

Hadith Scholarship Over Two Decades, 2000–2025: A Bibliometric Portrait of Trends and Influential Works

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ABSTRACT

This research attempts to shed light on the development of Hadith science between 2000 and 2025 through a bibliometric examination of its intellectual structure, collaboration patterns, and thematic changes. The analysis of the literature, which was extracted from the Scopus database with the help of VOSviewer, is focused on three major dimensions – namely, co-authorship, citations, and keywords co-occurrences. As shown by the obtained results, Hadith science continues to preserve its strong ties to classical Islamic scholarship, represented primarily by theology, Shariah, and the history of Islam in its early days. However, Hadith science has expanded significantly beyond its traditional boundaries, having entered new disciplines such as multicultural education, gender-related issues, and even modern society's problems. Regarding co-authorships, it becomes evident that Hadith science possesses an internally coherent network of collaboration that, however, tends to be quite region-specific. Finally, when it comes to keywords co-occurrences, one can notice that the most popular topics among those covered in this field include Hadith's digital discourse and epistemology. To sum up, this study suggests that Hadith scholarship is currently going through a transition process, when classical traditions continue to be followed alongside more innovative ones.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The field of Hadith studies has always held an important place within the wider realm of Islamic studies and has acted as a starting point for the knowledge and practice of the teachings and guidance of the Prophet Muhammad. Apart from the Quran, hadiths form the basis for the practice of law, theology, and ethics in Islamic communities. Traditionally, the methods used for studying

hadiths included isnād (transmission chain) and matn (content) studies. Yet, in today's academia, the scope of hadith studies has been greatly changed due to the use of interdisciplinary and digital methods [1], [2].

The turn of the early twenty-first century has brought about significant developments in terms of scholarly publication on hadith studies. It is part of a much wider trend that can be observed in relation to scholarly developments in Islamic

studies, in general. From the bibliometrics perspective, a rise in academic output concerning the subject in question can be noted, especially in internationally recognized databases. For example, recent research based on the use of the Scopus database shows a rising trend in the number of publications as well as new themes and research trends in this area [3].

In addition to the expansion in terms of quantitative growth, the focus of hadith studies has also expanded in a thematic way. The contemporary approach to hadith studies has focused on themes such as authenticity of hadiths, textual criticism, and digital humanities and computing methods in general. It can be observed through bibliometric analysis that although some important themes related to narrator credibility, authenticity testing, and classification techniques have continued to be prominent, the emerging themes of machine learning applications and semantic analysis have started gaining importance [4], [5].

In addition, the emergence of journals and academic forums that are specifically dedicated to hadith studies has been an important factor in the development of the field. Journals serve as a forum for scholarly discourse, allowing discussions about both traditional problems and new ones emerging within the context of hadith studies. Studies on trends in publishing in hadith-related journals reveal increasing numbers of publications and clustering of topics, which indicates that hadith studies have become an independent field of academia.

Other important advancements in recent years include the application of digital tools and data analysis techniques in hadith studies. The use of bibliometrics as an analytical technique, for example, is indicative of a general trend towards studying knowledge production, tracking citations, and identifying themes over time. Bibliometric studies that focus specifically on hadith text criticism, as well as related subfields, demonstrate the power of this quantitative analysis technique to reveal

patterns of citation, collaboration, and evolution of themes over long periods of time.

The above developments indicate the dynamism associated with the study of hadith during the period between 2000 and 2025. The study of hadith has not only grown in terms of breadth but also in terms of methods used. There is a clear indication that changes have been taking place in terms of scholarly approaches, advancements in technology, as well as intellectual interactions across the globe. Nevertheless, the area requires systematic review and evaluation in light of the developments discussed herein.

Despite evident changes and advancements in hadith literature analysis over the last two decades, there remains no unified bibliometric overview that can provide a systematic account of the discipline's intellectual dynamics, topic development, and significant accomplishments during this period of time. Indeed, most studies conducted by researchers on this topic usually concentrate either on small sets of publications or narrow research topics and cover a relatively short time period. Thus, it is necessary to conduct further research in order to understand hadith literature analysis developments from 2000 to 2025.

This research endeavors to present a bibliometric representation of the entire body of knowledge on hadith studies from 2000 to 2025, taking into account the publication trend, most significant publications and authors, and the overall development of themes and structure within the subject matter. In essence, the use of bibliometric methods will help to understand the development of hadith studies in modern academia, providing insights into their present and future prospects.

2. METHODS

This study uses the methodology of bibliometric research to systematically investigate the trends in hadith studies from 2000 to 2025. Bibliometric investigation is highly suited for analyzing extensive scientific literature due to its capability to

statistically evaluate trends in terms of publications, citations, and development themes in a particular sphere. In this research, a descriptive and evaluative methodology is applied that involves two complementary methodologies—performance analysis and science mapping. Performance analysis is aimed at measuring productivity and impact of scholarly work, whereas science mapping is designed to illustrate connections between researchers, organizations, and themes of investigation.

The data used in this analysis is extracted from Scopus, which have earned their reputation by providing high-caliber scientific publications. Keyword-based searches are carried out by using appropriate keywords such as "hadith," "Hadith studies," "Prophetic traditions," etc., for the title, abstract, and keyword searches. The inclusion criteria of the study are restricted to peer-reviewed journal articles published during the years 2000-2025. Articles that do not fall within the scope of the topic or belong to some other discipline are excluded to maintain the authenticity of the data.

The analysis is done through the use of VOSviewer, aiding in the visualization of the trends and networks. Some of the major variables that have been analyzed are the number of publications per year, citations, most productive authors and institutions, as well as the most cited documents. Furthermore, there have been studies conducted in terms of co-authorship, co-

citations, as well as keywords co-occurrences, thereby identifying collaboration and thematic trends in this field.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Co-Authorship Analysis

The next sub-section will focus on the collaboration patterns in the study of Hadith literature from the year 2000 to 2025. The study will analyze the network of collaboration through co-authorships and will find out which researchers are significant, what kind of institutional connections exist between these researchers, and how much collaboration has occurred between different countries.

1. Author-level Visualization

The co-authorship network shown in Figure 1 highlights the collaboration pattern between researchers involved in Hadith research during the observation period. With the help of VOSviewer software, the network is displayed with nodes representing the authors while edges represent the linkages between the authors' collaboration. The diagram helps in analyzing knowledge creation in Hadith research since it shows the extent to which knowledge creation in the field is organized socially by checking whether it is highly clustered among some specific authors or scattered among other independent authors.

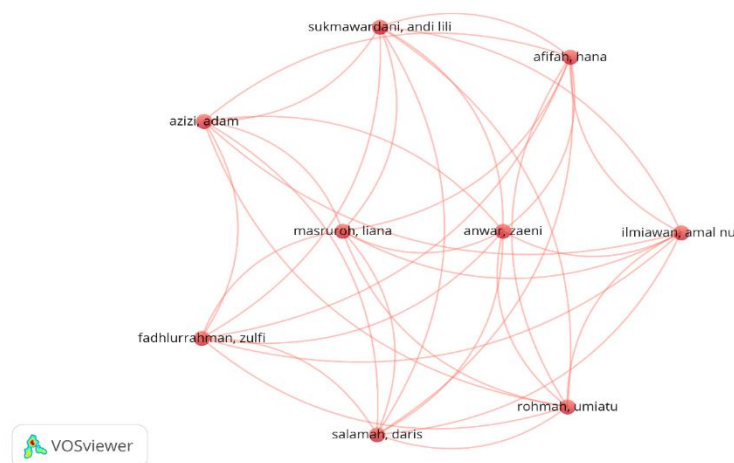


Figure 1. Author-level Visualization

Source: Data Analysis

It is quite clear from the diagram that the author collaboration network is very well connected, with many authors having multiple connections. Some central figures include Masruroh, Liana and Anwar, Zaeni, who seem to be in very important places within the network and play the role of connectors among other authors. The presence of such authors at the center of the network and their high connectivity with other authors indicates their important role in the process of author collaboration and also in shaping the direction of research within the field. Furthermore, the lack of distinct clusters implies that the Hadith Studies area of specialization, within the context of the current sample size, can be described as one where research collaboration is common practice. For instance, researchers like Azizi,

Adam, Fadhlurrahman, Zulfi, and Rohmah, Umiatu are part of the wider network instead of being confined to smaller groups, implying an inclination towards collaboration.

2. Institution-level Visualization

The institutional collaboration network of Hadith scholars is shown in Figure 2. The institutional network was drawn through the help of VOSviewer. In the network, nodes represent research institutions, while the lines connecting two nodes show collaboration among researchers of two institutions through co-publications. Understanding the role played by institutional collaboration in knowledge production is crucial for Hadith studies, as it helps in recognizing dominant institutions as well as inter-institutional collaboration level.

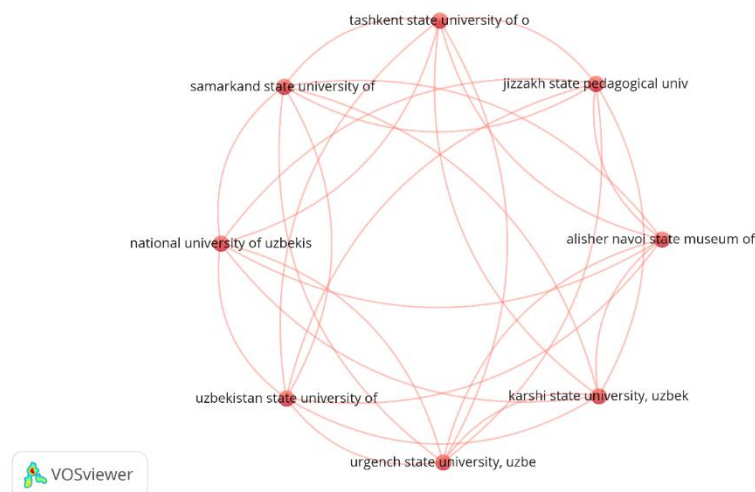


Figure 2. Institution-level Visualization

Source: Data Analysis

From the above figure, one can note a high level of interconnection between institutions, where there is a high degree of collaboration between universities that are mainly found in Uzbekistan. Universities such as Tashkent State University, Samarkand State University, and National University of Uzbekistan seem to be at the center of the network, showing their importance in academic collaboration. The high number of links between these institutions demonstrates their significant role as major nodes in

disseminating Hadith-related academic research, which could be attributed to their academic potential, research production, and scholar network. Moreover, the lack of clusters or clusters that are separate implies that there is a fairly coherent collaboration among institutions in which most of the universities are connected to each other instead of being separated. Some of the institutions like Urgench State University and Alisher Navoi State Museum have also been included in the network, implying that not

only research organizations but also cultural research organizations are taken into account in Hadith research.

3. Country-level Visualization

Figure 3 displays the authorship network at the country level in Hadith research. This map shows the collaboration

among contributing nations in Hadith research at an international level. This figure uses VOSviewer to display the connections between countries using node links. Countries are presented using nodes, and the connection between them is depicted by lines representing co-authorship.

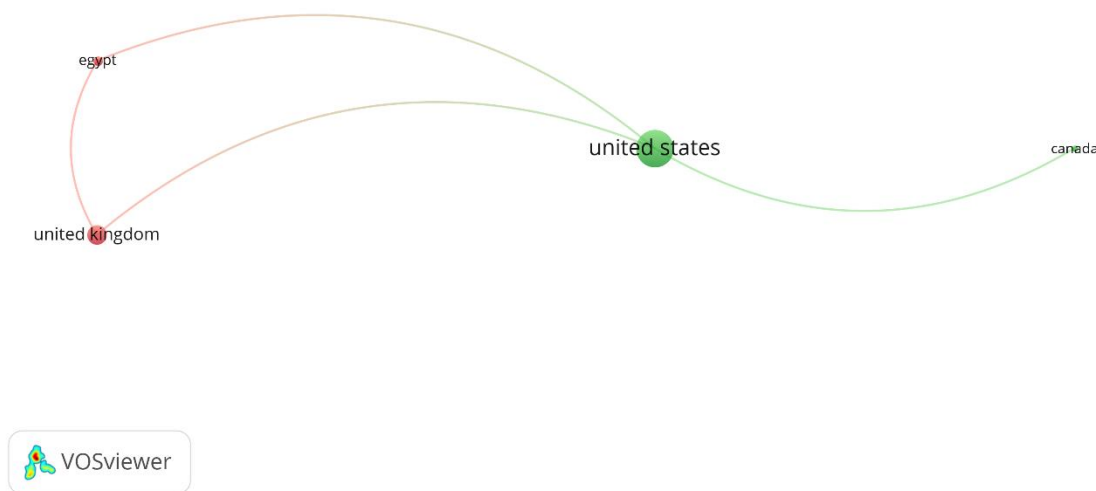


Figure 3. Country-level Visualization

Source: Data Analysis

From the figure above, the fact that the United States of America is at the center of the collaboration network shows how much of an important country this is, seen from the bigger size of the node and its connection to other countries. The direct connection to Canada means there is a good collaboration within North America, indicating shared interests between the two nations. The US is also connected to other countries like Egypt and the United Kingdom. This shows the United States to be a bridge connecting the Western tradition of scholarship with that of the Middle Easterners studying Hadith literature. On the contrary, countries such as Egypt and the United Kingdom seem more marginal in the network since they have less direct relations compared to the United States.

Nevertheless, due to the linking via the central node, it implies that collaborations between these nations involve intermediaries rather than being directly linked together. From this analysis, it becomes clear that despite global distribution, there is still a disparity in terms of levels of collaborations in Hadith studies.

3.2 Citation Analysis

The current section will deal with the academic effects that are brought about by literature that pertains to the study of Hadiths. Citation analysis is performed to determine the highly cited authors and literature, which form important references for the Hadiths studies discipline.

Table 1. The Most Impactful Literatures

Citations	Authors and year	Title
30	[6]	The relationship between maghāzī and hadīth in early Islamic scholarship
25	[7]	The first Shāfiī: The traditionalist legal thought of Abū Yaqūb al-Buwaytī (d. 231/846)
24	[8]	'Abdallah Ibn Salim Al-Basri and 18th century Hadith scholarship
23	[9]	Alternative theorizing of multicultural education: an Islamic perspective on interculturality and social justice
20	[10]	Was Ibn Kathir the 'Spokesperson' for Ibn Taymiyya? Jonah as a prophet of obedience
18	[11]	Evolution in the concept of Sunnah during the first four generations of Muslims in relation to the development of the concept of an authentic Hadīth as based on recent western scholarship Evolution dans le concept de la Sunna au cours des quatre premières générations de musulmans en relation avec le développement du concept d'une authentique Hadī ĩ que fondée sur l'érudition occidentale récente
18	[12]	Critical Rigor vs. Juridical pragmatism: How legal theorists and hadīth scholars approached the backgrowth of isnāds in the Genre of 'ilal al-hadīth
17	[13]	WAHHABISM AND THE RISE OF THE NEW SALAFISTS: Theology, Power and Sunni Islam
17	[14]	Islamic Law and Muslim Same-Sex Unions
15	[15]	The life and works of al-Nasāī

Source: Scopus, 2026

Table 1 highlights the most influential works in Hadith scholarship based on citation counts, revealing both the intellectual foundations and the thematic diversity of the field. The most cited work by Görke (2011) emphasizes early Islamic scholarship, particularly the relationship between maghāzī and Hadith, indicating strong scholarly interest in the historical formation of Hadith literature. Similarly, studies by El Shamsy (2007) and Voll (2002) focus on classical figures and intellectual traditions, reinforcing the continued importance of historical and biographical approaches. At the same time, works such as R'boul (2021) and Jahangir & Abdullatif (2016) demonstrate the expansion of Hadith-related discourse into contemporary issues, including multicultural education and social norms, reflecting the field's engagement with modern societal debates. Contributions by Mirza (2014), Duderija (2012), and Brown (2007) further highlight critical and methodological discussions, particularly regarding the development of Sunnah, Hadith authenticity, and legal theory.

3.3 Keyword Co-Occurrence Analysis

Analysis of the relationship between the keywords that are frequently found in Hadith studies will help in understanding the underlying framework of the subject matter as well as the development of themes within it over the course of time. This section seeks to do just that as an attempt to understand the development of Hadith studies over the last two decades.

1. Network Visualization

Figure 4 presents the keyword co-occurrence network in Hadith scholarship, visualized using VOSviewer to map the conceptual structure and thematic evolution of the field. Each node represents a keyword, while the links indicate the frequency with which terms appear together in the same publications. The clustering of keywords into different colors reflects distinct research themes, enabling a deeper understanding of dominant topics, emerging trends, and the

intellectual connections that shape Hadith studies over time.

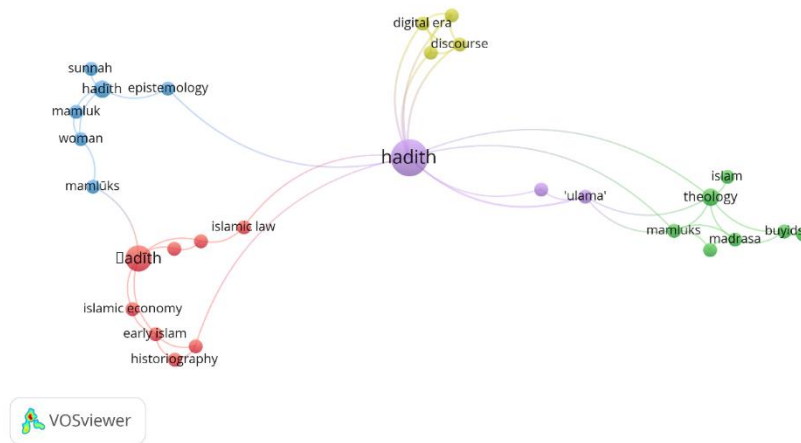


Figure 4. Network Visualization

Source: Data Analysis

In the diagram, hadith is obviously presented as the most prominent keyword, being the node from which all the thematic clusters originate. It is located at the center and connected by several paths to other keywords, thereby emphasizing its position as the major node linking various fields of study together. This is related to the important position of Hadith within the context of Islamic studies because, in this context, any scholarly investigation, whether theological or socio-historical, is considered to be inherently connected to Hadith. One of the notable clusters, which is colored green, consists of themes including Islam, theology, madrasas, Buyids, and Mamluks. This cluster indicates an intense interest in theological and institutional research. It demonstrates how Hadith can be studied from an Islamic intellectual and institutional perspective. In addition, the incorporation of historical organizations like Buyids and Mamluks reveals that researchers are keen to explore the connection between Hadith and its significance during various political eras.

There is another cluster, shown in red, that focuses on Islamic law, historiography, early Islam, and the Islamic economy. This cluster points towards an interpretive approach that is concerned with

the legal and economic interpretation of Hadith and the influence that hadith played in the construction of early Islamic society. The connection of Hadith with Islamic law implies the use of hadith in developing normative theory in Islamic jurisprudence, while the inclusion of historiography implies an increasing focus on the influence of Hadith in constructing history. With regard to the blue cluster, there is a new angle of view introduced through the use of concepts such as hadith epistemology, sunnah, woman, and mamluk. This reflects an increasing awareness in the area of analysis and criticism, specifically in analyzing the epistemological basis of Hadith and its relevance to social matters such as gender. With the appearance of the term woman, there is a clear indication that modern research is increasingly engaging in questions related to gender in Hadith. The yellow cluster, comprising digital era and discourse, is one of the relatively new and developing trends in the study of Hadith. The emergence of this cluster suggests the use of modern tools and techniques of analysis, indicating that scholars have started examining the subject matter in relation to modern theories of communication and discourse. Even though the yellow cluster is relatively small in size, it

is still crucial as it signals the future trend of Hadith research.

2. Overlay Visualization

Figure 5 presents the overlay visualization of keyword co-occurrence in Hadith scholarship, illustrating not only the conceptual structure of the field but also its temporal evolution from 2000 to 2025. Using

VOSviewer, this figure assigns colors to keywords based on their average publication year, where darker tones represent earlier research focus and lighter tones indicate more recent developments. This visualization is particularly valuable for identifying how scholarly attention has shifted over time and for detecting emerging themes within Hadith studies.

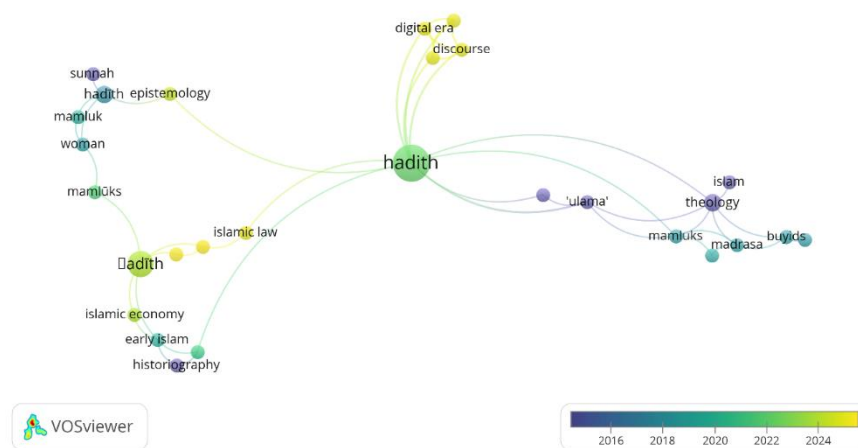


Figure 5. Overlay Visualization

Source: Data Analysis

The figure draws attention to the term *hadith* as the keyword of utmost importance for the whole time period under discussion. It is marked with an intermediary color and located at the center of the chart. This indicates that *Hadith* is still the cornerstone of the academic study and constantly relates to all other topics studied before and after. Terms like '*ulama*,' *Islam*, and *theology* also stand out, but they belong to somewhat earlier tones since their investigation in the context of the academic discipline has always been important. The tendency towards more recent references is visible from the keywords like *Islamic law*, *discourse*, and *digital era*, marked in a lighter shade of yellow. It reveals that current research is being done with relevance to the application of *Hadith* in the contemporary world and its reevaluation using legal and discursive perspectives.

The appearance of the keyword '*digital era*' implies that *Hadith* scholars are beginning to make use of the methods

associated with digital humanities. Thus, we may say that there is an emerging methodological turn in the direction of *Hadith* study, which involves a greater degree of interdisciplinarity. Moreover, some other keyword categories include "*historiography*," "*early Islam*," and "*Islamic economy*." These have been marked by transitional color due to their continuing yet changing significance through the years. The relevance of these topics is sustained in the transition between classic and modern scholarly endeavors, albeit interpreted in different ways. On the other hand, the keywords "*woman*" and "*hadith epistemology*" reflect a growing trend towards criticism and inclusiveness.

3. Density Visualization

Figure 6 shows the density map of co-occurring keywords in *Hadith* studies, which is produced using the VOSviewer software to show the high and dense concentration of research themes in the area of study. In this

density map, the regions where there is a more colorful representation (yellow) denote the presence of denser keywords that are frequently used and closely related to other

keywords. On the other hand, dark regions signify less frequent and less emphasized research themes.

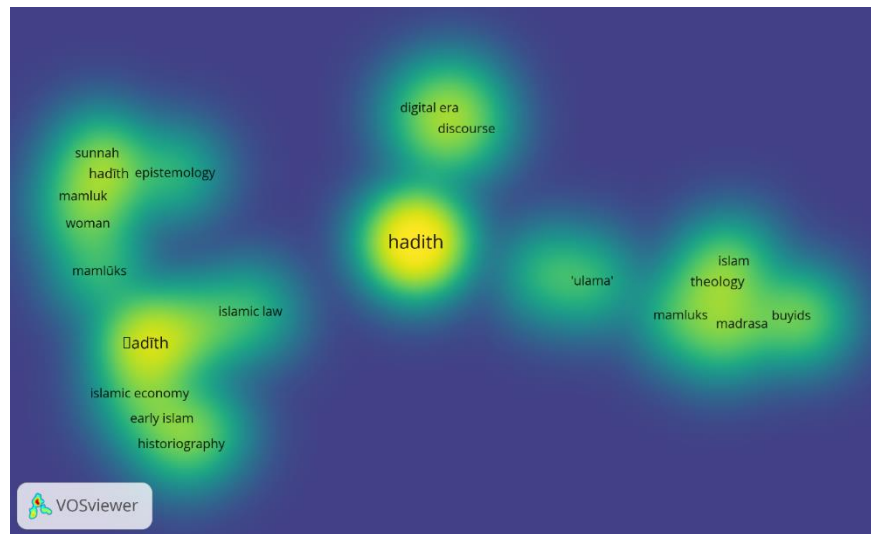


Figure 6. Density Visualization

Source: Data Analysis

It can be clearly seen that the term *hadith* stands out as the dominating and densest keyword, occupying the center of attention by having the highest level of intensity. In other words, this shows that it is not just the most used keyword; it is also the most interconnected idea in the whole research area. The density of keywords around the term "*hadith*" shows how important it is as the focal point that connects all subfields ranging from theology to modern discussions. Moving further from the core node, there are many other clusters of medium density, especially with regard to topics related to Islam, theology, madrasahs, and Buyids on the right side, as well as Islamic law, early Islam, and historiography on the lower left side. This shows that there is a lot of interest among scholars in researching not only topics related to theology and institutions but also historical and legal matters. Moreover, the appearance of medium-density clusters of words like *hadith epistemology*, *sunnah*, and *woman* shows that there is an increasing number of scholars who look at the issues of *Hadith* critically and holistically. Finally, some emerging topics, such as *digital era* and *discourse*, even though

not very dense, indicate possible future trends in this area.

Discussion

The results of the bibliometric analysis indicate that *Hadith Studies* from 2000 until 2025 have developed into a field that is dynamic, interlinked, and characterized by elements of continuity as well as transformations. First of all, one can point out the continuity that is inherent to the field as manifested through the domination of the keyword "*hadith*" and high citation rates of the subject. The continuation of foundational research that focuses on the development of Islam, *Sunnah*, and the role of influential figures proves that traditional epistemology remains an integral part of the current body of knowledge in the field. Conversely, from the perspective of authorship and institutions, there is evidence of increased cooperation in *Hadith* research, even though the trend still shows regionalization. The existence of dense networks of authors and clusters of institutions, especially in certain geographic locations, indicates that there are strong local communities of scholars. Nevertheless,

considering the low level of globalization regarding cooperation, as evidenced by the country-level study, there is still a lot of unevenness in international cooperation. Whereas some countries like the United States serve as a link between different regions, there is a semicentralized pattern in the field, where knowledge production is guided by certain centers.

The analysis of citations serves as further proof of the wide-ranging nature of thought in the field, where highly cited works range from those based on classical topics all the way to more modern issues. Highly cited works not only discuss the earlier scholarship of Islam and the transmission of Hadith, but also the modern issues that are part of multicultural education, social reforms, and modern social norms. The fact that such issues are being addressed suggests that there is a shift towards understanding the relevance of Hadith studies in today's context. Furthermore, the analysis of co-occurrence and overlay graphs shows that there is a notable expansion of themes in the field of Hadith studies. While traditional themes such as theology, jurisprudence, and historiography still dominate, there are also some newer themes that have been developed, such as those related to gender, epistemology, and digital discourse. The use of terms such as 'woman', 'Hadith epistemology', and 'digital era' indicates that there has been a paradigm shift towards a more critical, multidisciplinary, and inclusive approach.

Density visualization brings out the disparity in terms of how scholars allocate their efforts when conducting research on Hadiths. While the most common areas like theology and law continue to attract more attention, other emerging themes have continued to gain some ground even though they are yet to become as popular as the common ones. It is clear that for the future of Hadith studies, the scholars should incorporate new approaches and digital technology while addressing current societal issues.

4. CONCLUSION

The results of this bibliometric analysis illustrate that studies on the science of Hadith from 2000 to 2025 demonstrate not only continuity in terms of classical tradition but also notable growth toward interdisciplinary areas of research. The subject remains rooted in fundamental aspects, including theology, Islamic jurisprudence, and early history of Islam, as evidenced by the prevalence of important concepts and the works associated with them. At the same time, Hadith scholarship shows progress toward addressing more modern topics, namely the discourse about gender and epistemology, as well as the application of new methods relevant to the current age. Analysis of cooperation networks identifies uneven but growing international trends in Hadith studies, where specific geographical locations and organizations serve as centers of knowledge generation

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