

# Salafiyyah/Traditional Islamic Boarding School Research Trends: A Bibliometric Analysis with Vosviewer

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## Abstract

This study seeks to describe and analyze scientific articles centered on Salafi/traditional Islamic boarding schools (pondok pesantren). The analysis uses VOSviewer with a bibliometric approach, drawing article references from the Google Scholar database via the Publish or Perish application. Character education in pesantren serves as a guiding theme for the search process, resulting in the identification of 200 relevant articles. The study period for the indexed documents spans from 2014 to 2024. The findings focus on identifying and analyzing topics/themes related to character education in pesantren, alongside other data analyses. Keywords associated with Salafi/traditional Islamic boarding schools are linked to 8 clusters and 81 connections, resulting in a total link strength of 93. The analysis of publication trends from 2014 to 2024 indicates that research on character education in pesantren has gained significant popularity among researchers. The most publications occurred in 2023-2024, with 44 articles, while the lowest was in 2015, with 3 articles. The researcher examines the published articles on character education in pesantren and their connections to relevant issues using VOSviewer. This study can serve as a foundation for future research related to pesantren and the broader exploration of topics concerning the pesantren world.

## Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan dan menganalisis artikel ilmiah yang berfokus pada pesantren Islam Salafi/tradisional. Analisis dilakukan menggunakan VOSviewer dengan pendekatan bibliometrik, dengan referensi artikel yang diambil dari database Google Scholar melalui aplikasi Publish or Perish. Pendidikan karakter di pesantren dijadikan tema panduan dalam proses pencarian, yang menghasilkan identifikasi 200 artikel yang relevan. Periode penelitian untuk dokumen yang terindeks mencakup tahun 2014 hingga 2024. Temuan penelitian ini berfokus pada pengidentifikasian dan analisis topik/tema yang berkaitan dengan pendidikan karakter di pesantren, serta analisis data lainnya. Kata kunci yang terkait dengan pesantren Islam Salafi/tradisional terhubung ke 8 kluster dan 81 koneksi, menghasilkan total kekuatan tautan sebesar 93.

Analisis tren publikasi dari tahun 2014 hingga 2024 menunjukkan bahwa penelitian tentang pendidikan karakter di pesantren telah mendapatkan popularitas yang signifikan di kalangan peneliti. Publikasi terbanyak terjadi pada tahun 2023-2024, dengan 44 artikel, sedangkan jumlah terendah terjadi pada tahun 2015, dengan 3 artikel. Peneliti menganalisis artikel yang diterbitkan tentang pendidikan karakter di pesantren dan hubungannya dengan isu-isu terkait menggunakan VOSviewer. Penelitian ini dapat menjadi dasar untuk penelitian selanjutnya yang berkaitan dengan pesantren dan eksplorasi yang lebih luas mengenai topik-topik yang menyangkut dunia pesantren.

**Keywords:** Bibliometrics, Islamic Boarding School, Salafiyah

## INTRODUCTION

Traditional Islamic boarding schools in Indonesia represent a cornerstone of Islamic education with a long-standing history and a significant role in shaping students' character (Mansir, 2022; Ikram et al, 2023; Sholeha et al, 2024). These institutions have existed for centuries, enduring continuous social, economic, and political changes in Indonesia. Known for their unique educational system (Jaenullah et al, 2022; Hirzulloh, 2023), traditional pesantren emphasize religious knowledge and moral reinforcement through intensive teaching and a communal approach (Husni & Rohmah, 2024; Jusubaidi et al, 2024)

As a subculture within Indonesian society, pesantren play an essential role in preserving Islamic values and maintaining the tradition of classical Islamic education (Azizah et al, 2023; Nikmatullah et al, 2023). Traditional pesantren are not merely places for religious study but also serve as centers for exploring other areas of knowledge pertinent to Muslim life, such as jurisprudence (fiqh), mysticism (tasawwuf), and Quranic exegesis (tafsir) (Hafidh & Badrudin, 2019). This renders traditional pesantren a unique and vital institution for the continuity of Islamic education in Indonesia.

However, despite their historical presence and important contributions, research on traditional pesantren remains limited, particularly from a bibliometric perspective (Mustofa et al, 2022; Maulida, & Ali, 2023; Hafidh et al, 2023). Bibliometric analysis is crucial to identify research trends (Kim et al, 2021), researcher collaboration, and the most frequently discussed topics in the scientific literature on pesantren. VOSViewer is often used in this analysis to map the interconnections between articles and to represent bibliometric data visually (Oyewola, & Dada, 2022; Bukar et al, 2023)

Research that combines bibliometric analysis and VOSViewer is increasingly essential for understanding the dynamics of studies on traditional pesantren (Alam et al, 2022; Puspitarini et al, 2023). By utilizing databases such as Scopus and Google Scholar, researchers can obtain a comprehensive overview of the development of pesantren studies

over time. A bibliometric study revealed that most research on traditional pesantren focuses on character education, religious instruction, and the social impact of pesantren on surrounding communities (Hafidh, Z., & Goffary, 2023; Suryawan et al, 2024).

The bibliometric analysis also enables us to assess the extent of collaboration networks among researchers in this field (Donthu et al, 2021; Hafidh et al, 2023). Collaboration among researchers in Indonesia on pesantren studies remains low, highlighting the need for increased inter-institutional cooperation to strengthen research outcomes in this area. Additionally, VOSViewer helps researchers map the influence of traditional pesantren on the development of Islamic education in Indonesia, both in terms of publication quality and quantity.

In recent years, interest in traditional pesantren studies has significantly increased (Zusak, 2024). This is evident from the growing number of scientific publications on pesantren indexed in international databases, such as Scopus and Web of Science. These studies are conducted not only by Indonesian academics but also by foreign researchers interested in Islamic education systems in Southeast Asia (Zaini & Audia, 2022).

Given this background, this article aims to provide an in-depth analysis of traditional pesantren research through a bibliometric approach using VOSViewer. This approach is expected to offer a clearer picture of research trends, researcher collaboration networks, and the primary topics discussed in the scientific literature. Additionally, this study introduces the novelty of utilizing international databases such as Scopus within the context of pesantren studies, an approach seldom undertaken by local researchers. Using data from international sources enables this article to present a broader perspective on the global academic position of traditional pesantren. This not only enriches local discourse but also opens up opportunities for cross-country collaboration in Islamic education. This research is expected to encourage improvements in the quality and quantity of traditional pesantren studies in the future.

The novelty of this research lies in the use of bibliometric analysis with VOSViewer to examine traditional Islamic boarding schools. Most previous studies have focused on the historical, social, or pedagogical aspects of pesantren, while research that integrates bibliometric analysis with tools like VOSViewer to map research trends, collaboration networks, and key topics in the scientific literature on pesantren remains limited. Therefore, this research makes a new contribution to the study of Islamic education in Indonesia through a more comprehensive and visual data analysis method (Hafidh et al., 2020)

## **METHOD**

This research employs a descriptive method based on bibliometric analysis and literature review. The data used includes articles from scholarly publications on character education in Islamic boarding

schools. Articles were sourced from Google Scholar through the Publish or Perish software. Data collection focused on articles published between 2014 and 2024, with the search technique utilizing the keyword "pondok pesantren tradisional, pondok pesantren salafiyah" based on title word classes. The scientific mapping in the literature provides decision-makers with an accessible tool to enhance their understanding of the complexity and diversity of the scientific system (Hafidh et al, 2023)

Reference analysis is a foundational aspect of bibliometric methods, with growing interest in this approach likely due to the increased availability of online databases containing citation data and the development of new analysis software (Mejia et al, 2021). Information for this study was drawn from at least 200 documents on Google Scholar. The reference period was limited to 2014-2024. Data were analyzed using statistical methods to calculate the number and percentage of documents. Additionally, VOSViewer was employed to explore relationships among documents (Oladinrin et al, 2023). Google Scholar, one of the largest academic publication indexes globally, was chosen as the primary academic database because it provides access to commonly used research data, including titles, abstracts, and author keywords, which enhances understanding of the complexity and diversity within scientific systems

## RESULTS AND DISSCUSSION

### *Salafiyah/Traditional Islamic Boarding School Publication Data from Google Scholar*

A data search conducted via the Publish or Perish tool in the Google Scholar database identified 200 articles matching the search criteria. The articles averaged 163 citations per year, with each article receiving approximately 8.15 citations. On average, each article had 2.10 authors, with an overall h-index of 20 and a g-index of 37. Table 1 provides examples of selected articles from this search, highlighting the top 10 most-cited publications. The table displays publication data related to traditional Islamic boarding schools.

Table 1. Publication Data for Salafiyah / Traditional Islamic Boarding School Publication Data from Google Scholar

<b>Citation</b>	<b>Authors</b>	<b>Title</b>
179	A Maksum	Model pendidikan toleransi di pesantren modern dan salaf
177	A Saifuddin	Eksistensi kurikulum pesantren dan kebijakan pendidikan
97	A Ikhwan	Development of quality management Islamic education in Islamic boarding school
79	R Ibrahim	Eksistensi pesantren Salaf di tengah arus pendidikan modern

73	M Afif	Penerapan metode sorogan dalam meningkatkan baca kitab di Pondok Pesantren Tarbiyatun Nasyi'in
68	R Gumilang, A Nurcholis	Peran pondok pesantren dalam pembentukan karakter santri
43	W Umam	Kepemimpinan kiai dalam mengembangkan pondok pesantren
42	A Arifinsyah, R Ryandi...	Pesantren religious paradigm: aqeedah, plurality, and jihad
39	N Aslamiyah, A Supriyanto, N Harahap...	Kebijakan pengambilan keputusan pimpinan Di lingkungan pondok pesantren untuk meningkatkan kualitas manajerial pendidikan formal
39	O Komarudin	Landasan teologis pendidikan sains di pondok pesantren

The publication of articles on character education in Islamic boarding schools from 2014 to 2024 has seen significant interest and has emerged as a trend, with a rapidly increasing growth trajectory. This suggests a high demand for research and publications related to this theme, particularly studies focused on character education in the context of Islamic boarding schools. Figure 1 illustrates the growth of research Data for Salafiyah / Traditional Islamic Boarding School Publication Data from Google Scholar during the period from 2014 to 2024.

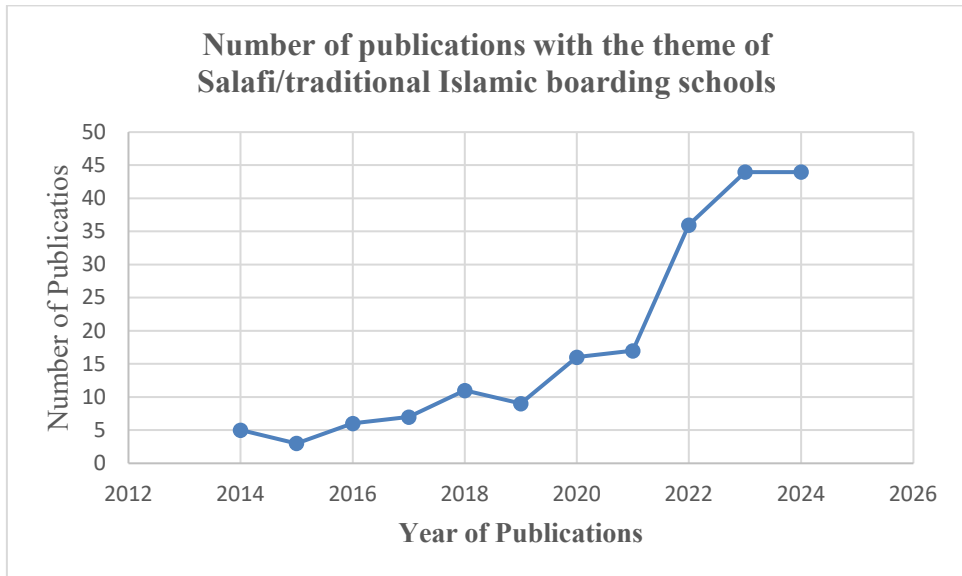


Figure 1.  
Number of publications with the theme of Salafi/traditional Islamic boarding schools

The graph above shows the trend in the number of publications that address the theme of Salafi or traditional Islamic boarding schools from 2012 to 2026. It can be seen that interest in researching and publishing studies related to Salafi boarding schools has fluctuated. At the beginning of the observation period (2012-2014), the number of publications was relatively stable and low. Then there was a significant increase in 2018, peaking in 2022 and 2024. After that, the number of publications is projected to continue increasing until 2026. Overall, this graph indicates an increasing interest in the study of Salafi boarding schools, especially in recent years. This could be due to various factors, such as the development of Salafi boarding schools themselves, relevant contemporary issues, or increased awareness of the importance of understanding Islamic educational traditions in Indonesia.

#### *Visualization of Salafi/Traditional Islamic Boarding School Topics with Vosviewer*

Bibliometric analysis related to research themes was carried out on article data with VOSviewer, from the results of computer mapping, relationships were found. Each item found is related to the theme of the Salafiyah Islamic boarding school. Clusters in visualization results using VOSviewer refer to groups of items that share similarities or have close relationships within the analyzed data. VOSviewer is a software tool commonly used for mapping connections between scientific publications, keywords, or authors based on bibliometric analysis. In this visualization, clusters are represented as groups of points or nodes that are interconnected, with different colors indicating the same category or theme.

Clusters help users understand the structure and patterns in the data, as well as identify related research areas. For instance, in publication analysis, clusters can reflect trending topics or interconnected research within a specific academic discipline. Thus, cluster analysis in VOSviewer provides deeper insights into knowledge dynamics within a field, enabling researchers to explore potential collaborations or future research directions. The images analyzed in this research have 3 types of images, namely networking view (see Figure 2), Overlay Visualization (see Figure 3), and density visualization (see Figure 4).

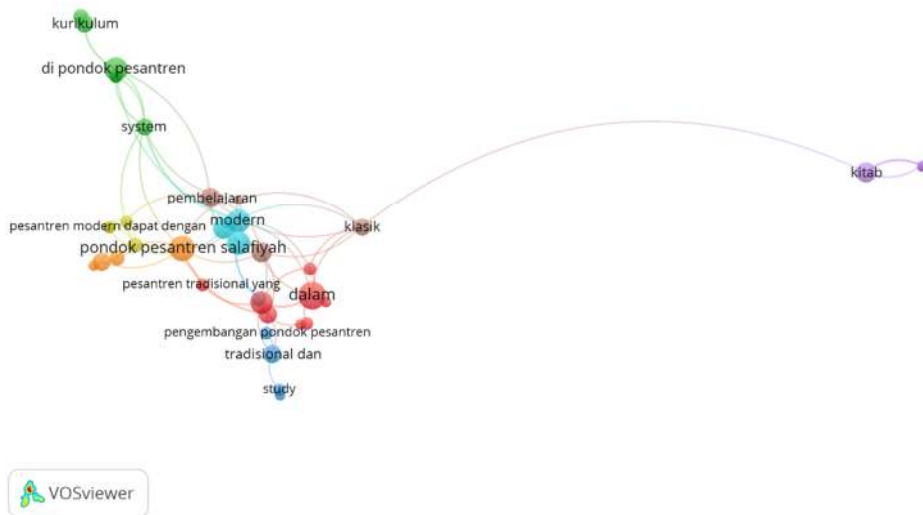


Figure 2.  
 Visualization of the Research Network on Salafi/Traditional Islamic Boarding School Research

Figure 2 demonstrates the connections among various terms. These relationships are illustrated in a network where the terms are interconnected. The figure reveals the clustering of terms that are frequently searched and studied concerning character education in Islamic boarding schools (Pondok Pesantren). The network visualization indicates that the Salafi/Traditional Islamic Boarding School Research is composed of 8 clusters, totaling 81 links and a combined link strength of 93. The clusters represented in Figure 2 highlight the subjects that are commonly explored in research on pondok pesantren. A greater distance between the topics in the figure suggests that these subjects have been less frequently investigated as part of the character education research in these settings. Conversely, closer proximity between topics indicates that they are often the focus of studies related to character education in Pondok Pesantren.

This keyword network provides an overview of how concepts related to pesantren are interconnected. It can serve as a starting point for further analysis, such as: 1) Identifying Key Themes: The most frequently occurring keywords with numerous connections may indicate the main themes within the text collection., 2) Analyzing Differences and Similarities: Comparing different groups of keywords can help uncover the differences and similarities among various concepts, 3) Developing Research Questions: This keyword network can inspire new questions for further research. Overall, this figure offers an engaging visualization of the complexities surrounding issues related to pesantren. To gain a deeper

understanding, a more detailed analysis of the original text collection is necessary.

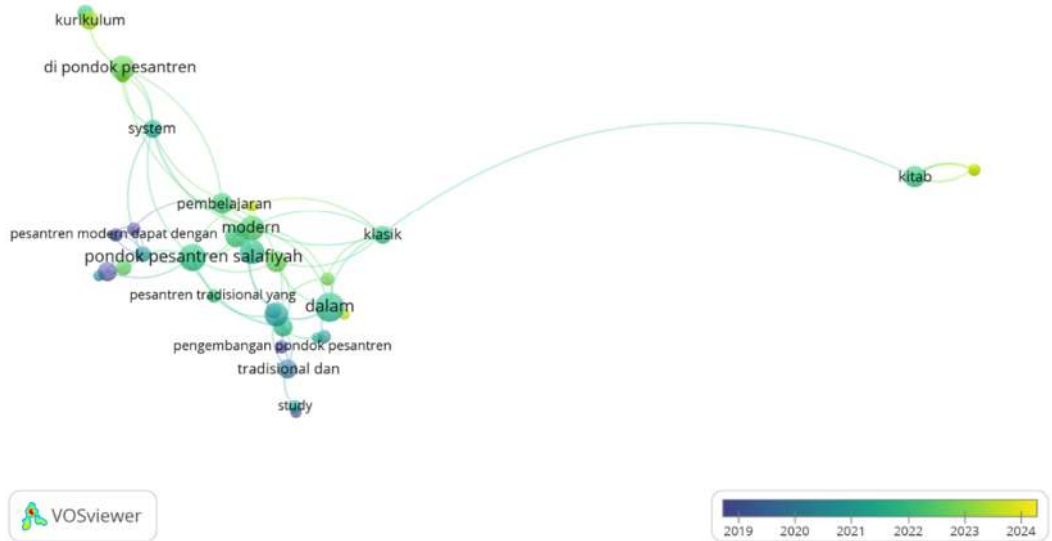


Figure 3  
Overlay Visualization on Salafi/Traditional Islamic Boarding School Research

Figure 3 presents a visualization of the research landscape concerning character education studies in pesantren. This visual layout illustrates the number of new searches for related terms. It indicates that research on pesantren Salafi/traditional has become a highly popular theme in Google Scholar from 2014 to 2024. The varying colors reflect the evolution of research on character education in pesantren over the years.

This figure enables us to map the annual trends associated with research themes on reseach, showing which themes were extensively studied in specific years and the frequency of research during particular timeframes. This analysis is essential for understanding the level of novelty regarding the years in which these topics were explored.

The main keywords identified include modern pesantren, Salafi pesantren, curriculum, learning, classical texts, and pesantren development. The lines connecting these keywords illustrate their relationships, such as the frequent association of "modern pesantren" with "curriculum" and "learning," while "Salafi pesantren" is more often linked to "classical texts."

The size of each circle represents the frequency of each keyword's occurrence in the analyzed data; larger circles indicate higher frequency. Additionally, the colors of the circles reflect the publication years in which



these keywords appeared most frequently, providing insight into research trends over time.

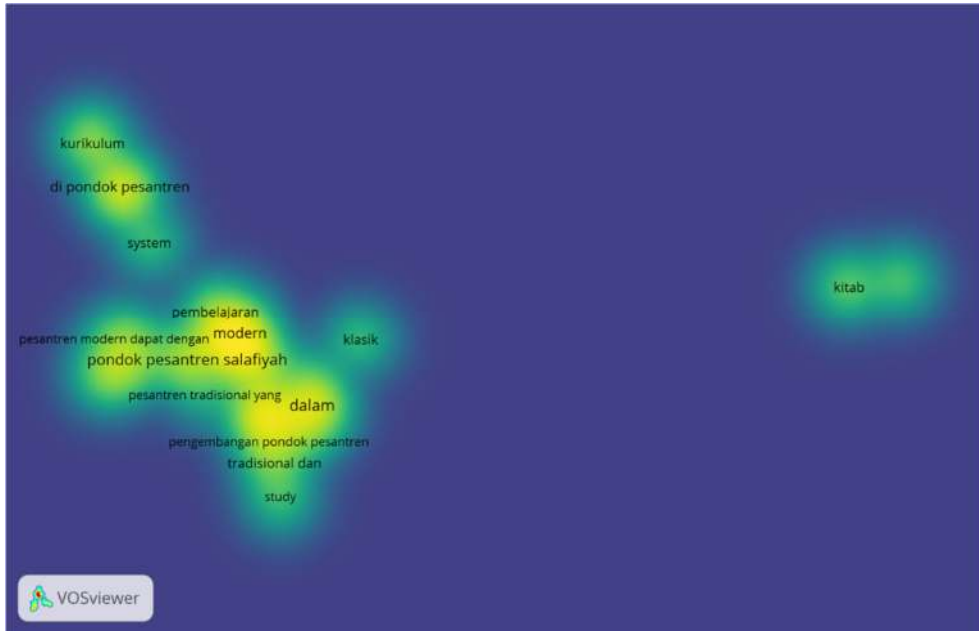


Figure 4  
Density Visualization on Salafi/Traditional Islamic Boarding School Research

Figure 4 provides a visualization of the research density related to pesantren salafi/tradisional reseach. The density is indicated by the brightness of the colors in the image (yellow) and the size of the terms in the circular display, suggesting that these terms frequently appear in searches. Conversely, if the color of a term fades toward the background, it indicates that there is limited research on that term. Based on the data mapping of 200 articles collected from Google Scholar between 2014 and 2024. Additionally, many articles have been indexed in Scopus journals, evidenced by the rising number of publications each year. This research allows us to access up-to-date studies on pesantren salafi/tradisional, and it positively influences the development of research themes related to character education in pesantren as well as the broader field of pesantren studies.

This VOSviewer image provides a visual representation of frequently occurring and interconnected keywords in research related to pesantren. Keyword Density: Brighter colors indicate that a keyword appears more often and has a strong relationship with other keywords. Overall, this image offers an initial overview of the main focus areas in pesantren research. For further analysis, we can explore which groups of keywords are most closely related or how research trends regarding pesantren have evolved over time.

## Conclusion

The aim of this study is to describe and analyze the publication of scientific articles on the research topic of Salafi/traditional pesantren. This thematic analysis utilizes VOSviewer through a bibliometric approach, with article searches conducted using the Publish or Perish application, resulting in the identification of 200 articles deemed relevant to this topic. The study period for the keyword search encompasses articles indexed by Google Scholar from 2014 to 2024. This research focuses on exploring and analyzing trends in research related to Salafi/traditional pesantren, along with other data analyses. The keywords related to character education in pesantren are mapped into eight clusters with 81 links, yielding a total link strength of 93. The analysis indicates that the overall development of publications from 2014 to the last year has become quite popular for research. In general, the highest number of publications occurred in 2023-2024, with 44 articles published, while the lowest was in 2015, with only three articles. This research has been extensively studied, reflecting the growing interest among researchers in pesantren-based studies today

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