

Trends and emerging issues on Islamic banking performance: bibliometrics analysis

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Abstract

Purpose – This study aims to conduct a systematic review of the literature on Islamic banking performance. **Method** – This research analyses trends and developments in the field using the systematic literature review and mapping study approaches. A total of 56 articles were selected from an initial pool of 130 articles sourced from ScienceDirect and Scopus, using the preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA) method. **Findings** – The findings reveal that trend analysis, density visualization using VosViewer, and mapping studies indicate that research on Islamic banking performance remains dominated by traditional topics such as efficiency, financial performance, and risk management. The primary indicators include return on assets (ROA), return on equity (ROE), non-performing financing (NPF), and loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR). However, studies on Islamic bank resilience, fintech integration, and their role in developing economies remain limited. A more holistic approach is needed to address challenges and opportunities in the digital era. **Implications** – The implications of this study highlight the importance of policies that support digital innovation while adhering to Sharia principles. Additionally, this study identifies future research opportunities, including the resilience of Islamic banks during crises, the impact of digitalization on efficiency, the contribution of Islamic banking to the green economy, and the influence of regulations on Islamic bank performance. Ultimately, this study provides valuable insights into the trends, challenges, and opportunities facing Islamic banking in an evolving global economic landscape.

Keywords: Islamic bank, governance, technology, performance, finance.

Introduction

Islamic banking performance has become one of the main focuses in Islamic finance studies, especially in facing global economic dynamics, regulatory developments, and technological innovations. In recent decades, Islamic banking has experienced rapid growth in assets, market share, and products and services offered (Alhammadi 2024; Iqbal and Kassim 2024). Its strategic role in supporting financial inclusion and economic stability makes it increasingly relevant, especially in countries with large Muslim populations. However, amidst this rapid development, various challenges are still faced, such as efficiency, profitability, governance, risk management, and sustainability of business models (Alliou and Mourdi 2023; Amuda and Al-Nasser 2024).

Academic studies on Islamic banking continue to develop with an increasingly broad scope. Several studies compare Islamic and conventional banking regarding profitability, operational efficiency, and resilience to economic shocks (Faizulayev et al. 2021; Hassan, Ijaz, and Khan 2021). Meanwhile, other studies examine the influence of macroeconomic factors, such as inflation, economic growth, and monetary policy, on the performance of Islamic banking (Athari 2021; Hoque and Liu 2023). In addition, in recent years, studies have



emerged that highlight the integration of financial technology (fintech) in Islamic banking services and its impact on industry efficiency and competitiveness (A. A. A. Rahman et al. 2023; Zhou, Zhu, and Luo 2022). Apart from that, there are studies on the impact of the global financial crisis on global banking stability (Hussien et al. 2019; Elnahass, Trinh, and Li 2021).

Although the related literature continues to grow, several research gaps still need further attention. One of the main gaps is the lack of studies that systematically map research trends in the field of Islamic banking performance in a comprehensive manner. Most of the existing studies focus more on specific aspects, such as service quality, customer satisfaction, adoption, and environmental and social governance (ESG), without providing a comprehensive picture of the direction of development of academic studies in this field (Q. Ali et al. 2024; Tumewang, Yunita, and Hassan 2024; Bonang, Fianto, and Sukmana 2025). As a result, understanding of key issues and long-term research trends is still limited. In addition, few studies still explore how Islamic banking adapts to global regulatory changes and broader macroeconomic challenges. Several Islamic banking policies implemented in various countries have significant differences, which can impact variations in performance and stability (Banna et al. 2022; Omri 2022). Therefore, a more systematic approach is needed to identify regulatory patterns that influence the development of Islamic banking and how these policies can be optimized to support the growth of this industry.

In the context of financial innovation, research related to the adoption of digital technology in Islamic banking is also still limited. Although several studies have highlighted the impact of fintech and digitalization on Islamic banking, few studies specifically discuss how technology can improve operational efficiency and expand Islamic financial inclusion (Li, Elahi, and Zhao 2022; M. Rahman et al. 2023). Therefore, further research is needed to understand the role of technology in improving the competitiveness of Islamic banking in the era of digital transformation. This study aims to analyze trends and key issues in Islamic banking performance studies using the systematic literature review (SLR) and mapping study approaches to address the existing research gap. This method was chosen over traditional narrative reviews because the systematic literature review (SLR) and mapping study approach provide a more systematic and impartial analysis of research trends in Islamic banking performance. Unlike narrative reviews, which are frequently subjective and limited in scope, SLR assures rigorous inclusion and exclusion criteria, eliminating bias and boosting reproducibility. The mapping study approach also allows for a comprehensive visualization of keyword distribution, emerging trends, and topic interconnections, providing deeper insights into research gaps and future objectives. This methodical methodology improves the clarity and dependability of the findings, making it a more effective tool for detecting key themes in academic literature (Aprizal et al. 2024). With bibliometric visualization methods using software such as VosViewer, this study will map research dynamics from 2016 to 2024 to identify dominant study focuses and potential for further exploration. Overall, this study attempts to answer questions about how the trend of Islamic banking performance studies has developed in recent years and what issues are still of major concern in academic research. With a systematic and data-based approach, the results of this study are expected to be an important reference for the development of more advanced Islamic banking studies relevant to global economic challenges.

Literature review

Systematic literature review (SLR)

A systematic mapping study is a methodology for conducting systematic literature reviews through predefined stages (Azarian et al. 2023). The selection of publications was conducted objectively by researchers, adhering to established methods and filters that have been previously established. Systematic mapping studies are typically conducted for more

expansive study areas than conventional evaluations. Typically, the outcomes manifest as clusters and classifications of the data derived from a research topic. It is occasionally conducted to discern prospective research trends for a specific issue (Al-Hanandeh, Othman, and Mastor 2024).

Systematic mapping study (SMS)

A systematic mapping study involves identifying, categorising, and analysing existing material pertinent to a specific research topic (Petersen, Vakkalanka, and Kuzniarz 2015). This study aims to deliver a thorough overview of the research domain, objectively evaluate existing literature, pinpoint research deficiencies, and gather evidence for prospective research trajectories. The result of a mapping study is a categorised collection of articles about the research domain. It is a type of secondary research designed to organise a research domain and facilitate the identification of research gaps and trends. The systematic mapping study has five phases: planning, search execution, selection of primary studies, data extraction and categorisation, and analysis and mapping (Kosar, Bohra, and Mernik 2016). The planning phase encompasses formulating research questions, delineating the scope, developing the search method, and establishing selection criteria. The search execution phase entails searching for the designated sources utilising the specified search strings. The primary studies selection phase entails utilising the selection criteria to identify pertinent primary studies. The data extraction and classification phase entails developing a classification framework and categorising the research according to this framework. The analysis and mapping phase entails deriving statistics from the gathered data and constructing visual representations (Zainuldin and Lui 2022; Vargas et al. 2023).

Islamic bank performance

Financial performance is an evaluation aimed at determining the degree to which a corporation has effectively and accurately used financial concepts (Hughes and Mester 2013). Company performance refers to the financial status of the organisation assessed by various financial analysis instruments (Barauskaite and Streimikiene 2021). This research seeks to evaluate the quality of the company's financial state to indicate performance levels over a specific period. This evaluation is essential for optimising resource utilisation, particularly in addressing the dynamics of environmental change. Financial institutions are essential to the economy; their integrity is important for sustaining public confidence. An effective banking system adeptly gathers deposits and extends credit (Mousa and Ozili 2023). Performance measurement measures management efficacy, assesses financial accomplishments, and forecasts future conditions utilising metrics such as liquidity, solvency, profitability, and business stability (Okeke, Bakare, and Achumie 2024). Islamic banking performance pertains to the assessment of the efficiency and stability of Islamic banks in executing financial intermediation duties in accordance with sharia standards (Asutay and Ubaidillah 2024). This performance can be assessed using many financial and non-financial metrics that indicate profitability, risk, operational efficiency, and adherence to sharia principles (Boulanouar, Grassa, and Alqahtani 2024).

Method

This study used systematic literature review (SLR) and mapping study techniques to extensively analyze articles from Scopus-indexed scientific journals, examining and synthesizing existing research on the role of technology in climate change resilience. The SLR technique ensures that all relevant literature is thoroughly reviewed to answer the research question, identify gaps, and lay the groundwork for future research directions (Donthu et al. 2021). The preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA) framework were used to enhance transparency and rigour during the selection process. It entails a systematic procedure of identifying, screening, determining eligibility, and excluding



relevant publications (Sahoo, Saraf, and Uchil 2024). Through this process, the study methodically narrowed down the most relevant literature, providing a precise and reliable assessment of the current state of research and potential areas for future investigation (Wiranatakusuma, Aprizal, and Kamil 2024) (Figure 1).

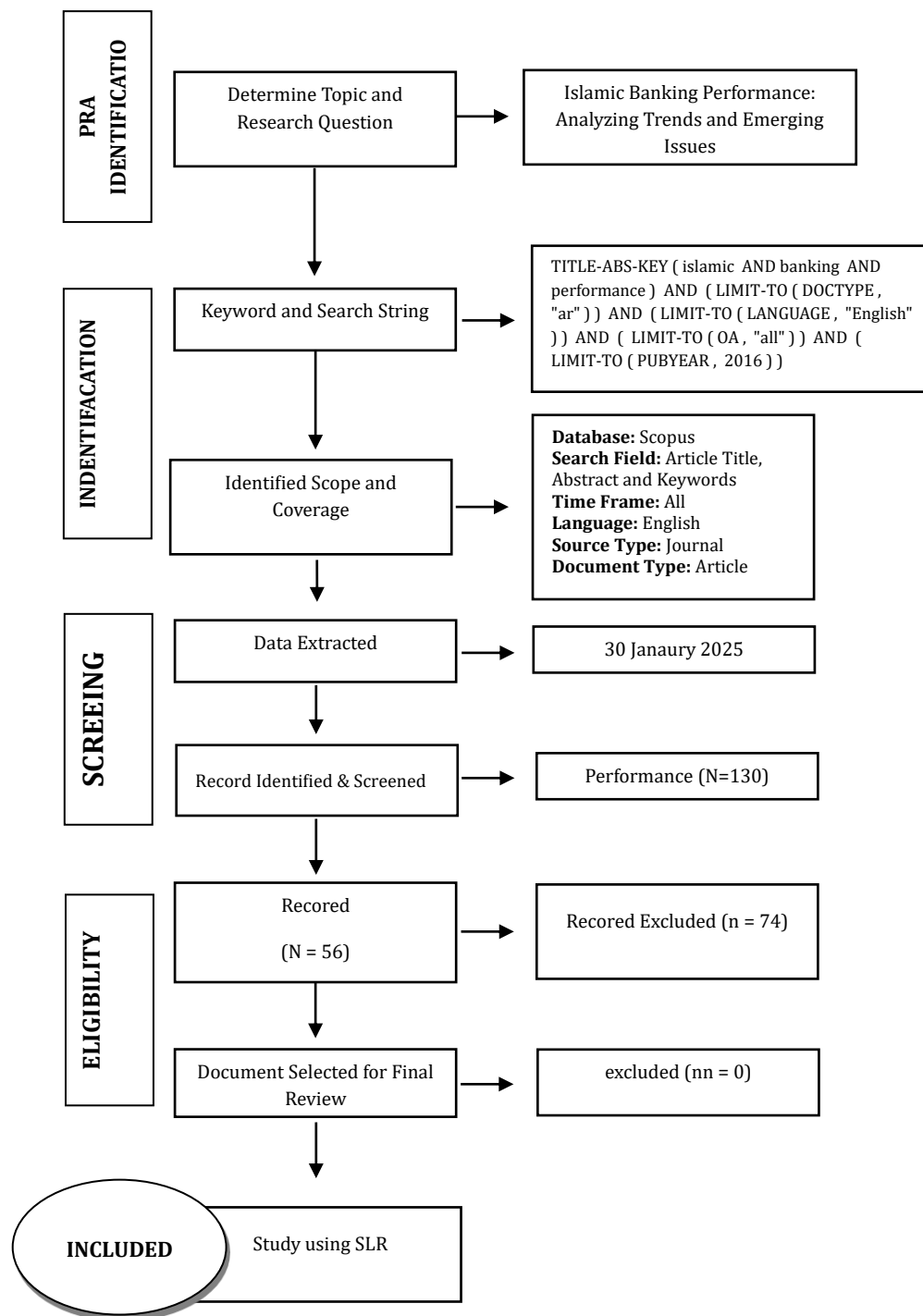


Figure 1 article selection process (PRISMA steps)
Source: Wiranatakusuma, Aprizal, and Kamil (2024)

This study analyzed 56 Scopus-indexed scientific journal publications using a qualitative methodology combining systematic literature review and system mapping analysis. A system library review is an extensive methodological strategy or process used to understand texts, contents, and materials that are directly relevant to the issues of study (Aprizal et al. 2024). Compared to systematic literature research, systematic mapping studies often cover a

wider study area. The findings of the research topic are often grouped and classified based on the results. It is sometimes done to anticipate the future direction of a field of study (Zultaqawa, Alexandri, and Hardinata 2019). The main advantage of qualitative methods for content analysis is their ability to give researchers freedom in obtaining, translating, and interpreting texts. To answer research questions appropriately, the distribution of texts, both structured and unstructured, can be arranged through the classification of text interpretations into concepts, themes, and subjects (Zuhroh 2022). Therefore, to identify previously undiscussed issues and topics regarding the role of technology in climate resilience, the study was now able to classify, categorize, and organize the texts of the 56 reviewed papers.

The first stage is to pre-identify the research questions and subjects. Evaluate previous articles that discuss the theme and research questions on Islamic Bank Performance in determining the subject and research questions. Therefore, the next step (second) is to identify the item. To search for publications in the Scopus database (ScienceDirect), enter the search type "reference" and the keyword "Islamic bank and performance" in the search field. After entering the term, select the "search" menu. The search technique then produces 130 articles covering various subjects and titles from various years and types of documents. As a result, 56 articles were produced in the third stage of screening, which reduced the number of documents by selecting the type of document and English-language articles. Fourth, the extent to which the research findings in the 56 publications selected as the search analysis unit are valid or feasible. The publication of articles in scientific journals indexed by Scopus (ScienceDirect), the relevance of the subject, theme, and title to Islamic banking performance, and the publication criteria for the 2016-2024 publication period are also considered when selecting papers. In addition, it is selected depending on the quality of the document file, which simplifies the process of coding and classifying the text. It can be read by the data analysis program used—the fifth step. Include articles: 56 selected articles were searched for publication purposes and made available for download and storage in a computer folder. Next, after the articles were downloaded and stored in a computer folder, they were all entered into the article management software "Mendeley." However, papers that were entered into Mendeley were exported as RIS files. RIS files were entered into data analysis tools such as VosViewer. The researchers also utilized Microsoft Excel 365 and Publish or Perish to generate graphs, images, maps, and citations (Figure 1).

This study also utilized Microsoft Excel 365 and VosViewer, two programs for data analysis. On the other hand, one of the most frequently used programs for reviewing article objectives is VosViewer, which can be used to map authors, visualize author networks, unify themes or concepts, simulate topic networks, and collect topics based on related concepts and similar topics (Eck and Waltman 2023). Based on 56 reviewed publications, VosViewer software compiled a list of authors, subjects, and issues in innovative and sustainable agriculture studies. The inability of the VosViewer program to display research topics or concepts based on author names and several other classifications caused researchers to receive incorrect information about the subjects covered by each author. As a result, information on the topics, concepts, or issues mentioned by the authors was obtained personally using Microsoft Excel 365 capabilities. Furthermore, a subject classification based on the difficulty of the role of technology in climate resilience research was made by mapping and categorizing the concepts and topics derived from the VosViewer study using Microsoft Excel 365 software. It involved creating visual charts, graphs, maps, and graphs of the main indications of the articles under consideration. Therefore, this study explores the following research questions within this context. First, how are the distribution of trends, dominant themes, and less dominant aspects related to issues and proxy indicators in Islamic banking performance? Second, what are the main areas of study that emerge in analyzing Islamic banking performance?

Results and discussion

VosViewer analysis and classification of Islamic banking performance characteristics in various categories

Based on the article selection process results using the systematic literature study method and mapping with observations of 130 journals, 56 studies related to Islamic banking performance were obtained and analyzed using VosViewer software. Vosviewer is a software tool for creating maps based on network data and visualizing and exploring maps (Eck and Waltman 2023). In this case, to display the pattern of keywords distributed based on observed and relevant research. Vosviewer has three visualization categories: network visualization, overly visualization, and density visualization. Network visualization serves to review keywords that have strong relationships with other keywords. Figure 2 is a network visualization based on keyword patterns from 56 previous studies generated with Vosviewer software. Network visualization produces clusters, where words with the closest network to each other gather. Cluster 1 in pink consists of Islamic banks and Economic consequences. Cluster 2 in green comprises the cost of intermediation, fintech firm, capital, asset quality, liquidity, and financial ratio. Cluster 3 in blue consists of performance, Covid-19, syariah governance and risk management. Cluster 4 in yellow includes stability, business orientation, peak, efficiency, economic development, financial services, financial institutions, and emerging economies. Cluster 5 in purple consists of financial performance, financial ratio analysis, customer response, profitability, financing, and size. Finally, cluster 6 in orange consists only of resilience.

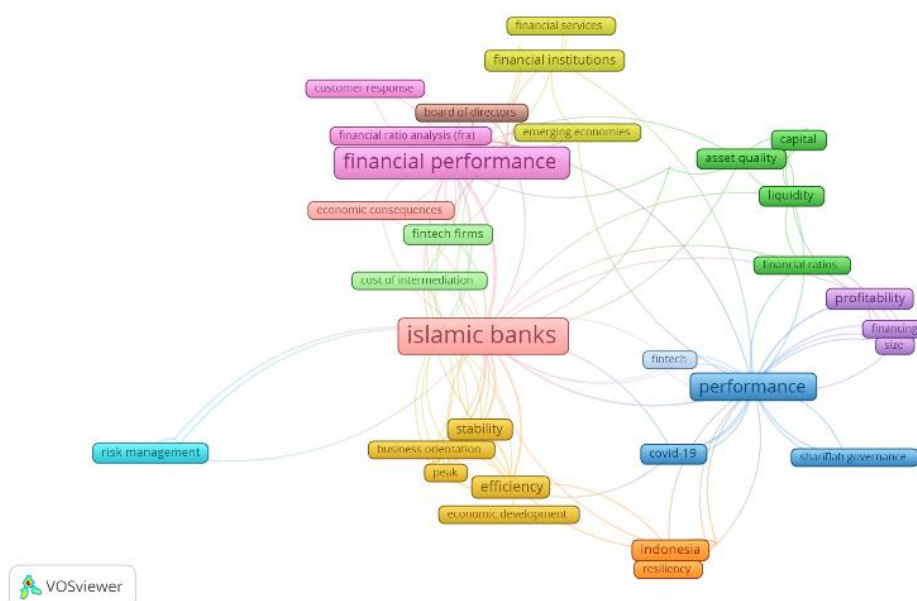


Figure 2 Islamic banking performance visualization network

Source: secondary data (processed, 2025)

In the network visualization, the size of the boxes and keywords in Figure 2 represent the weight of each keyword. The larger the box size, the more prominent the research network. The line connecting the two keywords indicates that they appear together. Although the distance between the boxes reflects the strength of the relationship between the keywords, a shorter distance between the boxes indicates a stronger relationship. Boxes of the same colour indicate that the keywords are in the same cluster. The largest boxes visualize Islamic banks and financial performance with a prominent and intense relationship in Islamic banking performance: analyzing trends and emerging issues.

The following visualization is overlay visualization. Figure 3 shows a visualization overlay of 56 previous studies on Islamic banking performance. The visualization overlay serves to review trending issues related to the research topic. The latest or current trends in the yellow rearview mirror. The more yellow, the more recent studies related to the topic. Based on the image below, several current issues are related to Islamic banking resilience, including fintech, board of direction, financing, size, financial services, economic development, and resilience.

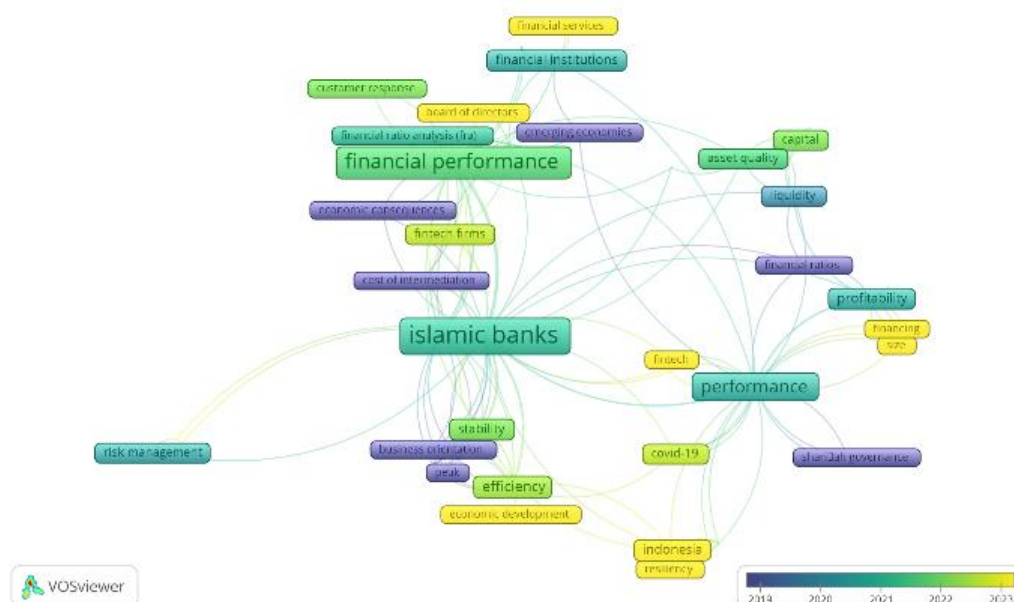


Figure 3 Islamic banking resilience visualization

Source: secondary data (processed, 2025)

In addition, the last visualization in the VosViewer analysis is density visualization. This visualization helps view dominant issues related to the topic being reviewed. The brighter the colour, the more recent research related to the topic. Figure 4 shows several dominant issues related to Islamic banking performance, including Islamic banks, performance, financial performance, asset quality, capital, efficiency, profitability, and risk management. Issues not yet dominant can be seen in colours that are not too bright or pale green, including resilience, fintech, emerging economies, and liquidity.

Overall, Figures 2, 3, and 4 underscore various critical concerns about the performance of Islamic banking, encompassing essential elements such as Islamic banks, financial performance, asset quality, capital, efficiency, profitability, and risk management. The aggregation of keywords uncovers unique yet interrelated themes, with each cluster signifying an essential aspect of comprehending Islamic banking processes. The inclusion of "economic consequences" in Cluster 1 (pink) indicates the extensive influence of Islamic banks on financial systems, whereas Cluster 2 (green) highlights cost efficiency, fintech integration, and liquidity management. Cluster 3 (blue) associates performance with governance and risk management, especially in reaction to crises like Covid-19. Clusters 4 (yellow) and 5 (purple) emphasize financial stability, business strategy, customer responsiveness, and profitability as essential determinants of the growth and sustainability of Islamic banks. Cluster 6 (orange) emphasizes resilience, highlighting its pervasive impact on maintaining financial sustainability. Emerging developments, including technology acceptance, enhancements in governance (Board of Directors), financing techniques, bank size, and economic development, further illustrate the dynamic environment of Islamic banking. The growing integration of financial technology improves efficiency and accessibility, while governance frameworks are

crucial for strategic decision-making and risk management. Moreover, financing strategies and the scale of banks have a pivotal role in ensuring financial stability and promoting growth, underscoring the significance of financial services in facilitating economic development. The persistent focus on resilience underscores the capacity of Islamic banks to endure economic disruptions and adjust to evolving financial conditions. These relationships indicate that future research has to concentrate on how digital transformation, governance, and financial strategies influence Islamic banks' long-term sustainability and performance.

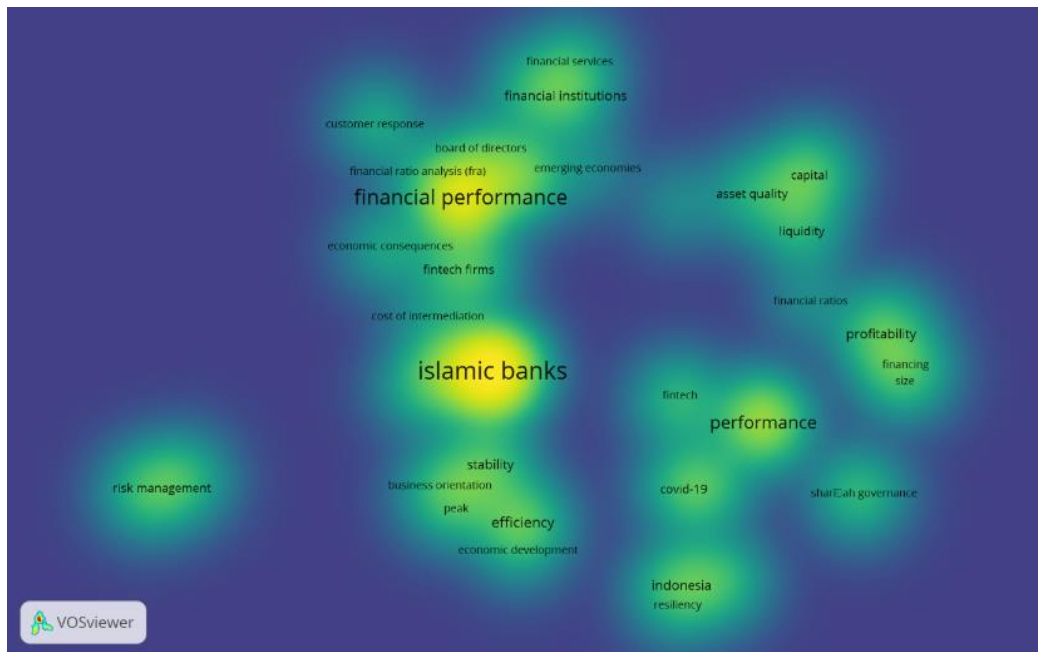


Figure 4 visualization of Islamic banking performance density
Source: secondary data (processed, 2025)

Classification of Islamic banking performance against research data characteristics

This research was conducted by analyzing and reviewing 56 articles on Islamic banking performance published in Scopus-indexed journals between 2016 and 2024. Here are some classifications obtained from the results of the research article review.

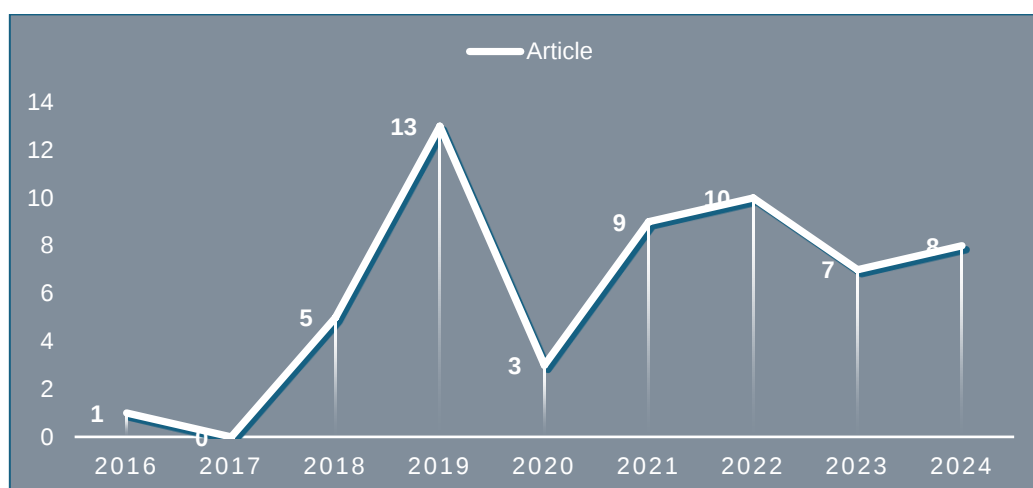


Figure 5 classification of publication trends based on year of publication
Source: secondary data (processed, 2025)

The trend of publications about Islamic banking performance from 2016 to 2024 exhibits a variable pattern with a general upward trajectory, indicating a growing academic

interest in this domain (Figure 5). The initial phase (2016–2017) received scant scholarly focus, perhaps owing to the steady regulatory environment and the lack of urgent challenges requiring comprehensive investigation (Tlemsani and Suwaidi 2016). A notable growth transpired in 2018, culminating in 13 publications in 2019. This increase indicates an expanding acknowledgement of Islamic banking as an essential element of the financial sector, propelled by an intensified discourse on financial inclusion, ethical banking, and risk-sharing mechanisms (Ramadhan, Selim, and Sahwan 2019). In 2020, there was a significant reduction to merely three publications, likely due to a shift in research focus towards overarching macroeconomic and financial stability concerns, encompassing monetary policy modifications and regulatory reforms that affected both the Islamic and conventional banking sectors. Nonetheless, a recovery phase ensued in 2021 and 2022, yielding 9 and 10 articles indicative of a revitalized scholarly interest in Islamic banking performance. This resurgence may be associated with the growing significance of digital transformation in banking operations and the investigation of Islamic finance's resilience in the face of economic uncertainties (Tazilah et al. 2021).

Despite a minor decrease in 2023 with seven articles, the trend recovered in 2024 with eight publications, indicating the continued significance of Islamic banking performance as a study subject. These swings may be affected by various causes, such as changing Islamic financial legislation (Tlemsani and Suwaidi 2016), heightened competition with conventional banks (Ramadhan, Selim, and Sahwan 2019), and swift progress in digital banking innovation (Tazilah et al. 2021). Further research on significant regulatory changes, competitive challenges from traditional banking, and the effects of digital transformation on Islamic banking performance would enrich the conversation and offer a more profound explanation of the observed trends. Enhancing the analysis of external economic conditions and financial policies influencing Islamic banking research may yield a more holistic understanding of the developing academic environment in this domain.

Table 1 classification of publications by country

Country	Amount	Country	Amount
Indonesia	16	USA	2
Saudi Arabia	10	Jordan	1
Malaysia	8	Kuwait	1
Bahrain	3	Qatar	1
China	3	Tunis	1
Pakistan	3	UK	1
UAE	3	Vietnamese	1
Bangladesh	2		
Total			56

Source: secondary data (processed, 2025)

The distribution of countries in research related to Islamic banking performance shows the dominance of countries with developed Islamic banking industries, with Indonesia in the top ranking with 16 publications, followed by Saudi Arabia (10 publications) and Malaysia (8 publications) (Table 1). These three countries are known as the main centres of Islamic financial development in terms of regulation, policy, and innovation of Islamic banking products. Bahrain, China, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have three publications indicating academic attention to Islamic banking performance in the Middle East and Asia. Bangladesh and the United States (USA) are recorded in two publications reflecting interest in Islamic banking outside Muslim-majority countries. In addition, several countries have a single number of publications, such as Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Tunisia, the United Kingdom (UK), and Vietnam, indicating that research on Islamic banking is also starting to



develop in regions with more limited Islamic banking penetration. With 56 publications spread across various countries, this data reflects that studies related to Islamic banking performance have a global reach. However, they remain concentrated in countries with strong Islamic financial ecosystems.

Table 2 classification based on most citations

Nu.	Author	Title	Citation
1	Alsartawi (2019)	Performance of Islamic banks: do the frequency of shari'ah supervisory board meetings and independence matter?	124
2	Sahyouni and Wang (2019)	Liquidity creation and bank performance: evidence from MENA	111
3	Javaid and Alalawi (2018)	Performance and profitability of Islamic banks in Saudi Arabia: an empirical analysis	107
4	Majeed and Zainab (2021)	A comparative analysis of financial performance of Islamic banks vis-à-vis conventional banks: evidence from Pakistan	96
5	Ellili and Nobanee (2023)	Impact of economic, environmental, and corporate social responsibility reporting on financial performance of UAE banks	75
6	Akram and Rahman (2018)	Credit risk management a comparative study of Islamic banks and conventional banks in Pakistan	67
7	Tlemsani and Suwaidi (2016)	Comparative analysis of Islamic and conventional banks in the UAE during the financial crisis	66
8	Banna and Alam (2020)	Islamic banking efficiency and inclusive sustainable growth: the role of financial inclusion	62
9	Almulla and Aljughaiman (2021)	Does financial technology matter? Evidence from an alternative banking system	57
10	Huq, Zheng, and Gupta (2018)	Does bank corporate governance matter for bank performance and risk-taking? New insights of an emerging economy	52

Source: secondary data (processed, 2025)

Table 2 displays the ten most often cited articles in research about Islamic banking performance per the reviewed journal. The paper by Alsartawi (2019) is the most cited, with 124 citations demonstrating a substantial influence on the examination of Islamic banking performance. Javaid and Alalawi (2018); Sahyouni and Wang (2019) rank second and third, with 111 and 107 citations, respectively, indicating significant academic interest in their research. Furthermore, the works of Majeed and Zainab (2021), which have garnered 96 citations, and Almulla and Aljughaiman (2021), with 57 citations, underscore that contemporary research is attaining significant acknowledgement. This indicates that current research on Islamic banking performance remains a focal point of academic interest; however, it typically requires time to amass significant citation counts. The latest paper by Ellili and Nobanee (2023) has swiftly accumulated 75 citations, indicating its significant relevance and contribution to the current academic conversation in this domain. Older works, such as Tlemsani and Suwaidi (2016); Akram and Rahman (2018), which have 66 and 67 citations, respectively, continue to serve as significant references, highlighting the persistent importance of their concepts and findings in the research on Islamic banking performance. Incorporating recent articles with high citation counts would enhance understanding of current research trends. This will facilitate the identification of recent advancements, novel techniques, and the evolution of scholarly discourse around Islamic banking performance in recent years. Thus, a comprehensive examination of recent literature would enhance the comprehension of the

determinants affecting Islamic banking performance and its strategic ramifications for the Islamic finance sector.

Table 3 classification based on the research method approach

Research Approach	Total	Percentage
Quantitative	48	85.71%
Qualitative	3	5.36%
Mixed	5	8.93%
Total	56	100%

Source: secondary data (processed, 2025)

Table 3 displays that the research approach related to Islamic banking performance is dominated by quantitative methods, as shown by 48 studies or 85.71% of the total 56 publications. It indicates that numerical data-based analysis, financial performance measurement, and statistical and econometric methods are the main approaches to studying Islamic banking performance. Meanwhile, research with a qualitative approach only amounted to 3 studies or 5.36%, indicating that interview-based exploration, case studies, or document analysis are still limited in this study. The mixed methods approach, which combines quantitative and qualitative methods, was recorded in 5 studies or 8.93%, reflecting an effort to integrate the two methods to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of Islamic banking. Overall, these data reflect a strong tendency for using quantitative methods in Islamic banking performance studies, while qualitative and mixed methods approaches are still not widely used. However, they have the potential to provide deeper insights into aspects that cannot be measured quantitatively.

Table 4 classification based on research method analysis

Analysis Method	Total	Percentage
Data panel	17	30%
DEA	9	16%
Multiple linear regression model	6	11%
ARDL	2	4%
GMM	8	14%
In-depth Interviews	5	9%
Descriptive analysis	2	4%
Thematic analysis	1	2%
Other method analysis	6	11%
Total	56	100%

Source: secondary data (processed, 2025)

Table 4 displays that the analysis methods used in the research on Islamic banking performance, the quantitative approach dominates with a total of 75%, which includes the panel data method (30%), data envelopment analysis (DEA) (16%), multiple linear regression model (11%), autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) (4%), and generalized method of moments (GMM) (14%). This method evaluates efficiency, profitability, and the relationship between economic variables and Islamic bank performance. The panel data method is the most widely used because of its ability to analyze the influence of internal and external factors on Islamic banks over a specific period. DEA is used to measure the operational efficiency of banks, while the multiple linear regression model helps understand the factors that affect profitability. ARDL and GMM focus more on analyzing long-term relationships and addressing endogeneity issues in financial economics research. On the other hand, qualitative methods

such as in-depth interviews (9%), descriptive analysis (4%), and thematic analysis (2%) are used to understand the perspectives of management and policies in the operations of Islamic banks. This approach emphasizes an in-depth exploration of the strategies, challenges, and opportunities the Islamic banking industry faces.

Overall, research on Islamic banking performance uses more quantitative approaches, which show the dominance of numerical data-based analysis and statistical methods in studying efficiency, profitability, and the relationship between economic variables and Islamic bank performance. Methods often used include panel data analysis to see the influence of internal and external factors, as well as other techniques such as operational efficiency measurements and regression models to understand the determinants of profitability. In addition, there are more complex methods to analyze long-term relationships and overcome endogeneity problems in financial economics research. On the other hand, qualitative approaches are still limited and are more widely used to explore management perspectives, policies, and challenges in the Islamic banking industry. Several studies have tried to combine the two approaches to gain a more comprehensive understanding. Although quantitative studies are more dominant, qualitative approaches and combination methods still have the potential to explore aspects that cannot be measured numerically.

Table 5 classification based on proxy indicator

Proxy	Total	Percentage
ROA	28	50%
Efficiency dummy	7	13%
NPF	3	5%
LDR	2	4%
Bank ownership	1	2%
Credit risk	1	2%
Fintech services	1	2%
Other proxies	13	23%
Total	56	100%

Source: secondary data (processed, 2025)

In research on Islamic banking performance, various indicators are used as proxies to measure Islamic banking performance. Table 5 shows that return on assets (ROA) is the most widely used leading indicator, reflecting banks' profitability in generating profits from their assets. In addition, the efficiency dummy is also an important factor in assessing how effective Islamic banks are in managing their resources and operations. Non-performing financing (NPF) and loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR) are also used to evaluate banks' financing risk and liquidity. Several studies also include bank ownership, credit risk, and fintech services as variables affecting Islamic banking performance. In addition, various other indicators are categorized in other proxies, which show that measuring Islamic banking performance can be done through various perspectives depending on the purpose of the research being conducted.

Table 6 classification based on study area

Study Area	Total	Percentage
Efficiency and financial performance	17	30%
Governance and regulation	13	23%
Risk and financial stability	11	20%
Sustainability and financial inclusion	10	18%
The role of technology	5	9%
Total	56	100%

Source: secondary data (processed, 2025)



Table 6 shows research areas in Islamic banking performance in which efficiency and financial performance are the main concerns (30%), highlighting the importance of optimizing operations and profitability to improve global competitiveness. Governance and regulation (23%) play a crucial role in maintaining stability and trust, especially in the era of digitalization that demands adaptive policies. Meanwhile, financial risk and stability (20%) emphasize the need for risk mitigation strategies against global economic shocks. Sustainability and financial inclusion (18%) reflect the role of maqasid sharia, CSR, and financial access in strengthening the Islamic banking ecosystem. Finally, the role of technology (9%) is an important element in improving efficiency and service reach through digitalization. Islamic banking performance is determined by integrating efficiency, governance, stability, sustainability, and technology to build a more resilient and globally competitive financial system.

The development of studies on Islamic banking performance shows an increasingly dynamic trend, reflecting academic responses to global economic changes and technological advances. Fintech integration, operational efficiency, governance, and financial stability are the main aspects that dominate research in Islamic banking performance. Indicators such as ROA, NPF, and LDR are used to measure the profitability, financing risk, and liquidity of Islamic banks (Bajaher et al. 2021; Majeed and Zainab 2021; Faozi et al. 2022). Although traditional issues such as profitability and efficiency are still the primary focus, there is an opportunity for further exploration of the resilience of Islamic banks in facing crises and the adoption of digital technology. With a more holistic and innovative analysis, this study is expected to provide more comprehensive insights into the competitiveness and sustainability of Islamic banking in the modern era.

Distribution of trends, dominant and not yet dominant related to issues and proxy indicators in Islamic banking performance

Trend analysis and density visualization using VosViewer on the Islamic banking performance study shows significant developments in various aspects, ranging from fintech, governance, financing, bank size, and financial services to the resilience of Islamic banking to global economic dynamics. One of the prominent trends that emerged was the integration of fintech, which is a major concern because of its potential to improve operational efficiency and financial inclusion. In addition, the role of the board of directors, including the Sharia supervisory board, is increasingly being studied in the context of Sharia compliance and business sustainability.

In this trend analysis, various indicators are used as proxies to measure the performance of Islamic banking, where the return on assets (ROA) is the leading indicator that is most widely used because it reflects the profitability and competitiveness of banks (Gazi et al. 2021; Risfandy and Pratiwi 2022). In addition, the efficiency dummy is also an important factor in assessing the effectiveness of resource management and operations of Islamic banks (Enad and Gerinda 2022; Ikhwan and Riani 2023). Other indicators such as non-performing financing (NPF) and loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR) are also used in evaluating the financing risk and liquidity of banks, which are crucial in facing global economic uncertainty (Mukhibad et al. 2019; Prasajo et al. 2022). Factors of bank ownership, credit risk, and fintech services are also increasingly being considered in research, along with the development of digitalization in the Islamic banking system (Tlemsani and Suwaidi 2016; Nosheen and Rashid 2019).

Meanwhile, density analysis shows that traditional issues, such as financial performance, asset quality, capitalization, efficiency, profitability, and risk management, still dominate research, as seen from the lighter colour intensity in the VosViewer visualization. ROA and return on equity (ROE) remain the focus in assessing the resilience and competitiveness of Islamic banking. However, several strategic issues still receive less



academic attention, such as the resilience of Islamic banks to crises, the integration of financial technology, and the role of Islamic banks in the economies of developing countries. In addition, studies on liquidity are still limited compared to other aspects. However, liquidity is key in maintaining Islamic financial stability, especially when facing regulatory challenges and third-party fund management. Although traditional aspects are still the focus of Islamic banking performance research, there is an excellent opportunity to explore strategic and innovative issues, especially those related to digital transformation, financial resilience, and global economic dynamics. With a more holistic approach, research in this area can provide more comprehensive insights into the future of Islamic banking in facing challenges and opportunities in the digital era.

The main areas of study that emerge in Islamic banking performance

Analysis of Islamic banking performance shows that the main areas of study that are of concern are efficiency and financial performance. Efficiency in Islamic banking reflects how banks can optimize available resources to provide quality services at controlled costs (citation). Some important aspects of efficiency include operational efficiency, which focuses on managing operational costs without sacrificing service quality, and comparative bootstrap DEA technical efficiencies, which use the DEA method to assess the technical efficiency of Islamic banks compared to conventional banks (Haider et al. 2019; Samad and Chowdhury 2019). In addition, the integration of financial ratios and efficiency measurements provides a deeper understanding of bank performance, especially about inclusive and sustainable economic growth and other factors such as business orientation, credit quality, and the relationship between asset quality and operational efficiency are also important indicators in assessing the competitiveness of Islamic banks (Nosheen and Rashid 2019; Banna and Alam 2020; M. A. Ali, Shuib, and Nor 2021).

The evaluation of the effectiveness of Islamic banking performance generally includes an analysis of profitability and financial stability when facing economic challenges. One of the main aspects in assessing the performance of Islamic banks is their comparison with conventional banks, especially in unstable economic situations, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. This comparison is relevant considering the unique characteristics of Islamic banks that operate based on Sharia principles, including the prohibition of usury and the implementation of profit-sharing schemes, which can affect their resilience to global economic shocks (Tlemsani and Suwaidi 2016; Mawardi et al. 2020; Majeed and Zainab 2021).

In measuring the resilience and effectiveness of Islamic banks, various financial indicators are used, including ROA and ROE, which reflect the bank's ability to generate profits from its assets and equity. High profitability indicates efficiency in resource management, while financial stability describes the extent to which Islamic banks can survive in fluctuating market conditions (Javaid and Alalawi 2018; Ramadhan, Selim, and Sahwan 2019; Gazi et al. 2021; Chowdhury, Kabir, and Chowdhury 2022; Hanif and Farooqi 2023). In addition, the level of productivity in managing financing and investment also plays a role in maintaining the sustainability of the Islamic banking business, especially in ensuring that the assets managed can generate optimal added value (Otaviya and Rani 2020). Thus, efficiency and financial performance are two main pillars that determine the success and competitiveness of Islamic banking. High efficiency not only increases profitability but also supports the sustainability of banks in the long term. Meanwhile, solid financial performance reflects the stability and attractiveness of Islamic banks for investors and customers, making it one of the increasingly competitive financial sectors in the modern era.

Conclusions

Trend analysis, density visualization using VosViewer, and mapping studies on Islamic banking performance show that studies continue to develop, focusing on efficiency, financial



performance, and technology integration. Indicators such as ROA, ROE, NPF, and LDR remain the main tools in evaluating Islamic banks' profitability, risk, and competitiveness. Traditional issues such as financial performance, asset quality, capitalization, efficiency, and risk management still dominate research. However, several strategic topics, such as Islamic bank resilience to crisis, fintech integration, and the role of Islamic banks in developing countries' economies, are still under-explored.

In the context of efficiency, methods such as DEA are used to compare the technical efficiency of Islamic banks with conventional banks. Meanwhile, Islamic banks' financial stability and resilience in facing economic shocks, including the Covid-19 pandemic, are also of concern in the research. Although Islamic banking performance research still focuses on conventional aspects, there is an excellent opportunity to explore digital innovation, financial resilience, and the global impact on Islamic banking. With a more holistic and inclusive approach, research in this area can provide more comprehensive insights into the future of Islamic banking in facing challenges and opportunities in the digital era.

The findings provide valuable insights for policymakers and financial institutions to enhance regulatory frameworks, improve risk management strategies, and promote digital transformation in Islamic banking. Strengthening resilience and efficiency can contribute to the sustainable growth of the sector. Current studies rely heavily on financial indicators and efficiency models, often overlooking socio-economic and behavioral factors affecting Islamic banking performance. Additionally, regional disparities and differences in regulatory environments are not always adequately addressed. Future studies should explore the impact of digital innovation, financial resilience, and sustainability on Islamic banking. Examining cross-country comparisons, fintech adoption, and the role of Islamic banks in financial inclusion will provide a more comprehensive understanding of their global impact.

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