

# Islamic Financial Reporting: A Bibliometric Network Analysis of Research Frontiers (2000–2026)

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## ABSTRACT

This study aims to map the intellectual structure, thematic evolution, and emerging research frontiers of Islamic financial reporting through a comprehensive bibliometric network analysis. Using data extracted from the Scopus database covering the period 2000–2026, the study applies VOSviewer to analyze co-authorship, co-citation, and keyword co-occurrence networks. The findings reveal that the literature is primarily concentrated around core themes such as Islamic banks, financial reporting, corporate governance, AAOIFI, and IFRS, indicating a strong focus on regulatory frameworks and institutional practices. The results also identify several major research clusters, including governance and reporting quality, disclosure and accountability, and standardization of Islamic accounting practices. Temporal analysis shows a clear shift from early conceptual and normative discussions toward more empirical and context-driven studies, particularly in regions such as Southeast Asia and the Middle East. More recent developments highlight the growing importance of sustainability reporting, risk management, sukuk, and IFRS 9, suggesting a convergence between Islamic financial reporting and global trends in ESG and responsible finance. Despite the maturity of the core literature, density analysis indicates that emerging themes remain underexplored, offering significant opportunities for future research. This study contributes to the literature by providing a systematic and visualized understanding of the development of Islamic financial reporting and by identifying key directions for future scholarly inquiry.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Islamic financial reporting has emerged as a crucial domain within the broader discipline of Islamic finance, reflecting the need to align financial practices with Shariah principles such as transparency, accountability, and prohibition of *riba* (interest). Unlike conventional financial reporting, Islamic financial reporting

incorporates ethical, social, and religious dimensions, including the disclosure of *zakat*, compliance with Islamic contracts, and adherence to Islamic social reporting standards. Over the past two decades, the expansion of Islamic financial institutions across regions such as Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and parts of Europe has intensified the demand for standardized and reliable reporting frameworks. This growth

has also stimulated academic interest in examining how Islamic financial reporting evolves in response to regulatory, institutional, and socio-economic changes [1].

The increasing volume of scholarly publications in Islamic finance indicates a significant transformation in research dynamics. Bibliometric studies reveal that Islamic finance research has experienced substantial growth, with rising publication outputs and expanding global collaboration networks. For instance, recent analyses show a steady increase in research productivity and international cooperation, highlighting the global relevance of Islamic finance topics. Furthermore, bibliometric approaches have been widely used to map the intellectual structure of Islamic finance, identifying influential authors, journals, and thematic clusters. These developments suggest that Islamic financial reporting, as a subfield, is also likely to exhibit evolving research patterns that require systematic exploration [2].

In addition, prior bibliometric studies in related areas—such as Islamic financial literacy, Islamic social reporting, and Islamic microfinance—demonstrate the usefulness of network analysis in uncovering research trends and knowledge gaps. These studies employ techniques such as co-citation analysis, keyword co-occurrence, and collaboration mapping to identify dominant themes and emerging topics. For example, research on Islamic microfinance highlights shifting themes toward sustainability, financial inclusion, and digital innovation, reflecting broader transformations in the Islamic finance ecosystem. Similarly, studies on Islamic social reporting emphasize the integration of governance and ethical disclosure, indicating the growing complexity of reporting practices. These findings underscore the importance of adopting bibliometric network analysis to better understand the trajectory of Islamic financial reporting research.

Despite the growing body of literature, the field of Islamic financial reporting remains fragmented, with varying terminologies, methodologies, and theoretical

perspectives. Some studies focus on compliance with accounting standards such as those issued by AAOIFI (Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions), while others emphasize social and environmental disclosures under Islamic principles. This diversity creates challenges in synthesizing knowledge and identifying coherent research streams. Bibliometric reviews in Islamic economics and finance highlight overlapping themes and the need for systematic mapping to clarify the intellectual landscape and future directions of research. Therefore, a comprehensive bibliometric network analysis can provide a structured overview of the field and facilitate a deeper understanding of its development [3].

Moreover, the period from 2000 to 2026 represents a critical phase in the evolution of Islamic financial reporting, marked by rapid institutional growth, technological advancements, and increasing regulatory harmonization. The integration of financial technology (fintech), sustainability concerns, and global standardization efforts has introduced new dimensions to reporting practices. At the same time, the academic community has increasingly relied on advanced analytical tools such as VOSviewer and Biblioshiny to examine large datasets and visualize knowledge networks. These methodological advancements enable researchers to identify research frontiers, emerging themes, and collaboration patterns more effectively. Consequently, conducting a bibliometric network analysis over this period is essential to capture the dynamic evolution of Islamic financial reporting research.

Although Islamic financial reporting has gained considerable scholarly attention, there is still a lack of comprehensive studies that systematically map its intellectual structure, thematic evolution, and research frontiers over an extended period. Existing studies tend to focus on specific subtopics or limited time frames, resulting in fragmented insights and an incomplete understanding of the field. Furthermore, the absence of a unified bibliometric network analysis makes it difficult to identify key contributors,

dominant themes, and emerging research directions. This gap hinders the development of a coherent research agenda and limits the ability of scholars and practitioners to build upon existing knowledge effectively. This study aims to conduct a comprehensive bibliometric network analysis of Islamic financial reporting research from 2000 to 2026.

## 2. METHODS

This study adopts a quantitative bibliometric approach to systematically analyze the development of research on Islamic financial reporting between 2000 and 2026. Bibliometric analysis is widely recognized as an effective method for evaluating scientific output, identifying research patterns, and mapping the intellectual structure of a particular field. The study utilizes secondary data derived from reputable academic databases, such as Scopus and Web of Science, which are known for their comprehensive coverage of peer-reviewed literature. A structured search strategy is employed using relevant keywords, including “Islamic financial reporting,” “Islamic accounting,” “Shariah reporting,” and related terms, to ensure the inclusion of relevant publications. The collected data consist of bibliographic information such as

authors, titles, abstracts, keywords, citations, and publication sources, which are then filtered based on inclusion criteria such as publication year, document type, and subject relevance.

To analyze the data, this study employs bibliometric techniques including performance analysis and science mapping. Performance analysis is used to examine publication trends, citation patterns, and the contributions of authors, institutions, and countries. Meanwhile, science mapping techniques—such as co-authorship analysis, co-citation analysis, and keyword co-occurrence analysis—are applied to explore relationships and networks within the literature. These techniques allow the identification of collaboration patterns, influential works, and thematic clusters that define the intellectual structure of Islamic financial reporting research. The analysis is conducted using specialized bibliometric software tools such as VOSviewer and Biblioshiny, which facilitate the visualization of complex networks and enhance the interpretability of the results.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Network Visualization

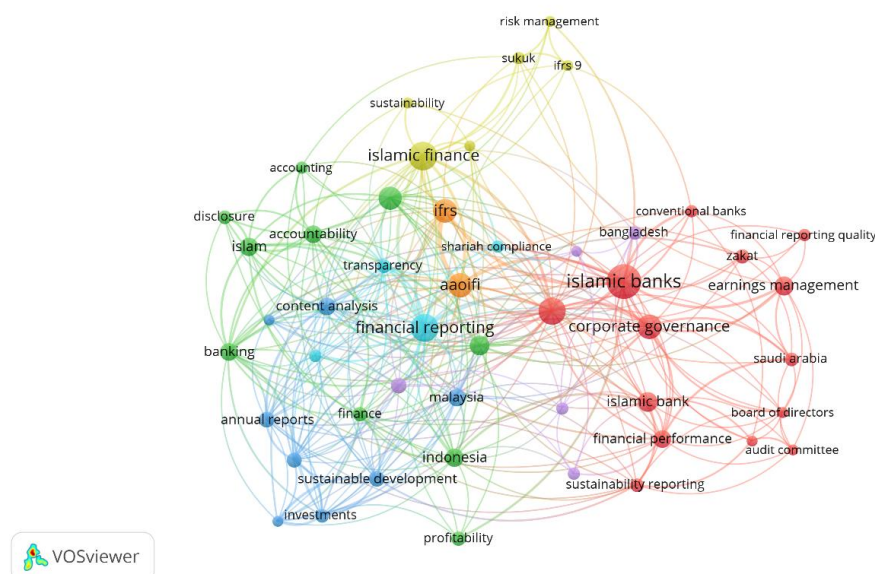


Figure 1. Network Visualization

Source: Data Analysis Result, 2026

Figure 1 reveals the intellectual structure of Islamic financial reporting research as a highly interconnected and multidisciplinary field. At the center of the network, keywords such as Islamic banks, financial reporting, corporate governance, AAOIFI, and IFRS act as dominant nodes, indicating their central role in shaping the discourse. The density of connections surrounding these terms suggests that Islamic financial reporting is not studied in isolation but is deeply embedded within broader themes of governance, regulation, and financial performance. This central positioning also reflects the dual influence of both conventional accounting frameworks and Sharia-based principles.

The red cluster, dominated by Islamic banks, corporate governance, earnings management, and financial reporting quality, highlights a strong research focus on governance mechanisms and financial performance within Islamic banking institutions. This cluster suggests that scholars are particularly concerned with how governance structures—such as boards of directors and audit committees—affect transparency, reporting quality, and managerial behavior. The presence of terms like earnings management indicates increasing attention to ethical and opportunistic reporting practices, reflecting an effort to assess whether Islamic financial institutions truly adhere to their ethical foundations.

The green cluster emphasizes themes related to accountability, transparency, disclosure, and Islamic finance, pointing to the normative and ethical dimensions of Islamic financial reporting. This cluster reflects the foundational principles of Islamic

accounting, where reporting is not only a technical exercise but also a moral obligation aligned with Sharia values. The inclusion of content analysis and annual reports suggests that many studies in this area rely on qualitative methods to evaluate disclosure practices, particularly in assessing the extent to which institutions communicate their compliance with Islamic ethical standards. Meanwhile, the yellow cluster, centered around IFRS, AAOIFI, Shariah compliance, and sukuk, highlights the ongoing debate regarding standardization and harmonization of Islamic financial reporting. This cluster underscores the tension between global accounting standards (IFRS) and specialized Islamic standards (AAOIFI), reflecting a key research frontier in the field. The integration of terms like risk management and sustainability further suggests that Islamic financial reporting is increasingly being linked to broader financial and non-financial reporting concerns, including long-term stability and ethical investment instruments.

The blue cluster, which includes sustainable development, investments, banking, and country-specific contexts such as Indonesia and Malaysia, points to the growing contextual and developmental orientation of the literature. This indicates that Islamic financial reporting is not only examined from a theoretical perspective but also within specific national and institutional settings. The emergence of sustainability-related keywords signals a shift toward integrating ESG and Islamic social reporting frameworks, suggesting that future research is likely to explore the convergence between Islamic principles and global sustainability agendas.

### 3.2 Overlay Visualization

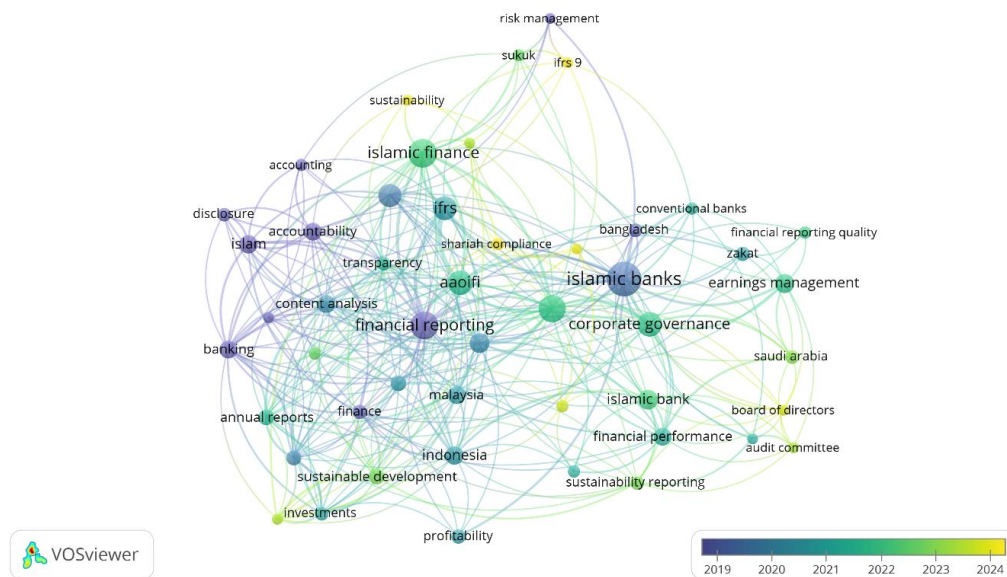


Figure 2. Overlay Visualization

Source: Data Analysis Result, 2026

Figure 2 provides a temporal perspective on the evolution of Islamic financial reporting research, highlighting how themes have shifted over time. Earlier studies (indicated by darker blue tones) were primarily concentrated on foundational topics such as accounting, disclosure, accountability, and banking. These themes reflect the initial phase of the literature, where scholars focused on establishing the conceptual and ethical basis of Islamic financial reporting, including its distinctiveness from conventional accounting systems. The emphasis during this period was largely normative, aiming to define principles rooted in Sharia values and to explore disclosure practices in Islamic institutions.

As the field progressed into the intermediate phase (green tones), the research focus expanded toward financial reporting, corporate governance, Islamic banks, and Shariah compliance. This shift indicates a transition from purely conceptual discussions to more empirical and institutional analyses. Scholars began to examine how governance

mechanisms, regulatory frameworks, and institutional structures influence reporting practices and financial performance in Islamic banking. The presence of country-specific contexts such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia further suggests that comparative and regional studies became more prominent during this stage, reflecting the global expansion of Islamic finance.

In more recent years (yellow tones), the literature shows a clear movement toward emerging and forward-looking themes such as sustainability, sustainability reporting, risk management, IFRS 9, and sukuk. This indicates that Islamic financial reporting research is increasingly aligning with global trends in ESG, integrated reporting, and financial innovation. The growing attention to sustainability and risk reflects an effort to position Islamic finance within broader discussions on responsible finance and long-term value creation.

### 3.3 Citation Analysis

Table 1. Top Cited Research

Citations	Authors and year	Title	Source
321	[4]	Social reporting by Islamic banks	Abacus, 42(2), pp. 266–289
313	[5]	Corporate social responsibility and financial performance in Islamic banks	Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, 103, pp. 521–538
186	[6]	Corporate sustainability disclosure in annual reports: Evidence from UAE banks: Islamic versus conventional	Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, 55, pp. 1336–1341
175	[7]	Exploring corporate social responsibility disclosure: The case of Islamic banks	International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management, 3(3), pp. 203–227
149	[8]	Navigating the Uncharted: The Shaping of Fintech Ecosystems in Emerging Markets	Cuadernos de Economía, 46(132), pp. 189–201
137	[9]	International accounting harmonization, banking regulation, and Islamic banks	International Journal of Accounting, 36(2), pp. 169–193
131	[10]	Earnings management behaviors under different monitoring mechanisms: The case of Islamic and conventional banks	Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, 132, pp. 155–173
116	[11]	Ethical Reporting in Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited (1983–2010)	Journal of Business Ethics, 129(4), pp. 769–784
89	[12]	Narrative disclosure of corporate social responsibility in Islamic financial institutions	Managerial Auditing Journal, 27(2), pp. 199–222
87	[13]	Influential and intellectual structure of Islamic finance: a bibliometric review	International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management, 14(2), pp. 339–365

Source: Scopus, 2026

### 3.4 Density Visualization

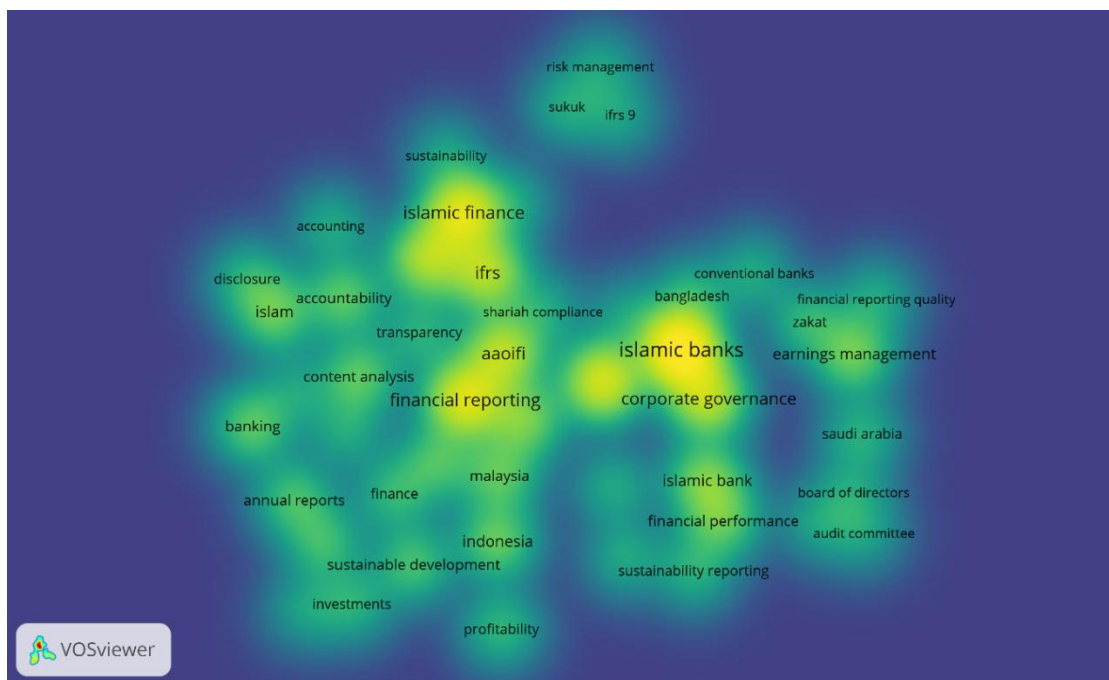


Figure 3. Density Visualization

Source: Data Analysis Result, 2026

Figure 3 highlights the most intensively studied areas within Islamic financial reporting research, where brighter (yellow) regions indicate higher concentrations of scholarly attention. The core hotspots are centered around Islamic banks, financial reporting, Islamic finance, IFRS, AAOIFI, and corporate governance. This suggests that the dominant focus of the literature lies in understanding how Islamic banking institutions implement financial reporting practices within the dual framework of international standards and Sharia compliance. The prominence of these themes confirms that regulatory alignment, reporting quality, and governance structures form the backbone of academic inquiry in this field.

In contrast, areas with lower density (green to blue regions), such as sustainability reporting, risk management, IFRS 9, sukuk, and profitability, indicate emerging or less-explored research domains. Although these topics are gaining attention, they have not yet reached the same level of maturity as the core themes. This pattern suggests a clear opportunity for future research to expand into areas that integrate Islamic financial reporting with sustainability, financial innovation, and risk frameworks.

### 3.5 Discussions

The findings of this bibliometric analysis reveal that Islamic financial reporting has evolved into a structured yet dynamically expanding field, with a strong concentration on institutional, regulatory, and governance-related themes. The co-occurrence network demonstrates that core concepts such as Islamic banks, financial reporting, AAOIFI, IFRS, and corporate governance form the intellectual backbone of the literature. This indicates that scholarly attention has largely focused on how Islamic financial institutions operationalize reporting practices within a dual framework—balancing global accounting standards with Sharia principles.

The dominance of these themes suggests that the field has reached a level of maturity in addressing fundamental issues of transparency, accountability, and regulatory compliance.

Furthermore, the clustering structure highlights the multidimensional nature of Islamic financial reporting research. The governance-oriented cluster underscores the importance of mechanisms such as boards of directors and audit committees in ensuring reporting quality and mitigating practices like earnings management. This aligns with broader accounting literature but also reflects a unique concern within Islamic finance: whether governance structures effectively uphold ethical and religious values. At the same time, the presence of disclosure, accountability, and transparency within another cluster reinforces the normative foundation of Islamic reporting, where financial information is not merely technical but also serves moral and social accountability purposes.

The overlay visualization adds a temporal dimension to these insights by illustrating a clear evolution of research focus. Early studies were primarily concerned with conceptual and ethical underpinnings, particularly in defining Islamic accounting principles and disclosure practices. Over time, the literature shifted toward empirical investigations of institutional performance, governance effectiveness, and cross-country comparisons, particularly in regions such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia. This progression reflects the broader development of the Islamic finance industry itself, moving from conceptual formation to practical implementation and performance evaluation.

More importantly, recent trends indicate a significant shift toward emerging themes such as sustainability, risk management, IFRS 9, and sukuk. This

suggests that Islamic financial reporting is increasingly being integrated into global discourses on sustainable finance and financial innovation. The growing emphasis on sustainability reporting and ESG-related concepts indicates a convergence between Islamic principles—such as *maqasid al-shariah*—and contemporary frameworks for responsible finance. However, the density analysis reveals that these areas are still underdeveloped compared to the core themes, highlighting a critical gap that future research can address.

This study contributes to the literature by providing a comprehensive mapping of the intellectual structure and evolution of Islamic financial reporting research. The findings suggest that while the field has established a strong theoretical and institutional foundation, it is now entering a phase of expansion toward interdisciplinary and forward-looking topics. Future research should therefore focus on bridging the gap between traditional Islamic accounting principles and emerging global challenges, particularly in sustainability, digital finance, and risk management. Such efforts will not

only enrich academic discourse but also enhance the practical relevance of Islamic financial reporting in an increasingly complex financial landscape.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This study provides a comprehensive bibliometric mapping of Islamic financial reporting research from 2000 to 2026, revealing a well-established yet evolving field characterized by strong foundations in governance, accountability, and regulatory frameworks. The analysis shows that core themes such as Islamic banks, financial reporting standards, and corporate governance dominate the literature, while newer topics including sustainability reporting, risk management, and financial innovation are emerging as important research frontiers. The temporal and density analyses further indicate a shift from conceptual and normative discussions toward more empirical and forward-looking inquiries. The study highlights both the maturity of existing research and the significant opportunities for future exploration, particularly in integrating Islamic financial principles with global sustainability and technological developments.

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