

Original Research Article

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ارزیابی موضوعی پژوهش‌های حوزه هنر اسلامی در پایگاه اطلاعاتی اسکوپوس با تأکید بر مقالات پژوهشگران ایرانی

Thematic Evaluation of Islamic Art Studies in the Scopus Database with an Emphasis on the Articles of Iranian Researchers

Abstract

Problem Definition: The art of the Islamic period, with a scope beyond the geographical borders of the Islamic countries, has always been reproduced and represented under its function or application in all parts of the world and has been the focus of the work of researchers of scientific and research centers. Among the forms in which these studies are published are articles indexed in reliable databases, of which the international database «Scopus» is outstanding. Therefore, the current research seeks to evaluate the Islamic Art articles in the indexed journals of this database thematically, and to answer the following questions: «How the publication process is?», «What are the main topics of research in Islamic Art?», and "What countries and organizations are involved in the production of this research?". Also, introducing the best journals and articles in this subject area and the status of Iranian studies in the Scopus databases are other problems of this research.

Objective: The aim is to identify the thematic approach of researchers in Islamic Art as well as the main and frequent topics of this area in the Scopus citation database.

Research Method: This research is descriptive, and based on Scientometric indicators, it examines the statistical community of 475 Islamic Art documents indexed in the Scopus database. Using co-word analysis, the key Islamic Art topics were investigated and a co-occurrence map was drawn using "VOSviewer" software, and by analyzing the data in Excel software, the articles, journals, countries, and the top authors of this area were identified.

Results: The present research showed that most Islamic Art studies have been conducted on topics such as Islamic Art, museums, handicrafts, art, and geometry of motifs. «Hail» was introduced as the best journal in Islamic Art with the most published articles in this area. It was also found that the United States had the most productions in this area and «Mohammed Bin Abdullah», «Oxford» and «Islamic Art» University of Tabriz had the first rank in the co-ownership of productions in this field. The results showed that the trend of publishing Islamic Art studies is upward, and in 2016, it had the most scientific productions in this field. Also, Iran ranks fifth in the production of publications in this area.

Keywords

Islamic Art Studies, Scopus, Iranian Researchers, Database, Thematic Evaluation, Scientometrics

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Introduction

The multiplicity of art branches of the Islamic period and their abundance in all parts of the world has caused this field to attract the attention of researchers and enthusiasts, and to establish research centers, universities, and specialized journals for it. Considering the depth of studies and the breadth and diversity of the field of Islamic Art, this article should investigate the studies of this field using scientific indicators. Scientometrics examines the paths taken by a scientific field and presents the topics created within the field, their role, importance, progress, or their shortcomings. Determining the position of art with the category of Scientometrics is like restoring the reference position of this area. Since Islamic Art studies include a significant percentage of explorations related to the field of art, this research seeks to respond to questions about the process of publishing Islamic Art studies, identify the main topics of this field, recognize the active countries, introduce the most popular researchers in this field, and determine the best publications and the number of references. Considering the importance of Islamic Art, besides identifying the existing gaps, the current research aims to examine the literature on this field during 1941-2022 in the Scopus database and present a conceptual map of this field to help researchers in the fields related to Islamic Art and the use of required resources according to the current knowledge of the world. The necessity of this subject is because it gives the researchers of Islamic Art sufficient awareness and knowledge of the comprehensive plan of scientific studies in this area, and identifies the influential colleagues and their scientific works.

Research Method

This study is a type of applied research, the purpose of which is to evaluate studies in the field of Islamic Art. The statistical population of the current research is all scientific productions, including 475 documents, in Islamic Art during 1941-2022 indexed in the Scopus database. The current research has used a library-based method, and the data is collected from the Scopus database. In this process, the retrieved research information, including the title, author, year, journal name, keywords, and the number of citations, was saved in an Excel CSV format file and entered by Excel software for analysis, and also to show the main topics of this field, the data was entered VOSviewer software. The keyword «Islamic Art» as a search topic in the Scopus database has been the criterion for selecting studies related to the field of Islamic Art.

Research Background

In the review of the national records, it was seen that in a study entitled «Drawing the scientific map of the art and architecture researchers of Islamic Azad University in the Web of Science database», «Sory, Norouzi, FamilRouhani, and Zarei» (2020) have analyzed scientific productions of the art and architecture researchers in the Web of Science database. They have shown that the first indexed scientific record of Islamic Azad University in art and architecture in the Web of Science database was in 2008 and the most scientific productions were in 2016, and the countries of Australia and Malaysia had the most scientific cooperation with the researchers of this university. They concluded that the state of scientific productions of this university in art and architecture is unfavorable in terms of quantity and quality, and Islamic Azad University has played a minor role in promoting Iranian art and Islamic architecture at the world level so that only 0.35% of Islamic Azad University's contribution to scientific production goes back to the field of art and architecture. In an article entitled «Investigating the status of painting styles in the citation

index of art and humanities: A citation frequency analysis», «Asemi and Safari Nejad» (2020) determined the status of scientific productions in painting styles in the Web of Science database and showed that 10 styles of op art, expressionism, impressionism, realism, renaissance, superrealism, surrealism, cubism, and abstract art have the most citations. They introduced France as the origin of the most style and the University of Washington with the most citations as the first rank in the production of articles as well as the top journal in this field. In an article entitled «Study of the status of scientific productions in music information retrieval in Scopus», «Vafaian» (2017) analyzed the scientific productions in music information retrieval in Scopus and presented a comprehensive picture of the state of scientific activities in this area. He showed that since 2004, the scientific production of this field grew and in 2008, it reached its growth period. He also introduced the most prolific authors in this field and showed the United States and the «Johannes Kepler» research institute as the most active country and research institute, respectively, and stated that most of the works in this field are related to computer science, humanities, and engineering. In a research entitled «Study of the status of scientific productions of the faculty members of humanities and arts, and social sciences faculties of state universities in the years 2000-2008», «Jafari and Goltaji» (2011) checked the status of scientific productions in humanities, arts, and social sciences in the Web of Science database. During this research, they showed the evolution of the productions of this field in Iran's state universities, and also identified the top journals in this field and determined their impact factor. Also, in a research entitled «Review of articles in art with an emphasis on their research methodology», «AbdolahPour and Kolahkaj» (2022) examined articles from scientific-research journals in the field of art to identify and introduce the methods of analysis of articles in this field to know and understand the types of analysis of this field. They stated that although many articles in art have different thematic approaches and diverse contexts, a significant part of these articles (45%) and their types of analysis are descriptive and analytical. Although this analysis is often under the field of qualitative research approaches and the qualitative approach is mainly researcher-oriented, it seems that considering the predominantly visual nature of artistic articles, the variety of analysis types can make the results more accurate and limit the authors' taste in conclusions. «AbdolahPour» (2021) has also analyzed the content and citations of studies in the field of art in an article entitled «Content and Citation Analysis of Paykareh Quarterly Articles» and analyzed the citation behavior of researchers in this field. It has shown that most of the studies on the subject under investigation have been done with group participation and the most used method has been descriptive-analytical, and also the subject areas go through an unequal and dissimilar process. She has also stated in her research that the publication with an average of 20 citations for each article shows that researchers in this field are well aware of the importance of citations, but that the sources used are book-oriented and old is noteworthy and it is necessary to pay attention to modern sources. In the review of foreign backgrounds, «Greer» (2016) has investigated the information-seeking behavior of art students with the citation analysis of art theses in an article entitled «Citation Analysis of Master Theses of Visual Arts». «Ewalt» (2016) also analyzed the visual resources of the American Scholarship Organization during 2010-2014 in a research entitled «Citation Analysis of American Scholarship Resources». A review of the previous research shows that no research has been done on Islamic Art research in Iran. The article of Suri et al. (2020) examined the researchers of a university, while their database was not Scopus, and it considered the two fields of art and architecture as a combination, not a sub-category of

the field of art. Asmi and Safari (2020) examined the scientific productions of an art field other than Islamic Art in a citation database other than Scopus. Vafaian (2016), in the Scopus database, examines the scientific productions of one field of art, but not in Islamic Art. Jafari and Goltaji (2012) have examined the scientific productions of the field of art together with two fields of humanities and social sciences, not merely the field of art or one field of art. AbdollahPour and Kolahkaj also investigated the ways of analyzing art research in Iran, not at the international level. In a general summary of the studies done abroad, it can be said that most of them are related to reference analysis in arts and sciences. Because so far no research has been done regarding the status of scientific research and the effectiveness of the field of Islamic Art, it seems necessary to conduct such research.

Theoretical concepts of research

Policy making of science and knowledge is necessary to get knowledge and reasoned evaluation of the state of a scientific field, and the Scientometrics of the scientific field can be effective in this direction (Ahmadi, Salimi, & Zangisheh, 2013). A map in the term of a map of science is not in the sense that it is used in mapping, but it is like geographical maps that have helped us for centuries to explore and navigate (Ramezani, Alipour Hafezi, & Momeni, 2014). In the same way, science maps support the retrieval of knowledge and illustrate scientific results (Zandi Ravan, Davarpanah, & Fattahi, 2016). The scientific progress of any field is due to the efforts of researchers and the scientific works of the predecessors of that field, and the scientists of each field study the original works of the past to see beyond the knowledge in their specialized field and by relying on the past of science, they advance the scientific future of their specialized field to reach a general understanding of the scientific framework of the field in question (Soheili, Shabani, & Khase, 2015). On the other hand, because different scientific fields are growing and spreading rapidly, it has made it difficult to monitor scientific trends. Therefore, experts in scientometrics and computer science have presented a map of scientific fields by combining indicators visualization tools and scientometric techniques to create a complete and comprehensive idea of different sciences (Ramezani, et al., 2014). Co-occurrence analysis of terms is a type of co-reference analysis that visualizes the relationships between scientific concepts and explores the network of concepts of scientific fields using a quantitative analysis method (Small & Griffith, 1974). Soheili et al. believe that scientific maps are made up of elements called the outputs of research fields, in these maps, scientific fields that are placed next to each other have a stronger conceptual connection, and the farther they are from each other, the weaker this conceptual connection is (Soheili, Tavakolizadeh Ravari, Hazeri, & DoustHoseini, 2018). Therefore, drawing the scientific map of the field of Islamic Art can promote the scientific production of this field. Jenkins-Madina et al. believe that Islamic Art is the visual arts created in the Islamic world; Although these arts may not conform to the teachings and Sharia of Islam sometimes, the influence of Islamic and regional culture is visible in it (Jenkins-Madina, Ettinghausen, & Grabar, 2001, 3). Some texts define Islamic Art: It is an art that harmonizes and adapts to religious and ethical frameworks, principles and perspectives, or in other words, Islamic Art is a type of activity and works of art that are compatible with Islamic standards (Sultanzadeh, 2013).

Scopus Database

Scopus database is a reference database with a long history that has been active in document indexing since 1788. The Dutch publisher established this citation index called Elsevier⁶

which contains over 24,600 journal titles, over 194,000 books from 5,000 reputable publishers, over 75,000,000 articles, and 1.4 billion references. Since 1970, this database includes over 9.5 million conference papers, 437 million patents from the five largest patenting countries around the world, 16 million author profiles, and about 70,000 membership profiles (Jamali & Ghaffari, 2022 quoted by Cascajares et al., 2020).

Discussion and Analysis of Research Findings

1. Investigating the publication process of Islamic Art studies in the Scopus database:

The total number of studies published in Islamic Art in the Scopus database is about 475, which includes 331 articles and other studies (144), conference articles, books, etc. The growth process of research publication in Islamic Art is shown in Diagram 1. As this graph shows, scientific production in this field has been increasing since 2005. Most studies are related to 2016 with 42 studies (Table 1). The statistics in the table below are valid until data extraction from the Scopus database in 2022.

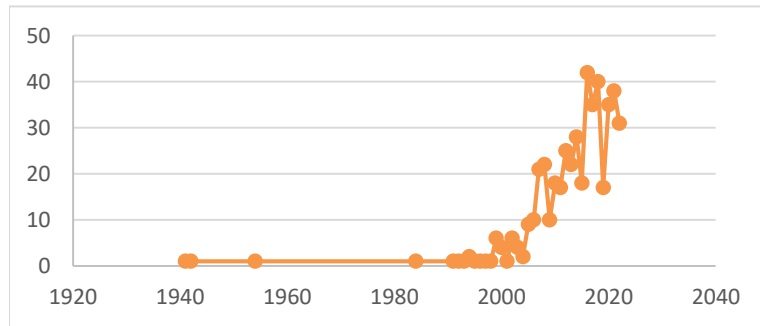


Diagram 1. Time series of researches in the field of Islamic art. Source: Authors.

Table 1 shows that the first document published in Islamic Art is from 1941, and after that, no document was found in this area until 1954. This lack of publication can be seen during 1954-1984 and 1984-1991. Since 1991, we have witnessed the nonstop publication of documents in this field consecutively.

Table 1. number of researches in the field of Islamic art. Source: Authors.

Year	No. Researches	Year	No. Researches	Year	No. Researches
2022	31	2010	18	1998	1
2021	38	2009	10	1997	1
2020	35	2008	22	1996	1
2019	17	2007	21	1995	1
2018	40	2006	10	1994	2
2017	35	2005	9	1993	1
2016	42	2004	2	1992	1
2015	18	2003	4	1991	1
2014	28	2002	6	1984	1
2013	22	2001	1	1954	1
2012	25	2000	4	1942	1
2011	17	1999	6	1941	1

2. The co-occurrence status of the keywords of Islamic Art articles (major topics):

Figure 1 shows the co-occurrence map of keywords in Islamic Art. The most common methods of co-occurrence analysis include 1. Distance-based method, 2. Graph-based method, 3. Time-based method (Abdinasab, Momeni, & Taheri, 2018). In the distance-based method, nodes are placed in a network in such a way that the distance between two nodes shows the relationship between the nodes. In general, the smaller the distance between two nodes, the greater the connection between them. Since the greater the dispersion in the map, the greater the thematic diversity in that area, the dispersion of words in Islamic Art (Fig1) shows that this area has a limited thematic diversity. According to the size of the circles on the map, the frequency of repeating the word «Islamic Art» is more than other words. The size of the circles shows the number of repetitions of keywords, and the larger the size of the circle, the higher the frequency of repetition of words in that field. The close distance of the circles in the words «cultural history, Sufism» and «textile art, museum»¹² shows that these concepts are more related to each other because in the map, the closer the keywords are to each other, the greater the connection between the concepts. Also, the thickness of the lines between the words «geometric art, rosette»¹³, «symmetry, star pattern»¹⁴ and «textile art, museum» (green circles) show their relatively strong connection with each other because the thicker the lines, the stronger the connection between the words.

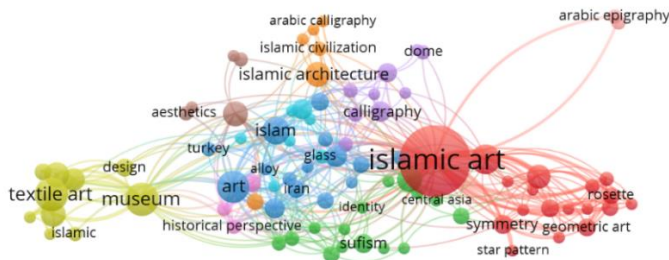


Fig 1. Co-occurrence map of key words of researches in the field of Islamic art in Scopus. Source: Authors.

In the keyword co-occurrence map, there are 10 clusters with different colors, which are used to distinguish the clusters from different colors. In each cluster, the concept that has the most repetition is shown with a larger size which is the key concept of the cluster. Table 2 shows the clusters with main and important topics in Islamic Art. The phrase "Islamic Art" in the red cluster shows the main and important concept of this field.

Table 2. Islamic art subjects in Scopus. Source: Authors.

Row	Cluster color	Number cluster items	Key words
1	Red	18	Andalusia, Computer Graphics, Geometric Art, Geometric Patterns, Geometry, Islamic Art, Islamic Patterns, Islamic Star Patterns, Pattern Generation, Periodic Pattern, Quasi-Periodic, Quasiperiodic Patterns, Rosette, Star, Star Pattern, Stars, Symmetry, Symmetry Groups

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Row	Cluster color	Number cluster items	Key words
2	Green	15	Alhambra, Architecture, Central Asia, Cleaning, Cultural History, Europe, Iconography, Identity, Mediterranean, Middle Ages, Middle East, North Africa, Silver, Sufism, Symbolism
3	Dark Blue	15	Alloy, Arab Spring, Art, Cultural Heritage, Culture, Egypt, Heritage, Iconoclasm, Iran, Islam, Islamic Metalwork, Islamism, Medieval, Photogrammetry, Turkey
4	Olive	10	Carpet, Design, Exhibition, Islamic, Museum, Rug, Textile Art, Textile History, Textile Industry, Weaving
5	Purple	9	Calligraphy, Ceramics, Dome, Dome, Modernism, Mosque, Religion, Spain, Textiles
6	Blue	7	Article, Cultural Anthropology, Glass, History, History-Medieval, Iraq, United Kingdom
7	Orange	6	Arabic Calligraphy, Historiography, Islamic Architecture, Islamic Arts, Islamic Civilization, Malaysia
8	Brown	5	Aesthetics, Cultural Heritages, Historic Preservation, Interior Design, Museums
9	Pink	3	Historical Perspective, Material Culture, Orientalism
10	Pale pink	2	Arabic Epigraphy, Dagestan

Several keywords that have the most co-occurrences are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Keywords with high co-occurrence. Source: Authors.

Row	Key words	Frequency	Row	Key words	Frequency
1	Islamic art	91	7	Exhibition	12
2	Museum	21	8	Textile History	12
3	Textile Art	20	9	Museums	12
4	Art	19	10	Architectuer	12
5	Geometry	17	11	Islamic Architectuer	12
6	Islam	14	12	Carpet	10

3. Countries and organizations taking part in the production of Islamic Art studies:

Diagram 2 shows the countries that produce studies under review. As can be seen, the United States with 78 studies, England with 50, and Turkey with 32 studies are the first three countries in terms of the amount of scientific production in this field, and Iran with 24 studies is in fifth place after Germany. Therefore, Iran is the second Islamic country after Turkey in the scientific production of Islamic Art.

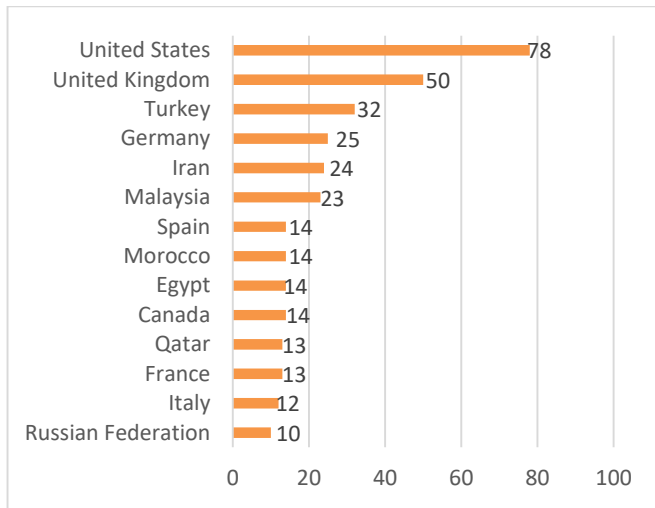


Diagram 2. The number of researches of different countries in the field of Islamic art in Scopus. Source: Authors.

Diagram 3 shows the number of studies of eleven productive universities in Islamic Art. According to this diagram, Tabriz, Oxford, and Muhammad bin Abdulla¹⁶ universities of Islamic Art with 7 studies have the first rank of scientific productions in Islamic Art, and Mara Technical University, International Islamic University of Malaysia, London, Malaya with 6 studies are in the second rank and Harvard universities, Boston, Qatar, and Tarbiat Modares are ranked the third with 5 studies.

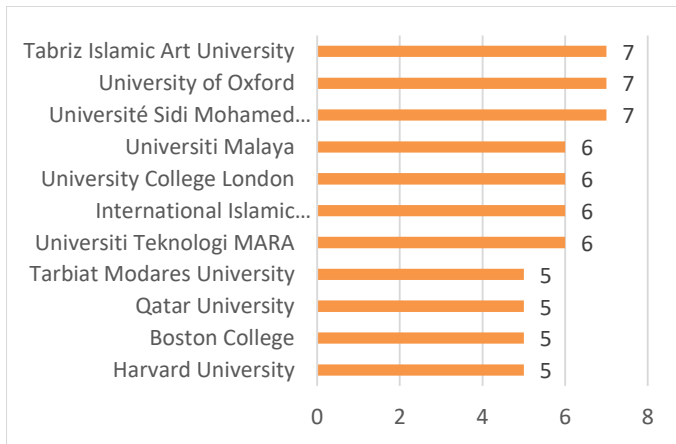


Diagram 3. Organizations participating in production of research in the field of Islamic art in the Scopus. Source: Authors.

4. Journals that publish Islamic Art studies: Table 4 shows the journals that publish the most studies on Islamic Art. With the publication of 28 articles on Islamic Art, the «Hail» journal ranks first in the number of articles published in this field. The «International Journal of Islamic Architecture», with the publication of 23 articles, and «Muqarnas», with 10 articles have taken the second and third ranks, respectively. Also, «The Journal of Mathematics and the Arts» has the highest rank among highly cited journals with 32 citations (Table 5). In this regard, using Tables 4 and 5, researchers in Islamic Art can identify leading journals in this field and retrieve active research fields.

Table 4. The most productive journals in the field of Islamic art. Source: Authors.

Rank	Journal	Publisher	Country	Number of article
1	Hali	Hali Publications Ltd	United Kingdom	28
2	International Journal Of Islamic Architecture	Intellect Ltd	United Kingdom	23
3	Muqarnas	Brill Academic Publishers	Netherlands	10
4	Wit Transactions On The Built Environment	WITPress	United Kingdom	9
5	Islamic History And Civilization	Brill Academic Publishers	Netherlands	7
5	Turk Kulturu Ve Haci Bektas Veli Arastirma Dergisi	Ankara Haci Bayram Veli University	Turkey	7
6	Journal Of Islamic Manuscripts	Brill Academic Publishers	Netherlands	5
7	Arts Of Asia	Arts of Asia Publications Ltd	Hong Kong	4
7	Journal Of Mathematics And The Arts	Taylor and Francis Ltd	United Kingdom	4

Table 5. Highly cited journal in the field of Islamic art. Source: Authors.

Rankd	Journal	Publisher	Country	Number of citations
1	Journal Of Mathematics And The Arts	Taylor and Francis Ltd	United Kingdom	32
2	Islamic History And Civilization	Brill Academic Publishers	Netherlands	28
3	Wit Transactions On The Built Environment	WITPress	United Kingdom	27
4	Muqarnas	Brill Academic Publishers	Netherlands	20

5. The most cited Islamic Art articles: The articles that receive the most citations in their subject area are the most cited articles. These articles are among the top one percent of articles in that field. The 10 most cited articles in Islamic Art, according to the publication date of the article, are shown in Table 6. According to Table 5, the article entitled «Disorder-enhanced transport in photonic quasicrystals», with 145 citations in 2011 is the most referenced in this field. After that, in 2003, the article entitled «The mirage of Islamic Art: Reflections on the study of an unwieldy field» ranks second with 65 citations. Table 6 shows researchers in Islamic Art what articles should be written to increase the citation of the author and what topics are of high importance for research.

Table 6. Highly cited articles in the field of Islamic art. Source: Authors.

Number of citations	Year	Author	Title of article
145	2011	Levi L., Rechtsman M., Freedman B., Schwartz T., Manela O., Segev M	Disorder-enhanced transport in photonic quasicrystals
65	2003	Blair S.S., Bloom J.M	The mirage of Islamic art: Reflections on the study of an unwieldy field
51	2008	Winegar J	The humanity game: Art, Islam, and the war on terror
43	2013	Abdullahi Y., Embi M.R.B	Evolution of Islamic geometric patterns
43	2012	Colomban P., Tournié A., Caggiani M.C., Paris C	Pigments and enamelling/gilding technology of Mamluk mosque lamps and bottle
40	2000	Özdural A	Mathematics and Arts: Connections between Theory and Practice in the Medieval Islamic World
30	2008	O'Neill M	Museums, professionalism and democracy
23	2011	Ahmed H.E., Ziddan Y.E	A new approach for conservation treatment of a silk textile in Islamic Art Museum, Cairo
22	2018	Schibille N., Meek A., Wypyski M.T., Kröger J., Rosser-Owen M., Haddon R.W	The glass walls of Samarra (Iraq): Ninth-century Abbasid glass production and imports
18	2018	Koptseva N.P., Reznikova K.V., Razumovskaya V.A	The construction of cultural and religious identities in the temple architecture

6. The state of published Islamic Art studies in Iran: It seems that the discussions related to some works and Islamic Arts in Iran from about five decades ago were brought up with the translation of works by Henry Carbone, Nicholson, Titus Buchhardt by the Wisdom and Philosophy Association of Iran and thinkers such as Seyed Hossein Nasr and up to now, it has continued with trials, and some Iranian researchers and thinkers have conducted studies and published works in this field for several decades (Sultanzadeh, 2013). The total number of published studies in Islamic Art in the Scopus database is about 475, and Iran has published 24 articles in this field in the Scopus database, which include 19 journal articles and 5 conference papers, and they have received 29 citations. Out of 24 articles in Iran, 6 articles have one author, 8 articles have two authors, 7 articles have three authors, and 3 articles have four authors.

6. 1. The trend of publishing Iranian articles: The most published articles in Islamic Art in Iran are related to 2020 with 4 articles and 2016 and 2023 with 3 articles (Diagram 4). In 2007, 2009-2011, 2014, 2015, and 2017, there are no articles published in Islamic Art.

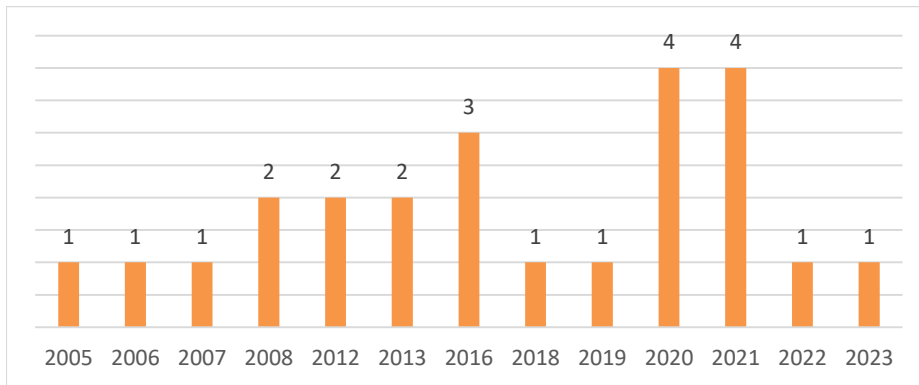


Diagram 4. The number of Iranian articles indexed in the Scopus in the field of Islamic art based on the year of publication. Source: Authors.

Table 6 shows the contribution of Iranian articles to the publication of Islamic Art articles indexed in the Scopus database.

Table 6. The ratio of Iranian articles in the field of Islamic art, indexed in the Scopus. Source: Authors.

Year	Relation to all articles	Year	Relation to all articles
2020	21.5	2006	5.26
2016	15.79	2008	5.26
2021	15.79	2012	5.26
2013	10.53	2018	5.26
2022	10.53	2019	5.26
2005	5.26	2023	5.26

6. 2. The most cited Iranian Islamic Art articles: Out of 24 Iranian articles in Islamic Art indexed in the Scopus database (up to data extraction from the Scopus database), 6 articles have received citations (5 journal articles and 1 conference paper). As Table 7 shows, the article by «Mahdavinejad, Siahroud, Qasimpour Abadi, and Poulad» entitled «Development of intelligent pattern for modeling a parametric program for public space (case study: Isfahan, Mosalla, Iran)» has the most references (9 citations) in this area. The article entitled «Affective interaction: Using emotions as a user interface in games» was published in 2021, was the newest article in this field, and has been cited 5 times so far, and it can be said that this article will receive more citations in the coming years because the speed of receiving citations for this article is higher than others.

Table 7. Highly cited Iranian articles in the field of Islamic art. Source: Authors.

Number of citations	Year	Publisher	Author	Title of article
9	2021	Applied Mechanics and Materials	Mahdavinejad, M., Siahroud, S.A., Ghasempourabadi, M., Poulad, M.	Development of intelligent pattern for modeling a parametric program for public space (case study: Isfahan, Mosalla, Iran)

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Number of citations	Year	Publisher	Author	Title of article
7	2016	Nexus Network Journal	Kasraei, M.H., Nourian, Y., Mahdavinejad, M.	Girih for Domes: Analysis of Three Iranian Domes
6	2018	Archnet-IJAR	Asefi, M., Imani, E	Effects of active strategic teaching model (Astm) in creative and critical thinking skills of architecture students
5	2021	Multimedia Tools and Applications	Sekhavat, Y.A., Sisi, M.J., Roohi, S.	Affective interaction: Using emotions as a user interface in games
1	2020	Codrul Cosminului	Sattarnezhad, S., Parvin, S., Hendiani, E.	The symbology of swastika in the gonbad-e-sorkh tomb [Simbolistica svasticii în mormântul gonbad-e-sorkh]
1	2005	Central Asiatic Journal	Khazâie, M.	The source and religious symbolism of the Arabesque in medieval Islamic art of Persia

6.3. Prolific Iranian Islamic Art researchers: Khazaie, M., Mahdavinejad, M., and Parvin, S., each has the most studies in this field with two articles (Table 8). Both Khazaei and Mahdavinejad are from the Graphic and Architecture Department of Tarbiat Modares University, and Parvin is from Mohaghegh Ardabili University. The first author as a single author and the second and third authors have done their research as a collaborative work.

Table 8. The number of articles by Iranian authors in the field of Islamic art. Source: Authors.

Authors	Number of article	Each author's contribution to the production of the article
Khazâie, M. / Mahdavinejad, M / Parvin, S.	2	10.53
Abi, O.S./Alibabaei, G. /Aref, M./Asefi, M. /Attarabbasi, Z./Azizi Naserabad, A./Bahmani, P./Damaliamiri, M./Ekvani, A./Farrokhi, S./Ghanbaran, A./Goodarzarparvari, P./Haghighi, S./Hayaty, H./Hendiani, E./Imani, E./Karami, B./Karimi, M./Karimi, S./Kasraei, M.H./Kheirollahi, M./Malekzade, P./Mastalizadeh, M./Mianji, M.M./Nahidiazar, F./Nejad Ebrahimi, A./Nourian, Y./Pargari, S./Roohi, S./Samanian, K./Sattarnezhad, S./Sekhavat, Y.A./Sisi, M.J./Zeilabi, N./Zoghi, N.	1	5.26

6. 4. Iranian universities taking part in studies: In the survey of universities taking part in scientific productions in Islamic Art, 15 Iranian universities were identified; Tabriz University of Islamic Arts ranked the first with 7 studies, Tarbiat Modares University ranked the second with 5 studies. Moreover, Tabriz University of Islamic Art was recognized as the first rank in the world, and Tarbiat Modares University as the third rank in the world and the second rank in Iran in publishing articles in Islamic Art.

Conclusion

The evaluation of the publication of articles in the Scopus database showed that during 1941-2022, the trend of the publication of articles in Islamic Art was upward, and in 2016, it had the highest number of articles. Although the number of articles indexed in the Scopus database has not been significant, the growing trend of publishing articles in recent years indicates this field can promise to conduct new studies with knowledge-enhancing, and appropriate and worthy innovation. Also, the results showed that there are 10 major subjects in Islamic Art. In this research, some new study areas and topics that have been less explored have also been identified. In this survey, the most frequent keywords in the entire time frame, except for Islamic Art, were museum, handicrafts, art, and geometry of motifs, which shows the researchers' attention to these areas of Islamic Art. Researchers affiliated with American and British scientific institutions are among the main scientific producers in Islamic Art at the international level. This statistic is usually not based on nationality, but based on the affiliation of the authors to their scientific centers. Two countries of Turkey and Iran, with a slight difference, are ranked third and fifth in the production of research in this field. As two Islamic countries, these countries have been able to occupy a proper position in the production of research in Islamic Art. Among national institutions, Tabriz University of Arts has the most scientific productions, and among foreign institutions, the researchers of Muhammad Bin Abdullah University and Oxford University have the most productions, on par with the Tabriz University of Islamic Arts. This shows that although the United States has the most production, in terms of institutions, Iran, on par with the other two institutions, has been able to claim the first rank of research in this field. Also, the findings showed that Hail Journal published the most articles on Islamic Art, and the Journal of Mathematics and the Arts had the highest number of references among the journal in this field. Because researchers need to be aware of specialized journals to publish their articles internationally, the introduction of core and highly cited journals can be a tool for researchers in Islamic Art. The most referenced article is related to the research of Levy et al. (2011). The lively research article on Islamic Art belongs to Schoubi et al. (2018). Considering the novelty of this article, researchers can use it to write new articles. Iranian researchers had only 24 studies in this field, which shows the low share of Iranian publications at the international level, which might have various reasons, such as the fact that most of the journals indexed in the Scopus database are in English and Iranian authors are less willing to publish articles in English. Also, other factors such as the lack of financial and moral support of organizations and universities for the international publications of researchers and the lack of sufficient motivation of researchers are effective in the low level of international publications. However, Iranian publications in 2016 have grown significantly compared to previous years, which shows efforts to improve Iran's position at the international level. Also, among Iranian writers, Mohammad Khazaei, Mohammad Javad Mahdavinejad, and Samad Parvin are the most prolific Iranian researchers in this field. Meanwhile, Mahdavinejad et al. (2021) had the most cited article. Among Iranian universities, Tabriz University of Islamic Arts is the most active institution in the country in producing articles at the international level, and this university ranks first in the world and Tarbiat Modares University ranks third in the world and the second in Iran in publishing articles in Islamic Art.

Research Proposals

Considering the low amount of scientific production of Iran at the international level, it is suggested to consider incentives for Iranian researchers to encourage them to conduct research in Islamic Art to improve Iran's scientific growth. Also, it is recommended to provide promotion instructions to encourage the production of science with researchers from other countries, and to support influential and key identified national researchers in the current research. Moreover, it is also suggested that the topics mentioned in this research be used for future research in Islamic Art and that the factors and obstacles of the scientific production of Islamic Art be investigated in further study.

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