



Evaluating the Performance of Muslim Researchers in Publishing Holy Quran Related Articles in Medical Sciences in Scopus Databases

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ABSTRACT

Background: The current study evaluated the quantitative performance of Muslim researchers to publish existing articles regarding Quran in relation with medical sciences in Scopus Databases and rate of citations.

Objectives: To provide the ideas of thinking and studying the main ways of development and penetration of Quran teachings beyond the boundaries of Islamic countries.

Materials and Methods: The present study is an applied - descriptive research which has been performed by citation analysis method. Population of the current study includes all the articles regarding the relation of holy Quran and medical sciences (77 records) which have been indexed in Scopus Databases. Descriptive statistics and Excel software were used to set the data.

Results: the present study showed that the total citations to the 77 articles, as the population of the study, were 180, and an average of citation rate to each article was 2.33. In terms of time, citations to the investigated articles mostly referred to 2009 with 32 cases, 2008 with 27 cases, and 2010 with 25 cases, respectively. Also, "Journal of Semitic Studies" published the highest number of articles in this field, 13 articles, followed by the journal of "Medicine and Law" with 3 articles.

Conclusions: The number of articles about the relation of Quran teachings in medical sciences in Scopus Databases was very low. It shows that either the Muslim researchers have not taken enough advantage from Quran in their investigations or they have not published their findings in the international domain. To increase the quality and quantity of scientific productions in this field, to index the findings in reliable websites, and also to promote Quran teachings in medical sciences properly, in addition to improving English writing skills, researchers try to improve the quality and quantity of the articles and index them in reliable international websites.

Keywords: Holy Quran; Medicine; Citation Analysis; Scopus Databases; Science Production

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► Article type: Research Article; Received: 20 Jan 2012; Revised: 04 Feb 2012; Accepted: 09 Feb 2012; Epub: 26 Apr 2012; Ppub: Spring 2012

► Implication for medical and health policy/ practice/ research/ medical education:

One of the important ways of development and penetration of Quran teachings beyond the boundaries of Muslim countries is to publish Quranic researches in the reliable international journals and websites, and to take good advantage of this substrate to promote Quran teachings appropriately, these type of articles should be published in the journals which are indexed in the international reliable websites. The present study can be effective in order to persuade Muslim researchers to think and study this case.

► Please cite this paper as:

Noori R, Zare Farashbandi F. Evaluating of Muslims Researchers Performance in Publishing of Articles Related to Holy Quran in Medical Sciences Field and Citation Analysis of them in Scopus Database. *Quran Med.* 2012;1(4):108-12. DOI: 10.5812/quranmed.8096

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The Translated version of: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5812.quranmed.8096>

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1. Background

Today, by use of website citation analysis, evaluating the articles in different fields and citation analysis of the articles have been facilitated. Scopus is one of the important and reliable citation analysis websites in the world. This website has become the largest citation database since 2004, and now the number of covered topics is 18000 from more than 5000 international publishers since 1960 (1). Many researches have been conducted by citation analysis method in Iran and other countries. Among the researches the following have been performed with a method similar to that of the present study are: Mohammadi and Mottaghidadgar (2), Hatefi Mostaghim (3), Moradi (4), Mottaghidadgar, Karimi and Ebadallah Amoghini (5), Karimi and Soleimani (6), and Jane R. (7). But none of these researches have investigated Quran articles or Quran articles in relation with medical sciences. Only Makizadeh and Osareh have studied the medical ethics in the website of "web of science", by this method (8). Because of scientific contents of holy Quran in different fields, including medicine (5-16), the present study used quantitative and citation analysis of Quran articles regarding medical fields in Scopus database to answer the question, "How successful were the Muslim researchers globally to publish Quran teachings in medical subjects?".

2. Objectives

Providing ideas and studying the main ways of development and penetration of Quran teachings beyond the boundaries of Islamic countries.

3. Materials and Methods

The present study is an applied-descriptive research performed by citation analysis method. Citation analysis is a part of bibliometric method which evaluates the relation between referred documents and cited references. Trending topics, disciplinary citation patterns, date of citation, reference group, and self-citation are among the cases which have been considered in citation analysis (16).

Population of the present research includes holy Quran articles on medical subjects (77 records) indexed in Scopus database. It is noteworthy that the time interval of these articles is from 1960 to January 2011. To retrieve the document, first the keywords as "Quran" and "Qur'an" were searched in the fields of "topic", "abstract" and "keyword" in Scopus database by the use of "OR" operator which resulted to 364 records, and after limiting these records to the medical subjects, the final result was 77 records (which formed the population of the present study). Then, the number of citations to the resulted articles was measured (172 records) and after that these citations were analyzed. To set the data, descriptive statistics and Excel software were used.

4. Results

After the searching step, explained in the methods and materials, 77 records were retrieved. Among these, 60 records were original (research) articles, 11 records were review and 6 records were of other types of documents. Among them, 71 records were in English, 2 records in Arabic and 1 record was in another language.

Table 1 shows the number of retrieved articles in different medical topics. As it is shown, these articles were from 14 topics of medical fields (Table 1). Since some of the articles are common in two or more fields, total number of the articles in these 14 fields is higher than that of all records (77 records).

Table 1. Number of Articles Related to the Holy Quran in Scopus Database, Divided by Medical Fields

	Number of Records
Medicine	55
Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics	15
Nursing	6
Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology	6

Table 2 shows the journals which have had the highest number of articles in the studied field. According to Table 2, most of the articles on holy Quran in relation to medical sciences belong to "Journal of Semitic Studies" and journal of "Medicine and Law" with 13 and 3 articles, respectively. The third place belongs to 7 other journals with 2 articles each (Table 2).

Table 3 indicates the time interval of published articles on these topics. According to the Table, the highest number of published articles on holy Quran in relation to medical fields is in 2010 (11 articles), 2009 (8 articles), and jointly in the years 2008 and 2004 (6 articles). Since the present study was conducted early 2011, no article of the year is included.

4.1. Citation Analysis of the Articles

180 citations were allocated to the 77 understudied articles among which, 25 citations in 2010, 32 citations in 2009, 27 citations in 2008, and the rest were cited from 1996 to 2007. On the average, each understudied article was cited 2.33 times, and among these 77 articles only 38 records have been cited. Table 4 shows the topic of highly cited articles with name, country, number of citations, and rate of the authors. As mentioned before, 3 articles with 12 similar citations are in the third place, and the share of Iran among them, is only one highly cited article.

Table 5 indicates the journals with the highest number of citations among the understudied journals (77 records). The first place belongs to the "Canadian Medical

Association journal" which holds 38 citations out of 180.

Table 2. Number of Holy Quran Articles in Relation to Medical Sciences in Scopus Database, Divided by Journals

Journal	Journal Ranking	Number of Articles
Journal of Semitic Studies	1	13
Medicine and Law	2	3
CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association journal	3	2
International Journal of Cardiology	3	2
Journal of the American Academy of Religion	3	2
Journal of the American Institute of Hypnosis	3	2
Lecture Notes in Computer Science	3	2
Pakistan Journal of Nutrition	3	2
Population sciences (Cairo, Egypt)	3	2
Saudi medical journal	3	2
Other Journals	-	45
Total Number of the Articles	-	77

5. Discussion

It seems that Scopus Database is more adequate for Islamic and Quran researches compared to "web of science" (published by scientific database institute), as Scopus Database covers more journals from Islamic countries. Findings of the present study indicate that only 77 records on holy Quran articles in relation to medical sciences were retrieved by searching Scopus website. According to the scientific contents of holy Quran in different fields, including medicine (9-15), the low number of English articles in this field indicates that Muslim researchers in medical sciences either do not take enough advantage of Quran, or have not published their related articles in the international journals, and if these articles have been published in English, the journals have not been indexed in Scopus Database. It is noteworthy that all the 77 articles have not been necessarily published by Muslim researchers.

Regarding the number of citations, the average of 2.33 citations is acceptable, although only some of the journals have a high number of citations which lead to the increase in the average. Compared to the study of Mohammadi and Mottaghidadgar (2007) who have measured the average of citation for each Persian article 11.9 in the field of library and information science (2) or Jane who has calculated the average citation for each article at 23.2 in published references and 3.1 in electronic citations (7), the average citation to the studied articles in the present study seems to be very low, but is acceptable compared to the total number of studied articles. It seems that to

increase the number of citations of Quran articles in reliable databases, increasing the number of articles in this field or publishing them in more reliable journals is inevitable.

Table 3. Number of Holy Quran Articles in Relation to Medical Sciences in Scopus Database, Divided by the Year of Publication

Year of Publication	Rate	Number of Articles
2010	1	11
2009	2	8
2008	2	6
2004	2	6
2003	3	5
2000	4	4
2001	5	3
1989	5	3
1975	5	3
1974	5	3
2006	6	3
2005	6	3
1995	6	3
1983	6	3
1979	6	3
Other Years	-	15
Total Number	-	77

In the present study, only two highly cited journals were aligned with findings of Hatefi Mostaghim (2001) who in his study on science and Islamic Education fields introduced just 6 references as the main and highly cited references (3). Also, Makizadeh and Osareh (2011) found that only the Journal of Medical Ethics, among the 1289 journals of medical ethics, has published the highest number of articles (8). Learning about the journals with the most citations can help the Muslim Researchers to publish their articles in such journals for more citations.

In the current study, among the four medical fields, the highest number of articles were on holy Quran and medicine which were in accordance with those of Hatefi Mostaghim (2001) who found that Islamic jurisprudence and principles was the main subject of understudied journals in the field of Islamic science and education (3). His findings are also in accordance with those of Makizadeh and Osareh (2011) that in their studies on medical ethics in "web of science" found that the most written topic in this field is the education of medical ethics and its necessity (8). More consideration to the medical topics rather than other three fields (pharmacology, nursing, biochemistry and genetics) shows more investigations on Quran teachings in medical sciences, and it is suitable if Muslim researchers follow the investigations on other three fields, too.

Table 4. Topics of Highly Cited Articles Regarding Holy Quran in Medical Sciences in Scopus Database, by Number of Citations

Rate	Journal	Topic of the Article	Authors' name	Country	Number of Citations
1	CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association journal	Bioethics for clinicians: 21. Islamic bioethics	Daar, AS	-	37
2	Transplantation Proceedings	Islamic perspective on human cloning and stem cell research	Binsumeit Al Khitamy, A	Oman	15
3	Culture, Health and Sexuality	Identity experience among progressive gay Muslims in North America: A qualitative study within Al-Fatiha	Larijani, B	Iran	12
3	Japanese Journal of Hygiene	Effects of Ramadan fasting on the health of Muslims	Zahedi, F	United States	12
3	Human Fertility	Reproductive issues from the Islamic perspective	Minwalla, O	Japan	12

Table 5. Title, Number of Received Citations and Ranking of Journals

Name of Journal	Number of Citations	Rate
CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association journal	38	1
Transplantation Proceedings	15	2
Medicine and Law	12	3
Culture, Health and Sexuality	12	3
Human Fertility	12	3
Japanese Journal of Hygiene	12	3
Journal of Semitic Studies	1	4
Holistic nursing practice	8	5
Reproductive Health Matters	7	6
Journal of Human Nutrition	6	7
Annals of Saudi Medicine	5	8
Bioethics	5	8
Other Journals (19 Records)	37	-
Total Citations	180	-

The reasons of the low number of articles can be the topic for further researches. In the end, the question is that is it necessary to publish Quran related articles on different fields, such as medical sciences, in reliable databases like Scopus which has been founded by western countries giving an answer to this question needs lengthy discussions and performing further researches which is out of the scope of the present study. It can be said that although publishing Islamic and Quranic articles in the journals of non-Islamic countries is not an easy job, because of the impediments, one of the main ways of development and penetration of Quran teachings beyond the boundaries of Islamic countries is to publish Quran researches in international reliable journals, and to take enough advantage of this substrate to promote Quran teachings, similar articles should be published in the journals which are indexed in the international reliable databases. To reach the goal and cite the articles in the international reliable databases, Muslim researchers should try to improve the quality and quantity of their national scientific journals

in addition to improve their English writing skills.

Acknowledgements

None declared.

Authors' Contribution

None declared.

Financial Disclosure

None declared.

Funding/Support

None declared.

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