

How Has Islamic Banking Windows Research Evolved? A Bibliometric Analysis of Trends, Influencers, and Sustainability Linkages

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ABSTRACT

Background: This study aims to provide a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of Islamic Banking Windows (IBWs) and their potential role in advancing sustainable finance. **Objective:** By examining publication trends, influential contributors, and research themes, the study seeks to bridge the gap in understanding how IBWs align with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles and contribute to global sustainability goals. **Methodology:** A bibliometric analysis was conducted using data extracted from the Scopus database, focusing on publications related to Islamic Banking Windows. The study employed co-occurrence network analysis, citation metrics, and productivity indicators to map research trends, identify key contributors, and analyze prevalent themes. **Results:** The analysis reveals a growing interest in IBWs, particularly in Muslim-majority countries like Malaysia and Indonesia, as well as emerging contributions from Western nations. Key themes include efficiency, customer behavior, Shariah governance, and comparative performance between Islamic and conventional banks. However, the integration of sustainable finance principles remains underexplored, highlighting a critical research gap. The study identifies influential journals and authors. **Conclusion:** Findings suggest that IBWs have significant potential to promote ethical and sustainable financial practices. **Implications:** This study is among the first to systematically examine the intersection of IBWs and sustainable finance using bibliometric methods. It provides a structured overview of the field's evolution, influential works, and emerging trends, offering valuable insights for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners seeking to align Islamic finance with global sustainability agendas.

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1. Introduction

The global financial system has undergone significant transformation with the rise of Islamic banking, which operates under the principles of Shariah [1]. Among the various models of Islamic banking, Islamic Banking Windows (IBWs), conventional banks offering Shariah-compliant financial products through dedicated windows, have emerged as a critical component, especially in dual-banking systems [2]. These windows allow conventional banks to cater to the growing demand for ethical and Shariah-compliant financial services without fully transitioning to Islamic banking. This model has gained traction in both Muslim-majority and non-Muslim-majority countries, as it provides a flexible and inclusive approach to financial inclusion. However, the role of IBWs in advancing sustainable finance, a concept that emphasizes environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations, remains underexplored [3]. This intersection is particularly important because Islamic finance and sustainable finance share common ethical principles, such as promoting social welfare, avoiding exploitation, and ensuring equitable distribution of resources. By integrating sustainable finance principles into their operations, IBWs can contribute to global sustainability goals, such as combating climate change, reducing inequality, and fostering economic stability [4].

The importance of this study lies in its potential to highlight how Islamic banking windows can serve as a catalyst for sustainable finance. As the world faces pressing challenges like climate change, social inequality, and economic instability, the financial sector is increasingly expected to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [5]. Islamic banking, with its inherent focus on ethical and socially responsible practices, is uniquely positioned to play a pivotal role in this transition. IBWs, in particular, offer a practical and scalable model for integrating sustainability into mainstream banking systems. However, there is a lack of comprehensive research on how IBWs are addressing sustainability challenges, what trends are emerging in this field, and how scholars and practitioners are contributing to this discourse. This study seeks to fill this gap by providing a systematic analysis of the existing literature on IBWs and their connection to sustainable finance.

Bibliometric analysis is a powerful tool for mapping the intellectual structure of a research field, identifying trends, and uncovering gaps in the literature. It allows researchers to quantitatively analyse large volumes of scholarly data, such as publications, citations, and collaborations, to gain insights into the evolution of a field. For this study, bibliometric analysis is particularly important for several reasons. First, it helps identify the growth trajectory of research on Islamic banking windows and their connection to sustainable finance, revealing how the field has evolved over time. Second, it highlights the most influential countries, institutions, authors, and articles, providing a clear picture of who is driving the discourse in this area. Third, it uncovers the most prevalent themes and research gaps, enabling researchers to identify areas that require further exploration. Finally, it synthesizes existing knowledge, offering a comprehensive overview of the field and guiding future research directions.

The data for this study is sourced from Scopus, one of the largest and most reputable abstract and citation databases of peer-reviewed literature. Scopus is widely recognized for its comprehensive coverage of high-quality journals, books, and conference proceedings across various disciplines, including finance, economics, and sustainability. Its rigorous selection process ensures that only credible and impactful research is indexed, making it a reliable source for bibliometric analysis. Additionally, Scopus provides advanced tools for analysing citation patterns, collaboration networks, and research trends, which are essential for conducting a robust bibliometric study [6], [7].

To address the gaps in the literature and provide a structured analysis of Islamic banking windows and their relationship with sustainable finance, this study is guided by the following research questions:

- a. RQ1: What is the current trend and impact of publication in Islamic banking windows (IBW) studies, particularly in relation to sustainable finance?
- b. RQ2: Which are the most productive and influential countries, institutions, and authors in IBW studies?

- c. RQ3: Which are the most prevalent themes of IBW studies among scholars, and how do they relate to sustainable finance
- d. RQ4: Which are the most influential articles on IBW studies, and what insights do they provide for sustainable finance?

By addressing these research questions, this study aims to provide a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of Islamic banking windows, highlighting their potential role in advancing sustainable finance. The findings will not only contribute to the academic literature but also offer practical insights for policymakers, financial institutions, and practitioners seeking to align Islamic banking practices with global sustainability goals.

2. Method

This research employs a bibliometric approach to analyze existing literature on the topic [8]. Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative method used to examine patterns, trends, and relationships in academic publications through statistical and network-based techniques. This method enables researchers to systematically map the development of a research field, identify influential works, and uncover emerging themes within the literature [9].

The first stage of this study involved identifying relevant keywords related to the research topic. The selected keywords were "Islam AND bank AND window", which encompass various terms associated with Islamic banking and banking windows. The search was conducted in the Scopus database, focusing on titles, abstracts, and keywords to ensure that the retrieved documents were highly relevant to the research topic and provided a strong foundation for further analysis.

Following keyword identification, the next step was data extraction from the Scopus database. This search yielded 12 relevant documents ($n1=\{12\}$). The extraction process was essential for gathering the initial dataset for analysis. Scopus was chosen due to its strong reputation for providing high-quality and reliable academic literature.

From the extracted data, document selection was carried out based on predefined inclusion criteria, which included document type (articles), source type (journals), and language (English). Through this selection process, 99 documents meeting the criteria were obtained ($n2=\{99\}$). This step ensured that only high-quality and relevant studies were analyzed further, thereby enhancing the validity and reliability of the research.

The selected documents were then analyzed through a structured process, including input initialization, output description, and error checking to ensure data accuracy. This document analysis aimed to understand the content and findings of each selected study, providing a solid foundation for further research and ensuring that the data used was both accurate and relevant.

Subsequently, a network analysis was conducted to identify research streams and research directions. This analysis helped in understanding relationships and trends in existing studies. By identifying research streams and directions, the study was able to pinpoint research gaps and direct the investigation towards underexplored areas, thereby making a significant contribution to the field.

The type of bibliometric analysis applied was co-occurrence analysis, which facilitated the understanding of relationships between concepts or keywords appearing together in the documents. This method was useful in identifying patterns and connections within the literature, offering deeper insights into the research topic and aiding in the development of a robust theoretical framework. The detailed stages of this methodology are illustrated in Fig. 1.

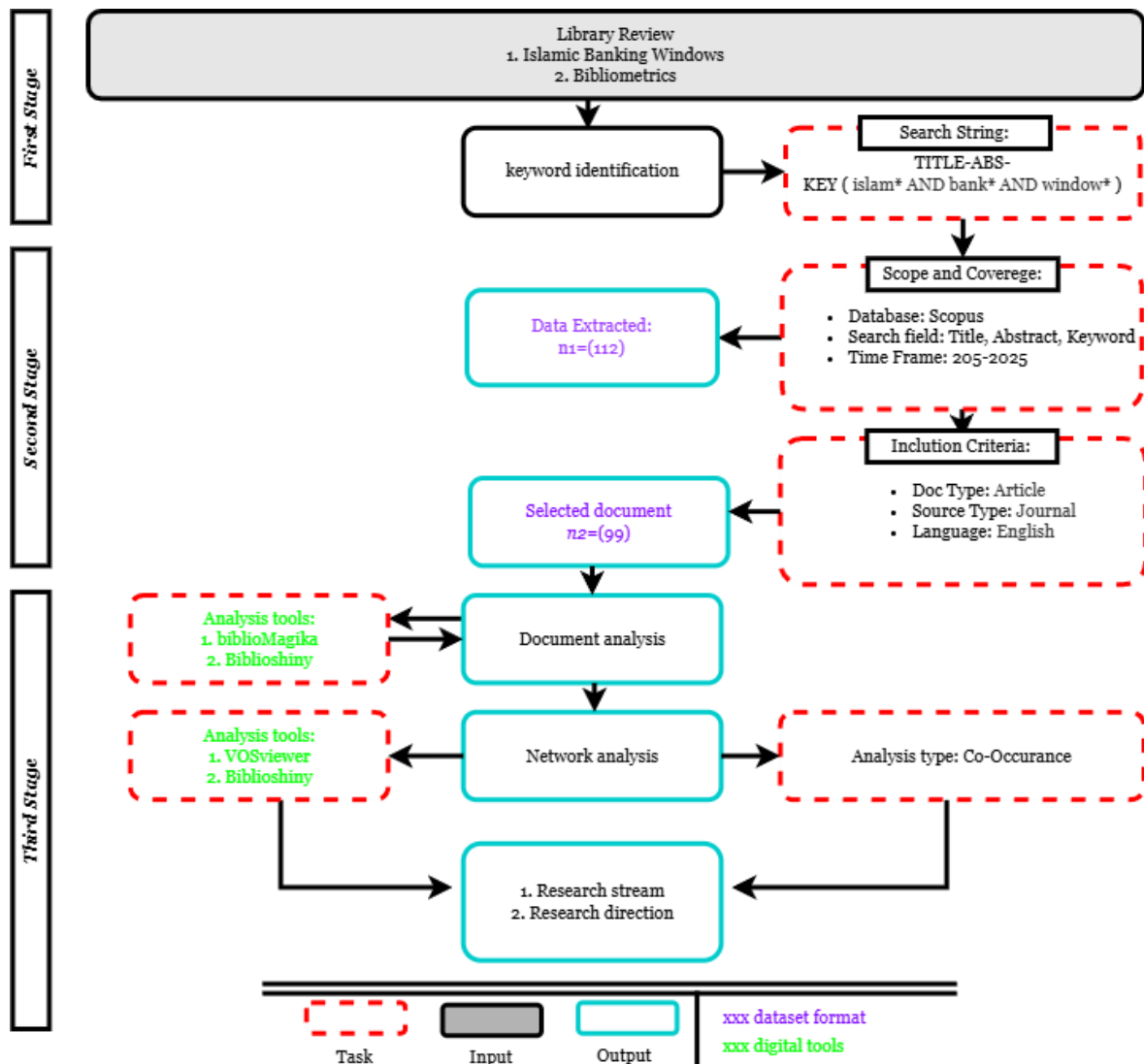


Fig.1. Bibliometric research procedure involves defining objectives, data collection, processing, analysis (performance and science mapping), result interpretation, and validation and reporting.

3. Results and Discussion

To address RQ1 (What is the current trend and impact of publication in Islamic banking windows (IBW) studies, particularly in relation to sustainable finance?) and RQ2 (Which are the most productive and influential countries, institutions, and authors in IBW studies?), this study employed a combination of bibliometric indicators and analytical tools. Various metrics were used to examine publication trends, citation impact, geographical distribution, and author productivity in IBW research [10], [11].

The analysis of publication growth by year revealed a steady increase in IBW-related research over the past decade, with a notable surge in publications focusing on sustainable finance. This indicates growing scholarly interest in the intersection of IBWs and sustainability. In addition to publication growth, the study examined the total number of citations per year to assess the impact of IBW research. Citations serve as an essential measure of a study's influence, and the analysis showed that certain years produced highly cited and impactful research, reflecting the field's evolving academic significance.

A subject area analysis was conducted to understand the interdisciplinary nature of IBW studies. The findings showed that IBW research is predominantly concentrated in finance, economics, sustainability, and Islamic studies. However, there are potential gaps in interdisciplinary research, particularly in areas such as environmental sustainability and social governance. Addressing these gaps could enhance the integration of IBWs within broader discussions on sustainable finance.

In examining the geographical distribution of research output, the study identified Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom as the most productive countries in IBW research. This reflects the global nature of Islamic banking and its relevance in both Muslim-majority and non-Muslim-majority countries. The presence of Western countries in IBW research highlights its increasing recognition and integration into global financial discussions.

Furthermore, an analysis of author productivity, applying Lotka's Law, revealed that a small group of highly productive authors dominates IBW research, while the majority of researchers contribute only a few publications. This aligns with the general trend in academic publishing, where a limited number of experts drive the majority of scholarly output. Identifying these key contributors provides valuable insights into the leading voices shaping IBW research and its future direction.

3.1. Annual Growth of Publication

Table 1 and Fig. 2 shows growth of publication with total publications and citations by year. The number of total publications (TP) shows a fluctuating but generally increasing trend, starting with just 1 publication in 2007 and peaking at 12 publications in 2022. This growth indicates a rising interest in IBW research, particularly in the context of sustainable finance. Notable years include 2019, with 10 publications, and 2021-2022, which saw the highest number of publications (11 and 12, respectively). However, there was a slight decline in 2023 (9 publications) and 2024 (8 publications), which may reflect a temporary slowdown or a shift in research focus. Despite this, the field remains active, with ongoing contributions.

In terms of impact, total citations (TC) have also shown an upward trend, with significant peaks in certain years. For instance, 2013 recorded 256 citations, the highest in the dataset, indicating that research published during this period had a substantial influence. Similarly, 2021 stood out with 206 citations, reflecting the high impact of research published that year. Early publications, such as those in 2007, also had a lasting impact, with 61 citations despite only 1 publication. However, recent years like 2022-2024 show lower citation counts (76, 60, and 20, respectively), which is expected as newer publications need more time to accumulate citations.

The average citations per publication (C/P) and citations per cited publication (C/CP) further illustrate the field's impact. Early years, such as 2007, had exceptionally high C/P and C/CP values (61.00), indicating that foundational research in IBWs and sustainable finance was highly influential. In contrast, recent years like 2024 have lower values (2.50 for C/P and 4.00 for C/CP), as newer publications are still gaining traction. This trend is typical for emerging fields, where early research lays the groundwork for future studies.

The h-index, g-index, and m-index provide additional insights into the field's productivity and impact. The overall h-index of 21 means that 21 publications have been cited at least 21 times, demonstrating the strong influence of IBW research. The g-index of 38 suggests that the top 38 publications have received a significant number of citations, further emphasizing the field's impact. The m-index of 1.105, which accounts for the h-index relative to the number of years since the first publication, indicates sustained impact over time, reflecting the field's growing relevance.

Key years that stand out include 2013, with 5 publications and 256 citations, making it the most impactful year in terms of citations. 2021 was also highly productive, with 11 publications and 206 citations, reflecting a surge in both output and influence. 2019 saw significant activity as well, with 10 publications and 195 citations, indicating growing scholarly interest. Recent years, such as 2022-2024, show lower citation counts, but this is typical for newer research, which is still in the process of gaining recognition.

The data highlights the importance of early research in shaping the field, as evidenced by the high citation counts of publications from 2007 and 2013. At the same time, the increase in publications from 2019 onwards reflects growing interest in the intersection of IBWs and sustainable finance, aligning with global trends emphasizing sustainability in financial systems. While recent publications have lower citation counts, they represent the future potential of the field, as they are likely to gain more recognition over time.

Table 1. Growth of publication by year

Year	TP	NCA	NCP	TC	C/P	C/CP	<i>h</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>m</i>
2007	1	2	1	61	61,00	61,00	1	1	0,053
2008	3	8	3	149	49,67	49,67	3	3	0,167
2009	1	4	1	29	29,00	29,00	1	1	0,059
2010	2	2	2	36	18,00	18,00	2	2	0,125
2011	5	15	5	103	20,60	20,60	5	5	0,333
2012	1	2	1	23	23,00	23,00	1	1	0,071
2013	5	13	5	256	51,20	51,20	4	5	0,308
2014	4	8	3	79	19,75	26,33	3	4	0,250
2015	3	9	3	76	25,33	25,33	3	3	0,273
2016	3	8	1	2	0,67	2,00	1	1	0,100
2017	7	20	6	196	28,00	32,67	5	7	0,556
2018	5	13	4	56	11,20	14,00	4	5	0,500
2019	10	21	8	195	19,50	24,38	5	10	0,714
2020	8	19	8	81	10,13	10,13	6	8	1,000
2021	11	32	9	206	18,73	22,89	7	11	1,400
2022	12	36	12	76	6,33	6,33	5	8	1,250
2023	9	22	7	60	6,67	8,57	4	7	1,333
2024	8	23	5	20	2,50	4,00	2	4	1,000
2025	1	2	0	0	0,00	0,00	0	0	0,000
Total	99	259	84	1704	17,21	20,29	21	38	1,105

Note: TP=total number of publications; NCA=number of contribution authors; NCP=number of cited publications; TC=total citations; C/P=average citations per publication; C/CP=average citations per cited publication; *h*=h-index; *g*=g-index, *m*=m-index.

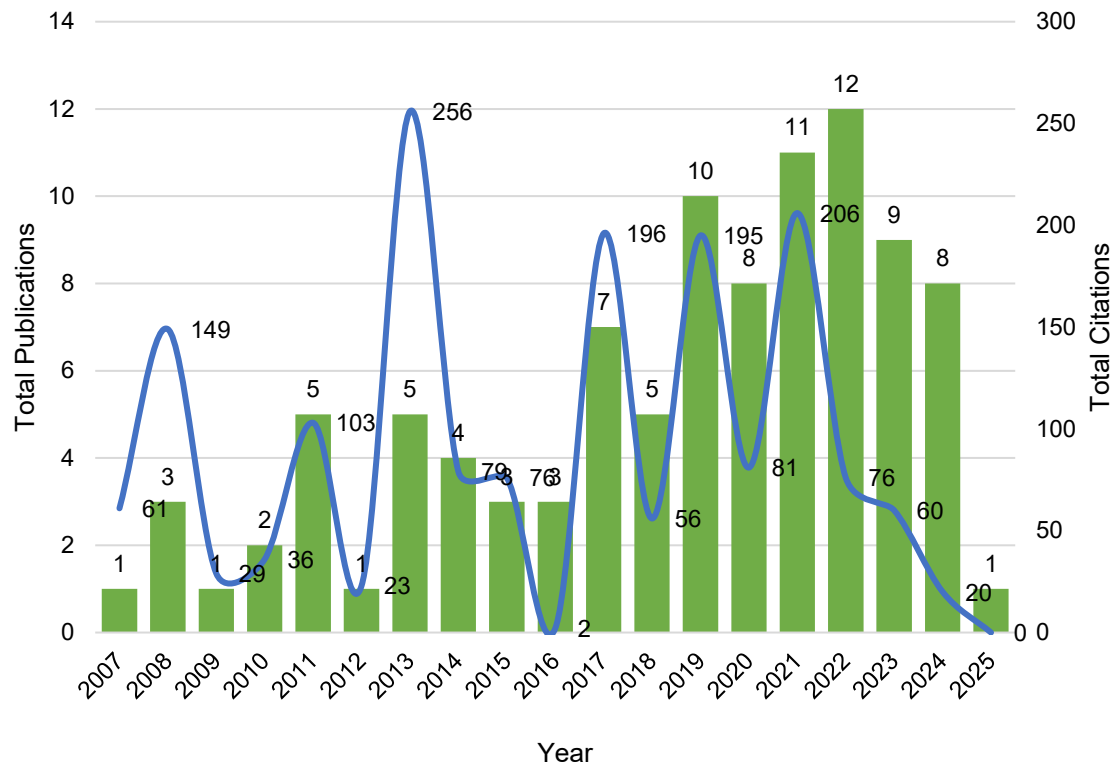


Fig.2. Total publications and citations by year

Table 2 shows the distribution of publications across subject areas. The data reveals that the field is predominantly rooted in Economics, Econometrics, and Finance, which accounts for 57.58% of total publications (TP). This dominance reflects the core focus of IBW research on financial systems, Shariah-compliant banking practices, and economic implications. Following closely is Business, Management, and Accounting, which represents 54.55% of publications. This indicates a strong emphasis on managerial and operational aspects of IBWs, such as governance, risk management, and performance evaluation.

The Social Sciences category, contributing 24.24% of publications, highlights the broader societal and cultural dimensions of IBWs, including their role in financial inclusion, ethical banking, and social welfare. Meanwhile, Arts and Humanities account for 11.11% of publications, suggesting that some research explores the philosophical, ethical, and religious foundations of Islamic finance.

Other subject areas, such as Engineering, Agricultural and Biological Sciences, Decision Sciences, Energy, Environmental Science, Mathematics, Multidisciplinary, and Physics and Astronomy, collectively make up a smaller portion of the research (ranging from 1.01% to 3.03%). While these areas are less prominent, their presence indicates that IBW research occasionally intersects with technical, environmental, and scientific disciplines. For example, the inclusion of Environmental Science and Energy suggests a growing interest in the role of IBWs in promoting sustainable and green finance.

Overall, the data underscores the interdisciplinary nature of IBW research, with a strong focus on economics, finance, and business, complemented by contributions from social sciences and humanities. However, the relatively low representation of fields like Environmental Science and Energy points to a potential gap in research exploring the intersection of IBWs with environmental sustainability and climate finance.

Table 2. The distribution of publications across subject areas.

Subject Area	TP	%
Economics, Econometrics and Finance	57	57,58%
Business, Management and Accounting	54	54,55%
Social Sciences	24	24,24%
Arts and Humanities	11	11,11%
Engineering	3	3,03%
Agricultural and Biological Sciences	2	2,02%
Decision Sciences	2	2,02%
Energy	2	2,02%
Environmental Science	2	2,02%
Mathematics	2	2,02%
Multidisciplinary	2	2,02%
Physics and Astronomy	1	1,01%

3.2. Publications by countries

The data on [Table 3](#) shows the most productive countries in IBW research. Indonesia leads in sheer productivity with 31 publications, though its citation impact remains relatively modest at 138 total citations. This suggests while Indonesian scholars are actively contributing to the field, their work may benefit from greater international collaboration to amplify its reach. Malaysia follows closely with 30 publications but demonstrates stronger citation metrics, reflecting its established position as a thought leader in Islamic finance scholarship.

More striking is the performance of Western nations in terms of research impact. The United Kingdom, despite producing only 14 publications, achieves remarkable citation numbers with 409 total citations - the highest citation-per-publication ratio of 29.21 in the dataset. Similarly, the United States and Australia show strong citation impact relative to their publication counts, indicating their research resonates widely within academic circles.

Perhaps the most surprising finding concerns South Korea's exceptional performance. With just four publications, the country achieves an outstanding citation-per-publication ratio of 43.50, the highest in the study. This suggests that South Korean researchers are producing highly influential work that makes a disproportionate impact on the field, possibly through innovative methodologies or interdisciplinary approaches.

The data also reveals some unexpected patterns among Gulf Cooperation Council countries. While Oman shows solid performance with seven publications and a strong citation ratio, other regional powerhouses like the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia demonstrate relatively limited research output. This may reflect different priorities between academic research and practical industry innovation in these nations.

The analysis highlights a clear divergence between productivity and impact across regions. Muslim-majority countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan contribute the majority of publications, while Western nations and South Korea produce more influential work as measured by citations. This pattern suggests opportunities for greater collaboration between these regions to combine productivity with impact.

Several factors may explain these disparities, including variations in research infrastructure, funding availability, journal selection strategies, and audience targeting. The exceptional performance of certain countries with limited publications indicates that quality and relevance may outweigh quantity in terms of academic influence.

These findings have important implications for the future development of IBW research. They suggest the field would benefit from initiatives that help high-productivity regions increase their global visibility while encouraging high-impact regions to expand their research output. Such balanced growth could significantly advance both the academic rigor and practical relevance of Islamic Banking Windows scholarship worldwide.

Table 3. Most productive countries

Country	TP	TC	C/P	C/CP	<i>h</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>m</i>
Indonesia	31	138	4,45	6,27	8	11	0,667
Malaysia	30	350	11,67	12,96	8	18	0,533
United States	20	248	12,40	16,53	7	15	0,137
Pakistan	18	92	5,11	5,11	7	9	0,467
United Kingdom	14	409	29,21	29,21	11	14	0,306
China	10	14	1,40	2,00	2	3	0,125
Oman	7	63	9,00	9,00	5	7	0,625
Australia	6	96	16,00	16,00	5	6	0,132
Italy	5	19	3,80	4,75	3	4	0,188
Turkey	5	11	2,20	5,50	2	3	0,200
South Korea	4	174	43,50	43,50	3	4	0,091
Bangladesh	4	24	6,00	6,00	3	4	0,500
Saudi Arabia	4	24	6,00	6,00	3	4	0,375
Romania	4	17	4,25	5,67	2	4	0,400
Iran	4	67	16,75	67,00	1	4	0,056
United Arab Emirates	4	11	2,75	11,00	1	3	0,125
Thailand	3	27	9,00	9,00	3	3	0,500
Latvia	3	26	8,67	13,00	2	3	0,200
Spain	2	13	6,50	6,50	2	2	0,105

Note: TP=total number of publications; TC=total citations; C/P=average citations per publication; C/CP=average citations per cited publication; *h*=h-index; *g*=g-index, *m*=m-index.

Table 4 presents the most productive authors in the field of Islamic Banking Windows (IBW) research, highlighting their contributions and impact. Abdul-Majid, Mariani emerges as the most productive author with 3 publications (TP) and 86 total citations (TC), resulting in a high C/P (citations per publication) of 28.67. This indicates that Abdul-Majid's work has had a significant influence on the field. Similarly, Saal, David S. and Battisti, Giuliana each have 2 publications with 78 citations, yielding an impressive C/P of 39.00, making them highly impactful authors despite their limited output.

Other notable authors include Al-Yahyaee, Khamis Hamed and Mensi, Walid, both with 2 publications and 19 citations (C/P of 9.50). While their citation counts are lower compared to Saal and Battisti, they still demonstrate a strong influence in the field. On the other hand, authors like He, Quanxiu and Chen, Guangying have 2 publications but only 3 citations (C/P of 1.50), reflecting limited impact despite their productivity.

The *h*-index and *g*-index further illustrate the influence of these authors. Abdul-Majid, Saal, and Battisti have *h*-index values of 3 and 2, respectively, indicating that their publications have been widely cited. Meanwhile, authors like He, Quanxiu and Chen, Guangying have lower *h*-index values of 1, suggesting that their work has had less impact.

Table 4. Most productive author

Author's Name	TP	NCP	TC	C/P	C/CP	h-index	g-index	m-index
Abdul-Majid, Mariani	3	3	86	28,67	28,67	3	3	0,200
Saal, David S.	2	2	78	39,00	39,00	2	2	0,133
Al-Yahyaee, Khamis Hamed	2	2	19	9,50	9,50	2	2	0,250
Battisti, Giuliana	2	2	78	39,00	39,00	2	2	0,133
He, Quanxiu	2	2	3	1,50	1,50	1	1	0,063
Chen, Guangying	2	2	3	1,50	1,50	1	1	0,063
Hassan, M. Kabir	2	2	9	4,50	4,50	1	2	0,067
Mensi, Walid	2	2	19	9,50	9,50	2	2	0,250
Ali, Waqas	2	2	12	6,00	6,00	1	2	0,200
Ivascu, Larisa	1	1	11	11,00	11,00	1	1	0,333

Table 5 illustrates the distribution of author productivity in IBW research compared to the theoretical predictions of Lotka's Law, which posits that a small proportion of authors produce the majority of publications in a given field. Notably, the observed data deviates significantly from Lotka's Law. Authors contributing 1 publication represent only 12.77% of the total, far below the predicted 60%, indicating a substantial underrepresentation of single-publication authors. Conversely, authors with 2 publications account for 68.09% of the total, exceeding the theoretical expectation of 15%, while those with 3 publications constitute 19.15%, surpassing the predicted 6.67%. This divergence suggests a unique productivity pattern in IBW research, characterized by a higher concentration of authors producing multiple works rather than a long-tail distribution typical of mature fields. Such a trend may reflect the specialized nature of IBW studies, where expertise in Islamic finance and sustainability necessitates sustained engagement, fostering consistent contributions from a core group of researchers. Additionally, the prevalence of collaborative networks or institutional initiatives could incentivize repeated publications. The deviation from Lotka's Law implies that IBW research is still evolving, with productivity patterns yet to stabilize into the conventional academic framework. These dynamics underscore the field's growing relevance but also highlights potential barriers for new entrants due to its technical complexity. Future research should explore strategies to broaden participation while maintaining the rigor that has driven its current scholarly output.

Table 5. Productivity patterns of authors and research contributions

Document Written	N. of Authors	Proportion of Authors	Total N. of Contributions	Lotka's Law
1	6	12,77%	6	60,00%
2	32	68,09%	64	15,00%
3	9	19,15%	27	6,67%
Grand Total	47	100,00%	97	81,67%

Table 6 presents the results of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) Test, which compares the observed distribution of authors with the theoretical distribution predicted by Lotka's Law. Lotka's Law suggests that in academic research, a small number of authors produce the majority of publications, while most authors contribute only a few works. The observed data shows that 93.02% of authors contribute only 1 or 2 publications, which aligns with Lotka's Law's prediction that the majority of authors will have low productivity. However, the maximum deviation ($D_{max} = -0.36337$) indicates that the observed distribution has fewer highly productive authors (those with 3 or more publications) than expected. This suggests that the field of IBW research is still emerging, and highly productive authors are yet to emerge in larger numbers.

The theoretical distribution, based on Lotka's Law, predicts that 37.52% of authors will contribute 1 publication, 8.75% will contribute 2 publications, and 3.74% will contribute 3 publications. In contrast, the observed data shows that only 1.74% of authors have 1 publication, 9.30% have 2 publications, and 2.62% have 3 publications. This discrepancy highlights that while the field follows the general trend of low productivity among most authors, it lacks the expected number of highly productive authors.

This analysis supports the findings from Table 4 (Most Productive Authors), where a small group of authors, such as Abdul-Majid, Mariani, Saal, David S., and Battisti, Giuliana, dominate the field with high productivity and impact. However, the K-S Test reveals that the overall distribution of authors in IBW research is still skewed toward low productivity, with fewer highly productive authors than predicted by Lotka's Law. This suggests that the field is still developing, and future research may see an increase in highly productive authors as the field matures.

In conclusion, the K-S Test reveals that the observed distribution of authors in IBW research partially aligns with Lotka's Law. While the majority of authors contribute only 1 or 2 publications (consistent with the theory), there are fewer highly productive authors than predicted. This indicates that the field is still in its developmental stages, and future research may see an increase in highly productive authors as the field continues to grow and evolve.

Table 6. K-S Test on the observed and expected distribution of authors

Observed					Theoretical		
N. of Pubs.	N. of Authors (y_x)	% of Authors	Cum. % of Authors		Expected % of Authors	Cum. Expected % of Authors	D
x	y	$y_x/\Sigma y_x$	$\Sigma(y_x/\Sigma y_x)$	$1/x^n$	$f_e = C(1/x^n)$	Σf_e	D_{max}
1	6	0,01744	0,01744	1,00000	0,37515	0,37515	- 0,35771
2	32	0,09302	0,11047	0,23326	0,08751	0,46265	- 0,35219
3	9	0,02616	0,13663	0,09955	0,03735	0,50000	- 0,36337
Grand Total	47	0,13663		1,33281			

3.3. Citation analysis

Table 7. Author keyword

Author Keywords	Count	Percentage
Islamic banks	25	5,40%
Islamic banking	20	4,32%
Islam	8	1,73%
Efficiency	7	1,51%
Banks	7	1,51%
Malaysia	7	1,51%
Indonesia	6	1,30%
Conventional banks	6	1,30%
Islamic bank	5	1,08%
Bangladesh	5	1,08%
Islamic Finance	5	1,08%
Pakistan	5	1,08%
Performance	4	0,86%
DEA	4	0,86%
Islamic Window	4	0,86%
Technical Efficiency	4	0,86%
Customer satisfaction	4	0,86%
Islamic and conventional banks	3	0,65%
Bank efficiency	3	0,65%
Panel data	3	0,65%

Table 7 shows the author keywords reveals several prominent themes and trends in the research on Islamic banking and finance. The most frequently occurring keyword, "Islamic banks" (5.40%), along with "Islamic banking" (4.32%), indicates a strong focus on the operational and conceptual aspects of Islamic financial institutions. The presence of keywords such as "Conventional banks" (1.30%) and "Islamic and conventional banks" (0.65%) suggests a comparative research approach, where scholars examine differences in performance, efficiency, or customer satisfaction between Islamic and traditional banking systems.

Geographically, keywords like "Malaysia" (1.51%), "Indonesia" (1.30%), "Bangladesh" (1.08%), and "Pakistan" (1.08%) highlight the concentration of studies in Muslim-majority countries, reflecting the regional significance of Islamic finance. Meanwhile, performance and efficiency are key analytical concerns, as evidenced by terms such as "Efficiency" (1.51%), "Bank efficiency" (0.65%), "Technical Efficiency" (0.86%), and "DEA" (Data Envelopment Analysis, 0.86%), indicating the use of quantitative methodologies to assess institutional effectiveness.

Additionally, keywords like "Islamic Finance" (1.08%) and "Islamic Window" (0.86%) demonstrate broader interest in financial systems compliant with Sharia principles, while "Customer satisfaction" (0.86%) points to research exploring service quality and consumer perceptions. The limited occurrences of "Islam" (1.73%) suggest that while religious principles underpin the sector, empirical studies tend to prioritize operational and comparative analyses over theological discussions. Overall, the keyword distribution underscores a multidisciplinary approach, combining finance, economics, and regional studies to evaluate the growth and challenges of Islamic banking.

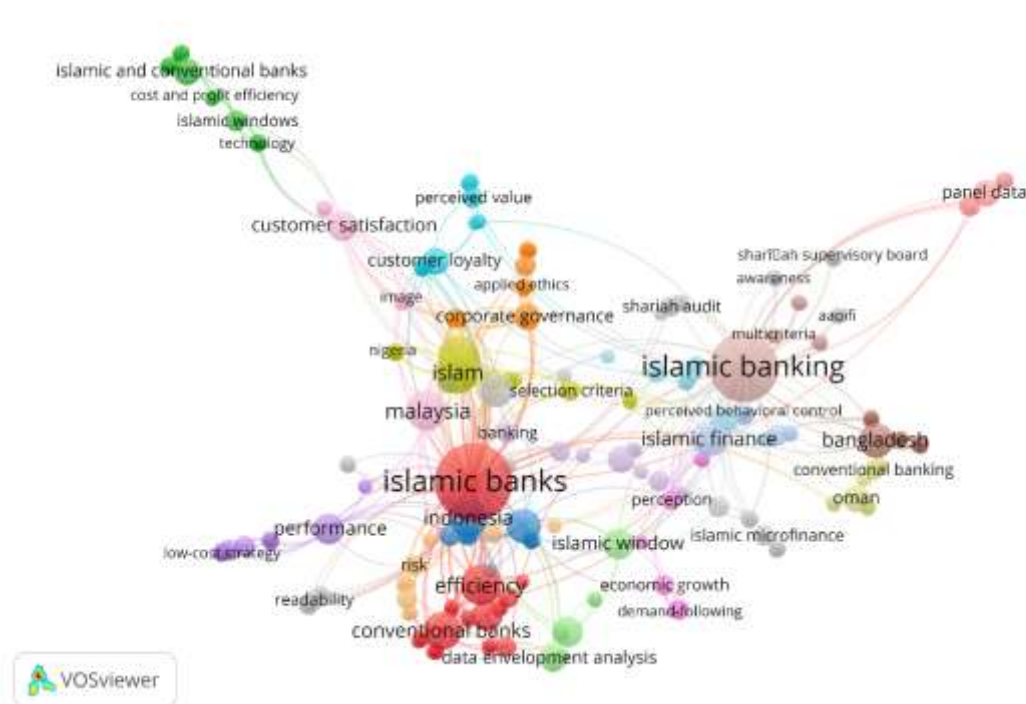


Fig.3. Visualisation map of the author keywords

Fig. 3 is a visual representation of the co-occurrence network of author keywords analyzed using VOSviewer. The unit of analysis employed in this study is author keywords, with a full counting method applied. A minimum threshold of one occurrence was set, resulting in 312 keywords meeting the criteria.

The visualization reveals several key clusters representing common research themes in Islamic banking and Islamic finance. Keywords with larger font sizes, such as Islamic banks, Islamic banking, and Islamic finance, indicate their high occurrence in scholarly publications, highlighting their central role in this research domain. Furthermore, a strong association is observed between Islamic banking and aspects such as corporate governance, customer loyalty, efficiency, and performance, reflecting a research focus on management and operational performance in Islamic banking.

Additionally, the clusters suggest a geographical dimension, with Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Oman appearing frequently, indicating that research on Islamic banking is predominantly conducted in countries with well-established Islamic financial systems. The presence of keywords such as Shariah audit, AAOIFI, and Shariah supervisory board underscores the ongoing focus on regulatory and Shariah compliance aspects within the Islamic finance industry.

Several key findings emerge from this co-occurrence analysis. First, Islamic banks and Islamic banking dominate the network, emphasizing the broad scope and centrality of these topics in Islamic finance research. Second, there is a strong link between Islamic banks and keywords such as efficiency, performance, and data envelopment analysis (DEA), suggesting a significant focus on enhancing efficiency and performance, often in comparison with conventional banks. Third, research trends indicate a growing emphasis on customer-related factors, as seen in the clusters of customer satisfaction and customer loyalty, signaling a shift towards understanding customer behavior and perceptions of Islamic banking services.

3.4. Publication by source title

Table 8. Publication by source title

No.	Author(s)	Title	Source Title	TC	C/Y
1	Amin M.; Isa Z.; Fontaine R. (2013)	Islamic banks: Contrasting the drivers of customer satisfaction on image, trust, and loyalty of Muslim and non-Muslim customers in Malaysia	International Journal of Bank Marketing	197	15,15
2	Ahmed I.; Farooq W.; Khan T.I. (2021)	Customers' perceptions and their responses to objectives of islamic banks - A three-wave investigation	Asian Economic and Financial Review	123	24,60
3	Nawaz T. (2019)	Exploring the Nexus Between Human Capital, Corporate Governance and Performance: Evidence from Islamic Banks	Journal of Business Ethics	94	13,43
4	Mokhtar H.S.A.; Abdullah N.; Alhabshi S.M. (2008)	Efficiency and competition of Islamic banking in Malaysia	Humanomics	91	5,06
5	Doumpos M.; Hasan I.; Pasiouras F. (2017)	Bank overall financial strength: Islamic versus conventional banks	Economic Modelling	90	10,00
6	Al-Zoubi H.A.; Maghyereh A.I. (2007)	The relative risk performance of Islamic finance: A new guide to less risky investments	International Journal of Theoretical and Applied Finance	61	3,21
7	Abedifar P.; Giudici P.; Hashem S.Q. (2017)	Heterogeneous market structure and systemic risk: Evidence from dual banking systems	Journal of Financial Stability	55	6,11
8	Abdul-Majid M.; Saal D.S.; Battisti G. (2011)	The impact of islamic banking on the cost efficiency and productivity change of Malaysian commercial banks	Applied Economics	54	3,60
9	Al-Harbi A. (2019)	The determinants of conventional banks profitability in developing and underdeveloped OIC countries	Journal of Economics, Finance and Administrative Science	54	7,71
10	Kamaruddin B.H.; Safa M.S.; Mohd R. (2008)	Assessing production efficiency of Islamic banks and conventional bank Islamic windows in Malaysia	International Journal of Business and Management Science	51	2,83

Table 8 shows Publication by Source Title. The most cited article, published in International Journal of Bank Marketing (197 citations, 15.15 citations/year), examines customer satisfaction among Muslim and non-Muslim customers in Malaysia, highlighting the journal's relevance in consumer behavior and financial services marketing. Asian Economic and Financial Review (123 citations, 24.60 citations/year) demonstrates a strong recent impact with its 2021 publication on

customer perceptions of Islamic banks, suggesting growing interest in behavioral finance within Islamic banking contexts.

Ethical and governance dimensions are represented by *Journal of Business Ethics* (94 citations, 13.43 citations/year), which explores human capital and corporate governance in Islamic banks, reinforcing the intersection of Islamic finance with sustainable business practices. Meanwhile, *Humanomics* (91 citations, 5.06 citations/year) and *Economic Modelling* (90 citations, 10.00 citations/year) focus on efficiency and financial strength comparisons between Islamic and conventional banks, indicating a strong emphasis on performance analytics in mainstream economics journals.

Specialized finance journals such as *International Journal of Theoretical and Applied Finance* (61 citations, 3.21 citations/year) and *Journal of Financial Stability* (55 citations, 6.11 citations/year) address risk and systemic stability in Islamic finance, underscoring the sector's integration into broader financial theory. Applied economics perspectives are evident in *Applied Economics* (54 citations, 3.60 citations/year) and *Journal of Economics, Finance and Administrative Science* (54 citations, 7.71 citations/year), which analyze cost efficiency and profitability in developing OIC countries. Lastly, *International Journal of Business and Management Science* (51 citations, 2.83 citations/year) contributes to operational efficiency studies, though with relatively lower citation metrics.

3.5. Title and abstract analysis

Table 9 presents a comparative analysis of the productivity and impact of various journals in the field of Islamic economics and finance, measured through multiple bibliometric indicators. The *Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research* leads in total publications (TP = 10), followed by the *Journal of Islamic Marketing* (TP = 7) and the *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management* (TP = 6). However, journals with fewer publications, such as *Humanomics* (TP = 2) and *Asian Economic and Financial Review* (TP = 3), demonstrate remarkable influence, as evidenced by their high total citations (TC = 110 and 136, respectively). This discrepancy suggests that while some journals prioritize quantity, others achieve greater scholarly impact with fewer but more influential publications.

The average citations per publication (C/P) further highlight this distinction. *Humanomics* and *Asian Economic and Financial Review* exhibit exceptionally high C/P values (55.00 and 45.33), indicating that their articles are widely referenced. In contrast, the *Journal of Islamic Monetary Economics and Finance* (C/P = 2.20) and the *Journal of King Abdulaziz University, Islamic Economics* (C/P = 4.00) show limited citation impact relative to their publication output. The h-index and g-index, which measure both productivity and citation consistency, reveal that the *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management* performs well (h-index = 6, g-index = 6), whereas journals like *ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance* (h-index = 2) have a narrower academic reach.

The m-index, which accounts for the temporal dimension of impact, suggests that the *Journal of Islamic Marketing* (m-index = 0.571) maintains strong momentum in citation growth, while the *Journal of King Abdulaziz University, Islamic Economics* (m-index = 0.133) lags behind. These findings imply that journals with lower m-index values may need to enhance their visibility or publication strategies to sustain long-term relevance.

Table 9. Most productive source title

Source Title	TP	NCA	NCP	TC	C/P	C/CP	<i>h</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>m</i>
Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research	10	24	9	80	8,00	8,89	5	8	0,313
Journal of Islamic Marketing	7	17	5	66	9,43	13,20	4	7	0,571
International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management	6	19	6	85	14,17	14,17	6	6	0,353
Journal of Islamic Monetary Economics and Finance	5	13	3	11	2,20	3,67	2	3	0,286
Journal of King Abdulaziz University, Islamic Economics	3	7	2	12	4,00	6,00	2	3	0,133
Asian Economic and Financial Review	3	6	3	136	45,33	45,33	3	3	0,375
ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance	3	5	2	25	8,33	12,50	2	3	0,154
Banks and Bank Systems	3	7	3	18	6,00	6,00	3	3	0,429
Humanomics	2	4	2	110	55,00	55,00	2	2	0,111
International Journal of Economic Research	2	6	2	9	4,50	4,50	2	2	0,222

Note: TP=total number of publications; NCA=number of contributing authors; NCP=number of cited publications; TC=total citations; C/P=average citations per publication; C/CP=average citations per cited publication; *h*=*h*-index; *g*=*g*-index; *m*=*m*-index.

Fig. 4 visualization map of the co-occurrence of terms extracted from the title and abstract fields of scholarly publications, analyzed using VOSviewer. The analysis employs a full counting method, with a minimum occurrence threshold of 10, resulting in 90 terms meeting the criteria out of a total of 4,641 terms.

From the visualization, three major thematic clusters can be identified. The blue cluster is centered around efficiency, profitability, cost, and banking sector determinant, indicating a strong research focus on the operational and financial performance of Islamic banking institutions. Terms such as foreign bank and Indonesia suggest that studies frequently compare Islamic banks with conventional or foreign banks, possibly in terms of cost efficiency and market competitiveness.

The red cluster revolves around Islamic banking, Islamic finance, development, and sukuk, highlighting research themes related to the evolution and growth of Islamic financial institutions, regulatory frameworks, and the development of Islamic financial instruments. The presence of terms such as Oman and Saudi Arabia suggests that Islamic finance research is geographically diverse, covering various jurisdictions with strong Islamic banking systems. Additionally, terms like Covid and time indicate a consideration of external economic shocks and their impact on the Islamic finance sector.

The green cluster is primarily associated with customer, value, quality, trust, and loyalty, reflecting a growing interest in consumer behavior, service quality, and customer relationship management in Islamic banking. The presence of terms like religiosity and competitive strategy suggests that researchers are examining how faith-based financial preferences and competitive positioning influence customer satisfaction and loyalty.

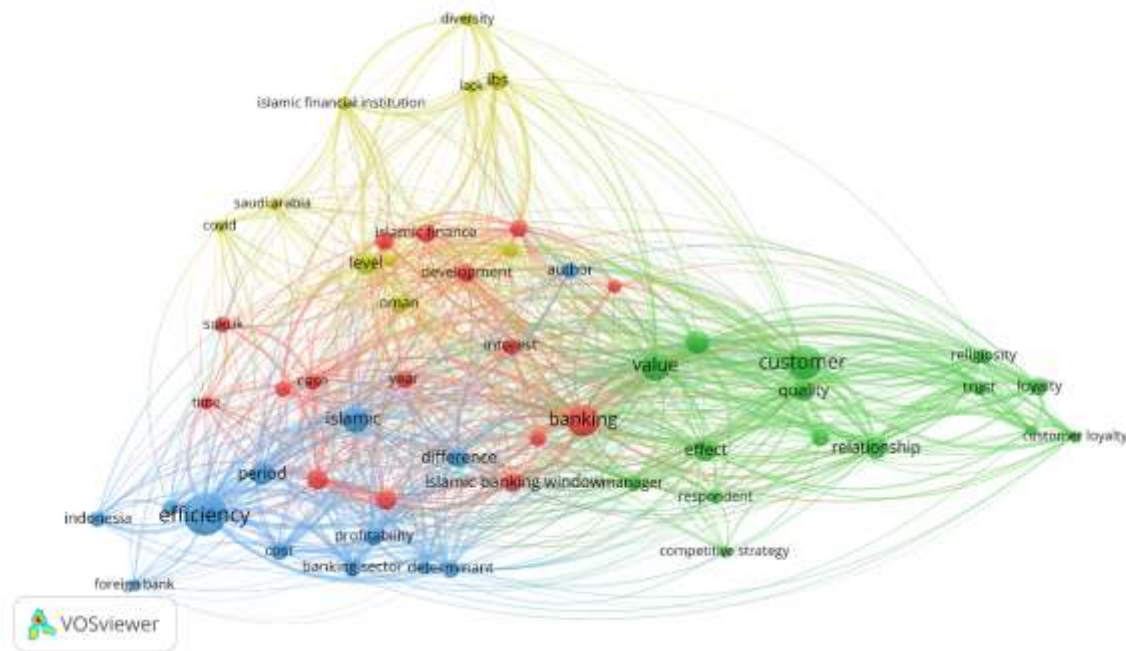


Fig.4. Visualisation of a term co-occurrence network based on title and abstract fields

3.6. Discussion

Islamic banking windows (IBWs), as subsidiaries or branches of conventional banks offering Shariah-compliant services, have become a significant component of the global Islamic finance industry. Their hybrid model caters to the demand for ethical banking while leveraging the infrastructure of conventional banks. A bibliometric analysis by Abdul-Majid & Hassan (2011) highlights the growing scholarly focus on IBWs, particularly in dual-banking systems like Malaysia and Indonesia, where studies emphasize comparative efficiency and risk management [12]. However, challenges persist in regulatory harmonization and Shariah compliance, with Alahmadi et al (2017) critiquing the lack of standardized audit practices in Saudi Arabia's IBWs, which can lead to inconsistent governance [13]. Further research indicates that corporate governance significantly influences Islamic bank performance, with strong governance structures enhancing the operational effectiveness of IBWs in Indonesia [14], [15].

3.6.1. Resilience and Performance

The resilience of IBWs during crises remains contested. While Akkas & Al Samman (2022) found that GCC Islamic banks (including IBWs) outperformed conventional peers during COVID-19 due to risk-sharing (Mudarabah/Musharakah) principles [16], Haque & Sohel (2019) observed inefficiencies in Bangladeshi IBWs, attributing this to higher non-performing financing (NPF) rates [17]. Similarly, Abedifar et al., (2017) revealed that conventional banks with Islamic windows (CBw) in the GCC were less resilient during systemic shocks, as their dual operations increased interconnectedness risks [18]. These disparities underscore the influence of regional regulatory frameworks, such as Malaysia's Islamic Financial Services Act 2013 [19], which mandates stricter Shariah oversight for IBWs. Recent findings also support the negative correlation between NPF and Islamic banks' profitability, reinforcing concerns about operational inefficiencies during economic downturns [20], [21].

3.6.2. Shariah Governance Challenges

Shariah governance is critical for the credibility of IBWs. Tawfik & Bilal (2020) identify gaps in Oman's IBWs, including a shortage of qualified Shariah auditors and weak disclosure of Fatwas [22]. This aligns with Olayemi et al (2018), who found only 15% of UAE IBWs disclosed Shariah

resolutions, compared to 80% of full-fledged Islamic banks [23]. Such opacity can erode trust, as highlighted by Usman et al., (2024) where Pakistani IBWs' non-Shariah-compliant income (NSCI) reduced customer commitment [24]. To mitigate this, Bashir and Babiker (2023) advocate for centralized Shariah boards (e.g., Saudi Arabia's CSBIB) to standardize compliance across IBWs. Further evidence indicates that cultivating robust corporate governance practices could significantly enhance the financial performance of IBWs [25].

3.6.3. Conversion and Operational Complexities

The conversion of conventional banks to IBWs involves trade-offs. Suzuki et al., (2020) note that Bangladesh's IBWs benefited from regulatory incentives (e.g., lower reserve requirements) [26], but Trinugroho et al., (2021) reveal that Indonesian IBWs faced post-spin-off inefficiencies, with profitability declining for four years [27]. This echoes [12], who found that merged IBWs in Malaysia faced higher input costs due to operational duality. Salim & Hassan (2023) stress the need for phased transitions, citing Malaysia's success in integrating IBWs through clear Shariah Governance Policy Documents [28]. Additionally, the noted inefficiencies post-conversion highlights the importance of structured governance in optimizing operational effectiveness during such transitions.

3.6.4. Customer Perceptions and Market Dynamics

Customer loyalty to IBWs hinges on religiosity and convenience. Jamshed & Uluyol (2024) show that while 62% of Pakistani customers chose IBWs for Shariah compliance [29], 38% prioritized location, a finding corroborated by Belwal & Al Maqbali (2019) in Oman [30]. However, Amin et al., (2009) caution that IBWs' reliance on Murabaha (non-PLS contracts) may dilute their ethical appeal, as observed in Sudan's hybrid banks [31]. The dynamic of customer preferences indicates a growing need for IBWs to balance Islamic principles with competitive market demands, reinforcing the necessity for ongoing equity between traditional performance metrics and measures aligned with Shariah goals [32], [33].

4. Conclusion

This bibliometric analysis highlights key trends in Islamic Banking Windows (IBW) research, showing growing interest in their role within sustainable finance. Malaysia and Indonesia lead in publication volume, while Western nations like the UK produce highly cited studies. Dominant themes include efficiency, customer satisfaction, and financial performance, but sustainability aspects like ESG remain understudied. Influential authors and journals have shaped the field, yet recent works need time to gain traction. The findings suggest IBWs are bridging conventional and Islamic finance, but gaps persist in Shariah governance and sustainable finance integration.

To advance the field, researchers should prioritize interdisciplinary studies linking IBWs to global sustainability goals. Policymakers must establish standardized Shariah audit frameworks, while banks should develop ethical financial products that align with ESG principles. Strengthening collaboration between academia, regulators, and practitioners will ensure IBWs contribute meaningfully to both Islamic finance and sustainable development.

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