indicates the more quantity and relevance to the research theme, the number of documents published by each university ranges from 0 to 6 documents.

Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University is a university that is in the top position with the number of

published documents, more than 6 documents shown in the dark blue circle shape compared to other university circles. This is because the journals published by these universities are relevant to the themes discussed. As for universities that are in the bottom position with the number of publications 2, there are 3 universities marked in bright blue. This means that the quantity and relevance to the theme of Islamic finance in Africa is still lacking. Overall, there are 10 universities listed in the most relevant affiliations data.

Affiliations' Production over Time

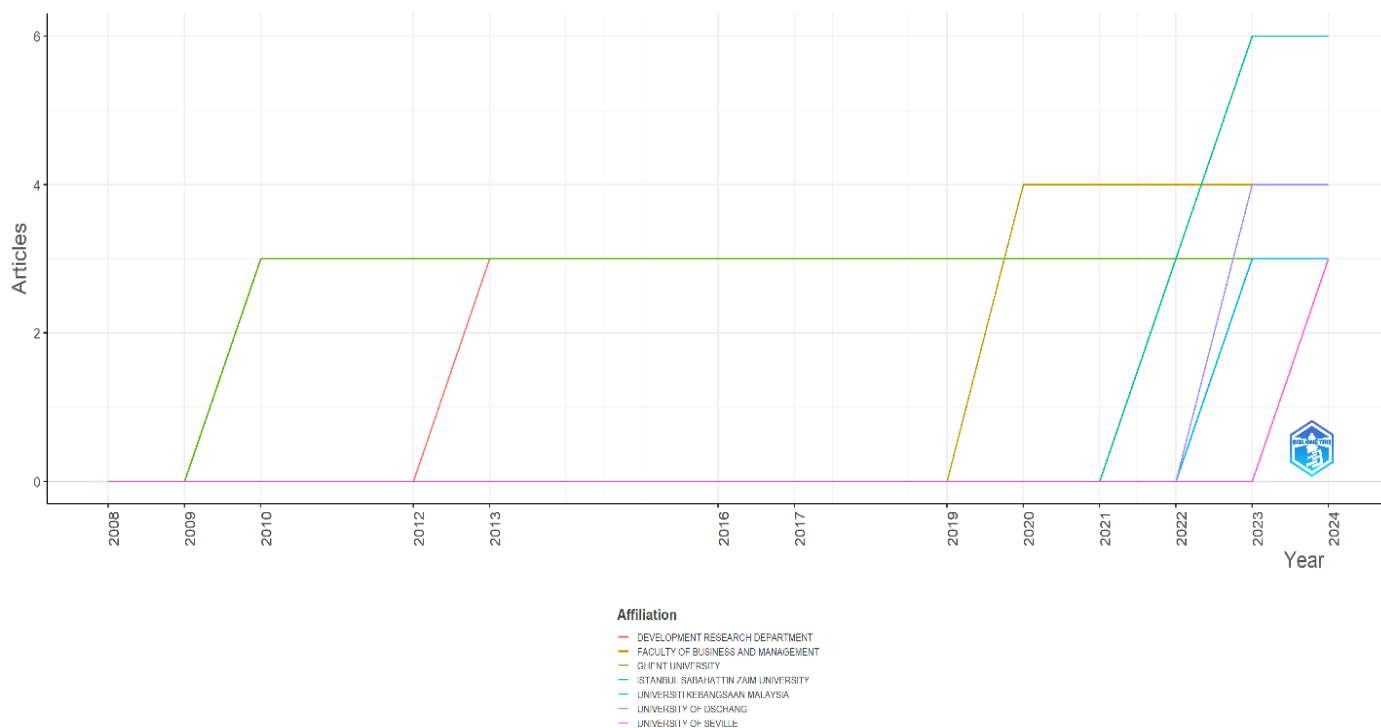


Figure 12. Affiliations' production over time

Not only that, this study also discusses the development of universities in publishing journals with research on the theme of Islamic finance Africa. The curve above shows the development of the annual occurrence of each journal from 2008 to 2024. Where the curve illustrates that research with the theme of Islamic finance in Africa tends to increase in its

publication. The curve above also shows that the productivity of each university has developed in different years. Universities that have first developed journals with the theme of Islamic finance in Africa such as Ghent University in 2009 and which show the most significant development compared to other papers such as Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University.

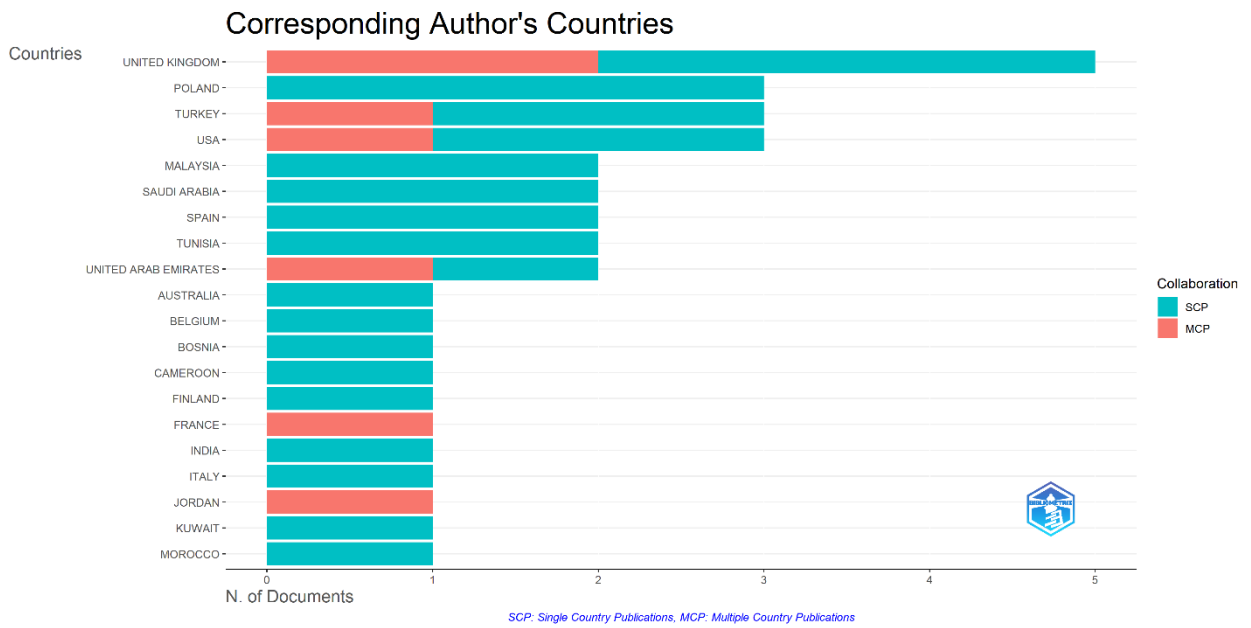


Figure 13: Most relevant countries

The figure above shows the most relevant author countries contained in each article by calculating the form of collaboration entirely SCP (single country collaboration) or collaboration between one country and MCP (multiple country collaboration) or collaboration between several countries. There are 20 countries included in this data and the document quantity interval is between 0 to more than 5 published paper documents on the theme of Islamic finance Africa.

The results obtained are that the United Kingdom ranks first as the country with the most relevant quantity of authors with more than 5 published papers. Furthermore, the second rank with the number of published papers of more than 3 papers there are 3 countries namely Poland, Türkiye, and USA. Then followed by other countries that ranked at the bottom as many as 11 with the number of papers published in 1 paper.

Country Scientific Production

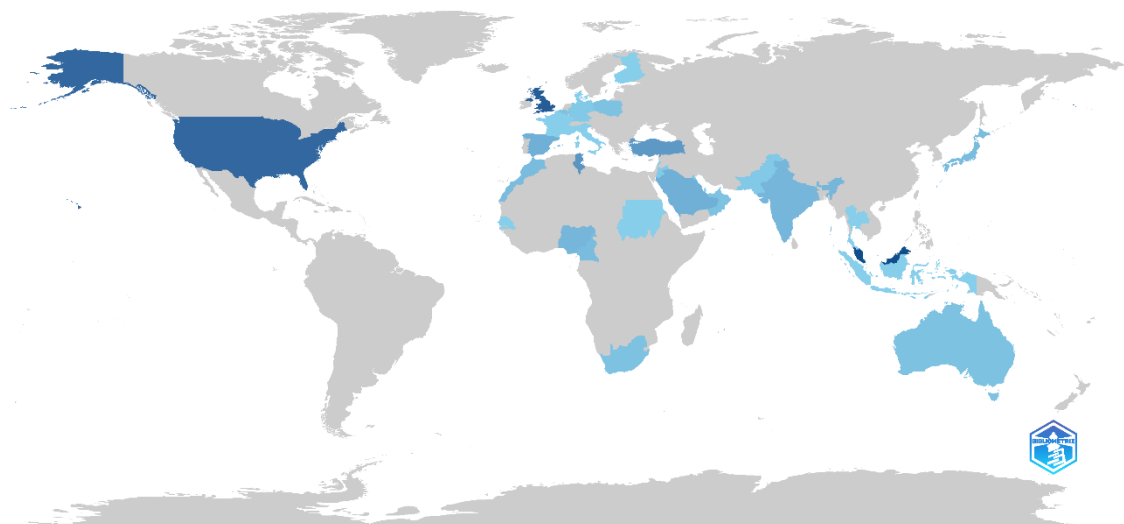


Figure 14. Country scientific production

The map above shows the number of journal productions published by each country on the theme of Islamic finance Africa. The data shows the name of the country based on its position on the map and the

number of documents published in blue. The darker the blue color the greater the quantity.

The United Kingdom is a productive country with the highest number of published documents shown

in the dark blue region compared to other countries. As for countries with a small number of journal productions marked in bright blue. This means that the quantity and

relevance to the theme of Islamic finance in Africa is still lacking.

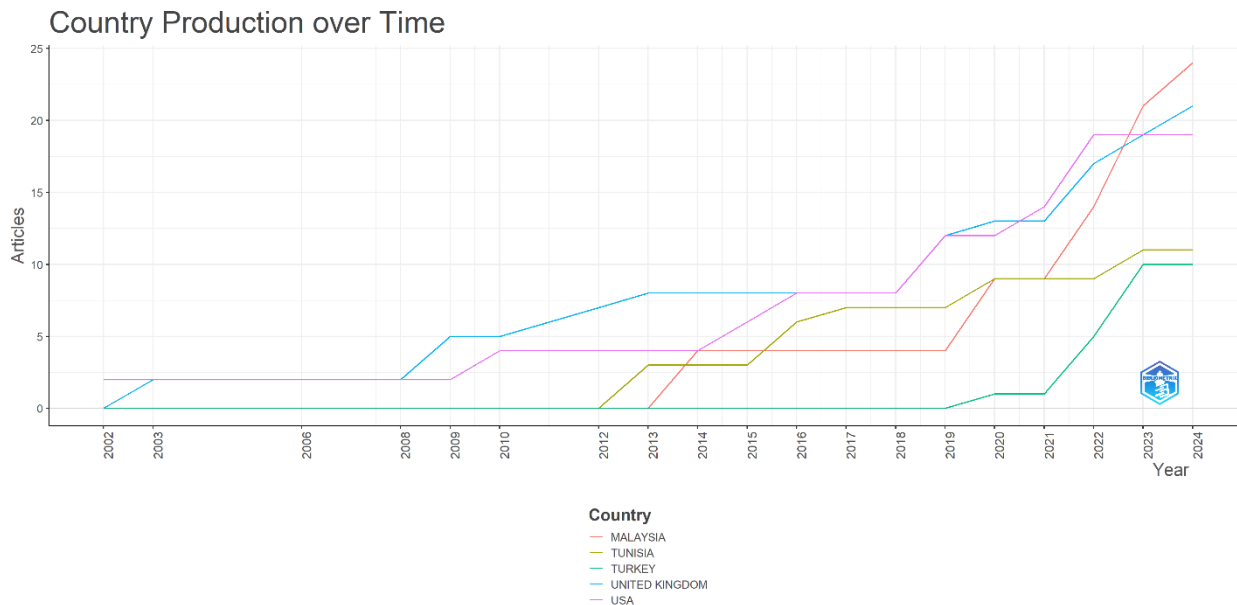


Figure 15. Country production over time

This study also discusses the development of countries that publish journals in research on the theme of Islamic finance Africa. The curve above shows the development of the annual occurrence of each country from 2002 to 2024. Where the curve illustrates that each country tends to increase in its publication. The curve

above also shows countries that have experienced the earliest development such as the USA since 2002. As for countries that show the most significant developments such as Malaysia compared to other countries that have experienced an increase but not drastically.

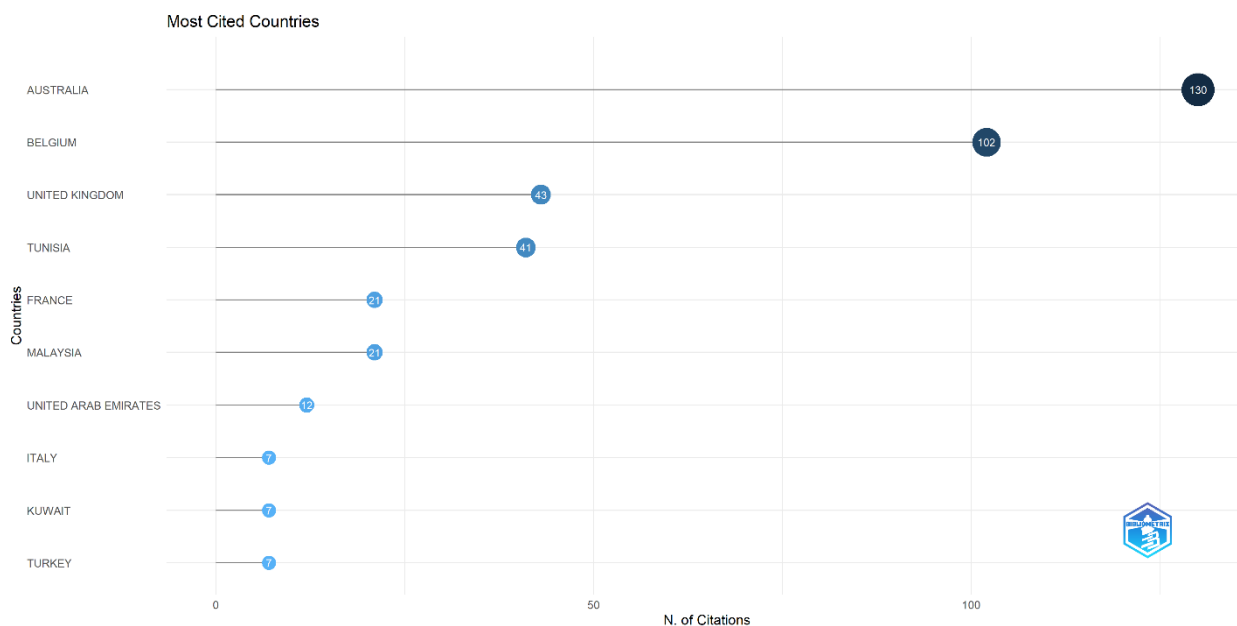


Figure 16. Most cited countries

Then, the figure above shows the number of journals published by each of the most cited countries based on their level of relevance to the theme of Islamic

finance Africa. The data shows a list of the top countries whose journal publications are most cited in blue circles. The darker the blue color and the larger the number

indicates the more quantity and relevance to the research theme, the number of citations from journals published by each country ranges from 0 to over 100 citations.

Australia is the top country with more than 130 cited documents shown in the dark blue circle compared to other countries. This is because the author is relevant to the theme discussed. As for countries that are at the

bottom position with the number of citations less than 20, there are 4 countries marked in bright blue. This means that the quantity and relevance to the theme of Islamic finance in Africa is still lacking. In addition, overall there are 10 countries listed in the most cited countries data.

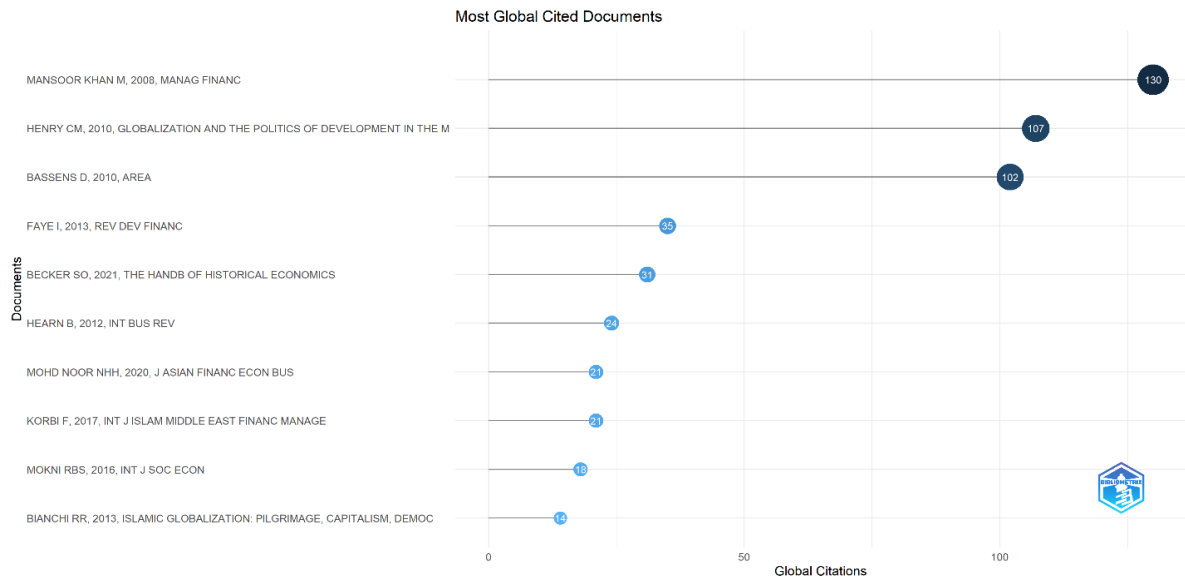


Figure 17. Most globally cited documents

Then, the figure above shows the number of published documents that are most cited based on their level of relevance to the theme of Islamic finance Africa. The data shows a list of the top document names whose publications are most cited in blue circles. The darker the blue color and the larger the number indicates the greater quantity and relevance to the research theme, the number of published documents ranges from 0 to over 100 citations. Mansoor Khan M, (2008) is a document that is in the top position with more than 130 citations

shown in the dark blue colored circle compared to other countries' circles. This is because the document is relevant to the theme discussed. As for countries that are in the bottom position with the number of citations less than 25 there are 5 documents marked in bright blue. This means that the quantity and relevance to the theme of Islamic finance in Africa is still lacking. In addition, overall there are 10 documents listed in the most globally cited documents data.

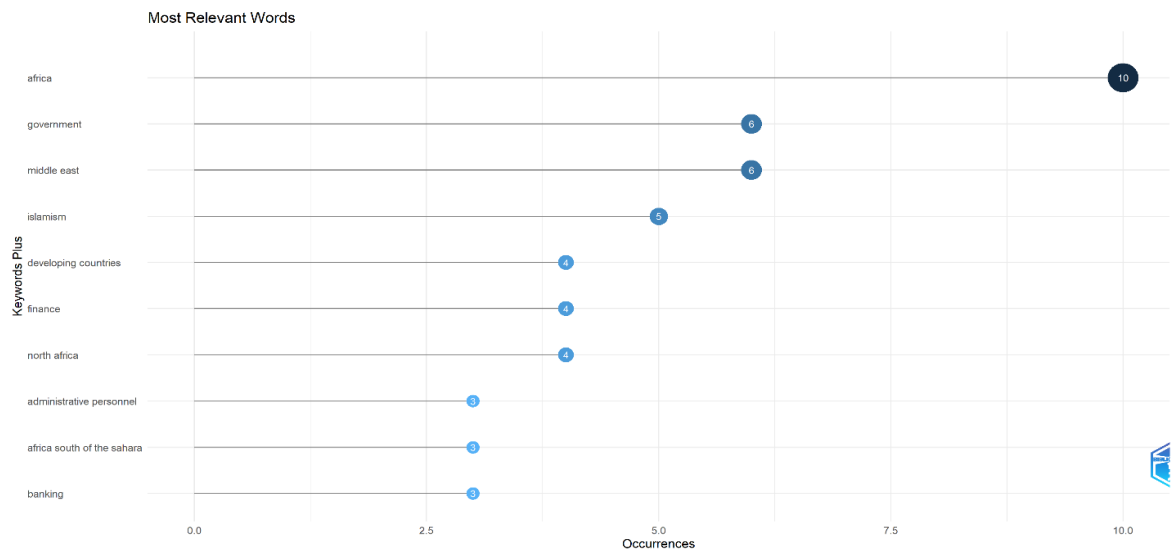


Figure 18. Most relevant words

The Word Tree Map above is a description of the words that often appear in the collection of paper data studied in the theme of Islamic finance in Africa in different forms. However, the same results are obtained, namely the word that often appears and becomes the center of other words such as Africa.

The Word Tree Map displays frequently occurring words in boxes similar to regions on a map, where the more the word appears, the larger the square region.

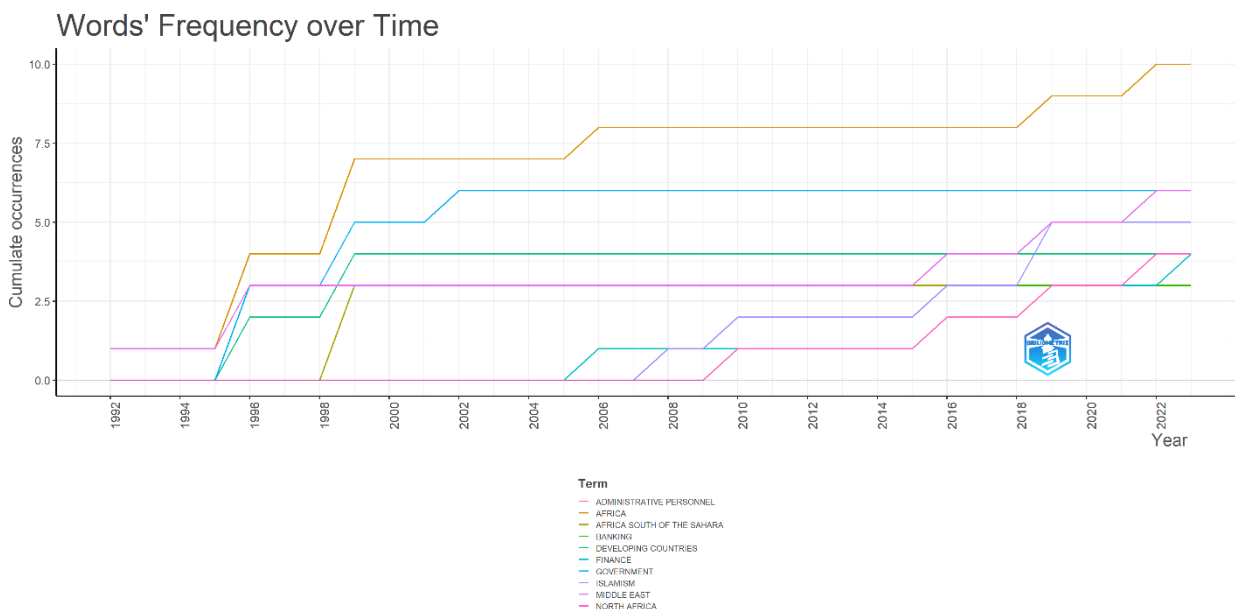


Figure 21. Words' frequency over time

In this study, the frequently occurring words are also described in the form of a development curve for each year with an annual occurrence value. Where the result shows the average quantity of occurrence of the word in the data collection studied in the theme of Islamic finance in Africa per year. The figure above shows that the majority of frequently occurring words

began to develop and be used since 2001, tending to increase.

The highest increase was achieved by the word Africa which began to develop in 1992 with an annual occurrence value that increased every year and the most drastic development. It is also the highest until 2022 and does not decline.

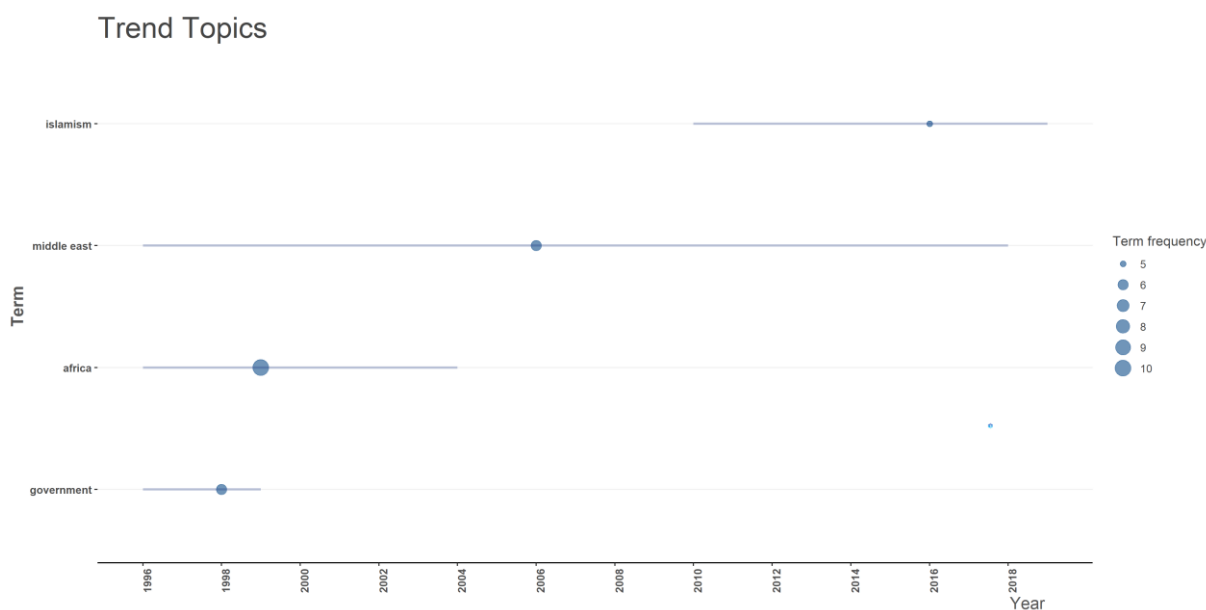


Figure 22. Trend topics

Topic trends are also part of this research, where the figure above displays an overview of topic development over time with a division per year. So that it is known what topics have been used for a long time and what topics have been used recently. The appearance of the topic is also adjusted to the frequency of the quantity of the word's appearance in research on the theme of Islamic finance Africa. The larger the circle indicates the more the word is used and the more

towards the right indicates the more often the word is used. Topic development started in 1996.

Based on the data above, topics that have been used since 1996 such as the middle east, Africa, and government, especially those related to the theme of Islamic finance Africa. Topics that are widely used such as Africa where the topic began to be used from 1996 to 2004 are marked with a circle that is larger than the others.

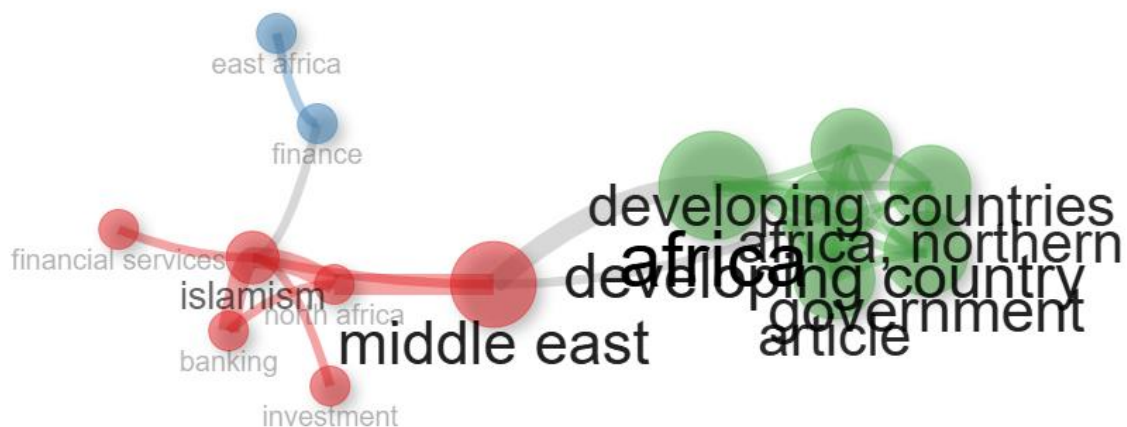


Figure 23. Co-occurrence Networks

The clustering above is a description of the words that often appear in the collection of paper data studied in the theme of Islamic finance in Africa in different forms. The results obtained, namely words that often appear there are several words such as developing countries, Africa, northern Africa, developing countries, government, articles in the green cluster.

Clustering displays the words in the form of colored clusters by considering the relationship between one word and another.

Cluster 1 (Green): Islamic Finance and African Development

The keywords in the first cluster are developing countries, Africa, northern Africa, developing country, government. Research topics that can be discussed in the first cluster can be related to the application of Islamic finance in Africa, Islamic finance for the development of Africa, Islamic finance and the African economy, and the implications of Islamic finance to increase economic growth. However, there are still quite a few studies that specifically discuss these topics, among the relevant research is [Oshodi \(2016\)](#) exploring the integration of Islamic finance in the context of economic development

in sub-Saharan Africa, overcoming the challenges of poverty and unemployment despite economic growth. Developing countries such as those in sub-Saharan Africa are looking for realistic economic policy prescriptions. Although economies in countries like Nigeria are growing rapidly, poverty and unemployment are eating away at the lives of many, amidst prosperity. At the same time, much neo-classical economic thinking is being questioned against the backdrop of the global economic crisis, which raises questions about a more integral approach to sustainable development. [Oshodi's \(2016\)](#) research examined various economic theories and argued that Islamic banking principles can contribute to socio-economic transformation by harmonizing with the region's diverse cultural heritage.

[Youssef & Mostafa \(2024\)](#) examined the contribution of Islamic finance to inclusive growth in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) compared to North African countries. The main issue that forms the background of this study relates to economic growth in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) is positive, but population insecurity has hardly changed. The results show that growth is more inclusive in North

African countries. However, the lack of data on Islamic financial institutions operating in the examined countries makes it impossible to determine the extent of their contribution to the economies of these countries.

Taliep et al (2010) examined the feasibility of Islamic banking and finance in South Africa, highlighting the demand from the Muslim population and the strategic importance of the industry for economic development. The study explained that, although the concept of Islamic banking in South Africa can be traced back several decades, its practical implementation only began in the late 1980s with a slow start. Today, although the industry is relatively modest in terms of numbers, Islamic banking is strategically important to the country's economic development. South Africa's Islamic banking will grow rapidly as new players identify the huge opportunities in the country. However, Islamic banks face a series of challenges in the South African market. The evolving framework is a significant challenge for all institutions in the Islamic banking market.

Al Amine (2016) examines Africa's economic growth and the potential of Islamic finance to increase financial inclusion in various sectors. The research considers the role - potential and realized - of Islamic finance in promoting financial inclusion in areas such as banking, microfinance, capital market development, insurance, and private equity businesses. In addition, the research emphasizes that investing in Africa through Islamic finance will open new markets, ensure higher profit margins, diversify risks, and create business competition; and that these changes will provide financial products that can satisfy the desires and beliefs of all consumers and unlock the real potential of the continent's financial system. The research also discusses the growing international interest in Africa and concludes by examining the challenges that hinder further economic growth, as well as the specific obstacles that need to be addressed to promote the adoption of Islamic finance.

Oshodi (2012) examined the prospects of Islamic finance in Africa. African economies are largely influenced by the forces of what Ali Mazrui calls the Three Legacies of Africa, where the impact of the Western Christian and Islamic legacies go hand in hand with the African indigenous legacies, thus having a profound impact on the overall socio-economic development of the region. It is clear that economic models that work well in the West or Middle East fail when copied and pasted in Africa, raising more questions than solving socio-economic and political

problems. The state-led development approach that helped Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan to move closer to Western European and North American economies disintegrated especially when structural adjustment programs were introduced. As China is now trying to aggressively push its unique style of developing African countries through direct investment. South Africa in the same way spread its investment more in the African continent, then came Islamic banking and finance which expanded its scope in Africa and capitalized on the huge Muslim market in the continent.

Hamman (2014) investigated the impact of Conventional financing (measured by the flow of funds to West African countries from the World Bank) and Islamic financing (measured by the disbursement of financing through various modes of Islamic financing to West African countries from the Islamic Development Bank/IDB) on Economic Development (measured by gross domestic product) of West African countries. The empirical results show that both conventional and Islamic financing have a significant impact on the economic development of West African countries. Furthermore, based on trend analysis, it is found that Islamic financing leads to more equitable, stable and sustainable economic development compared to conventional financing. The findings in this study propose the need to enhance participatory intermediation in the West African region which will lead to more equitable, stable, and sustainable economic development.

Sawadogo (2024) explains how Islamic Finance contributes to financing endogenous development in African countries. Endogenous development and Islamic finance are two concepts that put people at the center of development. Development can be well structured and executed by starting from the grassroots (local level). Local populations have difficulty finding financing systems that are tailored to their realities. Finance provides an inclusive and sustainable solution to this reality. Taking into account the overall principles of endogenous development, Islamic finance is in a better position to respond to these demands for better consideration of development systems at the local level. In other words, Islamic finance and endogenous development are two concepts that can coexist to reduce poverty in developing and poor countries.

Cluster 2 (Red): Islamic Banking Drives Investment in Africa

Keywords in this cluster include middle east, investment, Islamism, north Africa, banking, and

financial services. This topic discusses how the Islamic banking system plays a role in encouraging investment in Africa, especially in countries with Muslim populations or countries interested in an ethical financial system based on sharia principles. However, there are not many studies that specifically address this topic.

A number of studies relevant to the topic include [Adekoya \(2022\)](#) examining the objectives, challenges, and prospects of Islamic Banking and Finance (IBF) in Nigeria. In the global financial industry, Islamic Banking and Finance (IBF) has become a rapidly growing sector as an alternative to the Conventional Banking and Finance System (CBFS). CBFS focuses on the receipt or payment of interest on funds, where interest on borrowed funds becomes unusually high or excessive, impacting the business activities of borrowers. Moreover, access to funds for start-up and working capital by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) becomes a laborious task. Therefore, alternative ways to obtain funds for MSMEs are needed, one of which is through IBF. The results reveal that IBF is not a faith-based financial system, but rather an ethical one that is available to individuals and organizations, both Muslim and Non-Muslim. This study recommends that the government increase public awareness, license more Islamic financial institutions, promote capacity building, and establish a legal framework and law specifically for IBF.

[Zamer \(2018\)](#) examined Islamic banking as a solution to the challenges of financial inclusion in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. This research states, there are various barriers to financial inclusion, one of which is voluntary exclusion for religious reasons and the other is the high cost of interest charged to small borrowers. Islamic banking offers a reasonable solution to these challenges, usury or interest is replaced with other instruments based on partnership and social cooperation. However, banks face different types of challenges such as regulation and customer outreach in the absence of profitable margins. Other factors that influence adoption are offering economic access to services without large investments from banks and maintaining high service standards to create trust and drive adoption. This research highlights how Islamic banking can address issues such as voluntary exclusion due to religious beliefs and high interest costs, while noting potential challenges such as regulation and the need for banks to maintain service standards without large investments.

[Karimu et al \(2022\)](#) present an overview of Islamic banking and finance as an important alternative

to conventional banking and finance. As this study explains, there is growing evidence of some significant differences between the two banking models, particularly their performance during shocks. Islamic banking and finance has higher asset quality and is better capitalized than conventional banking models, but is also less cost-effective. This, among other things, shows the potential of a diversified banking model for the world. It also provides the possibility to utilize the strengths of both banking and financial models to better accommodate the impact of shocks to the global financial system.

[Ibrahim et al \(2024\)](#) assessed the opportunities and challenges of Islamic banking in Africa. The research argues that Africa is the original home of modern Islamic banking practices and could become an important center for this banking model in the future. The results show that the Islamic banking market has potential for those seeking the expansion and establishment of Islamic banks and promises opportunities for the growth of Islamic banking and finance and aligning with the socio-economic dynamics of the continent by providing inclusive financial solutions. The findings also point to existing opportunities, including a large Muslim population, arguing that popularity could drive Islamic banks on the continent, while limited awareness, misconceptions, and legal restrictions are key challenges for Islamic banks in Africa, hindering public understanding of how Islamic banks work.

Cluster 3 (Blue): Islamic Finance in East Africa

In this cluster there are two keywords, namely east africa and finance. The topic of Islamic Finance in East Africa discusses the application and development of the Islamic financial system in the East African region, which includes countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and Somalia. However, there are still very few studies that examine this matter. Among the relevant studies, [Sulayman \(2015\)](#) discusses the growth and sustainability of Islamic financial practices in the Tanzanian financial system. Tanzania has witnessed a sudden growth in the Islamic finance industry over the past decade. Islamic financial institutions have grown in terms of the increasing number of Islamic products and assets especially in 2012, where three banks and three Islamic microfinance institutions (SACCOS) opened and seem to provide a promising future if maintained. However, this remarkable growth and sustainability of financial services is threatened by the lack of a national legal

framework guiding financial operations within the Central Bank of Tanzania system, and the dysfunction of traditional Islamic funding systems such as 'Takaful' and 'Zakat'. This situation foretells a poor future for the industry in the country, and if not properly addressed will be added to the list of widespread poverty and deteriorating socio-economic status of the people.

Bananuka et al (2020) analyzed whether there is a relationship between religiosity, religious preference, firm age and intention to adopt Islamic financing in an emerging economy like Uganda which is a secular

country and adopting Islamic financing for the first time. The results showed that religiosity is significantly related to the intention to adopt Islamic financing. Furthermore, religious experience as a dimension of religiosity is significantly associated with intention to adopt Islamic financing unlike ideology. Religious preference and firm age are also significantly related to the intention to adopt Islamic financing. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) revealed that there is a significant difference among religions where Muslims are more ready for Islamic financing than Christians.

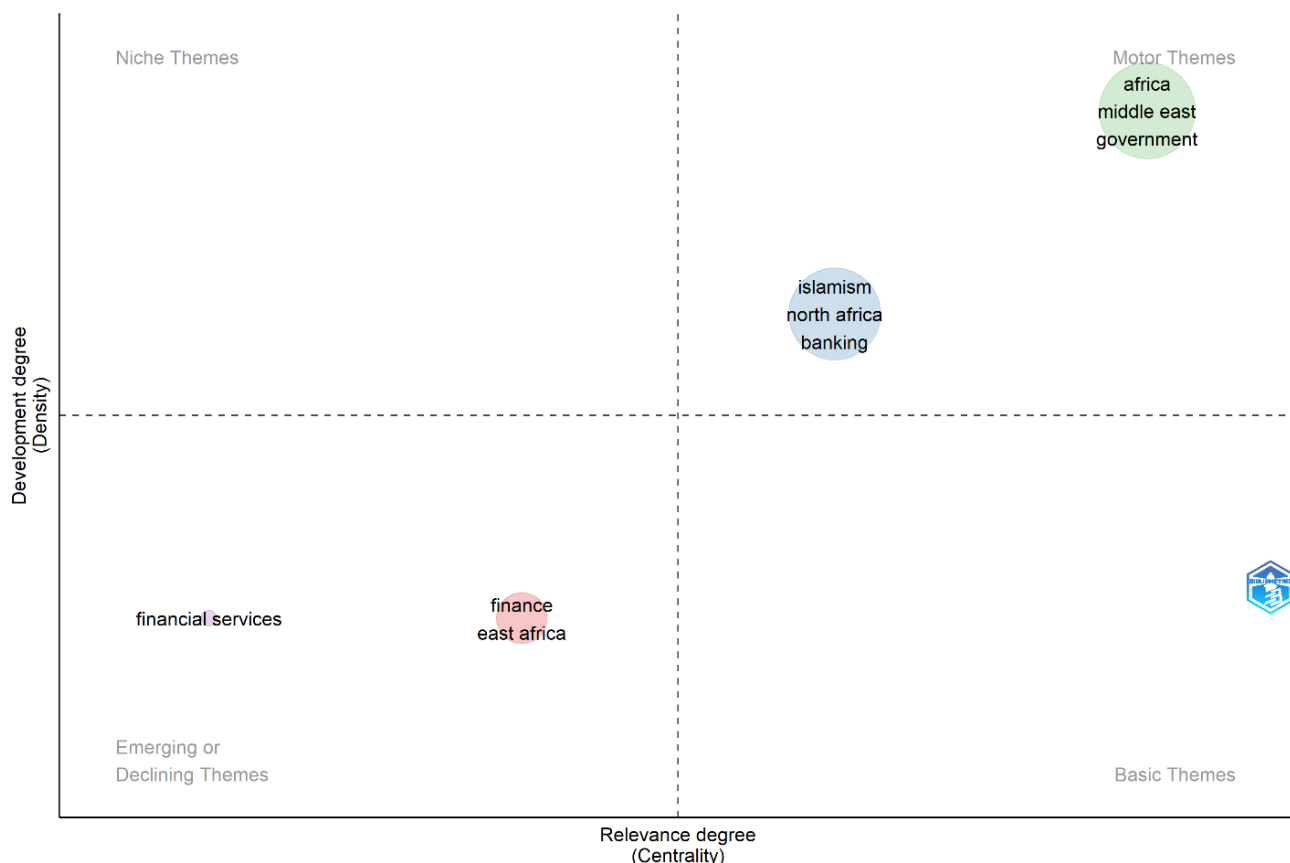


Figure 24. Thematic map

This research also analyzes thematic maps that appear based on density and centrality which are divided into 4 quadrants of themes as in the figure above. These results are obtained from a semi-automatic algorithm by reviewing the titles of all references to the object of research with additional relevant keywords other than the author's keywords. So that the results are able to capture deeper variations.

The upper right quadrant is a driving theme characterized by high density and centrality, so it needs to be developed and is important to be studied in further research. And in this quadrant there are themes captured

such as Africa, middle east, and government and other clusters in the same quadrant captured themes such as Islamism, north Africa, and banking with high density and centrality indicating the need for deeper study.

Lastly, the bottom left quadrant represents themes that have been used for a long time but are experiencing a downward trend characterized by low centrality and density. In this quadrant the detected theme is financial services and in other clusters in the same quadrant detected themes such as finance and East Africa.

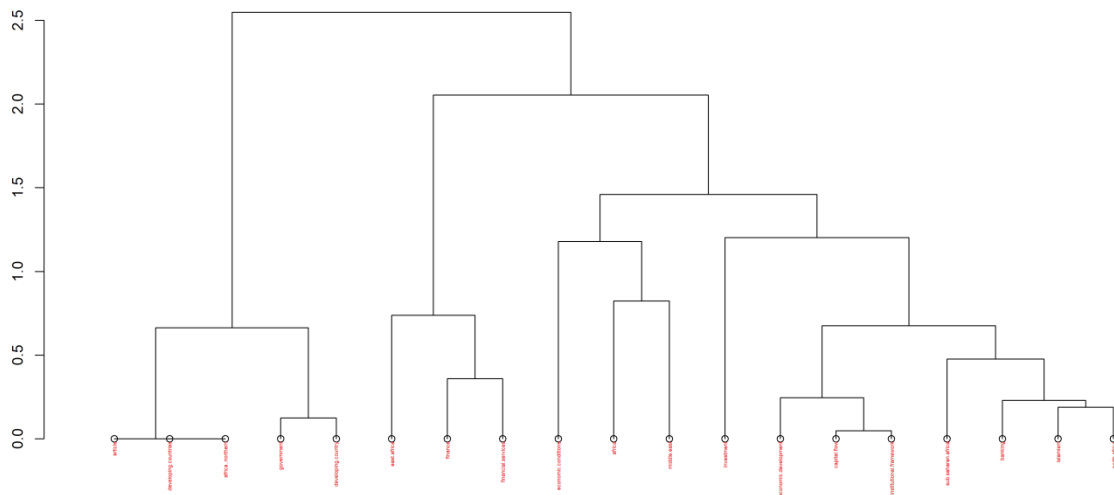


Figure 25. Dendrogram

Furthermore, the dendrogram tree diagram displays the topics that are widely used and their relation to other topics as well as the classification of these topics depicted in different colors. This representation of the dendrogram is often used in a variety of contexts, for example in clustering hierarchies. This diagram illustrates the distribution of links between elements in a group generated from 5 core topics: article, developing countries, northern Africa, government, development

country. This diagram shows that there are two classifications of topics, the left diagram topics and the right diagram topics, indicating that the linkages between the topics in the right classification are distant from the topics in the left classification. Each of them is further divided into several clusters, each cluster is further divided into several sub-clusters, and so on until it comes to the topics used in research papers on the theme of Islamic finance in Africa in recent years.

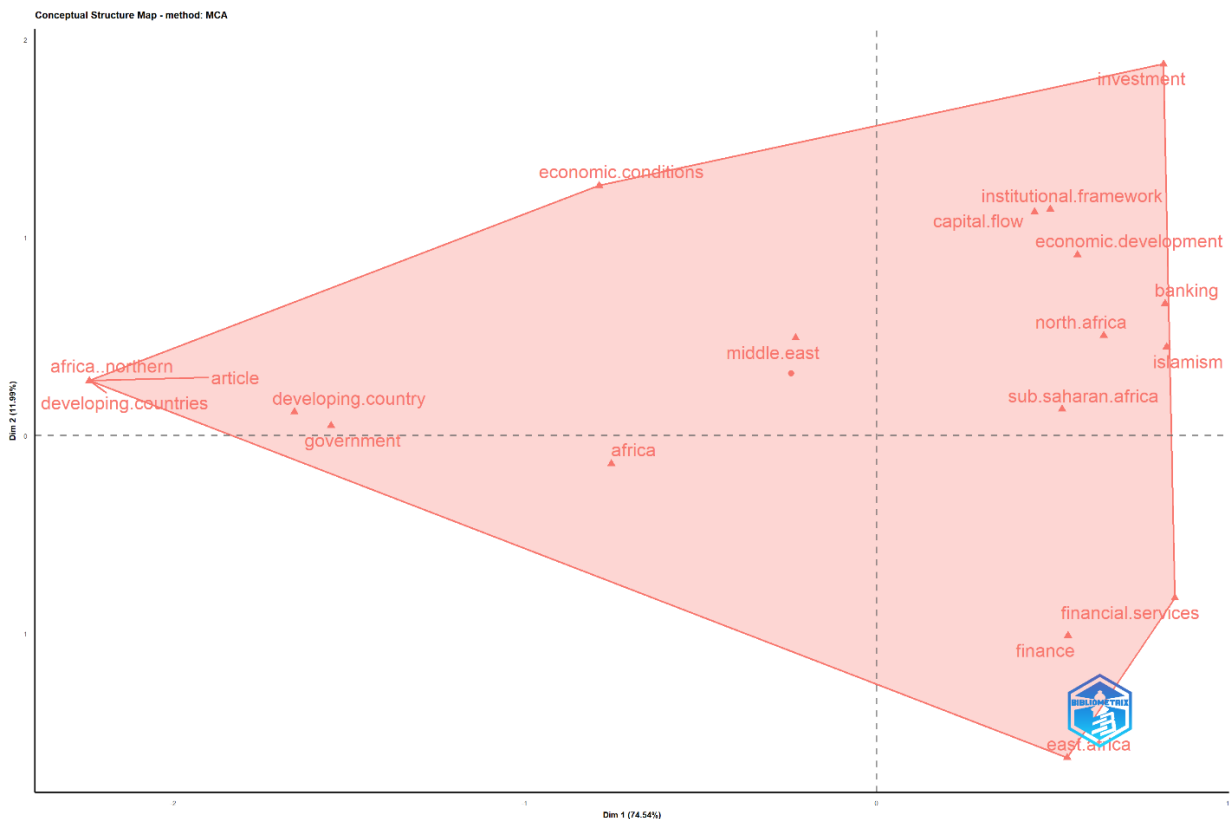


Figure 26. Factorial analysis

This research also describes the conceptual structure map or contextual structure map of each word that often appears in research papers on the theme of Islamic finance in Africa by dividing it based on the mapping of the relationship between one word and another through regional mapping. Each word is placed according to the Dim 1 and Dim 2 values so as to

produce a mapping between words that have values that are not much different.

This data shows that the Islamic finance in Africa theme contains words that are related to each other. Based on the figure above, the red-colored area shows more and diverse words included in it, this indicates that many research papers link between the words listed in this area.



Figure 27. Collaboration Network

Next is the collaboration network, or the network of cooperation between the authors of the Islamic finance in Africa theme paper. In the picture above, several authors' names are displayed and some are related and some are not, the relationship between the authors is shown by the cluster of color and line similarities between one name and another. The size of each circle also indicates the quantity of papers published in this theme.

The data above shows that there is collaboration in the author clusters and the data shows that there are several clusters that appear, totaling 13 with 2 authors in 8 clusters and 3 authors in 5 clusters. The red cluster is one of the clusters with the highest number of author collaborations and journal publications, indicated by the size of the circle that is larger than other clusters.

Country Collaboration Map

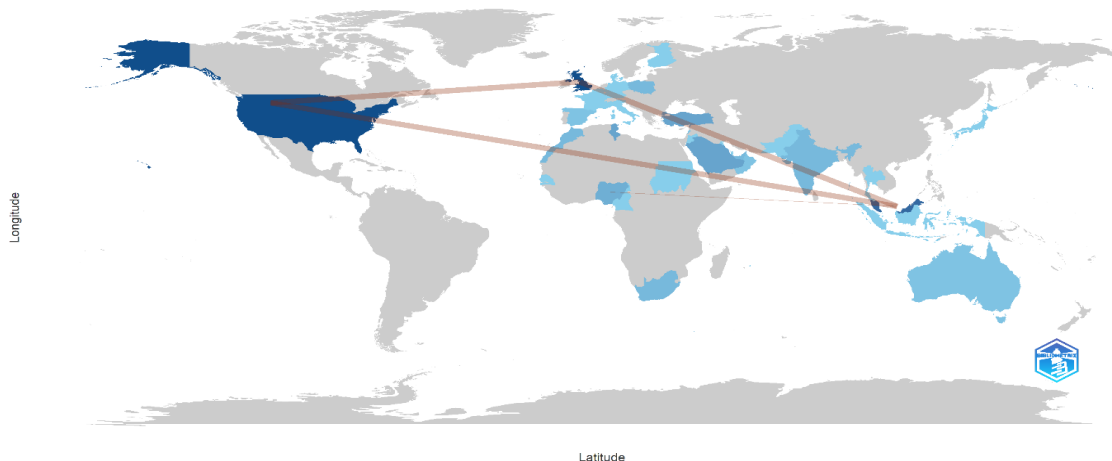


Figure 28. Country collaboration map

The map above shows the number of journal productions published by each country and the collaboration between countries on the theme of Islamic finance Africa. The data shows the name of the country based on its position on the map and the number of documents published in blue. The darker the blue color the greater the quantity. The red line shows with whom the country collaborates in journal production.

United Kingdom is a productive country with the largest number of publication documents shown in the dark blue region compared to other countries and is also a country that often collaborates between other countries followed by the USA and Malaysia marked by the red line. This means that in terms of quantity and relevance to the theme of Islamic finance in Africa tends to be good at collaborating on journal publications.

CONCLUSION

Africa, home to many developing nations, faces significant challenges, including poverty, limited globalization benefits, food crises, and health issues. The growth of Islamic finance in the region presents an opportunity to address some of these challenges. While several African countries, such as Egypt, Sudan, Kenya, and MENA member states, have adopted Islamic finance, the sector encounters obstacles that limit its impact on the real economy compared to conventional financial systems. Researchers have proposed various recommendations to address these issues. [Bananuka et al \(2020\)](#) recommends offering government incentives to attract investors and engaging religious leaders to build trust and promote adoption of Islamic finance products and services. [Hailu & Tekdoğan \(2023\)](#) emphasize that future research should examine the practicality of adopting internationally recognized standards, such as AAOIFI or IFSB, and adapting them to the unique conditions of local African markets. Further studies should focus on developing comprehensive regulatory frameworks tailored specifically to Islamic finance, ensuring they address its unique characteristics and uphold Shariah principles ([Shubber, 2008](#); [Tabash et al., 2022](#)). Additionally, further investigation is needed to evaluate the benefits of regulatory capital requirements in enhancing the financial stability of Islamic banks, especially within Africa's volatile markets ([Korbi & Bougatef, 2017](#)).

Public awareness remains a significant obstacle to the adoption and growth of Islamic finance in Africa ([Salaudeen et al., 2023](#)), making it a critical area for future research to explore and address ([Bananuka et al 2020](#)).

The need to identify specific target audiences and effective strategies to engage them on this issue remains underexplored. Additionally, further research is recommended to examine how Islamic financial institutions can diversify their funding sources, particularly through the issuance of Islamic bonds (sukuk). Such studies should also focus on the sector's role in promoting economic and social development, including job creation and poverty reduction ([Gazdar et al., 2021](#)).

Currently, many studies on Islamic finance in Africa lack empirical support due to the unavailability of data from Islamic financial institutions (IFIs). To address this, IFIs in Africa should ensure their data is accessible, facilitating researchers in conducting evaluations, comparisons, and in-depth analyses. Comprehensive studies focusing on African markets are also essential to better understand market size and customer demands. Furthermore, there is limited research on the role of Shariah board members in IFIs across Africa. Additionally, the readiness of non-Muslim majority Sub-Saharan African countries to adopt Islamic finance remains an underexplored area requiring further investigation. Additional research on Islamic fintech in Africa is necessary to address the existing gap in literature on this topic.

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