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A Bibliometric Study of Mosque Literature in Reputable International Journals

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ABSTRACT

Purpose – This article aims to map studies on mosques published in Scopus between 2014 to 2023.

Design/methodology/approach – A bibliometric approach was used in four steps: determining keywords and extracting article data using Publish or Perish (PoP), selecting and processing articles, processing Digital Object Identifier (DOI), and presenting the findings.

Findings – Malaysia has been a leading contributor to the field of mosque studies, as evidenced by its dominance in terms of geographical distribution, institutional affiliation, and the authorship of scholarly works in this area. The mapping of studies was distributed across five primary subjects: architecture, building design, Malaysia, Muslim life, and mosque design methodology. Consequently, the field of mosque studies has been predominantly shaped by architectural scholarship in the past decade.

Research implications – Mosques should prioritize aesthetic appeal and practical functionality as places of worship and community centers. Future researchers must expand the scope of inquiry beyond mere worship to encompass the multifaceted functionality of mosques. The implementation of optimal strategies facilitates the establishment of a societal framework that originates within the confines of the mosque.

Originality/value – The field of mosque studies has undergone significant expansion; however, the existing literature is predominantly organized by thematic categories.

Keywords Mosque, Religious institution, Literature review, Bibliometrics analysis.

Paper type Research paper

1. Introduction

The profound impact of institutionalized religion on human civilization has been a subject of considerable scholarly attention. As a foundational institution of Islam, Mosques persist in fulfilling spiritual welfare and social, cultural, economic, and political functions. The functionalization of mosques has been documented in academic papers and has undergone significant development over the past decade. A search of Google Scholar using the keyword "mosque" yielded approximately 42,900 documents. The substantial volume of studies necessitates bibliometric analysis and a systematic literature review (SLR) to ascertain the current state of the field and future research needs.

Bibliometric methods have been extensively employed across diverse academic disciplines. The present study examines extant research on mosque trends, with a particular focus on studies related to mosques. While bibliometric studies on mosques have been conducted, they do not generally explain mosque studies comprehensively. A preliminary investigation into mosque studies employing bibliometrics has been conducted, encompassing the domain of mosque finance. The objective of this study was to conduct a comprehensive review of extant research in the domain of mosque finance. Concurrently, during the era of the Prophet Muhammad, mosques served a multifaceted function as places of worship, educational institutions, consultation and communication centres, economic, social, and cultural forums, social assistance entities, military training facilities, and sites for equipment preparation. They also functioned as treatment centres for war victims, mediators of peace and dispute resolution, halls for receiving guests, including the holding of prisoners, and centres for Islamic education and guidance (Rahmat et al., 2021; Shihab, 1999).



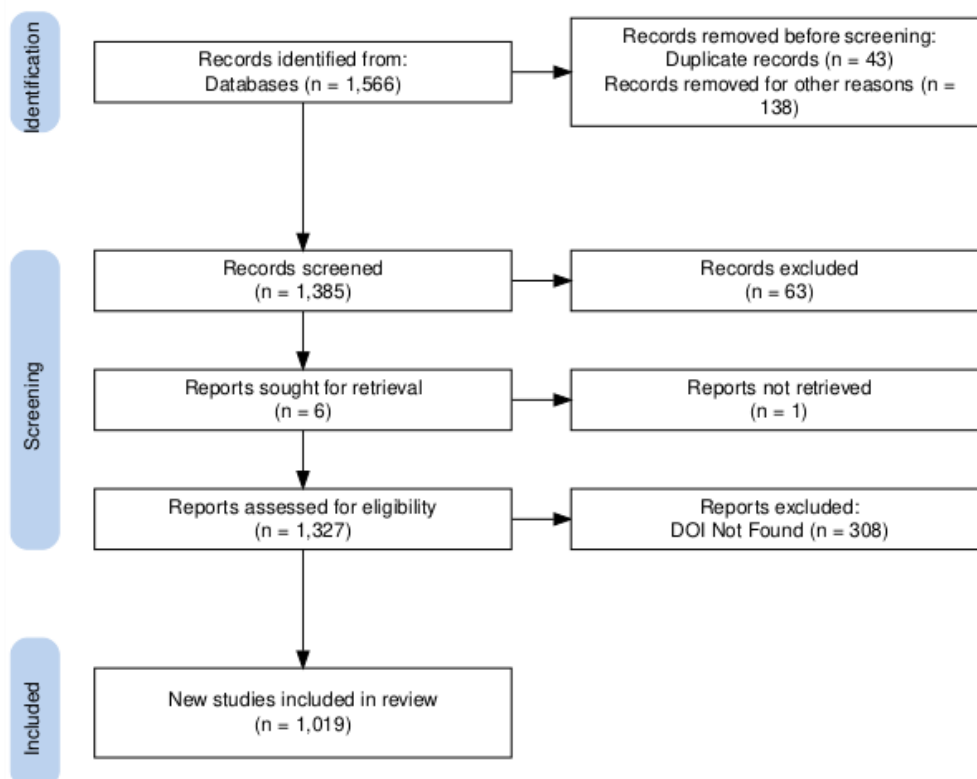
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Despite the extensive research conducted on the mosque, a paucity of studies has addressed this issue from the perspective of research trends. A bibliometric analysis of studies on mosques was conducted, with the analysis based on the following categories: libraries (Ninglasari et al., 2021; Rusydiana & Slamet, Aam Slamet Fahmiyati, 2022), economics (As-Salafiyah et al., 2020), accounting (Saad et al., 2019), and architecture (Yudha & Setiyowati, 2016). A review of the extant literature revealed no articles that address the development and mapping of mosque studies in general. A comprehensive understanding of trends in mosque studies is imperative to facilitate future researchers in exploring mosque studies from both theoretical and applied perspectives. This study utilizes the Scopus database, with the assistance of the Publish or Perish (PoP) exploration application and visualization from VOSviewer, to elucidate trends in mosque studies. The objective of this study is to address this research gap by posing and answering two research questions. First, the methodology employed in mapping mosque studies over the past decade (2014–2023) will be examined, utilizing the Scopus database and a bibliometric approach. Second, the potential for visualizing the data from mosque studies will be explored.

2. Method

Pritchard and Wittig's (1981) seminal work marked the introduction of bibliometrics as a methodology for measuring characteristics in books and other literary works by applying mathematical and statistical techniques. This approach is also referred to as quantitative, evaluative, and descriptive, and it aims to identify patterns and regularities in research problems pertinent to a researcher's study or field. The method is comprised of at least nine steps, each of which involves the selection of manuscripts. The results of this study are illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1. A flowchart of the systematic bibliometric review.

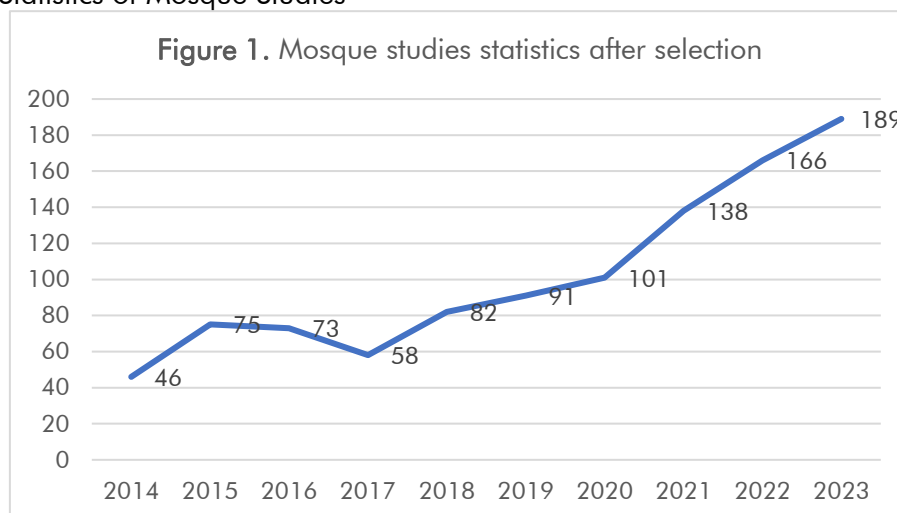


Sources: Primery data with PRISMA flow diagram (Haddaway et al., 2022)

1. The determination of keywords and the year of the article search is paramount. Researchers employed the Publish or Perish (PoP) application to access the Scopus database. The keywords column contained a single word: "mosque." The search year was set from 2014 to 2023. Prior to the selection process, the aggregate number of articles was 1,566;
2. The process of repeatedly selecting articles in an Excel workbook is a methodical procedure. This stage is characterized by its extended duration. The results were divided into five categories) Duplicates: The initial investigation yielded 43 articles, while the subsequent analysis revealed 138 articles in the case of a non-accessible homepage. Furthermore, 138 articles were found to contain incomplete information. 63 articles; d) not retrieved: The initial article is not accompanied by a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). The total number of articles is 308. The total number of articles excluded from the analysis was 553;
3. The subsequent step involves the processing of data in Excel. The data obtained through PoP had not yet been organized or made complete. A meticulous examination was conducted to ascertain the provenance of each article, with a focus on ascertaining the pertinent information, including the author's affiliation, the title of the article, the year of publication, the publisher, the Digital Object Identifier (DOI), and the citations. At this stage, the researcher ensured that all data were complete and the articles were continued to obtain a mapping visualization. The number of articles is 1,019;
4. The present study employs the VOSviewer to process DOI. The selected items were the title and abstract fields, and a binary counting method was employed. The analysis yielded a total of 5,845 terms. The researcher implemented a maximum of seven repetitions for each term. Consequently, 436 met the established threshold. Following a manual selection process, 217 terms were identified as being directly associated with mosques;
5. The following presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of the data. The data contained within the Excel workbook is presented per inquiries posed regarding bibliometrics. Two visualization techniques are employed: overlay and density visualization.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Statistics of Mosque Studies



Sources: Primary data analysis, 2024.

The development of mosque studies over the past decade is illustrated in Figure 2. A comprehensive analysis reveals that 1,019 articles have been published in various academic disciplines that address mosques. The most significant growth was observed in 2023, with the publication of 189 articles. Conversely, the lowest

number of publications was observed in 2014. A decline in publications was observed over the past decade, with 73 articles in 2016 and 58 in 2017. A notable increase was observed during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, substantially rising from 101 cases in 2020 to 166 cases in 2022. This increase was attributed to the high coronavirus exposure in public spaces. Mosques have emerged as a research focus, attracting the attention of numerous researchers (Al-Astewani, 2021; Cardiah et al., 2021; Harsritanto et al., 2020).

3.2 Leading Journal of Mosque Studies

Table 1 presents a comprehensive list of the ten journals that have published the most studies on mosques. A preliminary analysis suggests that conference proceedings represent the most accessible publication channel for authors, with 35 articles identified. IOP Conference Sciences: Materials Science and Engineering published 24 articles, and the Journal of Physics published 24 articles. The Conference Series has published a total of 11 articles. Subsequently, the field of architecture emerged as the predominant focus of scholarly publications. The Journal of Islamic Architecture, published by UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim in Indonesia, has published 22 articles. Muqarnas, a publication of Brill Academic in the Netherlands, has published a total of 15 articles. This number is equivalent to the publications of the International Journal of Islamic Architecture, which Intellect Ltd. publishes in the United Kingdom.

Table 1. Leading journal in mosque studies

Sn.	Journal Name	State	Article Total
1	IOP Conference Sciences: Materials Science and Engineering	United Kingdom	24
2	Journal of Islamic Architecture	Indonesia	22
3	Muqarnas	Netherlands	15
4	International Journal of Islamic Architecture	United Kingdom	15
5	Journal of Physics: Conference Series	United Kingdom	11

Sources: Primary data analysis, 2024

3.3 Most Cited Articles of Mosque Studies

The researchers presented the ten articles with the highest number of citations, out of a total of 1,019 articles that had been processed. After 2020, no articles were included in the top 10. The only article that came close to meeting this standard was Elshuraf et al. (2019), which received 88 citations. Budaiwi and Abdou (2013) received 145 citations for their article on HVAC system operational strategies for reduced energy consumption in buildings with intermittent occupancy: The case of mosques. This article explores the impact of operational zoning and intermittent HVAC system operation strategies on the energy performance of mosques while maintaining thermal comfort. Additionally, Prickett (2015) received 96 citations for their article, "Negotiating Gendered Religious Space: The Particularities of Patriarchy in an African American Mosque," published in the Gender & Society Journal. Concurrently, Kersten (2017) received a mere 46 citations for an article titled "The Selimiye Mosque of Edirne, Turkey: An immersive and interactive virtual reality experience using HTC Vive." A total of six articles address the physical characteristics of mosques, while four delve into non-physical aspects.

Table 2. Top citations

Sn.	Article Identities	Total
1	Budaiwi & Abdou (2013) <i>HVAC system operational strategies for reduced energy consumption in buildings with intermittent occupancy: The case of mosques.</i>	145
2	Prickett (2015) <i>Negotiating Gendered Religious Space: The Particularities of Patriarchy in an African American Mosque.</i>	96
3	Cheema et al., (2014) <i>Unnoticed but important: Revealing the hidden contribution of community-based religious institutions of the mosque in disasters.</i>	90
4	Elshuraf et la., (2019) <i>Solar PV on mosque rooftops: Results from a pilot study in Saudi Arabia.</i>	88
5	Aşıkoğlu et al., (2019) <i>Effectiveness of seismic retrofitting of a historical masonry structure: Kütahya Kurşunlu Mosque, Turkey.</i>	80
6	Dehghani, et la., (2014) <i>Analyzing Political Rhetoric in Conservative and Liberal Weblogs Related to the Construction of the "Ground Zero Mosque".</i>	74
7	Aliya Hamid Rao (2015) <i>Gender and Cultivating the Moral Self in Islam: Muslim Converts in an American Mosque.</i>	71
8	Yilmazer & Acun (2018) <i>A grounded theory approach to assess indoor soundscape in historic religious spaces of Anatolian culture: A case study on Hacı Bayram Mosque.</i>	66
9	Mesas-Carrascosa, et al., (2016) <i>Monitoring heritage buildings with open source hardware sensors: A case study of the mosque-cathedral of Córdoba.</i>	49
10	Kersten (2017) <i>The selimiye mosque of edirne, Turkey -An immersive and interactive virtual reality experience using htc vive.</i>	46

Sources: Primary data analysis, 2024

3.4 Most Cited Articles of Mosque Studies

Utaberta is the most prolific author who has closely observed architecture (Asif et al., 2019; Foroughmand et al., 2015; Haraty & Utaberta, 2019; Utaberta et al., 2015) and disaster management in Malaysian mosques (Asif et al., 2016; Utaberta & Asif, 2017). Utaberta has authored a total of 18 articles on mosques. The following three authors have collaborated with Utaberta on multiple studies concerning mosques. Notably, Hassan has not engaged in collaborative writing with the other four authors. Malaysia has emerged as a notable producer of knowledge concerning mosques, which has garnered significant international attention. This assertion is particularly salient in the context of universities with a strong reputation in architecture, such as Universiti Putra Malaysia. Consequently, Islamic architecture has emerged as the most extensively studied field within the discipline.

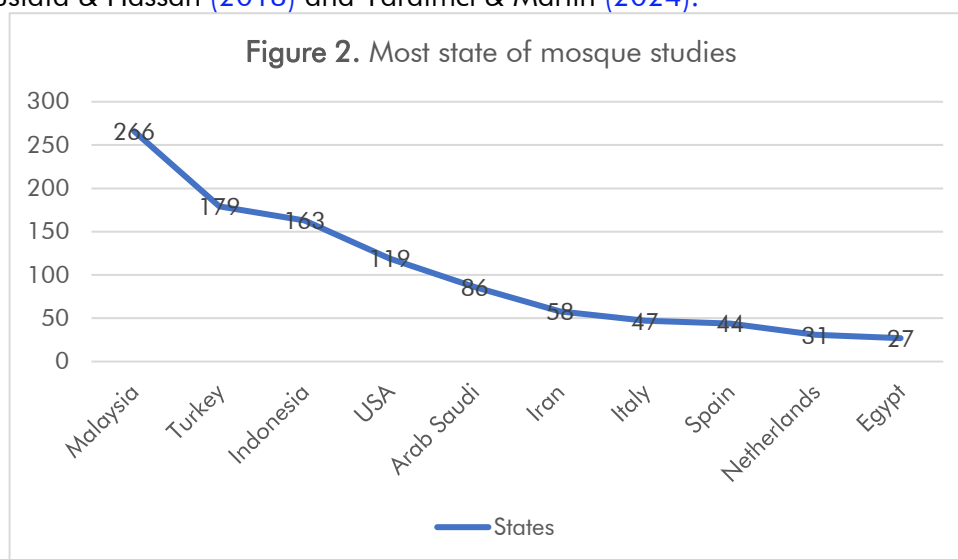
Table 3. Top 5 Authors

Sn.	Author	Field	Affiliation	Article Total
1	Nangkula Utaberta	Islamic Architecture	UCSI University	18
2	Sumarni Ismail	Islamic Architecture	Universiti Putra Malaysia	9
3	Mohd Yazid Mohd Yunos	Islamic Architecture	Universiti Putra Malaysia	8
4	Nayeem Asif	Built Environment	IIUM Malaysia	7
5	Ahmad Sanusi Hassan	Islamic Architecture	Universiti Sains Malaysia	6

Sources: Primary data analysis, 2024

3.5 Most State of Mosque Studies

The present study placed significant emphasis on conducting comprehensive country research. Malaysia has been the most extensively studied country in this regard, with 266 articles dedicated to its case or research location. This finding aligns with our earlier assertion that prominent researchers are affiliated with Malaysia despite the absence of Malaysian journals. Mosque research has also been extensively studied in Turkey (179 articles) and Indonesia (163 articles). A salient observation is that nations where Muslims comprise the majority do not consistently exhibit a high prevalence of mosque studies. Notably, the number of studies conducted in Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Egypt is comparable to that of the USA. This phenomenon is evident even in European countries such as Spain, Italy, and the Netherlands, which are predominantly non-Muslim nations with a paucity of mosques. Despite this, the number of mosque studies remains relatively high. As indicated by Hancock (2020), Narkowicz & Pędziwiatr (2017), and van Es (2020), issues of provocation and Islamophobia are topics linked to mosques in Europe. Similarly, architecture is a topic linked to mosques in Europe, as indicated by Mustafa & Hassan (2013) and Yardimci & Martin (2024).



Sources: Primary data analysis, 2024

3.6 Term Analysis of Mosque Studies

VOSviewer was employed to visualize keywords appearing in articles. The selected items were title and abstract fields, and the binary counting method was used to calculate the frequency of each. The analysis yielded a total of 5,845 terms. Researchers permitted terms to appear no more than seven times. Consequently, 436 met the established threshold. Following a manual selection process, 217 terms were identified as authentically associated with mosques. The subsequent section will present the results of Vosviewer on mosque studies from the last decade, utilizing the Scopus database.

Table 4. Keywords clusterizations

Cluster	Material Keywords	Visualizations
Green	Cluster 1 demonstrates a correlation between mosque studies and the subject of architecture, encompassing mosque architecture in Istanbul, architectural concepts, architectural development, the historical evolution of mosque architecture, architectural evidence or facts in mosques, Cordoba mosque architecture, mosque architecture in Iran, and the influence of mosque authority and identity.	

Sources: Primary data analysis, 2024

Sources: Primary data analysis, 2024

4. Conclusion

The primary finding of this study is that Malaysian designs have predominantly influenced the architectural style of mosques. Malaysia has emerged as a global leader in producing academic research on mosques, consistently ranking as the country with the highest number of studies worldwide. This phenomenon extends beyond the scope of mosques highlighted within the country, encompassing authors who are interested in the subject and universities that support such research endeavours. The present article employs an analytical framework to assess the authorship of scholarly articles on mosques during the past decade (2014–2023). The top five authors hail from Malaysia. Architectural discourse is the most prevalent topic, encompassing various subjects, including concepts, historical development, stylistic variations, architectural design, spatial planning, and the diverse forms of domes.

Additionally, mosque architecture is intricately intertwined with cultural and historical contexts, rendering it a multifaceted and dynamic field of study. Consequently, this study proposes a paradigm shift in the future of mosque studies. Mosques should prioritize both aesthetic beauty and functionality. Future researchers must expand the scope of research beyond mere worship, encompassing the functional aspects of mosques. Implementing best practices can catalyze the development of a civilizational framework rooted in the mosque community.

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