

An Overview

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Introduction

Writings on Islamic literature first began in mid of 19th century and appeared in European language. 15 core journals of Islamic studies for the period of 1911 to 1980 are identified, and indexed by Index Islamicus.

These journals among others, include, Bulletin of School of Oriental and African Studies, International Journal of Middle East Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Muslim World, Middle East Journal, Journal of American Oriental Society, Islamic Studies, Majallat al-Azhar and Islamic Quarterly. Articles of Islamic studies published in these journals are classified under fourteen inter and multi-disciplinary subject areas which are generalia, philosophy, religion, sociology, political science, economics, law, education, language, sciences, art, literature, geography and history.

Quantitative study method examines the available literature and uses it to analyse research patterns and trends. Quantitative study has been referenced in many scientific studies within a specific topic, field, author, or institution.

Objectives & Methods

In this study we evaluated global publication of Islamic studies from 1980 to 2015 of all subject category of the Science Citation Index based (SCI) on the Web of Science (WoS) which was produced by Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), USA.

For the quantitative analysis, the SCI are systematically searched for Islamic Study's field based on keywords that are identified (20 keywords) earlier which were published between 1980 and April 2015. Selected documents included "identified keywords of Islamic studies" in the title, abstract, or keywords. Parameters chosen include web of science categories, source title, document type, language, publication year and organization.

The total number of articles (6,028) used in the current study were published.

Results

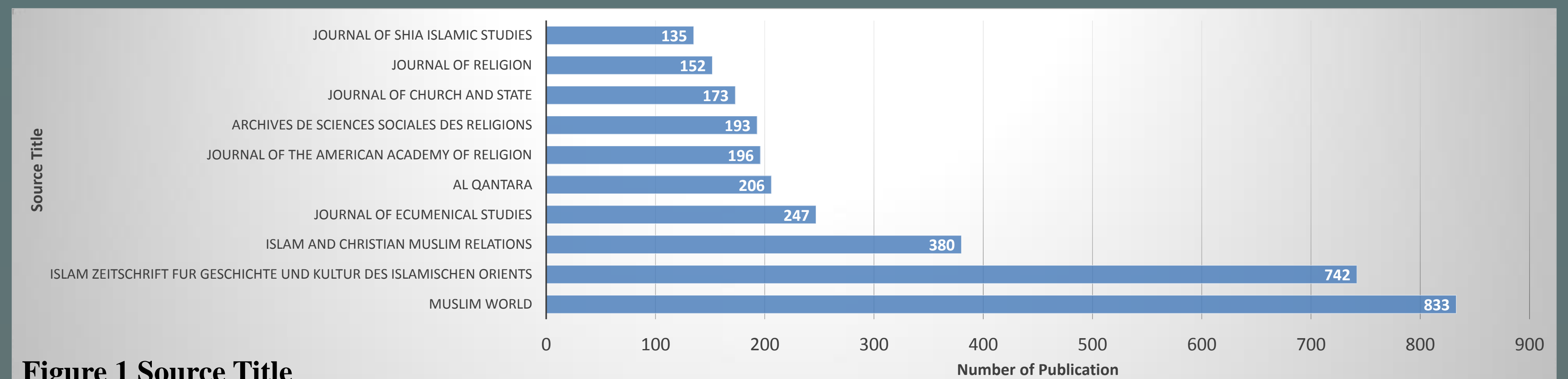


Figure 1 Source Title

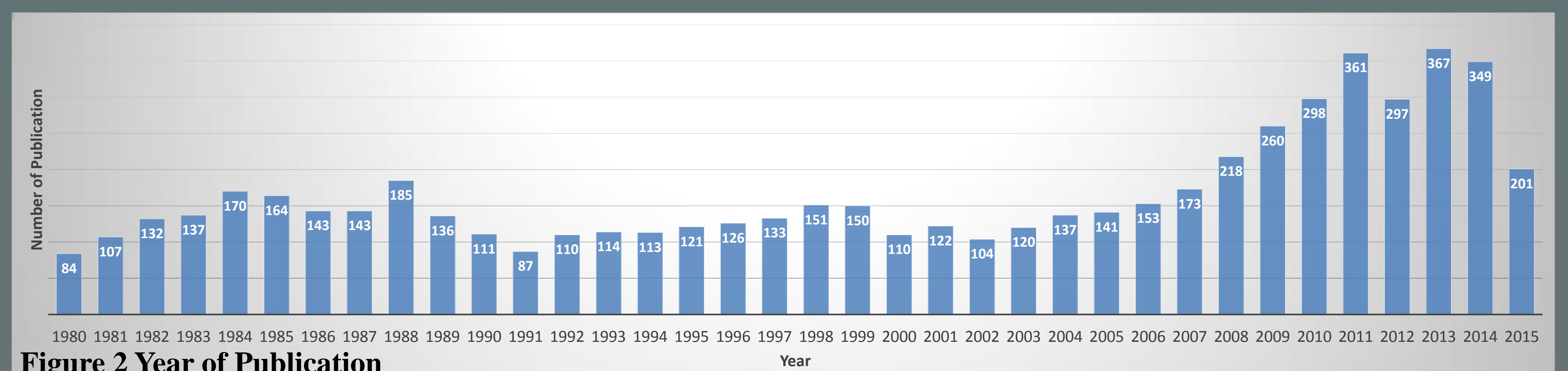


Figure 2 Year of Publication

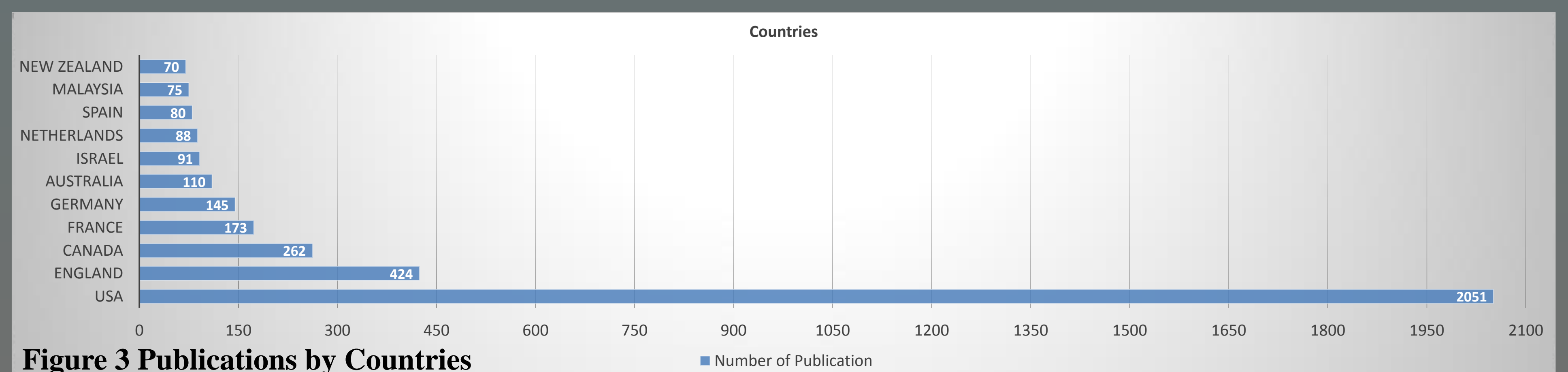


Figure 3 Publications by Countries

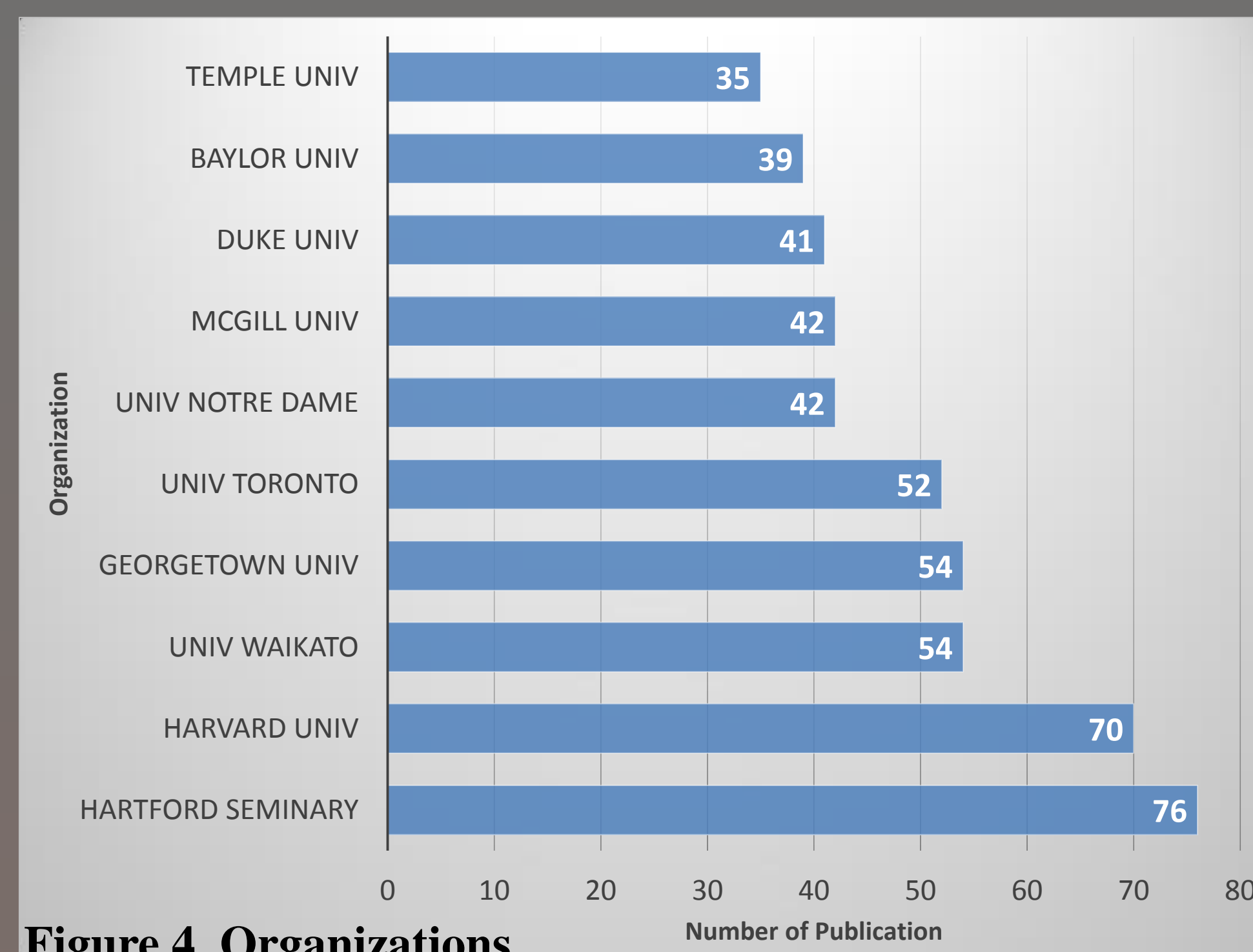


Figure 4 Organizations

Web Of Science Category	NP
RELIGION	6028
ASIAN STUDIES	1627
HISTORY	731
SOCIOLOGY	236
SOCIAL SCIENCES INTERDISCIPLINARY	193
PHILOSOPHY	154
POLITICAL SCIENCE	93
EDUCATION EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH	39
ANTHROPOLOGY	39

NP: Number of Publication

Table 1 Web of Science (WoS) Categories

DISCUSSION

Figure 1 shows the top 10 journals that published over 135 papers, including 2 journals that published over 700 papers. Muslim World ranked first on the list with 833 articles (13.8%), followed by Islam Zeitschrift Fur Geschichte Und Kultur Des Islamischen Orientis with 742 articles (12.3%) and Islam and Christian Muslim Relations with 380 documents (6.3%).

Figure 2 shows annual number of publications from 1980 to 2015. Although there are significant fluctuations from year to year from 1981 to 2002, but it can be clearly seen that number of publication rapidly grew from year 2002 until year 2011, where it was the pick of publications in Islamic research area. After the year 2011, the number of publications has steadily increase. It comprised more than 35% (n=2460) of all documents published. However only 22% (n=1542) of all documents has been published in the remaining years until end of 2015. Year 2013 with 367 publication is the top year in the list.

Figure 3 shows the territories of the different publications. US is ranked first with 2,051 (around 35% of all published documents) publications, followed by the England (n=426), Canada (n=262), France (n=173), and Germany (n=145). Moreover, 23 countries published only one paper in the Islamic studies field. Malaysia is ranked at the 9th place with 75 publications.

Figure 4 shows the number of publications of based on organizations. This figure shows that Hartford Seminary is ranked at the first place with 76 documents. Harvard Univ is ranked second with 76 publications, followed by Georgetown Univ, Univ of Toronto and Univ of North Dame with equally 54 publications. The first organization from Malaysia is University of Malaya which is ranked at the 26th place in the list of organizations with 21 publication.

Table 1 lists the top 10 WoS categories in this field. The "RELIGION" category was the first category on the list that recorded 6,028 publications followed by "ASIAN STUDIES" (1,627) and "HISTORY" (731). It is interesting to note that several documents were classified in more than one category.

CONCLUSION

This quantitative study on Islamic studies field, which focuses on the WoS Core Collection, gathered several important facts on research performance from 1980 to 2015. Muslim World is identified as the most productive journals. Year 2013 is the most productive year. US is ranked first based on the total number of publications and Malaysia is the 9th country in the list. Hartford Seminary is the top organization in publishing of documents and University of Malaya is identified as Malaysian top most contributor in publishing documents on Islamic studies.

Acknowledgements

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