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R biblioshiny application to explore sustainability research trends in Islamic finance: scientometric research

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Abstract

Purpose - This study aims to identify research trends on sustainability in Islamic finance as published by leading journals.

Method - A total of 54 indexed publications was analyzed using the R Bibliometric application to generate a bibliometric map of sustainability in Islamic finance.

Result - The analysis shows a consistent annual increase in sustainability-related Islamic finance research, with the Isra International Journal of Islamic Finance being the most productive journal and Hassan MK as a prominent contributor. Keyword analysis highlights "Islamism" and "sustainability" as dominant themes. Despite growth, research gaps remain that warrant further investigation.

Implication - This study synthesizes existing research and identifies gaps, providing insights for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to enhance the integration of sustainability in Islamic finance.

Originality - This study introduces a novel application of Biblioshiny to explore sustainability literature in Islamic finance. Although Islamic finance is a broad topic, the specific focus on sustainability provides unique value, especially given the increasing attention to sustainability issues in various financial sectors.

Keywords: sustainability; Islamic; finance; biblioshiny

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Introduction

In recent years, due to the negative impacts of climate change, information about the environment disclosed by public institutions has received great attention from research (Arslan et al., 2022; Gerged et al., 2021; Ramos-Meza et al., 2021). Climate change has significantly impacted various aspects of human life, including socio-economic systems and natural ecosystems (Patel et al., 2021; Tumewang et al., 2024). Phenomena such as sea level rise, increasing frequency of natural disasters, and extreme climate events, have caused human health risks and the extinction of several species (Goworek et al., 2018; Sun et al., 2020). According to the World Meteorological Organization (Hermanson et al., 2022), global economic damage due to climate change is estimated to reach US$4.3 trillion from 1970 to 2021. This condition encourages increased public awareness to invest in sustainability initiatives to face the challenges of the climate crisis.

To respond to these challenges, global initiatives, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 and the Paris Agreement in 2015, have been launched to encourage environmentally friendly business practices (Cadman, 2019). In the corporate context, sustainability is increasingly a priority on the agenda of the Company's board of directors (Clarkson et al., 2011; Giannarakis et al., 2017; Gulluscio et al., 2020). In addition, sustainability reporting has developed as an important tool in ensuring the survival of organizations and providing accountability to the wider community (Birindelli et al., 2019). The integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) dimensions into the investment decision-making process is also an important step to facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy (Birindelli et al., 2019; Liesen, 2015).

Islamic Finance (IF) has grown rapidly since its emergence in the 1970s, thanks to principles rooted in moral and religious values such as justice and balance (Dusuki & Abdullah, 2024; Warde, 2010). Islamic finance is based on Islamic law and prohibits riba (unjustified increase) and gharar (suspicion, risk, and speculation), and aims to promote economic and social justice without concentrating on profit maximization in business actions (Dusuki & Abdullah, 2024; Haniffa & Hudaib, 2007; Warde, 2010). It has to do with fostering resilience, as Islamic finance aims to promote social welfare, social inclusion, and an environmentally friendly environment. These principles make Islamic finance in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the United Nations is carrying out (Djafri & Soualhi, 2021), especially in supporting the transition to an environmentally and socially friendly economic system. Since the role of Islamic finance in sustainability is well known, it is important to talk about both topics to see how Islamic finance can help improve sustainability.

The basic principles of Islamic finance are related to sustainable finance and can help develop green finance. Therefore, Islamic finance can be developed sustainably with a higher overall goal that emphasizes maximizing positive value creation and preventing harmful effects on stakeholders and the environment (Harahap et al., 2023).

Islamic finance that is based on Sharia principles is intrinsically related to sustainability because they are encouraged to pursue the goals of maqashid sharia, promote the welfare of all parties involved, and improve the quality of the environment (Ammar et al., 2022; Laldin et al., 2020). This is in line with findings that show that businesses that comply with Sharia have better social and environmental performance (Qoyum et al., 2022). It is possible for the Islamic finance sector to direct funds to businesses that benefit the environment and society, accelerating the transition to a moneyless economy. In areas such as engineering, management, finance, and marketing, research on ESG issues has developed (Li et al., 2021). Although there is a lot of literature on ESG, there does not seem to be any bibliometric literature that specifically discusses Islamic finance. Some analyses have addressed CSR practices and ESG performance in companies, but the proprietary principles of Islamic finance require bibliometric research that specifically addresses Islamic finance. Current bibliometric research in Islamic finance has included articles that have not been peer-reviewed. Non-peer-reviewed articles have raised quality concerns, and existing bibliometric research on Islamic finance has not fully explored the specific dimensions of ESG practices (Biancone et al., 2020; Paltrinieri et al., 2020). In the same way, the analysis of Islamic corporate management has not yet thoroughly covered social and environmental aspects, although these have recently gained greater attention around the world (Pahlevi, 2022; Tumewang et al., 2024).

However, some problems still arise when implementing sustainable accounting that is in accordance with Islam. One of them is the lack of knowledge about Islamic finance, even among people who are Muslim. Perhaps not many people know about terminology, products, and principles in Islamic finance (Alamad, 2019). Adawiyah et al., (2023) state that Islamic finance is complex and difficult to understand its fundamentals as well as its relationship to sustainable development goals. In addition, Islamic finance may face some additional problems. This is because it can contradict the current regulatory system and lack good human resources (Alamad, 2019). Harahap et al., (2023) stated that consumer behavior is another obstacle to implementing sharia sustainable accounting. Boudawara et al., (2023) also mentioned that corporate governance is another obstacle to the implementation of sharia sustainable accounting. An Islamic corporate governance framework must be developed to assess the sustainability performance of Islamic finance.

Therefore, it is important to know how much progress has been made in sustainability in Islamic finance through research. Using Biblioshiny, you can create and display author journal and research path maps based on co-citation data or keyword maps based on shared incident data. Thottoli et al., (2022) looked at the relationship between auditing and sustainability accounting; (Hassan et al., 2021) looked at bibliometrics from the journal Islamic accounting and business research; and (Adawiyah et al., 2023; Hartanto et al., 2024; Tumewang et al., 2024; Uula & Ikhwan, 2022) looking at bibliometrics from sustainability in Islamic finance research. Muhammad & Nugraheni (2022) argue that the creation of Sharia accounting courses in universities will ensure the sustainability of Islamic finance human resources; (Parte et al., 2023) explain the correct and fair view/fair presentation as a link between conventional accounting, survival accounts, and Islamic accounting; and (Aziz & Ahmad, 2018) investigate the idea of Islamic green accounting as a way to maintain sustainable growth in Islamic management institutions.

Furthermore, a preliminary review by Aliyu et al. (2017) examined the sustainability of Islamic finance; However, it is limited to systematic review techniques, eliminating bibliometric insights such as the influential aspects and intellectual structure of the existing literature. Recently, (Adawiyah et al., 2023) tried to conduct a bibliometric analysis of Islamic sustainability and finance; however, there was a lack of quality assessment for the included studies, which were mostly taken from Google Books. This is the first bibliometric review that focuses entirely on sustainability in Islamic finance using data from reputable journals and the Biblioshiny approach. This research is expected to provide new insights to academics and practitioners and guide future research that aims to develop Islamic finance as an important instrument in achieving global sustainability goals.

We hope to uncover information that we have never encountered before, especially in the case of Islamic finance, which has different characteristics and principles, by conducting a thorough analysis of 54 articles over 12 years, implementing rigorous quality checks, and using robust methods with strict entry and exit rules.

This research is conducted to supplement previous research, fill in gaps in previous research, and expand the literature on sustainability in Islamic finance through this research path. In particular, the main objective of this study is to look at the progress of research on "Sustainability in Islamic Finance" published in journals that discuss the topic around the world and to determine opportunities for future research.

By describing the influential and intellectual structures among researchers in the community, this review is instrumental in helping new scholars interested in advancing science and knowledge in this domain (Hassan et al., 2022). Acknowledging this significance, the review addresses the following research questions (RQs): It is also important to note the historical and progressive development of the literature, trace its trajectory from philanthropic CSR initiatives to broader ESG frameworks, and dissect its core constructs and interdependencies.

RQ1. What are the influential elements in sustainability writing about Islamic finance?
RQ2. What is the intellectual structure in sustainability writings about Islamic finance?
RQ3. What are the main trends in the sustainability literature on Islamic finance?
RQ4. What is still the scope of sustainability research on Islamic finance?

By conducting a bibliometric analysis of 54 peer-reviewed articles in 31 journal publications from 2013 to early March 2025, this study responds to these questions. Up-to-date knowledge of sustainability in Islamic finance receives theoretical and practical insights from the renowned Scopus database. The research structure is as follows: Part 1 explains the introduction. Part 2 explains the literature review. Part 3 describes the methodological approach used for the review. Part 4 covers the bibliometric analysis results, including general performance, citations, and network analysis, discusses the evolution of key research themes, and identifies gaps. Finally, the study concludes with a summary of its implications and limitations in the last section and offers suggestions for future research.

Literature Review

Sustainability in Islamic finance is a concept in companies that combines Islamic values, finance, and company principles, particularly those related to sustainability and ethics. Its goal is to measure, report, and manage companies' financial and non-financial performance by considering aspects of sustainability and Islamic values. This is also stated by Uula & Ikhwan (2022) that Islamic Sustainable Accounting is a concept in accounting that combines conventional accounting principles with Islamic values and principles.

The integration of ESG principles with maqashid sharia in Islamic finance represents an approach designed to balance desires with Islamic ethical values (Baloch & Chimenya, 2023). Maqashid sharia, as a basic concept, ensures that financial activities comply with Islamic law while promoting broader social and environmental benefits (Mohd Zain et al., 2024). ESG, as a modern sustainability framework, is aligned with maqashid sharia through several key dimensions. The environmental aspects of ESG are in line with hifz al-bi'ah (environmental preservation), which ensures that financial institutions prioritize environmentally friendly investments and mitigate environmental damage (Wardiman et al., 2024). The social component is in line with hifz al-nafs (protection of life) and hifz al-mal (safeguarding wealth), encouraging inclusive economic growth and ethical financial practices such as zakat and waqf-based microfinance (Agustin et al., 2023). The governance aspect is associated with hifz al-aql (protection of reason) and hifz al-din (preservation of faith), which emphasize transparency, accountability, and adhering to the Islamic regulatory framework through mechanisms such as sharia audits and governance structures (Radin et al., 2024).

Qizam, (2020), who found the relationship between non-financial information and Islamic accounting for the use of Islamic choices, shows that non-financial information's decision utility has evolved from being a complement to the strategic role of information, adopting the concept of creating shared value (CSV) and sustainable value-creation (SVC). Until now, more people are using non-financial information to make decisions.

Uula & Ikhwan, (2022) analyze the role of social responsibility accounting in sustainable development in Islamic banks in Saudi Arabia. They looked at the employees of Al-Rajhi Bank. They concluded that there is a statistically significant relationship between environmental accounting and sustainable development and that the use of social accounting has a cost impact on sustainable development. Alshater et al. (2022) analyzed the literature on Islamic accounting and sought to identify accounting research trends of Islamic financial institutions worldwide. The results of the study show that influential scholars in the field of Islamic accounting were identified, categorizing the intellectual structure into seven streams: waqf accounting, zakat accounting, Sharia audit, Sharia governance, and corporate Sharia screening, accounting for various modes of Islamic financing, educational institutions, Islamic financial institutions, and Islamic accounting.

Research on sustainability in Islamic accounting has expanded through various approaches, each contributing unique perspectives. Thottoli et al. (2022) examined the relationship between auditing and sustainability accounting, emphasizing the role of audit practices in ensuring transparency in sustainability reporting. Hassan et al. (2021) conducted a bibliometrics study on Islamic accounting and business research journals, mapping the intellectual progression in this field. Additionally, bibliometric studies by Adawiyah et al. (2023, Hartanto et al. (2024), Tumewang et al. (2024), and Uula & Ikhwan (2022) provided insight into the structural trends of Islamic accounting research within indexed academic databases, highlighting emerging themes and gaps. Muhammad & Nugraheni (2022) underscored the importance of developing Sharia accounting curriculum in higher education to ensure the sustainability of human resources within the Sharia finance industry. Furthermore, Parte et al. (2023) explored the fair view principle, linking it to conventional accounting, sustainability accounting, and Islamic accounting, offering a new perspective on ethical financial reporting. Lastly, Aziz & Ahmad (2018) introduced the concept of Sharia green accounting as a framework for fostering sustainable growth within Islamic financial institutions, advocating for the integration of Islamic ethical principles into environmental and financial sustainability.

Research Methods

Although the literature on sustainability in Islamic finance has developed significantly, the bibliometric literature that addresses this issue still needs to be investigated, especially as it relates to Islamic finance. According to (Paltrinieri et al., 2020), bibliometric analysis offers several benefits over traditional literature review techniques. The study used bibliometric analysis to find prevailing trends and map the direction of future research (Hassan et al., 2021; Pahlevi, 2022; Tumewang et al., 2024). It provides more objective selection and sample extraction, which reduces the possibility of selection bias. In addition, it integrates quantitative and qualitative statistical measures of publications. In addition, it can handle very large data sets and find new research paths through a thorough review of existing studies (Naciti et al., 2022).

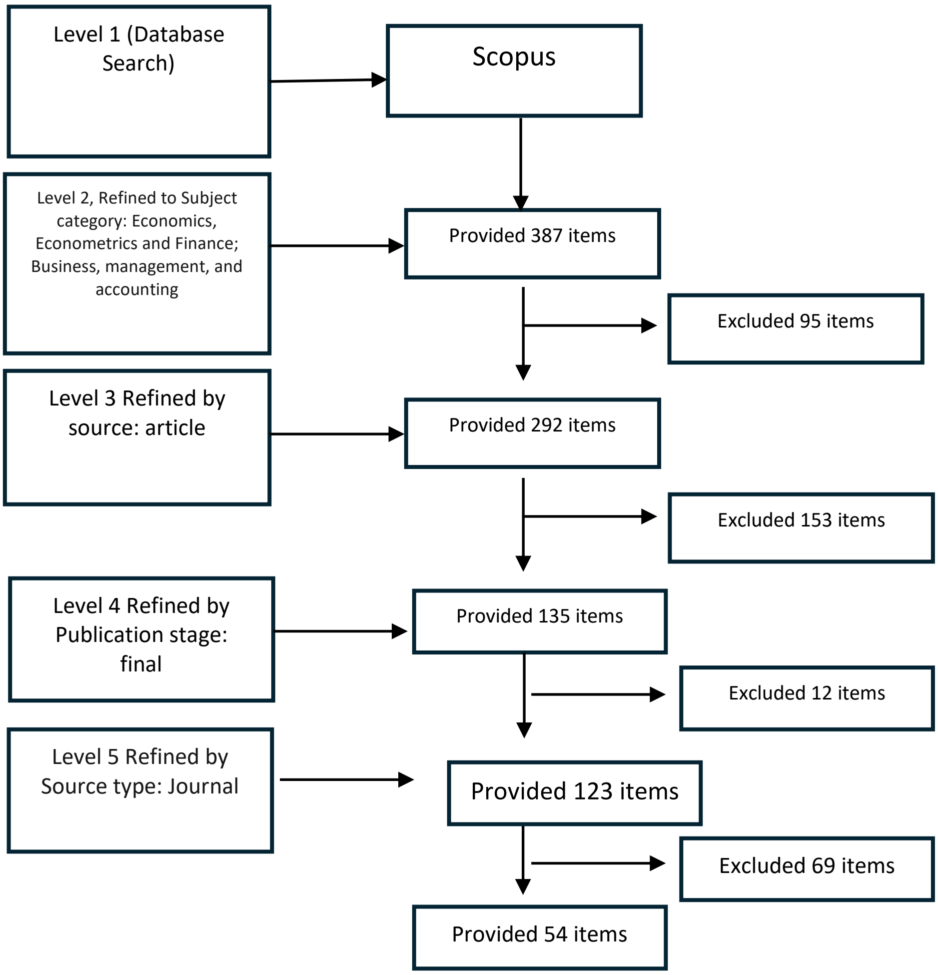
Although bibliometric analysis is widely used to map intellectual and influential structures in academic research, it is insufficient on its own to determine whether studies truly contribute to sustainability in Islamic finance. Recognizing this limitation, we employ a dual method approach, combining bibliometric insights with content analysis to assess the quality and relevance of research contributions. Bibliometric analysis remains valuable for identifying prolific authors, high-impact journals, and research networks (Paltrinieri et al., 2020; Hassan et al., 2021). However, a deeper thematic and methodological assessment is necessary to provide contextual meaning to the findings.

Authors Tranfield et al., (2003) created a protocol review that included database selection, finding related keywords, and applying inclusion and exclusion criteria. Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar are some of the well-known databases that were first considered. This study uses data sources from the Scopus database. Scopus was chosen because of its recognized quality standards (Lada et al., 2023), wide coverage in various research areas (Gonzalez-Ruiz et al., 2024; Hartanto et al., 2024; Thottoli et al., 2022), and is often used in bibliometric studies (Hassan et al., 2021; Tumewang et al., 2024).

Furthermore, analyzing data from the Scopus database identified various influential structures, such as the most prolific authors, dominant years, reputable sources, and significant publishers. Intellectual structures, such as bibliographic coupling and co-authorship, are also visualized using RStudio Biblioshiny. A series of representative keywords, such as ("Islamic Accounting" OR "Shariah Accounting" OR "Shariah-Compliant Accounting" OR "Islamic finance") AND ("sustainable" OR "Sustainability" OR "Sustainable Development" OR "Green Finance"), are used to cover sustainability issues in Islamic finance comprehensively. Google Scholar, on the other hand, was not chosen due to its extensive inclusion of non-English articles, inactive indexing of journals, and limited coverage (Mongeon & Paul-Hus, 2016).

Figure 1

Process applied for delimiting literature



Source: Authors' work

Of the 54 articles, 54 were published in the Scopus database and have been peer-reviewed. The initial search yielded 290 articles distributed across three keyword sets. Search results are saved in CSV format and include important details such as the paper's title, author name and affiliation, abstract, keywords, and references. Our focus is only on journal articles that have gone through a rigorous peer review process to guarantee quality standards, as shown by previous research (Zainuldin & Lui, 2022). We decided to avoid non-peer-reviewed works and focus on articles related to business, economics, and management. The result was 54 articles published over 12 years, from 2013 to 2025. The selection of articles from 2013 is justified because, following the (Brundtland et al., 1987), environmental issues were considered global sustainability threats. In addition, to provide a comprehensive overview of the development of the literature, the study should have established a time frame.

The number of articles increased for each search category is presented in Figure 1. To eliminate duplicates, the Scopus database CSV file is imported into the Biblioshiny RStudio package and converted into a Bibliometrix file. As a result, a final sample consisting of 54 different articles to be evaluated was produced. Using the Biblioshiny package of RStudio, critical bibliographic information was analyzed, and previous studies were grouped into different research groups (Tumewang et al., 2024). In the last step, the author begins a core bibliometric analysis. They begin with a general performance analysis highlighting significant corpus trends.

This includes determining the most prolific authors, their affiliations, their country of origin, and the location of prominent publications. Next, the discussion will discuss citation analysis, with an emphasis on the most significant works and authors based on the number of citations. Biblioshiny outputs, such as bibliographic coupling and co-authorship, will be used to perform network analysis.

Results and Discussion

Among the 154 authors who contributed to these works, only 7 (12.9%) wrote single-author articles, indicating a strong tendency towards collaboration in sustainability research in Islamic finance. The 54 articles, sourced from 31 journals, have an average citation rate of 11.72 per document (Table 1). The annual distribution of 54 papers shows a significant growth rate of 5.95%.

Based on the average citations per year and per article from papers related to sustainability in Islamic finance. Research on sustainability in Islamic finance has been published for 12 years, from 2013 to 2025 (Table 2). The following table shows that the most published papers on sustainability in Islamic finance were in 2018 and 2019, with the number of publications as many as six documents, showing an increase in the number of studies conducted compared to the previous year, which amounted to 2.

Based on the average total citations per article, research on this topic amounts to 11.72. However, the study with the highest citation of 5.18 was published in 2015 for an average annual citation. This shows that the papers published that year were more quoted with the theme of sustainability in Islamic finance.

Figure 2 of The Three Plots shows the three elements observed: the journal's name, the list of authors' names, and the theme or topic used. The gray plot lines that are related to each other than connect the three elements. Based on the journal's name, each journal indicates which authors contribute the most to their publications, especially those that raise the theme of sustainability in Islamic finance. The plot size indicates how many publications are related to the theme. Based on the first element, namely the journal's name, eight journals are recorded using the Three Fields plot, which publishes journals with sustainability in Islamic finance. With a dark red color and connected to several authors such as Hassan MK and Ayub M, the Isra International Journal of Islamic Finance is the most published journal with the theme of sustainability in Islamic finance.

Table 1

Main Information

Description	Results
MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT DATA	
Timespan	2013:2025
Sources (Journals, Books, etc.)	31
Documents	54
Annual Growth Rate %	5,95
Document Average Age	3,85
Average citations per doc	11,72
References	3320
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (EN)	47
Author's Keywords (DE)	216
AUTHORS	
Authors	154
Authors of single-authored docs	7
AUTHORS COLLABORATION	
Single-authored docs	7
Co-Authors per Doc	3,09
International co-authorships %	42,59
DOCUMENT TYPES	
Article	54

Source: Authors' work

Table 2

Total Citations per year

Year	N	Mean TC per Article	Mean TC per year	Citable year
2013	2	6,5	0,50	13
2014	1	18	1,50	12
2015	2	57	5,18	11
2016	3	24	2,40	10
2017	2	20,5	2,28	9
2018	6	19,5	2,79	7
2019	6	19,5	2,79	7
2020	5	20,8	3,47	6
2021	2	10,5	2,10	5
2022	4	11	2,75	4
2023	6	5,67	1,89	3
2024	5	20,8	3,47	6
2025	2	10,5	2,10	5

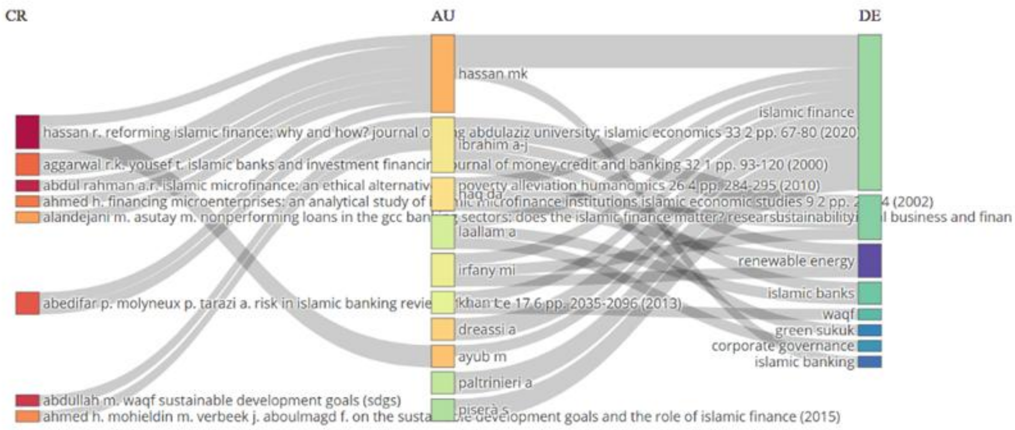
Source: Authors' work

In the second element in the middle, the author is linked to the previous journal's location and relevant keywords. Figure 2 shows that twenty authors are listed in this element. Among the 10 authors above, Hassan MK wrote four articles. In contrast, Ayub M, Dreassi A, Haq DA, Ibrahim AJ, Irfanu MI, Khan T, Laallam A, and Paltrinieri A wrote two articles on sustainability in Islamic finance. Furthermore, in the third element, namely the research topic, each research topic is connected to other authors who have written a lot about sustainability in Islamic finance. The Three Fields Plot results show that 10 keywords related to Islamic finance, sustainability, and renewable energy are in the top positions. This shows that these words are closely related to research on sustainability in Islamic finance.

Figure 3 shows the number of research articles published by each journal based on the level of relevance to the theme of sustainability in Islamic finance. The names of the most published journals and the intervals per number of documents are indicated by the blue circle above. The darker color, the greater the quantity and relevance to the research theme, with the number of papers published by each journal ranging from 0 to 8. Compared to other journals, the Isra International Journal of Islamic Finance has the most displayed dark blue bar charts. This is because the journal is relevant to the topic being discussed. However, the two journals with the fewest publications are in the lowest position. This shows that fewer than 8 journals are among the most relevant data sources regarding the quantity and relevance of sustainability topics in Islamic finance.

Figure 2

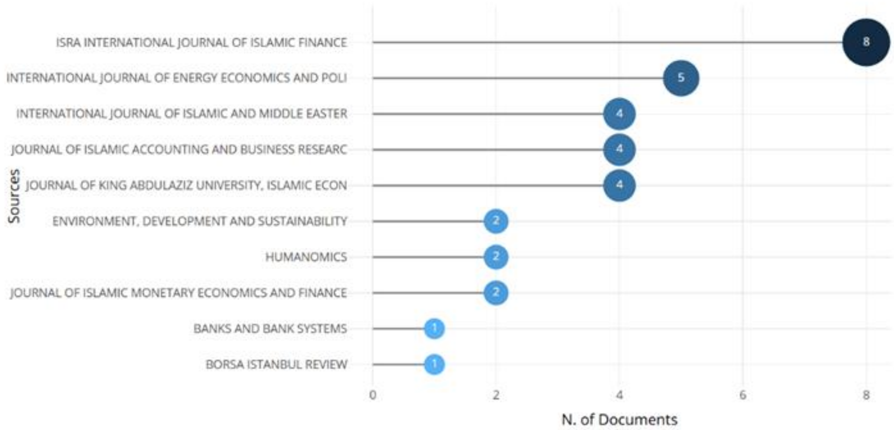
Three Field Plot



Source: Authors' work

Figure 3

Most relevant Sources

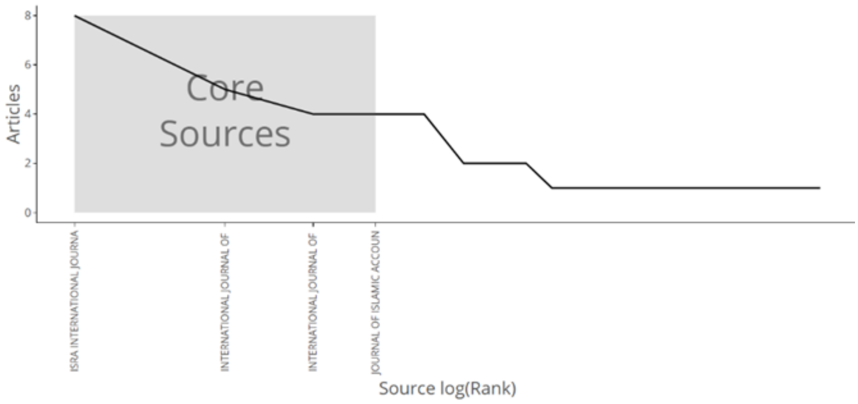


Source: Authors' work

According to Bradford's law, journals are classified based on their level of productivity, as shown in Figure 4. Core, intermediate, and broad journal groups are formed based on shaded sections and annotated in their core sources. Journals that fall into this category are journals with the highest output level that discuss sustainability in Islamic finance over a certain period. According to these figures, the journal with the highest number of publications is the Isra International Journal of Islamic Finance, with eight publications. The International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy is in second place, with five publications. Another journal included in the core journal category occupies the next position, namely the International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management.

Figure 4

Categorization of Journals by Bradford's Law



Source: Authors' work

Table 3

Source Impact

Element	h_index	g_index	m_index	TC	NP	PY_start
ISRA INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ISLAMIC FINANCE	4	8	0,308	112	8	2013
JOURNAL OF ISLAMIC ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS RESEARCH	4	4	0,444	32	4	2017
ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY	2	2	0,2	24	2	2016
HUMANOMICS	2	2	0,167	29	2	2014
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ISLAMIC AND MIDDLE EASTERN FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT	2	3	0,667	15	4	2023
JOURNAL OF ISLAMIC MONETARY ECONOMICS AND FINANCE	2	2	0,286	19	2	2019
JOURNAL OF KING ABDULAZIZ UNIVERSITY, ISLAMIC ECONOMICS	2	4	0,154	16	4	2013
BANKS AND BANK SYSTEMS	1	1	0,333	2	1	2023
BORSA ISTANBUL REVIEW	1	1	0,5	3	1	2024
BUSINESS STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT	1	1	0,5	7	1	2024

Source: Authors' work

The calculation of journals is not only made based on the quantity produced and its relevance, but also the impact of each journal written with the theme of sustainability in Islamic finance by calculating the journal's h-index. The impact of the journal is shown by the h-index in Table 3. The higher the h-index, the greater the influence.

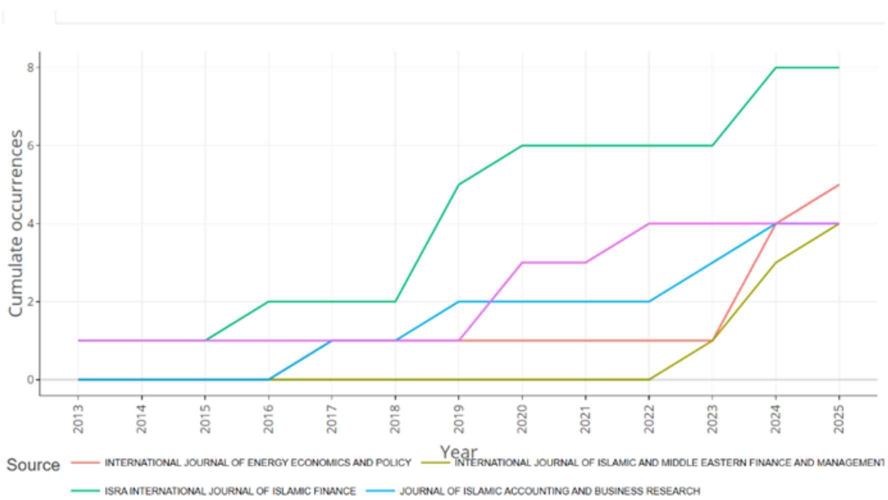
The Isra International Journal of Islamic Finance and the Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research occupy the top position with an h-Index of 4. Environment, Development, and Sustainability occupy the third position, with an h-Index of 2. Journals with an h-Index of 1 only have 3 journals, which shows that the journal has low influence (Table 3).

In addition, this study discusses the development of journals as a source of research on sustainability in Islamic finance. Figure 5 shows a curve that illustrates the evolution of the journal's annual occurrence from 2013 to 2025. This curve shows a tendency for research publications related to sustainability in Islamic finance to vary. The curve above also shows that several journals have seen an increase since 2013 and continue to grow, most notably the Isra International Journal of Islamic Finance, which increased rapidly from 2018 to 2025.

In addition, authors who have published their work can be sorted based on the influence generated by the h-index. The value of the h-index ranges between 0 and 3. In Table 4, Hassan MK is the author with the highest h-index of 3, which shows the maximum impact. Furthermore, seven other authors had an H-index value of 2 and had a considerable impact, while 2 authors had an H-index value of 1 and the lowest impact level.

Figure 5

Source Growth



Source: Authors' work

Table 4

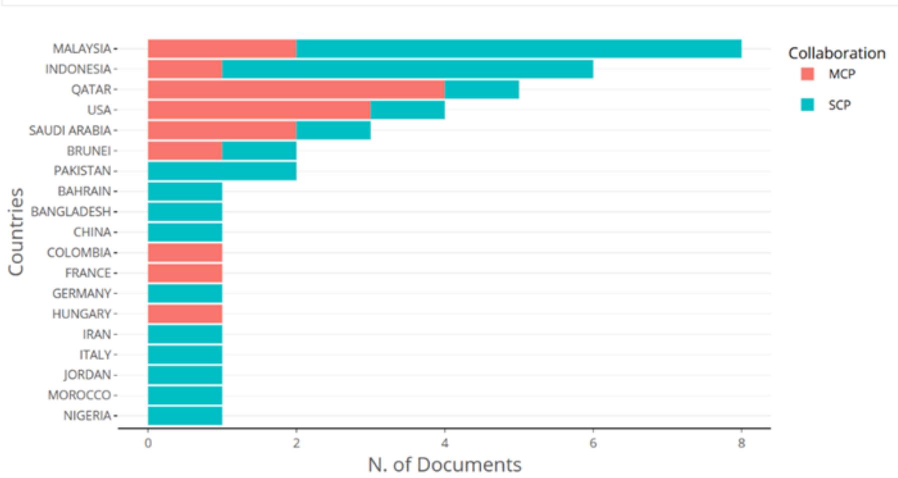
Author Impact

Element	h_index	g_index	m_index	TC	NP	PY_start
HASSAN MK	3	4	0,231	31	4	2013
JOB M	2	2	0,333	9	2	2020
DREASSI A	2	2	0,333	81	2	2020
IBRAHIM A-J	2	2	0,333	18	2	2020
LAALLAM A	2	2	0,333	23	2	2020
PALTRINIERI A	2	2	0,333	81	2	2020
PISERÀ S	2	2	0,333	81	2	2020
SHIRAZI NS	2	2	0,333	18	2	2020
ABDELSALAM O	1	1	0,091	103	1	2015
ABDUH M	1	1	0,2	15	1	2021

Source: Authors' work

Figure 6

Corresponding Author's Country

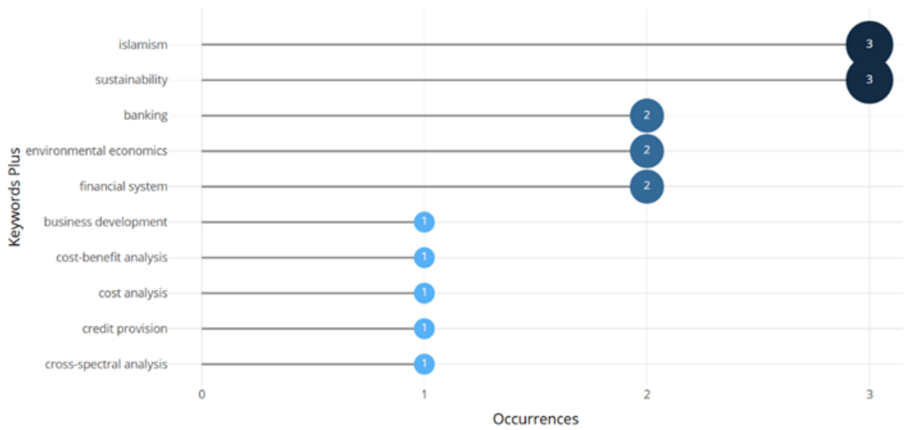


Source: Authors' work

Figure 6 shows the country of origin of each author of the resulting article by counting the number of collaborations between SCP (single-country cooperation) or one-country collaboration (not MCP (multi-country collaboration) or multi-country collaboration). This data covers the top nineteen countries, and the number of documents published on sustainability in Islamic finance ranges from 0 to 8. The results show that Malaysia has the most authors, with eight published articles. Indonesia is ranked second with six articles published. Qatar is in third place with five articles, the USA is in fourth place with four articles, and Saudi Arabia is in fifth place with three articles. This data shows that articles on sustainability in Islamic Finance should be published more in other countries. This improvement must be done because it will encourage innovation for the development of sustainability in Islamic finance in the country.

Figure 7

Most Relevant Words



Source: Authors' work

Figure 8

Become Tree Map

Source: Authors' work

Figure 9
Word Cloud

Source: Authors' work

In addition, this study counts the relevant words used in the collection of documents that are the subject of the research. Some words appear from 0 to 3 times. Figure 7 shows the top ten words listed, which compares the number of uses of each word and its relevance to the theme of sustainability in Islamic finance. The words Islamism and sustainability are used more than 3 times and are the most relevant to the research, as shown. This shows the close relationship between the research theme and the words that often appear in this study. Figure 7 shows that the words banking, environmental economics, and financial system are in the third, fourth, and fifth places with two appearances.

For words often appearing in data collection, articles researched with sustainability in Islamic finance, Word TreeMap (Figure 8), Word Cloud (Figure 9), and Clustering (Figure 10) are mentioned above. However, the same results were found in all three diagrams: Islamism was the most frequently raised, and sustainability was the second most frequently raised.

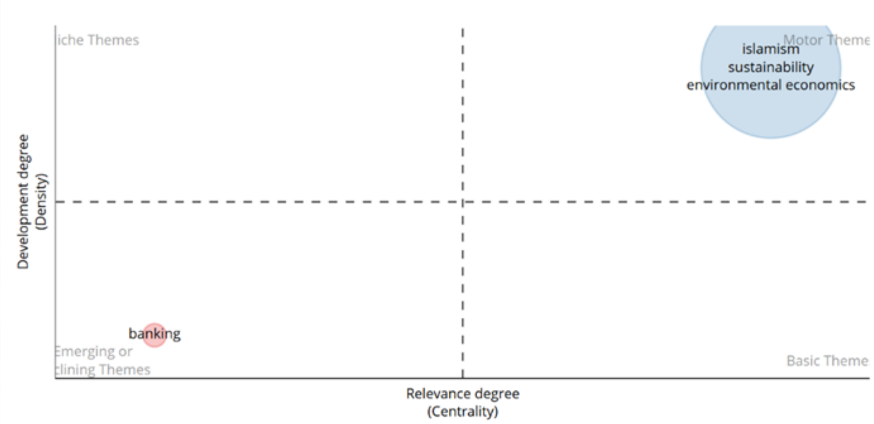
Word Cloud displays word gigs with illustrations varying based on the number of words that appear (Figure 9). Although Word Cloud is usually arranged randomly, the most important words are always placed in the middle to make them larger. The more words that appear in the Tree Map, the larger the square area (Figure 8). Considering the relationships between words, group the words into colored groups.

The development curve by year also shows the average number of events in the data collection study with the theme of sustainability in Islamic finance. Figure 11 shows that the number of words that appear and are used most frequently since 2013 tends to increase. The word sustainability began to appear in 2021 and experienced the highest increase in 2024. The word banking also began to appear in 2016 and has increased yearly since 2023.

Topic trends are also included in the study, as shown in Figure 12, which shows the development of the topic over time, with a division per year. What themes have been used for a long time, and what themes have recently been used, can be seen from the diagram above. In addition, the topics that arise are adjusted to the number of words used in the research, with the theme of sustainability in Islamic finance. The number of words used is higher in proportion to the number of words used more recently. As the data above shows, the development of the topic of sustainability in Islamic finance has continued to grow since 2022.

Figure 10

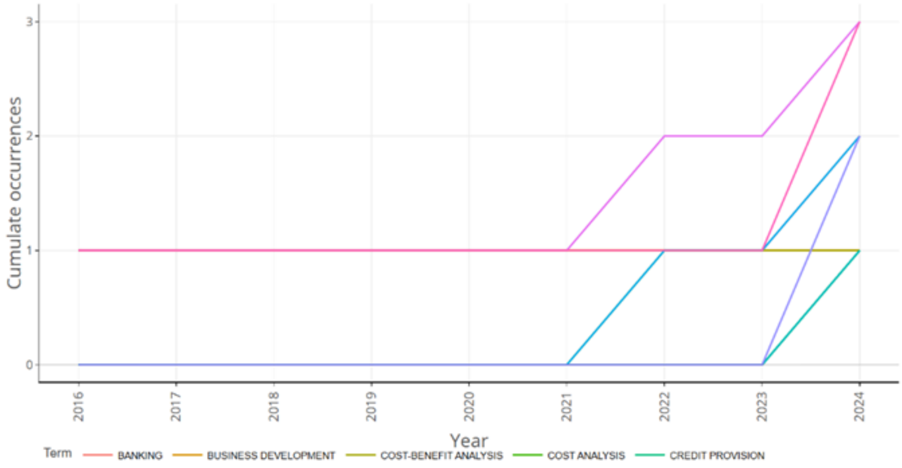
Become Cluster



Source: Authors' work

Figure 11

Word Growth



Source: Authors' work

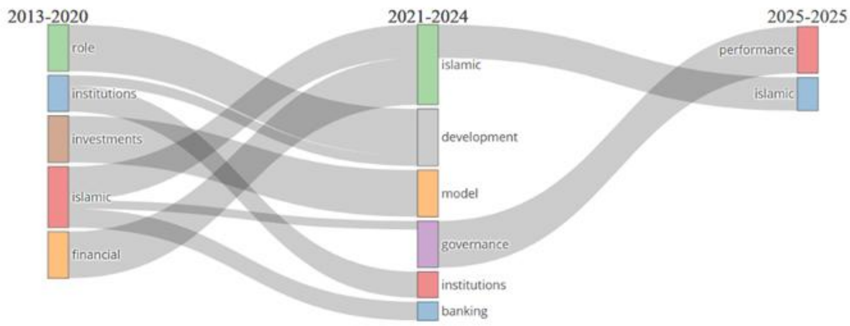
Figure 12

Trend Topic

Source: Authors' work

Figure 13

Thematic Evolution



Source: Authors' work

The themes used in the papers that are the subject of the research are constantly changing, especially from new to old articles. This is the evolution of the theme shown in Figure 13. Although the subject of this study is sustainability in Islamic finance, this data shows some of the subthemes that are often used. These subthemes are displayed in different sizes depending on the amount used. From 2013 to 2020, some of the most widely used themes are shown on the left side—the two most important themes. Islam, followed by the topic of investments and finance, is a widely used theme.

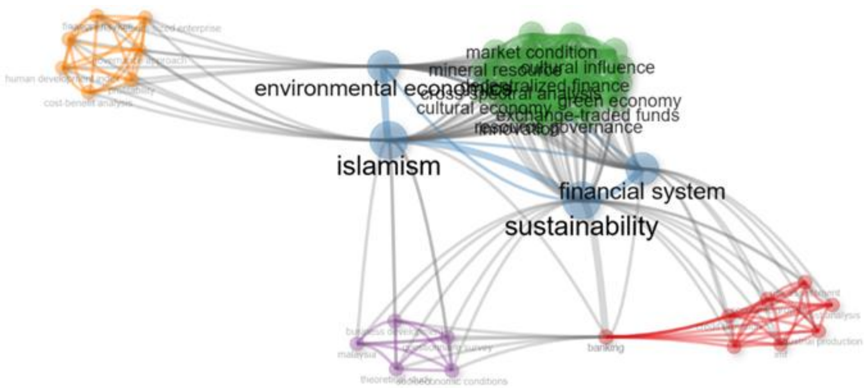
From 2021 to 2024, some of the most widely used themes are shown in the second part of the middle section. During this period, several themes emerged that were evolutions of themes that had been used before and had a relationship in their content.

For example, the theme "Islamic" is a revolution from the theme "Islamic and financial", indicating that although researchers research sustainability in Islamic finance, there are several subthemes that can be used to study these themes. In this section, the Islamic theme is the most used, and the third or right part shows the most recently used theme in 2025. As the color flow indicates, the ten themes listed are evolutions of several themes that appeared in the previous period, such as performance and Islamic, which are extensions of several themes.

In addition, this study discusses the conceptual or contextual structure map of each word that often appears in research articles on sustainability in Islamic finance. This structure map is created by dividing words based on area mapping that shows the relationship between one word and another. This data consists of five colors: red (banking, credit provision, economic growth, risk assessment, cost analysis, industrial production), green (market condition, mineral resources, cultural influence, decentralized finance, green economy, cultural economy, exchange-traded funds, governance), purple (socioeconomic conditions, business development), orange (Financial market, small medium-sized enterprise, governance approach, human development index, profitability, cost-benefit analysis) and blue (environmental economic, Islamism, sustainability, financial system). Each color has words that relate to each other. Every word entered indicates that the research article has many interrelated words, which makes it listed here.

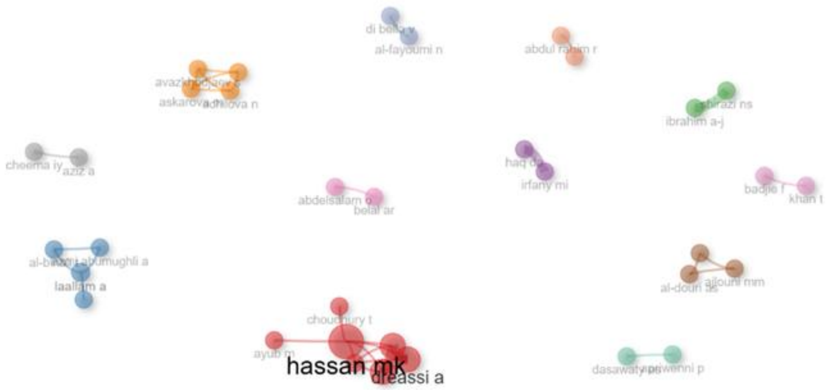
Figure 14

Conceptual Structure Map



Source: Authors' work

Figure 15
Collaboration Network



Source: Authors' work

Next is the cooperation network, or cooperation between the authors of articles on sustainability in Islamic finance. Some of the authors' names are shown, and the names are related, as shown in Figure 15. The similarity of colors and lines between the names indicates the author's relationship. In addition, the size displayed in each box indicates the number of articles published on the subject. The data above shows that twelve authors worked together, but the three largest groups—or groups of more than four people—collaborated on the study. The red cluster shows the collaboration between Hassan MK, Dreassi A, Choudhury T, and Ayub. The blue cluster shows the collaboration of Laallam A, Azmi Abumughli A, and Al-Binali T. The third red cluster shows the collaboration of Avazkhodjaev S, Askarova, and Achilova N. Other authors indexed by collaboration are no more than three people. The nine groups included Di-Bella V with Al-Foyoumi N, Shirazi NS with Ibrahim AJ, Haq Da with Irfany MI, Badji F with Khan T, Abdelsalam O with Belal AR, Al-Douri AS with Ajlouni MM, Dasawaty with Apriwenni P, and Cheema IY with Aziz A.

Influential Elements in Sustainability Writing on Islamic Finance (RQ1)

Based on bibliometric analysis, there are several elements that are very influential in sustainability research in Islamic finance. One of the most notable is the contributions of leading researchers such as Hassan MK, who has produced numerous publications with high impact in this domain. In addition, international collaboration plays an important role, with 42.59% of publications involving more than one country. Another influential factor is that journals are the main source of research, with the International Journal of Islamic Finance being the most prolific journal in the discussion of sustainability in Islamic finance.

Intellectual Structure in Sustainability Writings on Islamic Finance (RQ2)

The intellectual structure in this study shows the existence of thematic clusters that develop based on bibliometric analysis. Based on the relationship of citations and bibliographic couplings, three main areas emerge in the literature: (1) the study of the integration of sustainability in the Islamic financial system, (2) the research on the economic and social impact of Islamic finance on sustainability, and (3) the exploration of sharia-based business models that support sustainable development. The cluster not only reflects the growing scientific interest in sustainability, but also demonstrates the need for further research in developing frameworks that support Islamic-based green finance.

Main Trends in Sustainability Literature on Islamic Finance (RQ3)

Trend analysis shows that sustainability research in Islamic finance has evolved from a mere discussion of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to a more comprehensive approach, namely Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG). This can be seen in the use of keywords that have undergone significant changes over the past decade. The themes of Islamism and sustainability have become dominant in research since 2021, showing a shift in academic attention to sustainability within the framework of Islamic economics. Another trend is the increasing number of studies discussing the application of financial technology in encouraging Islamic-based sustainable finance, such as blockchain applications and green sukuk-based investment models.

Remaining Scope of Sustainability Research on Islamic Finance (RQ4)

Although this study has identified many important trends and contributions, there are still some gaps that future research needs to fill. One aspect that has not been widely discussed is the evaluation of the effectiveness of sustainability policies in the Islamic financial system in various countries. In addition, research on how ESG approaches can be fully integrated with the principles of maqashid sharia is still limited. Going forward, more in-depth studies of the impact of sustainability on economic stability in the long term can provide valuable insights for regulators and practitioners of the Islamic finance industry.

Identified Research Gaps and Future Direction

Although sustainability research in Islamic finance has grown significantly, there are several areas requiring deeper investigation. Table 5 presents the research gaps categorized under ESG dimensions and maqashid sharia principles.

Table 5

Identified Research Gaps in Sustainability and Islamic Finance

Category	Less Explored Areas	Potential Research Questions	Suggested Methodologies
Environmental (E)	Limited studies on green financing models in Islamic banking	How can Islamic banks adopt green sukuk to enhance sustainability?	Empirical case studies on Islamic banks implementing green sukuk (Mohd Zain et al., 2024)
Social (S)	Lack of analysis on Islamic social finance's role in achieving SDGs (Radin et al., 2024)	How can zakat and waqf contribute to long term sustainable development?	Mixed-methods approach combining quantitative financial modeling and qualitative policy analysis
Governance (G)	Limited frameworks linking sharia governance to ESG compliance (Mohd Zain et al., 2024)	How does sharia governance influence the ESG reporting of Islamic financial institutions?	Comparative studies between conventional and Islamic ESG reporting standards (Radin et al., 2024)
Maqashid Sharia (MS)	Empirical validation of maqashid sharia's financial impact (SumBillah, 2024)	How does maqashid sharia improve economic resilience in Islamic financial institutions?	Regression analysis and impact assessment frameworks
Integration of ESG and MS	Absence of quantitative tools measuring the alignment of ESG with maqashid sharia (Radin et al., 2024)	What metrics can evaluate ESG's alignment with maqashid sharia?	Development of an ESG-Maqashid Sharia Indeks (Mohd Zain et al., 2024)

Source: Authors' work

Conclusion

This study aims to analyze the development of sustainability research in Islamic finance globally through a bibliometric analysis of 54 articles published between 2013 and 2025. The findings reveal a steady increase in research publications, reflecting growing academic interest in integrating sustainability within Islamic financial frameworks. The Isra International Journal of Islamic Finance is identified as the most productive journal in this field, while Hassan MK stands out as a key contributor shaping discussions on sustainability in Islamic finance.

Moreover, keyword analysis highlights "Islamism" and "Sustainability" as dominant themes, indicating a strong connection between Islamic financial ethics and environmental responsibility. The study also finds extensive collaboration among researchers, emphasizing a multidisciplinary approach to sustainability in Islamic finance. Geographically, Malaysia, Indonesia, Qatar, the United States, and Saudi Arabia emerge as leading contributors to this research, suggesting that Islamic financial hubs play a crucial role in advancing sustainable financial practices.

However, this study identifies several gaps in the literature, particularly regarding the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles with Islamic finance. Existing research rarely explores the long-term financial stability of ESG-driven Islamic financial institutions or assesses the effectiveness of sustainability policies in different regions. Future studies should focus on developing Sharia-based sustainability indicators, leveraging financial technologies such as blockchain to enhance efficiency, and evaluating the broader economic impact of sustainability in Islamic financial systems.

The findings of this research have significant implications for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners in Islamic finance. Understanding emerging research trends and identifying gaps can contribute to the development of policies that enhance sustainable and socially responsible Islamic financial practices. By strengthening the alignment between Islamic finance and global sustainability goals, this study serves as a valuable resource for guiding future research and industry developments.

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