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Review Article

Knowledge Production and Development Trends: Bibliometric Analysis of Theses and Dissertations at AlWasl University

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About Article

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to identify the trends of scientific research (master's and PhD theses) at Al Wasl University by analysing and tracking the following elements and indicators: Degree awarded, Gender of the researcher, Nationality of the researcher, Gender of the research supervisor, Nationality of the research supervisor, Annual distribution of research, Research specialization, Type of research. Considering the above, there is a clear need to conduct a statistical analytical study to answer the following main question: What are the trends of scientific research (master's and PhD theses) at Al Wasl University, Dubai, United Arab Emirates? A systematic bibliometric analysis was conducted using the Theses and Dissertations Approved in The University of Alwasl published between 1999 and August 2025. A total of 425 Theses and Dissertations were identified, involving 364 authors. The study recorded the theses approved at the master's and doctoral levels since the establishment of graduate studies at the university up to August 2025. showing a consistent growth in the number of master's and doctoral degrees and an increased approval rate in recent years, the languages thesis to master's and doctoral research. It is evident that the percentage of Arabic language is higher than that of other languages completed (99.07%), while other languages for (0.93%). The specializations of Master's and Doctoral theses at Al Wasl University, varied across five main areas. Leading these was the field of Emirati culture and society studies, with 203 theses, making up 46.99%, which is logically consistent with the university's context.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Knowledge production is considered a key driver of social and economic development, with universities playing a central role within national development frameworks and planning structures. As major players in generating knowledge, universities are essential not only in advancing academic disciplines but also in significantly contributing to the social and economic progress of their countries. Through the production and dissemination of research, universities help foster innovation, address societal challenges, and contribute to the well-being of communities. In this context, bibliometric analysis becomes an essential tool for strategic planning in higher education and the development of the knowledge economy. By quantitatively assessing research output, trends, and patterns, bibliometrics provides valuable insights into the effectiveness and impact of academic research. This data-driven approach helps institutions, policymakers, and stakeholders make informed decisions that align with national priorities, thereby supporting sustainable development and strengthening the knowledge economy. Integrating bibliometric insights and quantitative statistical measurement methods into university planning and policy development ensures that research strategies align with broader economic and social goals, contributing to long-term prosperity and progress (Schneider & Ziemer, 2018).

Many countries compete in the volume of scientific output represented by the research and studies conducted by specialized scientific research institutions, whether in universities or other scientific research centres. The research and studies produced by universities occupy a significant and important place in the overall body of scientific research and studies. This is because scientific research is considered one of the most important roles of universities. Moreover, the research and studies they produce are closely related to reality and address the needs of both individuals and society. The sources of studies and research produced by universities vary. Some are produced by university research centers, some by faculty members in academic departments, and others by graduate students aiming to obtain a master's or doctoral degree. Research and theses produced by graduate students as a requirement for obtaining an academic degree are among the most important sources of fundamental knowledge and scientific research. They stand out from other research and studies because they require a comprehensive scientific methodology and undergo rigorous peer review and evaluation from the initial research idea to its approval and the awarding of the degree. Additionally, most universities require that the research submitted for a degree include a scientific contribution and add new knowledge (Altbach & Salmi, 2011). Al Wasl University is a non-profit higher education institution in the United Arab Emirates, founded in 1986 under the patronage of the Government of Dubai, with the aim of becoming a beacon of knowledge, a key contributor to human development, and an effective tool in serving the Emirati society. Al Wasl University is dedicated to sciences and knowledge, with the goal of affirming the unique cultural identity of Emirati society in various academic fields. The university offers undergraduate education in Islamic Studies and Arabic Language, and charges nominal fees for postgraduate and other programs. Recognizing

the need for development following its initial foundation in 1986, the university launched a master's program in Islamic Sharia in the academic year 1995/1996, followed by a master's program in Arabic Language and Literature in 2002/2003. A PhD program in Islamic Jurisprudence and its Principles began in 2004/2005, and a PhD program in Arabic Language and Literature was introduced in 2007/2008. These programs were established to fulfil a noble purpose: to prepare a generation of students in the UAE for in-depth academic research and to supply society in general—and universities and research institutions in particular—with highly qualified academic professionals (Al Wasl University, 2025).

The significance of bibliometric analysis lies in its ability to provide graduate studies deanships and research administrators at universities and research centres with a clear understanding of the current state of scientific research in the United Arab Emirates, specifically at Al Wasl University in Dubai. By analyzing various trends and distributions, we aim to offer an accurate understanding of the strengths and areas that require improvement in research services. These insights can contribute to guiding strategic decision-making, effective resource allocation, and the development of policies that align with evolving needs (Donthu *et al.*, 2021).

1.1. Study population

The study population consists of all Master's and Doctoral theses approved at Al Wasl University during the period from 1999 to August 2025, totalling 425 research works. The study population was identified based on the university thesis catalogues periodically issued by the Deanship of Graduate Studies at the university.

1.2. Objectives of the study

The study aims to identify the trends of scientific research (master's and PhD theses) at Al Wasl University by analysing and tracking the following elements and indicators: Degree awarded, Gender of the researcher, Nationality of the researcher, Gender of the research supervisor, Nationality of the research supervisor, Annual distribution of research, Research specialization, Type of research. Considering the above, there is a clear need to conduct a statistical analytical study to answer the following main question:

What are the trends of scientific research (master's and PhD theses) at Al Wasl University, Dubai, United Arab Emirates? This study seeks to contribute to the evaluation and development of the scientific research process by highlighting the areas that require more attention from researchers. Ultimately, this will help in drawing a Research Map for future studies and academic research.

1.3. Research problem

The importance of analyzing and evaluating the scientific studies conducted by postgraduate students in various programs is increasing, to identify their trends and characteristics. Considering the growing number of master's and doctoral theses at Al Wasl University, and following a scientific survey in this field, it was found that since the university began granting master's and doctoral degrees up to the time of preparing this



study, no scientific research has been conducted to investigate and analyze the scientific output produced by postgraduate students for obtaining these degrees. This is even though such academic output represents a substantial body of intellectual work that is worthy of numerous studies aimed at surveying, documenting, and scientifically analyzing it with the same rigor applied to other forms of scholarly production that have undergone analysis and evaluation.

Research Questions: RQ: What are the bibliometric indicators, thematic, temporal, and linguistic trends, and the thematic orientations of academic theses (master's and PhD) at Al Wasl University, to map the knowledge trends of scientific research at the university? Additionally, what are the nationalities of the researchers and supervisors from within the UAE and abroad, to identify aspects of international collaboration and the diversity of research schools? What are the future perspectives regarding the directions of scientific research at Al Wasl University in the coming years?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature review on the topic of this research included 12 published research articles in peer-reviewed journals. They were arranged chronologically from the most recent to the oldest, covering the period from 2025 to 2017. These studies addressed topics closely related and relevant to the subject of this research, as follows:

Maral (2025) aimed to reveal the growth trend of competition in higher education literature, the contribution to the topic, the collaborative structure of the topic, its historical development, the intellectual structure of the knowledge base, and the research fronts. The data comprise 398 articles from the Web of Science database covering the period 1960–2023. The methodology of this research is based on bibliometric and content analysis, which integrates quantitative and qualitative methods, allowing a deeper examination of the topic. According to the results of this study, the literature on competition in higher education has shown significant growth over the past two decades. The literature has been shaped with the contribution of many disciplines. The USA has the highest productivity and collaboration, and Italy has the highest publication impact. In addition, this study revealed various effects of competition in higher education. This research suggests directions for future research on the topic and provides a broad view of competition research in higher education.

Paylı and Çevik (2025) were conducted to reveal the structure of Selçuk University's (SU) scientific productivity in academic studies. Scientific articles in English associated with SU were obtained from the Web of Science (WoS) database for the period 2019–2023 and analyzed with VOS viewer Statistical Analysis Program. Performance analysis indicated that SU is most frequently associated with academic articles indexed in the "SCI-EXPANDED" index in the fields of "Chemistry", "Engineering", "General Internal Medicine", "Agriculture" and "Food Technology" in "2021". The analysis of SU's scientific productivity was carried out in the context of co-authorship, authors, universities, and countries. The findings indicated that "Zengin, G.," "SU," and "Turkey" ranked first in terms of articles, citations, and total link strength. It was also concluded that

"Zengin, G." had the highest number of scientific collaborations with "Monomodally, M.F.," "SU" with "Necmettin Erbakan University" and "Turkey" with "Italy".

Wang *et al.* (2025) compared research topics reported in English for Specific Purposes: An International Research Journal (ESPJ) and Chinese Journal of ESP (CJESP) between 2010 and 2020. Research topics were represented by i) frequently researched topics and ii) clusters of research topics. Frequently researched topics were investigated by co-word analysis based on author keywords of 278 and 274 research articles in these two journals, and clusters of research topics were investigated by bibliometric mapping software Vos Viewer. The key findings were as follows: i) Regarding frequently researched topics, 'EAP', 'ESP', 'academic writing', and 'genre analysis' were shared topics. However, 'word lists' and 'lexical bundles' were frequently researched in ESPJ but not in CJESP, whereas 'curriculum design', 'EGAP related to college English', and 'translation' were frequently researched in CJESP but not in ESPJ; ii) regarding clusters of research topics, ESPJ featured textual analysis in 'EAP' and 'professional communication', while CJESP reported on 'ESP teaching', 'curriculum design', and 'material development'. Both journals discussed needs analysis.

Shasha *et al.* (2025) are showing a growing interest in smart tourism, a promising trend in destination development. The current research studies have established a strong theoretical foundation on the functions of technology and the impacts of smart tourism on travellers. Nevertheless, little is known about the comprehensive and systemic effects on the growth of smart tourism in a particular destination. This study employs bibliometric analysis to examine the scientific literature of smart tourism research, based on 563 relevant publications retrieved from the leading database Web of Science Core Collection between 2000 and 2024 and analyzed using VOS viewer software 1.6.20 packages. The results show that the total number of relevant publications has gradually increased in recent years. Key journals include Tourism Management, Sustainability-Basel, and Annals of Tourism Research. The results also show that authors from the People's Republic of China have the most publications and international co-authorships, while the most influential institution is the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Moreover, research keywords have been identified, including smart tourism, smart cities, Internet of Things, and big data. The research findings of this study provide valuable insights to further improve smart tourism research.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a vital contribution to both developed and developing nations. It is imperative to assess SDG-related activities to discern the impact of such initiatives across various domains, including health and education (Garnita *et al.*, 2024). While current bibliometric analyses on SDGs predominantly encompass peer-reviewed articles, it is paramount to acknowledge that SDGs are universally pertinent and necessitate universal engagement. Consequently, there is a compelling need to broaden the bibliometric scope concerning SDGs, surpassing the realm of peer-reviewed papers. This research introduces a pioneering examination of SDG-associated academic undertakings, encompassing undergraduate, master's, and doctoral research projects on an expansive scale. The evaluative framework stems



from a decade's culminating research endeavours published by Universitas Indonesia (UI). The emphasis of this study was directed towards Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3), given its intricate set of indicators. Furthermore, there remains a paucity of research probing the influence of libraries in the context of SDG 3 indicators within the Indonesian milieu. Through a bibliometric approach, we employed a descriptive analysis to scrutinize the publications' breadth and evolution. Science mapping facilitated an exploration of inter-topic relationships and spotlighted prominent research themes. The diverse range of research predilections unearthed through our analysis underscores the significance of integrating student research projects into the bibliometric discourse on SDGs. This inquiry aims to heighten recognition of the extensive scholarly contributions by students and ideally will galvanize a younger demographic to immerse themselves in SDG-aligned research pursuits.

Arar *et al.* (2024) offers a meta-analysis scoping study of doctoral dissertations completed in the last 20 years in one doctoral programme of Educational Leadership (EL) at a higher education institution in Texas, aiming at identifying topical foci, epistemology, methodology and main themes. Therefore, we systematically collected, documented, securitised, and analysed completed dissertations following the steps identified by PRISMA guidelines. The review aimed to answer the following four questions: What are the general trends of doctoral dissertations in the studied programme? What are the topical foci of these dissertations? , What is the prevailing epistemological constructs and genres informing this work? , What are the gaps in this research focus within the scope of educational leadership and policy? . Based on our analysis, four main key themes were identified: educational leadership and policy, public education, equity and social justice, and race and ethnicity.

Aliyu and Marafa (2024) focuses on the mapping of postgraduate theses and dissertations of the faculty of environmental sciences of Modibbo Adama University, Yola during the period of 20 years of running its postgraduate programme (2001- 2021). The theses and dissertations were obtained from the postgraduate faculty of the university. Every graduated postgraduate degree has a copy of its theses/dissertation deposited and they were used to retrieve bibliographic data for the study. The study covers 182 theses and dissertation produced in the faculty within the period of the study. The study examined and analyzed the research output such as types of postgraduate research output produced by the faculty, the relative growth rate of the research output, annual growth rate of the research output, ranking the highest supervising academic by departments in the faculty, and determining the top three ranked academics in the faculty in terms of postgraduate supervision and graduation.

Wang *et al.* (2022). By reading the titles, abstracts, and keywords of LIS doctoral dissertations in China from 2011–2020 and conducting cluster analysis and network analysis of keywords, this study aims to understand the intelligence structure of LIS doctoral dissertations in China, as well as the disciplines and topics intersecting with LIS. The results indicated that Wuhan University had the highest number of doctoral dissertations among all the selected universities offering LIS

doctoral education. Research fields mainly focus on online information behaviour and information services. The findings could be because of the development of computer science and information technology in the past decade, which indicates that the research direction of LIS in China follows the trend of time development.

Khan and Tariq (2021) provides a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of Library and Information Science (LIS) theses submitted to the Shoshana repository between 2010 and 2020. The analysis aims to uncover key trends, patterns, and regional distributions of LIS research across Indian academic institutions. A total of 830 English-language theses were examined using metadata such as title, year of submission, keywords, and institutional affiliation. The study investigates temporal trends in research output, highlights the most productive institutions, maps regional disparities, and explores dominant and emerging research themes within LIS. Tools like Bibliophagy and VOS viewer were employed to analyze keyword frequency and co-occurrence patterns. The findings reveal a significant rise in ICT-related research, with southern India contributing the highest volume of theses. Despite these developments, the data points to regional imbalances and concentration of research in a few key institutions. This analysis offers valuable insights into the evolving landscape of LIS research in India and provides recommendations to enhance inclusivity, diversify research themes, and support institutions in underrepresented regions. The study serves as a guiding framework for researchers, academic leaders, and policymakers to shape future directions in LIS education and scholarly inquiry.

Kankam *et al.* (2020): It is evident from literature that bibliometric analysis and application of citation indexes have been established as far back as the 18th century. It is a major tool employed to evaluate the performance and measure the impact of scientific publications. This study presents a bibliometric analysis of the MPhil theses accepted at the Department of Information Studies (DIS) of the University of Ghana for the period between 2000 to 2018. Using the DIS library catalogue, the study retrieved 101 accepted theses and these theses served as the source documents for the study. Bibliometric analysis method was employed to study in detail the bibliographic features of the MPhil thesis. The study revealed that students heavily relied on scientific journal articles for their research. Again, the findings of the study established disparity in students' research outputs in the two subject fields of the DIS – library and archival studies. The study recommends the need for the DIS to put measures in place to increase students' interest in conducting research in the field of archival studies.

Mokhtari *et al.* (2019): The evaluation of universities from different perspectives is important for their scientific development. Analyzing the scientific papers of a university under the bibliometric approach is one main evaluative approach. The aim of this study was to conduct a bibliometric analysis and visualization of papers published by Hamadan University of Medical Science (HUMS), Iran, during 1992–2018. This study used bibliometric and visualization techniques. Scopus database was used for data collection. 3753 papers were retrieved by applying Affiliation Search in Scopus advanced search section. Excel and VOS viewer software packages were



used for data analysis and bibliometric indicator extraction. An increasing trend was seen in the numbers of HUMS's published papers and received citations. The highest rate of collaboration in national level was with Tehran University of Medical Sciences. Internationally, HUMS's researchers had the highest collaboration with the authors from the United States, the United Kingdom and Switzerland, respectively. All highly cited papers were published in high level Q1 journals. Term clustering demonstrated four main clusters: epidemiological studies, laboratory studies, pharmacological studies, and microbiological studies. The results of this study can be beneficial to the policymakers of this university. In addition, researchers and bibliometricians can use this study as a pattern for studying and visualizing the bibliometric indicators of other universities and research institutions.

Ahmed (2017) is main foundation to development the societies. The Academic theses is very important for all academic university and Professional institutions together and these the mirror to these academic institutions these that main foundation to assess these self-institutions. The aim of this study knowledge attributes and characteristics thesis's libraries, documentation and information department, Cairo University because identify the top subjects discuss in this thesis by use the Bibliometrics' method.

Through a literature review on the subject, it was found that previous studies align with the current study in terms of research approaches and scientific methodology. However, they differ in perspective, as no previous study has addressed the academic theses awarded by universities in the United Arab Emirates, specifically those of Al Wasl University, which is the focus of the current study. Overall, previous studies have played an important role in clarifying the scientific approach of the present research.

3. METHODOLOGY

The bibliometric approach provides significant value in policy and planning by offering a systematic way to analyze and map research output. By quantifying and visualizing research activities, bibliometrics helps identify gaps in research that may be critical for development-oriented goals. This allows policymakers to prioritize areas that need more attention or investment, ensuring that academic research aligns with the evolving needs of society. Moreover, mapping research output links institutional productivity directly to societal planning needs, allowing universities and research institutions to contribute effectively to national or regional development strategies. This approach enables a data-driven foundation for decision-making in higher education planning, ensuring research aligns with broader social, economic, and policy objectives (Liu & White, 2011).

A systematic bibliometric analysis was conducted using the Theses and Dissertations Approved in The University of Alwasl published between 1999 and August 2025, using descriptive statistical measures, percentages, and frequency distributions. A total of 425 Theses and Dissertations were identified, for each thesis, the following data were collected: the researcher's name and nationality, the title of the thesis, the academic degree, the supervisor's name and nationality, the thesis specialization,

the academic department, the publication date, and the type of researchers. involving 364 authors. to provide a comprehensive overview of academic work

3.1. Ethical considerations

The study adhered to ethical principles related to data usage and publication ethics. The data were obtained from publicly available sources, with proper attribution given to the original authors and publishers. Overall, the methodology adopted in this research aimed to provide a precise and comprehensive analysis of master's and PhD theses awarded at Al Wasl University – Dubai, using advanced bibliometric techniques and tools, with the goal of generating valuable insights into the scholarly landscape in this field.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Degree awarded (master's – doctorate)

Table (1) shows that the number of master's and doctoral theses approved at Al Wasl University during the period from 1999 to 2025 reached 425. Among them, 284 were master's theses, representing 66.43%, while 141 were doctoral dissertations, accounting for 33.57%. All these research works were approved, and their titles are included in the university thesis catalogues periodically issued by the Deanship of Graduate Studies. This result indicates that there are more academic theses, particularly at the doctoral level, which supports the idea of sustainable development and research advancement at the University of Al-Wasl and in the United Arab Emirates, particularly in the field of identity studies.

Table 1. Degree Awarded (Master's – Doctorate)

Thesis Degree	Number	%
Master	284	66.43%
Ph.D.	141	33.57%
Total	425	100%

4.2. The chronological distribution of university theses

The chronological development of scientific research leads to variation in the treatment of topics and the emergence of new subjects because of the intersection of different fields. This, in turn, contributes to an increase in intellectual output through academic theses that present new ideas, contributing to sustainable development and societal progress. The study recorded the theses approved at the master's and doctoral levels since the establishment of graduate studies at the university up to August 2025. Table (2 & 3) illusthees the annual distribution of theses, showing a consistent growth in the number of master's and doctoral degrees and an increased approval rate in recent years. The table also shows that the first approved academic thesis (master's level) was in the academic year 1999–2000. A quantitative shift in the number of approved doctoral theses is evident starting in 2023 and beyond. In that year alone, the number of approved doctoral theses reached 16, which represents approximately 11.34 % of the total number of doctoral degrees awarded in the university.



Table 2. The chronological distribution of university theses

Academic Year	Thesis numbers	%
1999/2000	1	0.23%
2000/2001	1	0.23%
2001/2002	2	0.47%
2002/2003	5	1.17%
2003/2004	1	0.23%
2004/2005	8	1.88%
2005/2006	12	2.82%
2006/2007	13	3.05%
2007/2008	14	3.29%
2008/2009	19	4.47%
2009/2010	17	4%
2010/2011	12	2.82%
2011/2012	19	4.47%
2012/2013	27	6.35%
2013/2014	12	2.82%
2014/2015	22	5.17%
2015/2016	14	3.29%
2016/2017	12	2.82%
2017/2018	18	4.23%
2018/2019	12	2.82%
2019/2020	23	5.41%
2020/2021	32	7.52%
2021/2022	30	7.05%
2022/2023	39	9.17%
2023/2024	30	7.05%
2024/2025	30	7.05%
Total	425	100%

Table 3. The chronological distribution of university theses (Master & Ph.D.)

Academic Year	Thesis Degree	
	Master	Ph.D.
1999/2000	1	-
2000/2001	1	-
2001/2002	2	-
2002/2003	5	-
2003/2004	1	-
2004/2005	8	-
2005/2006	12	-

2006/2007	12	-
2007/2008	12	-
2008/2009	19	-
2009/2010	16	2
2010/2011	6	4
2011/2012	13	6
2012/2013	18	7
2013/2014	12	2
2014/2015	15	7
2015/2016	6	8
2016/2017	4	8
2017/2018	7	11
2018/2019	10	6
2019/2020	10	15
2020/2021	16	16
2021/2022	19	15
2022/2023	21	11
2023/2024	18	12
2024/2025	20	11
Total	284	141

4.3. Researchers' nationalities

Cultural diversity and the presence of multiple nationalities are important factors that contribute to enriching scientific research and advancing academic development. Through diversity, different ideas and perspectives are exchanged, fostering innovation and deepening understanding across various fields. This has been achieved at the University of Al-Wasl, as evidenced by the data in Table (5) shows that there were 16 non-Emirati nationalities among those who completed master's and doctoral research. Most of the students were Emiratis, representing 66.48%, while non-Emiratis made up only 33.25%. Their nationalities included Omani, Saudi, Jordanian, Yemeni, and others. The least represented nationalities were Comorian and Afghan, with only one thesis from each. The total number of students who completed master's and doctoral research amounted to 364 (male and female) students.

Table 5. Researchers' nationalities

Researcher's Nationalities	Number	%
UAE	242	66.48%
Yemen	23	6.31%
Oman	42	11.58%
Syria	28	7.69%
Saudia Arabia	8	2.19%
Egypt	4	1.09%



Algeria	2	0.54%
Iraq	2	0.54%
Sudan	2	0.54%
Bahrain	1	0.27%
Jordan	3	0.88%
Libya	1	0.27%
Palestine	1	0.27%
Bangladesh	1	0.27%
Iran	2	0.54%
Afghanistan	1	0.27%
Comoros	1	0.27%
Total	364	100%

4.4. Researcher's gender

Table (6) illustrates the contribution of male and female students to master's and doctoral research. It is evident that the percentage of female researchers is higher than that of males. Female students completed 77.77% of the research, while male students accounted for 22.23%. The matter indicates the distinguished participation of women in scientific research at the University of Al-Wasl, leading to the development of human capital and its positive impact on Emirati society.

Table 6. Researcher's gender

Researcher's Gender	Number	%
Male	96	22.23%
Female	268	77.77%
Total	364	100%

4.5. Nationalities of research supervisors

Table (7) shows that the number of professors supervising master's and doctoral research at Al Wasl University reached 35 supervisors. The highest percentage was for Egyptian professors, who constituted 22.86%, followed by Jordanian professors at 14.29%. The remaining nationalities accounted for a combined 62.85%, which is a positive indication of the diversity in supervisory backgrounds.

Table 7. Nationalities of research supervisors

Supervisor's Nationalities	Number	%
Egypt	8	22.86%
Jordan	5	14.29%
Morocco	4	11.43%
Algeria	4	11.43%
Yemen	3	8.57%
Syria	3	8.57%
Sudan	3	8.57%

Tunisia	2	5.71%
UAE	1	2.86%
Iraq	1	2.86%
Mauritania	1	2.86%
Total	35	100%

5.6. Research specializations

The fields of academic theses awarded at the University of Al-Wasl emphasize the elements of identity in Arab Islamic societies (Arabic language, Islamic religion), especially in the Emirati society, which is characterized by a diversity of nationalities and a culture of peaceful coexistence and acceptance of others. This contributes to achieving the strategic vision of the United Arab Emirates, which aims to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. This is further supported by the data presented in the following tables. The data presented in Table No. (8) illustrates the academic departments that awarded Master's and Doctoral degrees at Al Wasl University. The Department of Islamic Studies at the College of Islamic Studies had the largest share, with 219 theses, representing 51.52%, followed by the Department of Arabic Language and Literature at the College of Arts, with 206 theses, accounting for 48.48%. This indicates a close percentage distribution between the academic departments at the university.

Table 8. Research specializations

Scientific Dept.	Number	%
Islamic studies	219	51.52%
Arabic Languages & literature	206	48.48%
Total	425	100%

The specializations of Master's and Doctoral theses at Al Wasl University, as shown in Table No. (9), varied across five main areas. Leading these was the field of Emirati culture and society studies, with 203 theses, making up 46.99%, which is logically consistent with the university's context. This was followed by comparative studies, which accounted for 78 theses (18.06%). Next was the field of heritage authentication and publication studies, representing 16.90% of the total number of theses. Field studies came next, with 43 theses (9.95%), while the least researched area was Qur'anic and rhetorical studies, comprising only 8.10%.

Table 9. Thesis topical directions

Thesis topical directions	Number	%
Serving Emirati culture and society	203	46.99%
Comparative studies	78	18.06%
Editing and studying heritage	70	16.90%
Field studies	43	9.95%
Qur'anic and rhetorical studies	31	8.10%
Total	425	100%



The data presented in Table No. (5) highlights the specialized thematic distribution of university theses awarded at Al Wasl University. Islamic jurisprudence topics ranked first, with 140 theses (32.94%) of the total Master's and Doctoral theses. This was followed by topics on Arabic literature and criticism, accounting for 24.47%, and then Arabic language and grammar, with 55 theses (12.94%). Other themes included Philosophy of Islamic Jurisprudence (10.12%), Arabic poetry studies (7.06%), linguistics (4.00%), Islamic heritage and its issues (3.53%), and finally, topics on the Prophetic Hadith (2.82%) , Islamic Economics (2.12%).

Table 10. Thesis topics

Thesis topics	Number	%
Islamic Jurisprudence (Fiqh)	140	32.94%
Arabic Literature & Literary Criticism	104	24.47%
Arabic Language & Grammar	55	12.94%
Philosophy of Islamic Jurisprudence	43	10.12%
Classical Arabic Poetry	30	7.06%
Linguistic Studies	17	4.00%
Revival & Preservation of Islamic Heritage	15	3.53%
Prophetic Hadith Studies	12	2.82%
Islamic Economics	9	2.12%
Total	425	100%

5. CONCLUSION

Bibliometric analysis goes beyond just describing academic trends; it serves as a strategic tool that helps guide institutional development by identifying areas of strength and improvement. It plays a key role in strengthening research capacity by highlighting underrepresented fields and aligning research efforts with national and global development priorities. By linking academic output with strategic goals, bibliometric analysis ensures that higher education institutions contribute effectively to both local and international progress. Therefore, the study recommends that the implementation of the university's strategic research plan be closely monitored, and that bibliometric measurements be utilized as quantitative analyses leading to more practical outcomes that achieve knowledge-based sustainable development goals.

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