

Fifteen years of *Jurnal Syariah* (1993-2007): a bibliometric study

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ABSTRACT

This study presents the result of various bibliometric patterns of articles published by the Jurnal Syariah for the period of 1993-2007. This Malaysian academic journal is devoted to the field of classical Islamic Law and its applications in modern times today. Data from each selected issue of the Jurnal Syariah were collected and statistically analysed using the Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS). The study looked at variables which include authorship patterns, length of articles, number of articles published, author productivity, contributing institutions and subject area patterns. Among the significant findings are that single authorship is prevalent and accounted for about 90% of the articles published and the total number of articles published for the period of 1993-2007 was 285 articles. It was found that 89% of the articles were published in the Malay language. As for the references used, 98% were books, and 39% were journals cited. This study has demonstrated that despite its fifteen years of existence and multidisciplinary approach, contributors and citations of this journal has not yet international. Henceforth, this article provides significant suggestions and strategies for the future of the Jurnal Syariah.

Keywords: Islamic studies; *Shariah* studies; Islamic laws; Bibliometrics; Single journal study.

INTRODUCTION

The discipline of *Shariah* covers all aspects of human lives that range from legal systems, rituals, ethics, politics, economics to society (Schacht 1950; Weeramanty 2001). Coulson (1964) argued that “shariat is a divinely ordained system preceeding and not preceded by the Muslim state, controlling and not controlled by Muslim society”. Islamic jurists have developed the understanding of *Shariah* through *Fiqh* (Islamic jurisprudence). *Fiqh* is a legal terminology referring to Muslim jurists, deriving legal rules from the *al-Qur'an* and *al-Sunah*, the primary sources of *Shariah* through deduction by way of *ijtihad* (reasoning). Between the 10th to 13th centuries, Muslim jurists adhered to different methodologies in deriving suitable rules. As a result, different schools of thought came into being and many books on *Fiqh* flourished at that time. However, at the end of the 13th century the glorious period of *Fiqh* through the *ijtihad* process ceased when Muslim jurists reached a consensus of opinion on the closing gate of *ijtihad*. This has resulted in the prevalence of *taqlid* (imitation) among the Muslim society. Finally, Muslim society became static as Islamic jurisprudence was challenged by many reformers and orientalist to be backward and incompatible with modern needs and civilizations (Mahmassani 1987).

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Based on this historical background, it is evident that there are several issues on Islamic jurisprudence that need to be addressed in modern times today. At the beginning of the 19th century, reforms on Islamic Law took place in several Muslim countries in the areas of family law, criminal law and transactions or contracts. Undoubtedly, the development of Islamic jurisprudence has become one of the issues that interest scholars in this field of enquiry. Scholars in this field published their works in specific journals in Islamic studies.

According to Taher (1993), who has done significant works on Quantitative Study of Islamic Literature, writings on Islamic literature first began in mid 19th century and appeared in European language. He managed to identify 15 core journals of Islamic studies for the period 1911-1980 as covered by *Index Islamicus*. These journals among others, include, *Bulletin of School of Oriental and African Studies*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Middle Eastern Studies*, *Muslim World*, *Middle East Journal*, *Journal of American Oriental Society*, *Islamic Studies*, *Majallat al-Azhar* and *Islamic Quarterly*. Articles of Islamic studies published in these journals are classified under fourteen inter and multi-disciplinary subject areas which are generalia, philosophy, religion, sociology, political science, economics, law, education, language, sciences, art, literature, geography and history.

Besides these journals, legal scholars have also published their works in established specific scholarly journals in the *Shariah* studies, which includes, *Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Law*, *Journal of Islamic and Near Eastern Law*, *Muslim World Journal of Human Rights*, *Islamic Law and Society*, *Journal of Islamic Law and Culture*, *Journal of Human Rights*, *Islamic and Comparative Law Quarterly* and *Arab Law Quarterly*. *Jurnal Syariah* is in this category of specific journals and is the focus of this study.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF JURNAL SYARIAH

In the 17th century Malay Peninsular, many published works on Islamic jurisprudence were in the form of the *Malay Jawi Kitab*. The word *Jawi* is a form of Malay writing using Arabic scripture, whereas the word *Kitab* is referred to as a book. Therefore the *Malay Jawi Kitab* is a Malay language book written in Arabic scripture by the Malay Archipelago's Muslim scholars on jurisprudence encompassing chapters on worship, *zakat*, marriage and so forth. Among the most popular *Malay Jawi Kitab* is *Sirat al-Mustaqim*, 1644 by Sheikh Nuruddin al-Raniri, *Sabil al-Muhtadin* 1780 by Sheikh Muhammad Arshad al-Banjari and also *Furu' al-Masail* by Sheikh Daud al-Fatani. (Abdul Kadir Muhammad 1996)

The Muslim community did not encounter any difficulties in complying with the Islamic rules as there were several books that existed in old *Jawi* written by Islamic scholars of the region on Islamic jurisprudence based on the *Shafie* school of thought (Abdullah 2007). On the other hand, the British Administrators in performing their duties were involved in a number of matters pertaining to the questions of laws of the Malay Muslim community, in particular, matters with regard to the family. The accuracy of information on the personal practices of the local people was of utmost importance in outlining effective policies and those that were practical. The requirement of this administration

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finally caused a few of the British administrators to observe further the practices of the Malay community and the uniqueness of the Malay customs in particular pertaining to its family relationship, which is matrilineal in nature. They discussed several rules in respect of personal affairs, maternal relatives of the Malay community and also matters regarding land and jointly acquired properties (Abdullah 2007). Among the earliest work in customary law in relation to *Shariah*, particularly in family matters, can be seen in Taylor's (Taylor 1937, 1948) and Parr and Mackray's (Parr and Mackray 1910, 114) writings which were published in *Journal of Malayan Branch of Royal Asiatic Society* (JMBRAS). Tiew (2003) has identified this journal as among the early Malaysian historical scholarly journals, with its first publication issued in 1878. Their writings have shown that custom played an important role in moulding the life of Malay families in particular when it touched on matters regarding land ownership in the event of a divorce.

Later, scholarly publications, especially in academic journals in the area of Islamic studies, began in 1970s. In 1977, the Faculty of Islamic Studies, National University of Malaysia, began its publication of an academic journal named *Islamiyyat*. This journal has provided a platform for Malaysian Islamic researchers to publish issues and research in relation to classical and contemporary Islamic studies. Other journals then emerged gradually and provided more avenues in the field of Islamic Studies. Table 1 shows some of the Islamic Studies academic journals published in Malaysia prior to the publication of *Jurnal Syariah*.

Table 1: Malaysian Islamic Studies journals prior to *Jurnal Syariah*

| Journal Titles | Publishers | First publication | Language of Publication |
|---|--|---------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Islamiyyat</i> | Faculty of Islamic Studies, National University of Malaysia. Currently published. | Vol. 1, 1977 | Malay, English and Arabic |
| <i>Jurnal Penyelidikan Islam</i> | Islamic Religious Affairs, Prime Minister's Dept. Currently published. | Vol. 1, 1978 | Malay |
| <i>Jurnal Hukum</i> (continued as <i>Jurnal Hukum</i>) | Islamic Religious Affairs, Prime Minister's Dept. Currently published by the Dept. of Islamic Judiciary Malaysia since 2004. | Vol. 1, 1980 | Malay |
| <i>Islamika</i> | Dept. of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya (discontinued since 1991) | Vol. 1, 1981 | Malay and English |
| <i>Syariah Law Journal</i> | International Islamic University Malaysia. Currently published. | Vol. 1, No. 1, 1984 | English and Arabic |
| <i>Medium</i> | Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya (discontinued since 1994) | Vol.1, 1988 | Malay, English and Arabic |
| <i>Jurnal Perundangan</i> | Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia. (discontinued since 1991) | Vol. 1, 1989 | Malay and English |

It shows that only three journals, namely, *Jurnal Hukum*, *Jurnal Perundangan* and *Syariah Law Journal*, publish articles specifically in the field of *Shariah* studies. Other journals published articles covering various topics on *Shariah*, *Usuluddin*, Islamic Education, History and Civilization, Ethics and many more. *Shariah* and Law articles can also be traced in several other Malaysian legal periodicals, such as, *Malayan Law Journal* (leading law report of Malaysia and Singapore), *KANUN: Jurnal Undang-undang*

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Malaysia (published by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka with its first publication in 1989); *Journal of Malaysian and Comparative Law* (official journal of Law Faculty, University of Malaya); *Malaysian Journal of Law and Society* (official journal of Law Faculty, National University Malaysia) and *IU Law Journal* (later superseded by *IUM Law Journal – the official journal of Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws, International Islamic University, Malaysia*).

Prior to the publication of the *Jurnal Syariah*, Academy of Islam, University of Malaya (then renamed to Academy of Islamic Studies in 1996) has published *Medium* in 1988 as its official academic journal devoted to the study of Islam in classical and contemporary perspective. This journal ceased publication in 1994. The *Jurnal Syariah* is one of the two official journals published by the academy. The other journal is *Jurnal Usuluddin* published in 1993. *Jurnal Syariah* is published biannually and is devoted to the study of *Shariah* in both its classical and modern perspectives. The editorial policy of the journal is “to publish the writings on Islamic Studies which include the field of *fiqh*, economics, laws, political sciences, public administrations and social sciences” (Source: The Academy website available at http://apium.um.edu.my/journals/jurnal_syariah/About_Syariah.php). *Jurnal Syariah* provides a communication platform for researchers interested in the field of classical and modern Islamic Law and the impact of Islamic law on the Muslim community as a whole. Based on this scope, *Jurnal Syariah* has been identified as one of the legal periodicals in Malaysia which provides an important source of research materials for legal practitioners and researchers (Edzan 2000).

From its inception in 1993 to the present, the *Jurnal Syariah* owes much to the leadership of three prominent Malaysian professors in this field. The first editor-in-chief was Mahmood Zuhdi Abdul Majid (1993); followed by Mahfodz Mohamed (1997-1999); Abdullah@Alwi Hassan (2000-2003) and again Mahmood Zuhdi Abdul Majid (2003-2007). In 2006 *Jurnal Syariah* started to appoint regional advisory editors to sit in the editorial board. They were six prominent individuals in which two were from Malaysia, and one each from Brunei, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia.

The *Jurnal Syariah* is published twice a year in 15 volumes with 29 issues with the exception of 1998 where only one issue was published. This journal is fully print, and can neither be accessible online nor is indexed in any local or international database. The language of communication in this journal is Malay, English and Arabic. After fifteen years of publication, *Jurnal Syariah* has published 285 articles and 22 *Shariah* courts case reports from Volumes 4 – 9 (1996 –2001). There has been no review of articles or books. Out of 285 articles, only 28% is research based articles and the rest are conceptual by nature (Table 3). *Jurnal Syariah* is a peer reviewed journal and has become the avenue for local researchers and scholars to publish and share their academic works.

There are several single journal studies which had determined the internationalization status, authorship pattern and publication pattern of specific journals (Ullah, Butt and Haroon 2008; Jennings, Ehrhardt and Poling 2008; Biswas, Roy and Sen 2007). Tiew (1997, 1998) and Anyi, Zainab and Anuar (2009) had reviewed published literature on single journal studies. Anwar (2001) has rightly pointed out that there is a need to study literature in relation to Islamic studies in order to understand the current pattern of scholarly interest and activities. As such, this study analyses bibliometrically all articles

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published in *Jurnal Syariah* between 1993 and 2007.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted in analysing the pattern of articles published in the *Jurnal Syariah* was similar to that used by Tiew, Abdullah and Kaur (2002), Bakri and Willet (2008) in their bibliometric analyses of the *Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science* as well as Kaur's (2006) bibliometric analysis of the *Malayan Law Journal*. Data collected were for a period of fifteen years from 1993 to 2007, with a total of 285 articles. Data pertaining to author's name, year, volume, author's affiliation, length and language of articles, and journal self-citation were all noted. Court case reports were excluded for the purpose of this study. Data were compiled and coded into a spreadsheet for further analysis. The data were then analysed using the *Statistical Product and Service Solutions*. Analysis included descriptive statistics and correlation. The analysed parameters are authorship, publication patterns, authors' geographical and affiliations, number of articles published per year, distribution of subject areas, most prolific contributors and journal self-citation articles.

FINDINGS

Distribution and Length of Articles by Year

There were 285 articles published by the *Jurnal Syariah* for the observed period. Table 2 presents the distribution and lengths of articles by year and the average number of pages per article. It shows that the number of articles published per year varies from 10 to 33.

Table 2: Distribution and lengths of articles by year

| Year | No. of Articles | Percentage (%) | Length (in pages) | Average Pages/article* |
|-------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1993 | 33 | 11.58 | 395.00 | 12 |
| 1994 | 28 | 9.82 | 303.00 | 11 |
| 1995 | 23 | 8.07 | 311.00 | 14 |
| 1996 | 24 | 8.42 | 282.00 | 12 |
| 1997 | 19 | 6.67 | 215.00 | 11 |
| 1998 | 10 | 3.51 | 108.00 | 11 |
| 1999 | 17 | 5.96 | 254.00 | 15 |
| 2000 | 16 | 5.61 | 254.00 | 16 |
| 2001 | 16 | 5.61 | 262.00 | 16 |
| 2002 | 16 | 5.61 | 271.00 | 17 |
| 2003 | 17 | 5.96 | 305.00 | 18 |
| 2004 | 15 | 5.26 | 297.00 | 20 |
| 2005 | 15 | 5.26 | 320.00 | 21 |
| 2006 | 18 | 6.32 | 325.00 | 18 |
| 2007 | 18 | 6.32 | 354.00 | 20 |
| Total | 285 | 100.00 | 4,256.00 | 15 |

* Rounded off to the nearest figure

The highest number of articles is 33, published in 1993, and the lowest number is 10 in 1998. On average 9 articles were published per issue and 19 per volume. The average length of the articles is 15 pages per article. The results also show that between 2002 and 2007 the length of pages increased from 17 to 21 per articles and even though the number of articles published per year seems to be reducing after 1996, the total yearly publication has remained constant in the latter years. This indicates that *Jurnal Syariah* has a constant supply of article submissions to sustain its longevity.

Types of Articles Published

Table 3 shows the types of articles published. Based on previous studies done by Tiew (2002) and Bakeri and Willet (2008) articles from this study were grouped into two types; the concept and research articles. The concept paper is based on conceptual and theoretical analysis which presents new ideas whereas a research paper is a report based on the result of a research that has been carried out. A review paper on the other hand, is a critical evaluation on previous studies on specific fields. There was no review papers found. Findings show that the majority of articles (204 articles or 71.6%) published are concept in nature while 81 articles (28.4%) are research articles.

Table 3: Type of articles published each year

| Year | Concept | | Research | | Total | |
|-------|---------|------|----------|------|-------|-------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| 1993 | 25 | 8.8 | 8 | 2.8 | 33 | 11.6 |
| 1994 | 21 | 7.4 | 7 | 2.5 | 28 | 9.8 |
| 1995 | 16 | 5.6 | 7 | 2.5 | 23 | 8.1 |
| 1996 | 23 | 8.1 | 1 | 0.4 | 24 | 8.4 |
| 1997 | 16 | 5.6 | 3 | 1.1 | 19 | 6.7 |
| 1998 | 5 | 1.8 | 5 | 1.8 | 10 | 3.5 |
| 1999 | 13 | 4.6 | 4 | 1.4 | 17 | 6.0 |
| 2000 | 12 | 4.2 | 4 | 1.4 | 16 | 5.6 |
| 2001 | 12 | 4.2 | 4 | 1.4 | 16 | 5.6 |
| 2002 | 12 | 4.2 | 4 | 1.4 | 16 | 5.6 |
| 2003 | 10 | 3.5 | 7 | 2.5 | 17 | 6.0 |
| 2004 | 10 | 3.5 | 5 | 1.8 | 15 | 5.3 |
| 2005 | 7 | 2.5 | 8 | 2.8 | 15 | 5.3 |
| 2006 | 8 | 2.8 | 10 | 3.5 | 18 | 6.3 |
| 2007 | 14 | 4.9 | 4 | 1.4 | 18 | 6.3 |
| Total | 204 | 71.6 | 81 | 28.4 | 285 | 100.0 |

Authorship Pattern of Articles

It is seen from Table 4 that 256 (89.8%) articles were by single authors and 29 (10.2%) were multiple authored. Before the year 1999, multiple authors were non-existent and it was only in 2003 that joint authorship with at least 2 authors emerged although this was still rare in the field of *Shariah* studies. This results indicating a slow increase in multi-authored works and a predominance of single authored contributions support the findings from other journal studies in the field of social sciences and the humanities (Biswas, Roy and Sen 2007; Hart 2007; Kaur 2006; Tiew 1998, Yazit and Zainab 2007).

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Table 4: Authorship pattern of articles

| No of Authors | '93 | '94 | '95 | '96 | '97 | '98 | '99 | '00 | '01 | '02 | '03 | '04 | '05 | '06 | '07 | Articles | % |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-------|
| One | 33 | 28 | 23 | 24 | 19 | 10 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 16 | 13 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 14 | 256 | 89.8 |
| Two | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 21 | 7.4 |
| Three | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1.8 |
| Four | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0.7 |
| Six | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.4 |
| Total | 33 | 28 | 23 | 24 | 19 | 10 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 15 | 18 | 18 | 285 | 100.0 |

Ranked List of Most Prolific Contributor

Several studies have shown that there is a relationship between productivity of individual scholars and the requirements for promotion (Jones 2005; Hupp 2008) and to be published means to be recognized in the field as an expert (Chapman-Novakofski 2007). As noted by Xu, Yalcinkaya and Seggie (2008), publication records of individuals are heavily weighted for promotion or tenure decisions. Table 4 identifies author productivity in *Jurnal Syariah* from 1993-2007.

Overall, the total of 129 authors contributed 285 articles between 1993-2007. The most prolific authors are Ahmad Hidayat Buang who contributed 11 articles, Mahmood Zuhdi Abd Majid and Paizah Hj Ismail with 10 articles each and Mohd Noor Deris with 9 contributions. Out of 129 authors, 4 authors (3.1%) appeared eight times, 3 authors (2.3%) appeared seven times and 5 authors (3.9%) appeared six times. About 82 authors (51.6%) appeared only once. Therefore, it can be said that the prolific authors will publish the most articles.

It is interesting to note that all the three leading contributors are from the Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya which houses the editorial office of the journal under study. However, Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil and Mohd Daud Bakar who each contributed 8 articles are from the University Technology of Mara, Malaysia and the International Islamic University Malaysia respectively.

Ranked List of Authors by Geographical Affiliation

Table 6 shows the ranked list of authors by geographical affiliation. Out of 285 articles, the majority were contributed by Malaysians with 278 articles (97.5%), followed by Thailand and Ghana with 2 articles (0.7%), respectively, and Brunei, Indonesia and Nigeria with one article (0.4%) each. Such distribution clearly shows that there is a large preponderance of Malaysian authors in this journal. This indicates that the journal is not well-known by researchers outside of Malaysia due to the fact that it is not being indexed and abstracted in any form of recognized international indexing and abstracting services. Thus, this journal is hardly regarded to be of international standard as the journal is unable to attract submissions from a wide range of countries.

Table 5: Ranked list of most prolific contributor

| Rank | Authors | Number of Articles Contributed |
|------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Ahmad Hidayat Buang | 11 |
| 2 | Mahmood Zuhdi Hj Ab. Majid | 10 |
| 2 | Paizah Hj. Ismail | 10 |
| 3 | Mohd Noor Deris | 9 |
| 4 | Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil | 8 |
| 4 | Mohd Daud Bakar | 8 |
| 4 | Raihanah Abdullah | 8 |
| 5 | Rahimin Affandi Abdul Rahim | 7 |
| 5 | Abdul Kadir Muhammad | 7 |
| 5 | Ab Mumin Ab Ghani | 7 |
| 6 | Joni Tamkin Borhan | 6 |
| 6 | Noor Naemah Abd. Rahman | 6 |
| 6 | Sharifah Hayaati Syed Ismail | 6 |
| 6 | Siti Zubaidah Ismail | 6 |
| 6 | Suwaid Tapah | 6 |
| 7 | Abd. Jalil Borhan | 5 |
| 7 | Raihanah Azahari | 5 |
| 7 | 5 authors | 4 |
| 8 | 6 authors | 3 |
| 9 | 20 authors | 2 |
| 10 | 82 authors | 1 |

Table 6: Ranked list of articles by geographical affiliation

| Rank | Country of Affiliation | No. of Articles | Valid Percent |
|------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 | Malaysia | 278 | 97.5 |
| 2 | Thailand | 2 | 0.7 |
| 2 | Ghana | 2 | 0.7 |
| 3 | Malaysia and Brunei | 1 | 0.4 |
| 3 | Malaysia and Indonesia | 1 | 0.4 |
| 3 | Nigeria | 1 | 0.4 |
| | Total | 285 | 100.0 |

Ranking of the Most Productive Institution

Table 7 presents the ranking of the most prolific institution which produced the most number of authors who contributed articles to the journal under study.

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Table 7: Ranked list of articles by institutional affiliation

| Rank | Institution | No. of Articles | Valid Percent |
|--------------|--|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 | University of Malaya | 196 | 68.8 |
| 2 | International Islamic University Malaysia | 31 | 10.9 |
| 3 | National University of Malaysia | 15 | 5.3 |
| 4 | University Technology of Mara | 9 | 3.2 |
| 5 | Northern University of Malaysia | 7 | 2.5 |
| 6 | University Technology of Malaysia | 5 | 1.8 |
| 7 | University Science Malaysia | 4 | 1.4 |
| 8 | University Cape Coast, Ghana | 2 | .7 |
| 8 | Islamic Science University of Malaysia | 2 | .7 |
| 8 | Selangor International Islamic University College | 2 | .7 |
| 8 | University of Malaya, Sultan Idris Education University | 2 | .7 |
| 9 | International Islamic University Malaysia, University of Malaya | 1 | .4 |
| 9 | International Islamic University Malaysia , University of Kuala Syiah, Indonesia | 1 | .4 |
| 9 | Ministry of Religious Affairs, Brunei, International Islamic University Malaysia | 1 | .4 |
| 9 | Islamic University College of Malaysia | 1 | .4 |
| 9 | Legal Firm | 1 | .4 |
| 9 | Prince of Songkhla University, Thailand | 1 | .4 |
| 9 | Univeristy of Jos, Nigeria | 1 | .4 |
| 9 | University of Malaya, University Science Malaysia | 1 | .4 |
| 9 | Islamic University of Yala, Thailand | 1 | .4 |
| 9 | Sultan Idris Education University | 1 | .4 |
| Total | | 285 | 100.0 |

The most productive institution was University of Malaya which contributed 196 (68.8%) articles to the *Jurnal Syariah*. The second was the International Islamic University Malaysia with 31 articles (10.9%), followed by the National University of Malaysia with 15 articles (36.8%). Besides these three universities, other universities were the University Technology of Mara (3.2%), Northern University of Malaysia (2.5%), University Technology of Malaysia (1.8%) and University Science Malaysia (1.4%). In the above table, it also shows that the majority of contributors came from academic and research based institution like Universities; as the non-academic Institutions account only 0.4%. Nevertheless, based on the Institutional affiliation, University of Malaya contributed higher number of articles. This indicates that the distribution of Institutional affiliation is influenced by the origin and the location of the journal.

Ranking of the Most Productive Faculty and Department

Again, the study showed that the most productive faculty were from the faculty that publishes *Jurnal Syariah*, namely, the Faculty of Shariah, University of Malaya (Table 8). The articles contributed by authors from this faculty amounted to 72 articles (25.3%). Before the restructure of the Academy of Islamic Studies in 1996 all researchers from the *Shariah* field were members of the Faculty of Shariah. The next most prolific department was the Department of Fiqh and Usul, Academy of Islamic Studies, with 36 articles (12.6%) followed by the Department of Shariah and Law (8.8%). It is noted that

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authors from the Kulliyah of Law Ahmad Ibrahim, International Islamic University Malaysia, have actively contributed a number of articles (n=18, 6.3%).

Table 8: Ranked list of most productive faculty and department

| Rank | Institution | No. of Articles | Valid Percent |
|--------------|---|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 | Faculty of Shariah, University of Malaya | 72 | 25.3 |
| 2 | Department of Fiqh and Usul, Academy of Islamic Studies | 36 | 12.6 |
| 3 | Department of Shariah and Law, Academy of Islamic Studies | 25 | 8.8 |
| 4 | Kulliyah of Law Ahmad Ibrahim, International Islamic University Malaysia | 18 | 6.3 |
| 5 | Department of Shariah and Economics, Academy of Islamic Studies | 17 | 6.0 |
| 6 | Department of Shariah and Management, Academy of Islamic Studies | 11 | 3.9 |
| 7 | Faculty of Usuluddin, University of Malaya | 11 | 3.9 |
| 8 | Department of Siasah Syariyyah, Academy of Islamic Studies | 9 | 3.2 |
| 9 | Centre of Islamic Thought and Understanding , University Technology of Mara | 9 | 3.2 |
| 10 | Department of Shariah, Faculty of Islamic Studies, National University of Malaysia | 8 | 2.8 |
| 11 | Faculty of Economics and Science Management, International Islamic University Malaysia | 4 | 1.4 |
| 11 | Department of Economic Development, Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya | 4 | 1.4 |
| 12 | Department of Fiqh and Usul, International Islamic University Malaysia | 3 | 1.1 |
| 13 | Other institutions | 59 | 21.9 |
| Total | | 285 | 100.0 |

Distribution of Articles According to Pages

Table 9 presents the distribution of articles according to pages. The distribution of articles shows that the average length of articles (54.4%) was between 11— 20 pages. Short articles occupying 1-10 pages accounted for 27.7% and long articles of 31 or more pages was only 1.8%.

Language of Articles

Figure 1 indicates the number and percentage of language of articles published in the journal. Since *Jurnal Syariah* is known amongst Malaysian Islamic studies authors, the majority of articles (86.7%) were written in the Malay Language (Malaysia’s official language). Only 38 articles (13.3%) were written in the English Language.

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Table 9: Distribution of articles according to number of pages

| Pages Years | 1-10 | 11-20 | 21-30 | 31-36 | Total |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1993 | 14 | 18 | 1 | 0 | 33 |
| 1994 | 17 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 28 |
| 1995 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 23 |
| 1996 | 9 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 24 |
| 1997 | 10 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 19 |
| 1998 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 1999 | 4 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 17 |
| 2000 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 16 |
| 2001 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 16 |
| 2002 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 16 |
| 2003 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 17 |
| 2004 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 15 |
| 2005 | 0 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 15 |
| 2006 | 0 | 12 | 6 | 0 | 18 |
| 2007 | 0 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 18 |
| Total articles | 79 | 155 | 46 | 5 | 285 |
| Total % | 27.7% | 54.4% | 16.1% | 1.8% | 100% |

Language of Articles

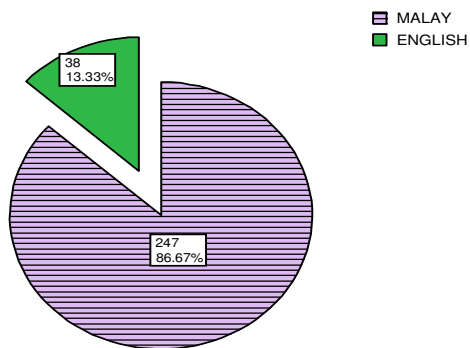


Figure 1: Language used in articles

Gender of Authors and Authorship

Table 10 shows that the 256 single authored articles were contributed by 180 male and 76 female authors. For articles jointly authored by two individuals, thirteen (13) were co-authored by male and female authors, seven (7) by males only and only one (1) article by all female writers.

Table 10: Gender of authors and authorship

| Gender of Author | Single Author | Two Authors | Three Authors | Four Authors | Six Authors | Total |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Male | 180 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 180 |
| Female | 76 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 76 |
| More Than One Author (Mixed) | 0 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 19 |
| More Than One (Author-Male) | 0 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| More Than One (Author-Female) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 256 | 21 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 285 |

Ranked List by Subject Area of Articles

Table 11 reveals the ranked list of articles by subject area. The table shows thirteen subject areas covered by articles published in the journal.

Table 11: Ranked list by subject of articles

| Rank | Subject | No. of Articles | Valid Percent |
|--------------|---|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 | Jurisprudence | 30 | 10.5 |
| 1 | Family law | 30 | 10.5 |
| 2 | Banking and finance | 22 | 7.7 |
| 3 | Wealth and property management (Zakah, Wasiat, Waqaf) | 21 | 7.4 |
| 4 | Administration, Fatwa, Islamic law of land | 20 | 7.0 |
| 5 | Criminal law | 19 | 6.7 |
| 6 | Legal history | 16 | 5.6 |
| 7 | Law and gender | 12 | 4.2 |
| 7 | International law, human rights and constitution | 12 | 4.2 |
| 8 | Law of evidence | 11 | 3.9 |
| 8 | Political thought | 11 | 3.9 |
| 8 | Economics | 11 | 3.9 |
| 8 | Legal curriculum and legal institution | 11 | 3.9 |
| 9 | Law of business transaction | 10 | 3.5 |
| 9 | Management and administration | 10 | 3.5 |
| 9 | Ibadat (Islamic worship) | 10 | 3.5 |
| 10 | Law of contract | 9 | 3.2 |
| 11 | Biography | 8 | 2.8 |
| 12 | Judiciary system | 6 | 2.1 |
| 13 | Contemporary issues | 6 | 2.1 |
| Total | | 285 | 100.0 |

The most popular subject covered within the period of this study is Islamic Jurisprudence and Islamic Family Law with 30 articles. On the other hand, Islamic Banking and Finance were second with 22 articles (7.7%), and Islamic Wealth and Property Management focusing on *waqf* (Islamic endowment), *zakah* (alms giving), *wasiat* (will) and *hibah* (gift) is third with 21 articles.

Quantitative Growth of Subject by Years

Table 12 shows the growth of each subject by years published in *Jurnal Syariah*. Findings indicate that subject on Islamic jurisprudence had been written each year except in 1998 and 2004, however the number of articles decreasing compared the first year of Journal published. The subject on Islamic Family Law also been written each year except in 2001, 2002 and 2004 and the mean of articles per year is two within 1993 and 2007.

Table 12: Subjects covered by articles in five-year bands

| Islamic Subject | '93-'97 | '98-'02 | '03-'07 | Total |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Jurisprudence | 19 | 6 | 5 | 30 |
| Family law | 16 | 6 | 8 | 30 |
| Banking and finance | 2 | 8 | 12 | 22 |
| Wealth and property management (<i>zakah, wasiat, waqaf</i>) | 7 | 5 | 9 | 21 |
| Administration ,fatwa, Islamic law of land | 7 | 5 | 8 | 20 |
| Criminal law | 11 | 7 | 1 | 19 |
| Legal history | 8 | 7 | 1 | 16 |
| Law and gender | 7 | 1 | 4 | 12 |
| International law, human rights and constitution | 4 | 4 | 4 | 12 |
| Law of evidence | 8 | 2 | 1 | 11 |
| Political thought | 4 | 4 | 3 | 11 |
| Legal curriculum and legal institution | 6 | 1 | 4 | 11 |
| Economics | 0 | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| Law of business transaction | 6 | 3 | 1 | 10 |
| Management and administration | 1 | 5 | 4 | 10 |
| Ibadat (Islamic worship) | 5 | 2 | 3 | 10 |
| Law of contract | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| Biography | 6 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Judiciary system | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Contemporary issues | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Total | 127 | 75 | 83 | 285 |

Type of References Cited

Data shows that type references cited by articles published in *Jurnal Syariah* consisted journal articles, books, chapters in books, proceedings and newspapers. Table 13 shows that most of the articles (98.6%) referred to books, chapters in books (116, 40.7%) and articles in academic journals 112 (39.3%). Only 53 (18.6%) articles refer to newspaper.

Table 13: Types of references

| Types of references cited | Yes | | No | | Total | |
|---------------------------|-----|------|-----|------|-------|-------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Journal Articles | 112 | 39.3 | 173 | 60.7 | 285 | 100.0 |
| Books | 281 | 98.6 | 4 | 1.4 | 285 | 100.0 |
| Chapters In Book | 116 | 40.7 | 169 | 59.3 | 285 | 100.0 |
| Proceedings | 86 | 30.2 | 199 | 69.8 | 285 | 100.0 |
| Newspapers | 53 | 18.6 | 232 | 81.4 | 285 | 100.0 |

Number of References

Figure 3 shows that a majority of the articles (117, 41.1%) published in *Jurnal Syariah* had 11-20 references, 59 articles or 20.7% had 20-30 references while 18.6 % had 10 references or less for every article. On the other hand, an article in *Jurnal Syariah*, Vol. 10, no. 1 of 2002 has between 81-90 references whereas article in Vol. 13, no. 1 of 2005 has 134 references listed.

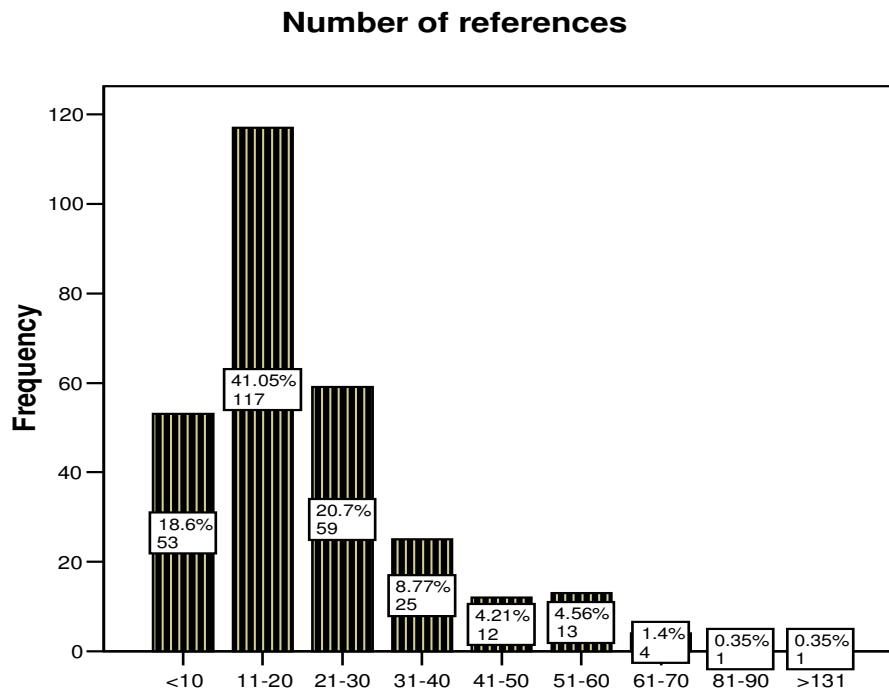


Figure 2: Number of references

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Analysis of the articles published in *Jurnal Syariah* for the years 1993 to 2007 has provided the following information.

- The number of articles has gradually increased each year. The increased number of submissions to *Jurnal Syariah* is probably due to several factors. The main factor is the increasing growth of research in the area of *Shariah*, as more research grants are made available to research universities and the increased publication activity amongst Malaysian academics to fulfill the demands of performance assessments and promotions. *Jurnal Syariah* therefore becomes one of the choices at least for University of Malaya researchers as a platform for publication. The journal has recently appointed an international board of editors comprising seven international scholars in the field of *shariah*.
- Conceptual articles are the main type of papers published in this journal. This journal consists of mainly conceptual articles. Research articles did not gain popularity as most articles within this area are theoretical in many perspectives and simple in their scientific methodologies. Classical *Shariah* articles are commonly conceptual and theoretical by nature.
- Prolific authors are mostly from the Malaysian academic Institutions indicating that *Jurnal Syariah* has the attribute of a national rather than an international journal.
- Most of the articles published were single authored.
- The highest number of articles covered subject areas such as Islamic jurisprudence and Islamic Family Law.
- *Jurnal Syariah* have not gained any indexation status. As such efforts must be geared towards obtaining national and subsequently international indexation status such as in *MyAIS* (the Malaysian Abstracting and Indexing System, available at <http://myais.fsktm.um.edu.my>) and *Index Islamicus* as recommended by Zainab (1997, 2008).
- The language of articles is mainly in the Malay language. Like any other non-English language journals, the challenge is to internationalize the journals and encourage submissions from international scholars.

The *Jurnal Syariah* has also increased its publication to thrice a year in order to accommodate the demands from local and international scholars to publish their articles in the journal. Hupp (2008) in the editorial page of *Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Radiology and Endodontology Journal* summarized the three following factors on why articles submitted for consideration increased for this particular journal: electronic submission process, rapid growth of research and overall improvement of the quality, namely, the impact factor and shortened/more rapid publishing process. The *Jurnal Syariah* must consider these options in order to attract International contributors.

By taking these steps, *Jurnal Syariah* is set to look forward towards being an important avenue for publication, especially in the field of *Shariah* studies. This is because there are several current local academic journals with similar focus such as *IIUM Law Journal*, *IKIM Law Journal*, *Journal of Fiqh* and the *Malaysian Journal of Shariah and Law* which are competitors to *Jurnal Syariah*.

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