

IIUM

THE PREMIER

GLOBAL ISLAMIC

UNIVERSITY



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CHAPTER 8



PROMOTING ISLAM THROUGH RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS: THESES AND JOURNALS

Mohamed El-Tahir El-Mesawi

Theses and journals are key indicators for academic achievement of a university. Analysing these academic output assists in assessing and evaluating not merely the quality of students' researches but also the productivity level of supervisors and the contributions made by the faculties and departments of the University. It would also help in identifying research trends and monitoring research activities. Scholars have attached great importance to academic output of a university and hence studied the output from a variety of angles. Sze and Ngah (1997) analysed 259 dissertations in the Humanities at the University of Malaya and found a direct association between the increase in the number of theses produced and an increase in the enrolment of students. Understandably, they found the number of Master's theses far exceeding the number of dissertations produced at the doctoral level. Evidently, the number of students pursuing Ph.D. is relatively less than those pursuing Masters. In general, postgraduate students are much less compared to students at the undergraduate level.

Ibrahim Zein (1998) analysed Master's theses submitted to the Department of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Heritage (IRKH) at the International Islamic University Malaysia. The article was written before the Department was metamorphosed into a division of the Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences. His study shows Malaysian students' preference for applied research as against African students' inclinations for textual or library research to field research. Coming from the Department of Islamic Revealed Knowledge, most of the theses dealt with issues relating to Islamic law and *ḥadīth*. There are similar studies conducted on Masters' theses and doctoral dissertations in other countries (Chatterjee et al. 1995; Lahiri 1996; Tejomurty 1988; Anwar, 1982).

It should be evident from the brief literature review presented above that there exists not a single study analyzing theses and dissertations in a comprehensive manner. There exists no study whatsoever, which analyses the academic output of the IIUM during the 30 years of its existence. This chapter attempts to fill in

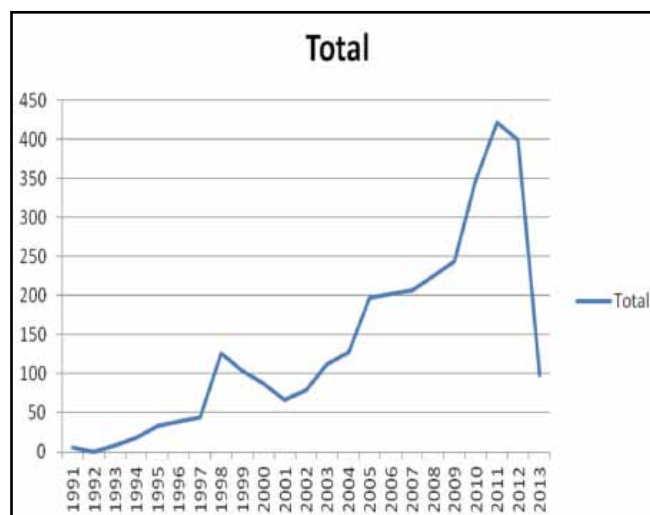
this gap and measures the academic output of IIUM by focusing on M.A. and Ph.D theses produced by students during the period 1991-2013, and the refereed journals published by the University since its inception in 1983.

This chapter consists of three sections. The first section presents a general analysis of the M.A. and Ph.D theses produced by IIUM graduates distributed according to the faculties and institutes. The second section analyses these works according to degree, gender and nationality of students, and according to departments and specializations whenever detailed information is available. The third section is devoted to the academic journals published by the university's different kulliyahs and institutes. The statistical tables and diagrams used in this chapter are based on information obtained mainly from the Centre for Post-graduate Studies (CPS), International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation (ISTAC), Al-Ghazali Resource Centre at the Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences (KIRKHS), and the IIUM Library. In some cases, the author noted discrepancies in the data provided by various agencies. In such cases, the data has been verified by referring directly to the faculty or institute concerned. This study covers the period from 1991 to May 2013.

Theses and Dissertations (1991-2013)

By 2013, the total number of Masters and doctoral works produced in the various faculties and institutes of the International Islamic University Malaysia reached 3,192 theses. The University produced six theses in 1991, the number of theses tripled to 18 in 1994, reached the triple digit figure of 126 in 1998. There were 400 theses and dissertations produced in 2012. As of March 2013, the University has produced 98. This increase in the number of theses and dissertations over the years is shown in Figure 8.1.

Figure 8.1: Masters' and Doctoral Theses Produced at IIUM, 1991-2013



Source: Data supplied by the Centre for Post-graduate Studies, IIUM.

As shown in Table 8.1, the first kulliyah to have post-graduate programmes, the Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences (KIRKHS) is ahead with a total of 1,501 theses, accounting for 47.02%; in contrast, the Kulliyah of Allied Health Sciences (KAHS) has so far produced only one thesis (0.03%). These two limits reflect both the size and age of the respective Kulliyahs. Before its official birth as the KIRKHS, this faculty was known as the Centre for Fundamental Knowledge (CFK) established in 1983 (the opening date of the University itself). The Centre continued for almost eight years until it was renamed and transformed into a full-fledged kulliyah under the current name of the Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences in 1990. In contrast, the KAHS is the youngest Kulliyah; though founded in 2004, it had its post-graduate programme launched only in 2007. Furthermore, the KIRKHS is the largest Kulliyah in the University and includes eleven departments covering most of the humanities and social science disciplines. The Department of General Studies does not offer a degree as it functions as a service department offering courses in Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Heritage to all University students.

In between the KIRKHS and KAHS, there are 8 kulliyahs and 3 institutes with varying academic outputs attributable to their period of establishment, the scope of their programmes and the size of their student population. Thus, the Kulliyah of Engineering (KoE, founded in 1994) occupies second rank in terms of output with 415 theses, thereby accounting for 13% of the total number of theses produced at IIUM. This can be explained by the wide range of M.Sc. programmes offered by this Kulliyah through its eight departments and centres.

The Institute of Education (INSTED) is third in ranking. First established in 1987 as a department of a limited scope within the KIRKHS, this department was developed into an independent institute in 2002 with undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in both English and Arabic. With 296 theses, it accounts for 9.27% of the total production. This does not include the 93 Masters' theses produced during its association with the KIRKHS. It is deemed appropriate to add the theses produced during 1996-2002 to KIRKHS.

The kulliyah of laws, known as Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws (AIKOL), occupies fourth place with 286 theses or 8.96% of the total volume of MA and PhD theses produced at IIUM. The Kulliyah of Economics and Management Sciences (KEMNS) ranks fifth with 274 theses accounting for 8.58% of the total. Though these two Kulliyahs are among the oldest, their relatively smaller share of the total number of theses produced at the University is perhaps due to the fact that they did not launch their post-graduate programmes immediately. AIKOL produced its first batch of 11 Masters' and 4 Doctoral graduates only in 1996, while KEMNS had its first Masters' graduate in 1997. It could also be attributed to the limited scope of post-graduate programmes offered by their respective departments.

The sixth rank is occupied by the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization, ISTAC. During the period under consideration, ISTAC produced

Table 8.1: Masters' and Doctoral Theses by Kulliyah, 1991-2013

Y/KU	AIKOL	AHS	AED	INSTED	ENG	IIBF	ICT	ISTAC	IRKHS	EMNS	PH	MED	SC	Total
1991	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
1992	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1993	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	2	6	-	-	-	-	8
1994	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	1	17	-	-	-	-	18
1995	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	2	32	-	-	-	-	34
1996	15	-	-	+	-	+	+	4	20	-	-	-	-	39
1997	7	-	-	+	-	+	+	1	35	1	-	-	-	44
1998	18	-	-	+	-	+	+	6	96	6	-	-	-	126
1999	10	-	-	+	1	+	+	5	79	9	-	-	-	104
2000	17	-	-	+	-	+	+	2	65	4	-	-	-	88
2001	10	-	-	+	2	+	+	3	46	6	-	-	-	67
2002	10	-	-	+	10	+	-	3	46	10	-	-	-	79
2003	5	-	-	4	4	+	3	11	74	10	-	1	-	112
2004	6	-	-	8	10	+	1	4	85	12	-	1	-	127
2005	16	-	3	22	17	-	9	6	99	23	-	2	-	197
2006	18	-	7	30	21	-	8	14	73	26	-	5	-	202
2007	22	-	3	20	31	-	7	11	93	15	-	2	2	206
2008	21	-	5	20	27	1	5	10	99	27	1	2	7	225
2009	21	-	9	24	32	2	6	11	115	18	-	3	3	244
2010	27	-	10	39	61	4	16	9	137	23	4	8	9	347
2011	30	1	9	66	81	5	22	14	142	30	3	13	5	421
2012	24	-	11	49	105	14	13	12	110	42	5	6	9	400
2013	9	-	5	14	13	8	3	6	26	12	1	1	-	98
Total	286	1	62	296	415	34	93	137	1501	274	14	44	35	3192
(%)	8.96	0.03	1.94	9.28	13	1.07	2.91	4.29	47.02	8.58	0.44	1.38	1.1	100

Notes: Dash (-) symbolises that the respective institution did not register any M.A. or Ph.D thesis; the “add” (+) sign symbolises non-existence of an institution as an independent entity.

Source: Data supplied by the Centre for Post-graduate Studies, IIUM.

137 Masters' and doctoral theses, which equals 4.29% of the University's total number of theses. ISTAC was founded in 1991 as a research and postgraduate institution affiliated to IIUM to offer degrees in Islamic civilization and Islamic sciences, with an inclination towards interdisciplinary studies. In the same year it was granted an autonomy status that continued well until 2002 when it became a Kulliyah of IIUM, subject to the latter's rules and regulations. During its 13 years as an autonomous body (1991-2002), ISTAC had produced 26 theses of which 3 were for the Ph.D degree. After its becoming a kulliyah, ISTAC produced 111 theses registering an increase by 81.02% in a period of 11 years (2003-2013). The number of Ph. D. theses rose to 59. Interestingly, ISTAC moved to its grand new structure only after it became a Kulliyah. The early 13 years were perhaps consumed mostly in giving shape to the curriculum and to the development of the new campus.

The Kulliyah of Information and Communication Technology, KICT, occupies seventh position with 93 theses accounting for 2.91%. The observation made in respect of INSTED applies to KICT as well. Before the establishment of this Kulliyah in 2002, courses on information systems and technology were taught at the KIRKHS and KEMNS; in fact, a Department of Library and Information Science was established in 1992 under the auspices of the KIRKHS to offer a Masters Degree programme. Likewise, this department has to its credit 13 theses produced during 1997-2001 which are in the KIRKHS collection.

With 62 theses accounting for 1.94% of IIUM theses, the Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design (KAED), founded in 1996, ranks as number 8. It registered the graduation of its first Masters' graduate in 2005. The Kulliyah of Medicine (KoM), established in 1995, then follows with 32 Masters' and 12 doctoral theses, thus accounting for 1.38% and ranking as number nine (Md. Tahir Azhar, 2009). The Kulliyah of Science (KoS), founded in 2000, occupies tenth position, with 27 Masters' and 8 doctoral theses accounting for 1.1%. Finally, there comes the IIUM Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance (IIiBF), established in 2005, with 19 Masters' and 15 doctoral theses (1.07%), followed by the Kulliyah of Pharmacy (KoP), launched in 2002, with 13 Masters' and 1 doctoral theses (0.44%) and occupying eleventh position. Other IIUM younger Kulliyahs that do not offer post-graduate courses and are not therefore included in the table are Kulliyah of Nursing (2004), the Kulliyah of Dentistry (2007) and the Kulliyah of Languages and Management (2012). They are yet to start their respective post-graduate programmes.

Evidently, KIRKHS accounts for almost half the total number of theses IIUM graduates have produced as of May 2013. The combined percentage of the output of the social-science- and humanities-based faculties and institutes (i.e. KIRKHS, AIKOL, KEMNS, INSTED, ISTAC, and IIiBF) amounts to 79.2%, while that of the natural science- and technology-based ones (i.e. KoE, KoM, KAED, KAHS, KoS, KoP, and KICT) amounts to 20.8%. This big disparity between the two streams can be explained generally by referring to two main factors: the relatively younger age

of the Science stream departments and Kulliyyahs (with the exception of KoE) and the relatively wider scope of post-graduate programmes offered by the first category.

M.A. and Ph.D Theses, 1991-2013

It becomes more informative when the theses are examined in terms of the type of degree (M.A. or Ph.D), gender, department, and nationality. This will provide a more detailed picture of the composite nature of the data under examination.

As Table 8.2 shows, with the exception of the years 2000-2003, there is generally speaking a steady annual increase over the period under consideration. Understandably, post-graduate programmes would normally start with MA degrees. Hence, from its inception in 1983 until 1995, the University did not register any Ph.D candidate. Likewise, out of 3,192 theses approved over the last 22 years, 2,393 pertain to MA degrees, accounting for 74.97% of the total. The remaining 799 theses were for Ph.D degrees, accounting for 25.03%.

As for the gender distribution, there is a general trend, during the early phase of the University, of male graduates being over represented. They constituted about 94% as against 5.9% of females in the year 1995 (32 males against 2 females). However, there has been a steady increase in the number of female graduates; this trend reached its peak in 2008 with 42.22% (95 females and 130 males). As of May 2013, IIUM has produced 1,182 female graduates with MA and PhD degrees as against 2,010 male holders of such degrees.

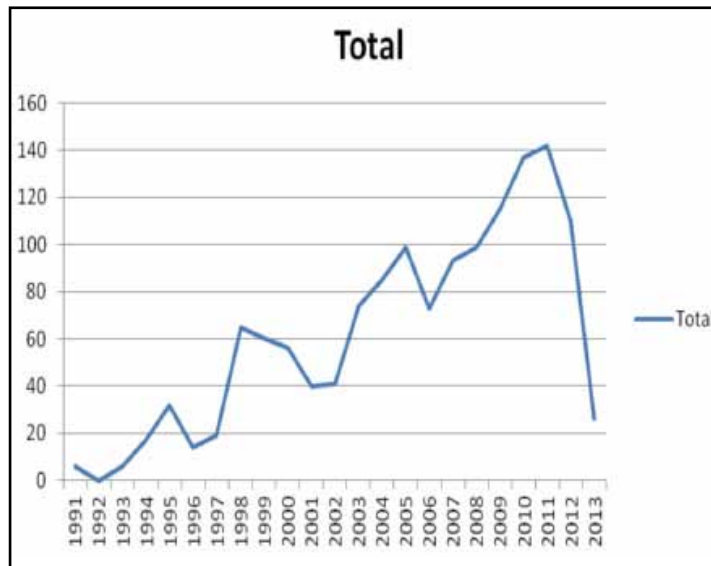
Classification of IIUM theses according to language shows that a total of 789 M.A. and Ph.D theses were written in the Arabic language (24.72%), while those written in English amount to 2,403 or 75.28% of the total theses. Of the 789 Arabic theses, the KIRKHS is predominant in producing 741 (94%) of the theses. Its share of the theses written in English is 760 (31.63%). Other Kulliyyahs and institutes with theses written in Arabic include AIKOL with 16, INSTED with 17, ISTAC with 4, and KENG with only one thesis. It should not be surprising to find KIRKHS exceeding other kulliyyahs in producing both English and Arabic theses. In this Kulliyyah, Arabic language prevails in three major departments, namely Department of Fiqh and Usul al-Fiqh (Jurisprudence), Department of Qur'an and Science, and Department of Usul al-Din and Comparative Religion, in addition to the Department of Arabic. English is the main medium of instruction in the human sciences (i.e., Communication, History, Political Science, Psychology, History, and Sociology) as well as in the two departments that used to be part of it (i.e., Library Science and Education). In addition, it also includes the Department of English Language and Literature.

As discussed in the previous section, the KIRKHS tops the list of M.A. and Ph.D thesis produced by IIUM graduates (See Figure 8.2).

Table 8.2: Theses Produced at IIUM by Degree and Gender

Year	MA	PhD	Total	M	F	Total
1991	6	-	6	5	1	6
1992	-	-	-	-	-	-
1993	7	-	8	7	1	8
1993	18	-	18	12	6	18
1995	34	-	34	32	2	34
1996	43	5	39	26	13	39
1997	44	-	44	33	11	44
1998	122	4	126	90	36	126
1999	103	1	104	76	28	104
2000	80	8	88	54	34	88
2001	62	5	67	44	23	67
2002	65	14	79	55	24	79
2003	89	23	112	74	38	112
2004	102	25	127	82	45	127
2005	148	49	197	118	79	197
2006	136	66	202	141	61	202
2007	150	56	206	120	86	206
2008	163	62	225	130	95	225
2009	165	79	244	149	95	244
2010	243	104	347	209	138	347
2011	274	147	421	256	165	421
2012	279	121	400	239	161	400
2013	68	30	98	58	40	98
Total	2393	799	3192	2010	1182	3192
%	74.97	25.03	100%	62.97	37.03	100%

Source: Data supplied by the Centre for Post-graduate Studies, IIUM.

Figure 8.2: Masters' and Doctoral Theses Produced at KIRKHS, 1991-2013

Source: Data supplied by the Centre for Post-graduate Studies, IIUM.

In this Kulliyah, the Department of Fiqh and Usul al-Fiqh (RKFAQ) leads the list with 287 theses out of 1,501 (or 19.12%). The Department of Arabic Language and Literature occupies second place with 264 theses (17.59%). Next comes the Department of Qur'an and Sunnah Studies (RKQS) with 206 theses (13.72%). The Department of English Language and Literature (ENGL) follows in the fourth place with 167 theses (11.13%). The department of Usul al-Din (RKUD) takes up fifth position with 165 theses (11%). The sixth position is occupied by the Department of Political Science with 112 theses, thus accounting for 7.46%. The seventh to tenth position are occupied respectively by the Departments of Psychology, Communication, Sociology and Anthropology and History with a combined total of 176 theses. Thus, the three departments (RKFAQ, RKQS & RKUD) together with the two departments of linguistic and literary studies (ARB & ENGL) have jointly produced 1,089 theses over the period under examination, thus accounting for 72.56% of the total. By contrast, the social-science based departments (PSCI, PSYC, COM, SOCA and HISTC) have produced 288 theses, thus accounting for just 19.19% of the Kulliyah's total production.

This situation reveals the existence of a large gap between the two academic major streams of the Kulliyah, i.e., the Revelation and human-science based programmes. The main reason for this is that most post-graduate degree programmes in the social-science departments started at later dates compared to their counterparts in the Revealed Knowledge departments. However, such an imbalance needs to be examined carefully in order to reduce the gap. Indeed, this is an urgent matter by virtue of the fact that the KIRKHS has been assigned the great and most challenging task of achieving, "in the world of higher learning, a harmonious integration and fruitful symbiosis of the human sciences with Islamic revealed knowledge in order to provide alternative perspectives for understanding, explaining, analyzing, predicting and guiding human action and behavior based on the *Weltanschauung* of *tawhīd*" (Mohd. Kamal Hasan,

2009:16-17). Such an objective can only be achieved through consolidated post-graduate programmes in the social and human sciences in which the students' academic research and dissertations are systematically grounded in Islamic epistemology in its methodological requirements.

IIUM Journals: Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Intellectualism

In addition to boldly embarking on post-graduate programmes in almost all the disciplines, IIUM also adopted an essential and sustained policy to enhance research and promote publications among the faculty members. This policy has been implemented not only through encouraging the academic staff to carry out short, medium and long term research by providing financial grants and other required facilities, but also by encouraging the establishment of peer-reviewed journals and securing the necessary funding that would ensure their sustainability and regularity. This move is very crucial for enabling the faculty members to have their research findings and articles published. The journals form a part of the disseminating arm of the philosophy of the university.

Table 8.3 provides the number of journals published in the IIUM, arranged according to the order of their inception. As can be seen, as of 2013, there are 13 existing refereed academic/intellectual journals published by different entities in IIUM. Some of these journals were established in 1984 i.e. the *International Journal of Economics, Management and Accounting* (IJEMA) published by the KEMNS. During the 22 years of its existence, this journal has changed its name three times. Initially, it was called the *Journal of Islamic Economics* and continued to be published until 1994. During 1995 to 2011, the journal appeared under the title: the *IIUM Journal of Economics and Management*. With the expansion of the Kulliyah, the journal, in 2012, was given its present name, IJEMA. Other journals are relatively young as is the case with *Revelation and Science* and *Journal of Architecture, Planning and Construction Management* (JAPCM) published by KoS and KAED respectively in 2011, and the *IIUM Journal of Educational Studies* published by INSTED in 2013. INSTED journal is a sequel to its earlier journal *Educational Awakening* which ceased its publication in 2009. One common feature of these journals is that they are biannual, i.e. published twice a year, except the *Journal of Linguistic and literary Studies* which is quarterly.

Of the thirteen journals, 10 are published in English, 2 in Arabic and 1 is bilingual (Arabic/English). In terms of format, 2 are in print form (*Al-Shajarah* and *at-Tajdid*), 4 are in both print and electronic form, while 7 are published only in electronic form, especially those founded since 2002. As regards regularity and punctuality, IIUM journals are regular, though some of them are more up-to-date than others. Most of the journals have published the first issue of 2013. The *Journal of Architecture, Planning and Construction Management* is somewhat delayed. The first issue of this journal was published in 2011 and the subsequent issues are yet to be published. The *International Journal of Economics, Management and Accounting*, the oldest journal in the University has published only 40 issues in 20 volumes. There is a shortfall here which calls for the editor and the editorial board members to be more vigilant.

Table 8.3: IIUM Peer-reviewed Journals

Name	Start Year	Frequency	Format	Language	Orientation	Field	Issues Published	Indexation
1. International Journal of Economics, Management and Accounting	1984	Biannual	Print until 2011/electronic since 2012	English	Specialized with accessibility to practitioners	Economics, management and accounting	Vol. 20, No 2 (2012)	ECON Lit; Cabell's, EBSCO and Index of Islamic Literature. (In process for SCOPUS)
2. Intellectual Discourse	1993	Biannual	Print & Electronic	English	multi-disciplinary, Islamic studies & the Muslim world	Humanities and social sciences	Vol. 21 No. 1 (2013)	SCOPUS, EBSCO and others. (In process for ISI)
3. IIUM Law Journal	1993	Biannual	Print & Electronic	English	Law & Shari'ah	Humanities	Vol. 20, No. 2, (2012)	Proquest
4. Al-Shajarah	1996	Biannual	Print	English	General	Humanities and Social Sciences	Vol. 18, No.1 (2013)	ISI
5. at-Tajdid	1997	Biannual	Print	Arabic (with abstracts in Arabic, English and Malay)	General	Humanities and social sciences	Vol. 17, No. 33 (2013)	In process for ISI
6. IIUM Engineering Journal	2000	Biannual	Print/electronic until Jun 2012; electronic only since July, 2012	English (with abstracts in Malay)	Specialized: covering all areas of Engineering	Natural sciences & technology	Vol. 14, No. 1 (2013)	Open Source Journal, MIS

7. International Medical Journal Malaysia	2002	Biannual	Electronic	English	Specialized	Medical	Vol. 12, No. 1 (2013)	SCOPUS, MyAIS Open-J Gate, Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ), Index Copernicus, etc.
8. Journal of Islam in Asia	2004	Biannual	Print & Electronic	Arabic/English	General	Humanities and social sciences	Vol. 9, No. 2 (2012)	-
9. Educational Awakening	2004	Biannual	Print	English	Specialized	Education	Vol. 6 No. 1 (Last, 2009)	-
10. Asiatic: IIUM Journal of English Language and Literature	2007	Biannual	Electronic	English	Specialized (Asian Literature and Asian Englishes)	Humanities and Social Sciences	Vol. 7, No. 1 (2013)	EBSCO, Scopus, MLA Annual Bibliography and AustLit
11. Journal of Linguistic and literary Studies	2009	Quarterly	Electronic	Arabic	Specialized	Humanities	Vol. 4, No. 1 (2013)	-
12. Revelation and Science	2011	Biannual	Print/electronic	English	Inter-disciplinary Science based	Natural sciences & technology	Vol. 3, No 01 (2013)	-
13. Journal of Architecture, Planning and Construction Management	2011	Biannual		English	Specialized	Architecture	Vol. 1, No. 1 (2011)	-
14. IIUM Journal of Educational Studies	2013	Biannual	Electronic	English	Specialized	Education	Vol. 1, No.1 (due for July 2013)	-

Source: Data supplied by the Research Management Centre, IIUM.

It is instructive to look at the academic and intellectual orientation and accreditation/indexation of the journals published by the University's different kulliyahs. Out of the 13 existing journals, 8 are humanities and social-science based, the remaining 5 (numbers 6, 7, 12 and 13) belong to the natural and physical sciences. This disparity may be due to the age and size of the respective kulliyahs as well as the range of disciplines and sub-disciplines covered by their programmes. Thus, for example, the KIRKHS publishes 4 journals reflecting the diversity of disciplines taught in its 10 departments. These include *Intellectual Discourse*, *Journal of Islam in Asia*, *Asiatic: IIUM Journal of English Language and Literature* and *Journal of Linguistic and literary Studies*. The journal, *at-Tajdid*, is not included in the KIRKHS as it was from the outset established as a University journal during the tenure of AbdulHamid AbuSulayman, the second Rector of the IIUM. This was further consolidated in 2004 when this journal was considered as a University flagship journal together with *Intellectual Discourse* and *Al-Shajarah* during the tenure of the third Rector, Mohd. Kamal Hassan.

In this connection, a general feature characterising almost all IIUM journals is the clear leverage given in varying degrees to inter- and trans-disciplinary criteria in the acceptance of articles for publication. This tendency is actually a manifestation of the University's philosophy grounded on the idea of integration and Islamization of knowledge, an endeavour that underscores the importance of holistic and multi-dimensional approach.

In order to sustain the regularity of the journals and enhance their intellectual quality and academic reputation on a wider international scale, the University policy makers have made it a requirement that each journal should include in its editorial and advisory boards members from other institutions outside Malaysia who are of renowned academic and intellectual standing. Moreover, each journal is required to undergo the exercise of international accreditation and indexation by acknowledged world agencies. As of 2013, only *Al-Shajarah* is indexed in ISI. This is the only ISI-indexed social science journal in the university and in Malaysia. The *Intellectual Discourse*, *Asiatic: IIUM Journal of English Language and Literature* and the *International Medical Journal Malaysia* are indexed in many data bases particularly in SCOPUS. Other journals are indexed/abstracted in various data bases.

Conclusion

The analysis of 3,192 theses and dissertations produced during 1991-2013 by various kulliyahs provides an overall representative picture of the steady development of the intellectual and academic achievements of the university graduates. The analysis shows the research trend in the University by gender, as well as by kulliyahs. It also shows, most importantly, the departmental and geographical affiliation of the journals, their frequency of publication and the respect these journals have gained both in Malaysia and the world at large. Findings show that, the number of the theses has grown from a meager 6 during the formative phase to over 3,000

in 1993. The growth rate from year to year is rising incrementally from 2003 when IIUM produced 124 theses and reached the highest level in 2011 with 421 theses and dissertations. There has also been an increase in the number of journals published. There were only 5 journals in 1997 but since 2000 the number of journals shot up to 13. Most of the journals are published regularly with one or two journals failing to maintain the regularity in their publications.

The academic output of the IIUM is significant indicating that the various kulliyahs of the University have been successful in producing competent graduates and they are able to advance the frontiers of knowledge. One notable aspect of the university products is that very few of the large number of theses approved at IIUM have been published whether by local or international publishers. What this means is that the outcome of thirty years of intellectual investment and academic effort is being frozen in the physical and electronic stores of the University. It may be argued that some theses and dissertations may not satisfy all the criteria of academic rigour, intellectual originality, methodological soundness or scientific creativity. However, a good number of these theses and dissertations can be reworked and made suitable for publication. Another argument is that publishing a thesis as a book involves a serious process right from reworking and reformatting such theses to convert them into book form up to final copy-editing. It might even require additional new material and restructuring that goes far beyond their original form. However, this strenuous effort need to be undertaken and can be done by committing the graduates to work and providing them with the proper intellectual and technical guidance to bring the whole process to a rewarding fruition. One of the means to achieve such an objective is to initiate post-doctoral programmes.

As for the journals, one way of making their outcome more beneficial to the wider public both within and outside universities is to collect articles published therein on the basis of thematic or disciplinary affinity and publish them in book form. A close reading of the articles published in the journals show that dozens of worthwhile books can be produced to the benefit of the world community. It is hoped that such projects will be undertaken in the near future as this would be one major way to attain the status of a Research University that IIUM has been aspiring for.

Notes

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**KULLITAH OF ECONOMICS
&
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