

**KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION IN THE CONTEXT OF ACADEMIC
PUBLISHING: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF AL WASL UNIVERSITY
JOURNAL**

Alaa Maghawry

(Ph.D.)

Alwasl University – Dubai – UAE

Abstract

Background of the study: Al Wasl University Journal (AWUJ) is the official journal of Al Wasl University – Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It was established in the academic year 1989–1990 by a resolution of the Board of Trustees, under the title: Journal of the College of Islamic and Arabic Studies – A Refereed Islamic Intellectual and Cultural Journal. Beginning with issue No. 18, it was described as a refereed Islamic intellectual journal. From issue No. 28 to issue No. 56, it was referred to as a refereed scientific journal. Since the academic year 2018–2019, with issue No. 57, the journal underwent a name change and has since been known as: Al Wasl University Journal for Islamic and Arabic Studies – A Semi-Annual Refereed Scientific Journal. Starting from issue No. 60, it became officially titled as Al Wasl University Journal.

Purpose: This study is a bibliometric analysis of Al-Wasl University Journal. The journal was launch in 1990 as an semi-annual publication of the university. The bibliometric analysis covered a seven-year period from 2019 to 2025.

Method: The study employed bibliometric measurements and the compilation of lists that invent the intellectual output by referring to the actual issues of the journal, a total of 138 publications from 14 issues of AWUJ published from 2019 to 2025.

Findings: Authorship pattern shows that most of the papers were single-authored, and since the journal is of Emirati origin, most of the authors were from the United Arab Emirates. Authors from 15 foreign countries also contributed to this journal, as revealed in the study of 14 volumes, indicating that the journal has an international reach. However, it still requires wider circulation, which is why its issues have been made available online in recent years. Authors from Al Wasl University contributed the highest number of papers, followed by Zayed University. Most of the papers (98.55%) were written in Arabic. A total of 138 research papers contained 5,236 references, most of which were books (91.97%) .

Keywords: Bibliometric Analysis, Alwasl university, knowledge production

Introduction

Al Wasl University Journal (AWUJ) is the official journal of Al Wasl University – Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It was established in the academic year 1989–1990 by a resolution of the Board of Trustees during its second meeting on February 11, 1990, under the title: Journal of the College of Islamic and Arabic Studies – A Refereed Islamic Intellectual and Cultural Journal. Beginning with issue No. 18, it was described as a refereed Islamic intellectual journal.

From issue No. 28 to issue No. 56, it was referred to as a refereed scientific journal. Since the academic year 2018–2019, with issue No. 57, the journal underwent a name change and has since been known as: Al Wasl University Journal for Islamic and Arabic Studies – A Semi-Annual Refereed Scientific Journal. Starting from issue No. 60, it became officially titled as Al Wasl University Journal. ([Al Wasl University, 2025.](#))

The use of bibliometric measurements has become common in library and information science research at the international level for purposes of evaluation and analysis. Similarly, bibliometric measurements are an emerging field of research in library and information science in the UAE, with practical applications in assessing journal coverage. Bibliometric studies are used to determine publishing patterns, authorship trends, citation frequencies, and journal coverage, with the aim of providing a deeper understanding of the dynamics within the studied field. Bibliometrics refers to the application of statistical and mathematical methods to bibliographic studies and all forms of written communication. ([Pawar, 2020](#))

Scientific journals are essential channels for disseminating research findings and are crucial for academics and practitioners engaged in scientific research. This study aims to analyse the AWUJ due to its significance in understanding research trends in library and information science. For this purpose, the analysis includes authorship patterns, types and languages of publications, the number of citations used in each article, and the length of the research papers. ([Batcha & Ahmad, 2017](#))

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study were to determine the following bibliometric characteristics of AWUJ by identifying the following:

1. The authorship patterns.
2. Author productivity
3. Extent of authors' collaboration
4. Authors' institutional affiliation
5. Authors' geographic affiliation
6. Type of publication and language of papers
7. The number of citations used per article.
8. Year-wise distribution of papers

Literature Review

[Ke Chen, Lanfei Bai \(2025\)](#) in this article focuses exclusively on the bibliometric analysis of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Journal to perform a bibliometric analysis of the articles published in the APS (1976–2023). from the Web of Science Core Collection database. Microsoft Excel was utilized to analyse the publication and citation trends. The findings of this study indicate that the APS is a significant scientific journal, is widely utilized by global researchers in the field of aesthetic plastic surgery and spans diverse knowledge domains.

[Muhammad Afzaal, Xiao Shanshan C Dina Abdel Salam El-Dakhs \(2024\)](#) This study presents a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of speech acts within international scholarly periodicals spanning over a period of 11 years. Employing a quantitative approach, the study utilizes Cite Space, a powerful bibliometric tool, to discern and examine emerging patterns, novel trends, and the pivotal themes inherent to the realm of speech acts as portrayed in international journals. The results shed light on the

nuanced variations in these themes across various regions, including China, the United States, and England, encompassing a spectrum of multidisciplinary fields such as Engineering, psychology, environmental sciences, linguistics, and literature. While prior research has predominantly focused on the thematic aspects of language, linguistics, and philosophy, this study emphasizes the emergence of new trends within the integrated domains of artificial intelligence and language sciences.

[Lamiaa diaa, Abdelrahman saber \(2023\)](#) The study aims at analysing the journal of arts and humanities issued by faculty of arts, Minia university, and identifying the features of the journal's intellectual production since 1984 to 2020, it also aims at monitoring the numerical, qualitative. Objective and linguistic trends. In addition to the study of the author's productivity in the different majors covered by amazing. The study relied on bibliometric method through preparing a bibliography of the published articles in the magazine. It includes the bibliographic data of each article. The total number of the articles covered in this period in 1168 articles, the topics of languages and literature topped the objective trends, with a percentage of 29.2%, the study shows that Arabic language is the main publishing language of the magazine with a percentage of 83.6%, the individual authorship rated as the largest portion of the published articles.

[Bharti Kapur \(2023\)](#). The purpose of this study is to explore the trends in publications made to International Journal of Quality and Reliability Management (IJQRM) for period ranging from 2002–2022. In this study authors performed bibliometric analysis on the publications extracted from Scopus database using citations, authors, keywords, and bibliographic coupling methods. The analysis helped authors. The analysis results revealed that International Journal of Quality and Reliability Management (IJQRM) has got incredible 33,344 citations since 2002 with average citation count per document at

22.69. Sohal A.S. from Monash University, Australia has topped the list of most influential authors in terms of citations per document (107.20 citations/doc) published with IJQRM

[Jason J. Nichols, Philip B. Morgan, and Lyndon W. Jones.\(2023\)](#) . This study investigate articles, journals, authors, institutions, and countries in the ophthalmic literature are the most highly cited and prolific and have the highest h-index for ophthalmic journal articles. The search protocol used here was undertaken using the Scopus database (Elsevier). In this qualitative study, the h-index for ophthalmic journal articles was determined to be 494, which appeared comparable with the journal literature of other medical disciplines.

[Lyu, P., Liu, X., C Yao, T. \(2023\)](#) This study implements bibliometric methods based on the Web of Science to analyse the publications, subjects, citation, co-citation, collaboration, and

keywords of bibliometrics from 1969 to 2022. The results in this study are Information Science C Library Science and Computer Science are the two major subjects on bibliometric research. Garfield E has the most citations and co-citation frequency in the field of bibliometrics, beneficial to researchers and readers who are interested in the field of bibliometrics and other related fields to understand the overall picture of bibliometrics.

[Das, Digbijoy \(2021\)](#) The paper presents a bibliometric study of the “Journal of Informetric”. It publishes four issues per year. The data were downloaded from the journal’s website. The bibliometric analysis has been conducted with 404 contributions published in the journal selected five years for a period between 2016-2020. The study focuses on necessary bibliometric analysis forms, authorship pattern analysis, year wise distribution of articles, issue wise distribution of articles, single and multi-authored papers. The study revealed that that the maximum number of articles i.e 85 (21.04%) were published in the year 2018. The highest number 339 (83.91%) articles were contributed by joint authors and the rest of 65 (16.09%) articles contributed by single author.

[Antia-Obong, Seno Essien; Casselden, Biddy; and Pickard, Alison \(2019\)](#). The purpose of this bibliometric study was to examine the publication characteristics and developments of JHEM over an eight (8) year period from 2007 to 2016. The following bibliometric measures were analysed in this study: (a) productivity of articles, (b) productivity of authors, (c) degree of author collaboration, (d) listings of core authors, (e) Institution and country affiliations of authors, (e) types of sources cited by researchers, (f) timeliness of sources cited by researchers, (g) rank list of frequently cited journal titles and (h) rank list of frequently cited authors (i) to identify the types of sources cited by authors in JHEM. The results revealed a total of 83 articles and 1,821 citations within the period of study. Single authors had the highest number of papers with 54% of the total number of papers and degree of collaboration ranged between 0.14 –0.67. The Journal of Higher Education was the most sighted journal with a total of 27 citations.

[Ali Raza, Basharat Ahmad Malik \(2018\)](#). This paper aims to examine the Journal of Knowledge Management (JKM), by conducting a bibliometric study, to identify the most popular form of contributions, publication pattern, highly cited articles and most prolific countries and institutions. A total of 1214 authors from 57 countries and 584 institutions published 508 papers in the journal from 2009 to 2016. Contributions from USACUK was found to be 126 (24.8%) publications collectively. The two leading contributing institutions, i.e., Lakehead University and McMaster University were both from Canada and the top two contributing authors were also from these two universities.

Methodology

The study employed bibliometric measurements and the compilation of lists that inventory the intellectual output by referring to the actual issues of the journal, a total of 138 publications from 14 issues of AWUJ published from 2019 to 2025 were analysed to achieve the objectives of the study. Each issue of the journal was carefully consulted to record the exact bibliographic details. A computerized database designed in MS-Access was used in this study. The database includes certain columns for necessary bibliographical details. The same database was used for data

analysis as it has the provision of generating the desired reports. For calculation of percentages in various reports MS-Excel was used. The last page of the article, whether full or not was considered as a full page.

Results and Discussion

The total number of papers in the 14 issues of AWUJ published during 2019 to 2025 is 138, which comprises of research and review papers.

Authors' institutional affiliation.

Table 1 presents the institutional affiliations of AWUJ authors. The highest number of papers (18%) came from the University of Alwasl, UAE. The second-largest contribution was from Zayed University, with eight papers (13%). Authors from the University of Sharjah (UAE) and Northern Border University (Saudi Arabia) each contributed 11.5% of the papers. Al Qasimia University (UAE), King Faisal University (Saudi Arabia), and Princess Noura University (Saudi Arabia) each accounted for 9% of the contributions. The remaining 57.5% of the papers were submitted by authors affiliated with various other institutions.

Table 1. Institutional affiliation of authors

Rank	Institution	Papers	Percent
1	University of Alwasl	18	13%
2	University of Zayed	13	9%
3	University of Sharjah	9	6.5%
4	University of Northern Border	7	5%
5	University of Qassimia	4	3%
6	University of king Fasil	4	3%
7	University of Princess Noura	4	3%
8	Other individual institutions	79	57.5%
	Total	138	100

Authors' geographic affiliation

Table 2 presents the geographic affiliations of the authors. The majority, 57 authors (40.71%), were affiliated with institutions based in the United Arab Emirates. While some individuals may be of UAE origin, their geographic affiliation was determined by the institutional addresses provided. The remaining 59.29% of authors contributed from 15 different countries. Among these international contributors, the highest number came from Saudi Arabia with 39 authors (27.86%), followed by Jordan with 13 (9.29%), and Egypt with 7 (5%)."

Table 2. Authors' geographic affiliation

Geographic affiliation	Authors	Percent
UAE	57	40.71%
Saudia Arabia	39	27.86%
Jordan	13	9.29%
Egypt	7	5.00%
Morocco	4	2.86%
Alegria	3	2.14%
Palestine	3	2.14%
Tunisia	2	1.43%
Malaysia	2	1.43%
Iraq	2	1.43%
Oman	2	1.43%
USA	2	1.43%
Lebanon	1	0.71%
Bahrain	1	0.71%
Sudan	1	0.71%
Libya	1	0.71%
Total	140	100

Distribution of Articles Based on Language

Table 3 presents most of the articles, 136 (98.55%), were written in Arabic. Only one article (0.72%) was written in English, and another (0.72%) in French.

Table 3. Distribution of article based on language.

Languages	Articles	Percent
Arabic	136	98.55%
English	1	0.72%
French	1	0.72%
Total	138	100

Year-wise distribution of papers

Table 4 , Fig 1 , shows that there were almost 20 papers (92.85%) per year. Minimum number of papers per year was 18 (7.14%) in 2020.

Table 4. Year wise count of articles

Volume	Year	Articles	Percent
1	2019	20	14.49%
2	2020	18	13.06%
3	2021	20	14.49%
4	2022	20	14.49%
5	2023	20	14.49%
6	2024	20	14.49%
7	2025	20	14.49%
Total		138	100

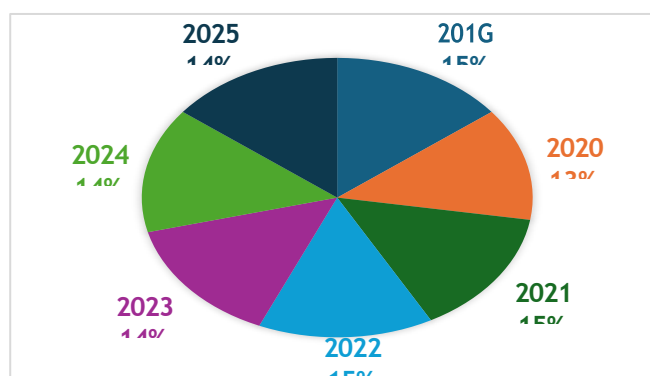


Figure 1 Percent Year wise count of articles

he authorship patterns.

Author productivity. Table 5 show that most of the authors, 127 (89.29%), contributed single paper. Ten authors (7.14%) contributed two papers. Only one (0.71%) author wrote 3 papers, and 2 (1.43%) have four papers. Total 140 authors contributed 138 papers.

Table 5. Distribution of authors

Rank	Contribution	Percent
1	90.71%	127
2	7.14%	10
3	1.43%	1
4	0.72%	2
Total	140	100

Extent of authors' collaboration. Table 6 shows the authorship pattern of the contributions published. Single-authored papers comprised the highest percentage, i.e., 127 (90.71%). The number of two-authored papers is 10 (7.14%), and three-authored papers are 1 (0.72%). The maximum number of authors, i.e., four is found in only two papers (1.43%).

Table 6. Authorship pattern

Authors	Contribution	Percent
One	127	90.71%
Two	10	7.14%
Three	1	0.72
Four	2	1.43%
Total	140	100

The authorship productivity.

Productivity according to authorship. Table 7, Fig no 2 shows the authorship Productivity according to authorship. Individual productivity papers comprised the highest percentage, i.e., 114 (82.60%). The number of two- Co-authorship papers is 24 (17.40%).

Table 7. Distribution of productivity according to authorship

Authorship	Articles	Percent
individual	114	82.60%
Co-authorship	24	17.40%
Total	138	100

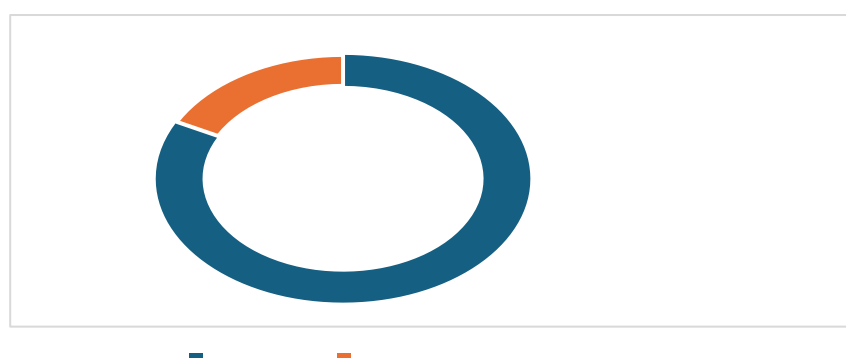


Figure 2 Distribution of productivity according to authorship

Productivity according to authorship. Table 8 shows the authorship Productivity according

to authorship. Individual productivity papers comprised the highest percentage, i.e., 114 (82.60%). The number of two- Co-authorship papers is 24 (17.40%).

Table 8. Distribution of productivity according to topics

Topics	Articles	Percent
Islamic studies	71	%51.45
Arabic language literature	58	%42.03
Various topics	9	%6.52
Total	138	100

Productivity according to gender. Table 9 shows the authorship Productivity according to gender. Male productivity papers comprised the highest percentage, i.e., 92 (66.66%). Female productivity papers is 40 (28.98%).

Table 9. Distribution of productivity according to gender

Gender	Articles	Percent
Male	92	66.66%
Female	40	28.98%
Mix	6	4.36%
Total	138	100

Citations used in journal issues.

Table (10,11) shows the citations for journal issues, 100% of the articles published in the various issues of the journal have references, with a total of 5,236 citations across 14 issues of the journal. The number of citations ranged from 215 (4.59%) in issue number 57, to 460 (8.75%) in issue 58. Books were the most cited sources with 4,816 citations (91.97%), while conference papers were the least cited, with only 30 citations (0.57%).

Table 10. Number of citations used in journal articles.

Issues	Citations	Percent
57	215	%4.09
58	460	%8.75
59	447	%8.50
60	442	%8.40
61	324	%6.16
62	331	%6.29

63	439	%8.34
64	420	%7.98
65	370	%7.03
66	429	%8.15
67	295	%5.61
68	409	%7.77
69	398	%7.56
70	320	%6.08
Total	5236	100

Table 11. Quality of citations used in journal articles.

Issues	Citations	Percent
Books	4816	%91.97
Journal articles	207	%3.95
Internet	154	%2.94
Thesis	56	%1.07
Conference papers	30	%0.57
Total	5236	100

Conclusion

Authorship pattern shows that most of the papers were single-authored, and since the journal is of Emirati origin, most of the authors were from the United Arab Emirates. Authors from 15 foreign countries also contributed to this journal, as revealed in the study of 14 volumes, indicating that the journal has an international reach. However, it still requires wider circulation, which is why its issues have been made available online in recent years. Authors from Al Wasl University contributed the highest number of papers, followed by Zayed University. Most of the papers (98.55%) were written in Arabic. A total of 138 research papers contained 5,236 references, most of which were books (91.97%), which is considered a positive trend in academic research. These papers covered various topics related to Islamic studies, Arabic language and literature, as well as diverse subjects in education, media, and sociology. Male researchers had the highest productivity, contributing 92 papers (66.66%).

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all those who made valuable

contributions to this study.

Author Contributions

The author prepared the final draft of the manuscript. The contributions included: conceptualization, methodology, formal analysis, original draft preparation, review, and editing.

Conflict of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest related to this study.

Funding

The author received no financial support for the publication of this article.

References

1. Al Wasl University. (n.d.). *About the journal*. Al Wasl University. Retrieved August 31, 2025, from https://alwasl.ac.ae/en/al-wasl-university-journal/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
2. Pawar, S. (2020). Bibliometric: A research technique. *International Journal for Social Sciences*, 8(3), 105–110.
3. Batcha, M. S., & Ahmad, M. (2017). Publication trend in an Indian journal and a Pakistan journal: A comparative analysis using scientometric approach. *Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science*, 6(4), 442–449.
4. Raza, A., & Malik, B. A. (2018). A bibliometric analysis of the *Journal of Knowledge Management*. *Journal of Indian Library Association*, 54(2), April–June.
5. Antia-Obong, S. E., Casselden, B., & Pickard, A. (2019). A bibliometric analysis of *Journal of Higher Education Management* (JHEM) from 2007 to 2016. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, Article 3037. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/3037>
6. Das, D. (2021). *Journal of Informetrics*: A bibliometric study. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, Article 5495. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5495>
7. Diaa, L., & Saber, A. (2023). *Minia University Journal of Arts and Humanities*: A bibliometric study. 30(30), 209–234.
8. Kapur, B. (2023). A bibliometric analysis of *IJQRM* journal (2002–2022). *International Journal of Quality & Reliability Management*, 40(7), 1647–1666.
9. Nichols, J. J., Morgan, P. B., & Jones, L. W. (2023). Bibliometric analysis of ophthalmic journals. *JAMA Ophthalmology*, 141(7), 651–657.
10. Lyu, P., Liu, X., & Yao, T. (2023). A bibliometric analysis of literature on bibliometrics in recent half-century. *Journal of Information Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01655515231191233>
11. Afzaal, M., Shanshan, X., & El-Dakhs, D. A. S. (2024). A comprehensive bibliometric analysis of speech acts in international journals (2013–2023). *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, 11(1), 2380556. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2024.2380556>

12. Chen, K., & Bai, L. (2025). A bibliometric analysis of the articles published in the *Aesthetic Plastic Surgery* journal (1976–2023). *Aesthetic Plastic Surgery*, 49, 1784–1796.