

# Information Retrieval

## Design and Sources

Roslina Othman



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# INFORMATION RETRIEVAL: DESIGN AND SOURCES

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**Editor**

Roslina Othman



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## 33. ISSUES OF CORPUS ON SUFISM

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Muslim Ismail, Murshaidi Hazlin Mohd, Muhammad Arif Osman and  
Roslina Othman

### ABSTRACT

This chapter reports on the issues of corpus on Sufism. Today, there has been an increase for constructing an IR corpus from Islamic literature. Within the Islamic literature, reading materials on Sufism has been on high demand. Materials on Sufism are scattered, and thus, lead to the issues of accessibility. There is a deficiency of specialized databases, bibliographies, and indexes related to Sufism.

### 33.1 Introduction

There has been a growth in studying Sufism as a subject of interest, and references to books, articles, essays, and even theses and dissertations under the subject headings Sufism and Sufis are now added to many databases. However, the reading materials on this subject are scattered, and this situation then posed challenges to researchers and scholars in terms of accessibility.

According to Francesconi (2009), there is a deficiency of specialized databases, bibliographies, and indexes related to Sufism. Therefore, what are the challenges in constructing corpus on Sufism?

The objective of this chapter is to identify the issues related to the construction of corpus on Sufism.

### 33.2 Defining Sufism

To construct the corpus consisting of authentic documents, the subject must first be defined. Partington (1991) defined Sufism as a major testimony of the capacity of man to crave nearness and even union to His