



Indonesian Interests in Hadith-Sourced COVID-19 Queries According to Google Trends

COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on people's religious lives all around the world. This article attempts to examine the following hypothesis: COVID-19 also influences religious life in Indonesia, the results of which can be also observed in hadith studies. This study employed a mixed-method. The data is compiled through Google Trends (GT) from 1 December 2019 to 20 August 2020, pointing to four keywords. The data is analyzed through a content analysis. This research suggests that there is an exponentially increasing search using those four words on the internet. The search for hadiths on COVID-19 was only conducted in West Java. 'Doa Covid' (prayer for protection from COVID-19) became the most exponentially searched keyword across Indonesia. The GT data suggests that individuals are searching the internet for an explanation about the prophetic guideline in dealing with COVID-19. The most popular articles are published in *Republika Online*, *Tribun Newsgroup*, *MadaniNews*, *Okezone*, and *Liputan6*. The hadiths mentioned in those articles contain mostly the prayers of the Prophet Muhammad to keep people away from illness or to obtain safety in the world and the afterlife.

Keywords: COVID-19 Pandemic; Hadith; Website articles; Google Trends

Pandemi COVID-19 telah mempengaruhi kehidupan beragama masyarakat di seluruh dunia. Artikel ini mencoba menguji hipotesis berikut: COVID-19 juga mempengaruhi kehidupan beragama di Indonesia, dan dampaknya juga diamati dalam kajian hadis. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode campuran. Data tersebut dihimpun melalui Google Trends (GT) dari 1 Desember 2019 hingga 20 Agustus 2020 dengan mengacu pada empat kata kunci. Data dianalisis melalui kajian analisis konten. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada peningkatan pencarian secara eksponensial menggunakan empat kata tersebut di internet. Pencarian hadis COVID-19 hanya dilakukan di Jawa Barat. Doa covid menjadi kata kunci yang paling banyak dicari di seluruh Indonesia. Data GT menunjukkan bahwa orang mencari penjelasan tentang pedoman kenabian dalam menghadapi COVID-19 di internet. Artikel terpopuler dimuat di *Republika Online*, *Tribun Newsgroup*, *MadaniNews*, *Okezone*, dan *Liputan6*. Hadits-hadits yang disebutkan dalam artikel-artikel tersebut sebagian besar berisi doa Nabi Muhammad untuk menjauhkan orang dari penyakit atau untuk mendapatkan keselamatan di dunia dan akhirat.

Kata Kunci: Pandemi COVID-19; Hadis; Artikel laman daring; Google Trends

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Introduction

One cannot deny that in addition to being malignant, COVID-19 has also attracted interest from scholars for research purposes. COVID-19 has become a topic of discussion for scholars. Not only for communities of medical scholars, epidemiologists and/or virologists, but also for scholars of humanities and religious studies. COVID-19 indeed has had an impact on various aspects of life, including religious practices.¹ Worship places are shut down; worship could only be performed at home; communal worship is forbidden; physical distancing is imposed; and physical contacts such as shaking hands are prohibited.² Those are religious practices that have been preserved and have become a tradition for generations. All of a sudden, all are pushed to change due to COVID-19 epidemic.

The impact of COVID-19 on religious life in Saudi Arabia has been examined by Yezli, Saber, Anas Kha³, Dulaijan⁴, Memish, et al.⁵, and Ebrahim et al.⁶ In Japan, McLaughlin analyzed

the impact of COVID-19 on Shinto communities, Buddhists, and others.⁷ Whereas in Korea, this phenomenon was researched by Minyoung Her⁸ and Kyoo-Man Ha⁹. These are just a few studies that look into the relationship between COVID-19 and the people's religious lives. I would classify those researches into two groups.

Some researches gave negative attributes about the relationship between religion and COVID-19, such those of Lan¹⁰, Baloch¹¹ and Che Mat¹² that described how religious communities had become the epicenter of the spread of the virus. From their points of view, religion is seen as the enemy of humanity, because it contributes to the spread of a virus that is threatening human existence. Some other researches, on the contrary, gave a positive assessment to religion,¹³ such as one conducted in America reporting the positive role played by religious communities in supporting the health system of the society during the pandemic time;¹⁴ it also showed that

Temporary Suspension of the Umrah Pilgrimage," *Journal of Travel Medicine* 27, no. 3 (Mei 2020): 1–2.

⁷ Levi McLaughlin, "Japanese Religious Responses to COVID-19: A Preliminary Report," *The Asia-Pacific Journal* 18, no. 9 (May 1, 2020), <https://apjif.org/2020/9/McLaughlin.html>.

⁸ Minyoung Her, "How Is COVID-19 Affecting South Korea? What Is Our Current Strategy?," *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* 14, no. 5 (October 2020): 684–686.

⁹ Kyoo-Man Ha, "A Lesson Learned from the Outbreak of COVID-19 in Korea," *Indian Journal of Microbiology* 60, no. 3 (September 1, 2020): 396–397.

¹⁰ Fan-Yun Lan et al., "Work-Related COVID-19 Transmission in Six Asian Countries/Areas: A Follow-up Study," *PLOS ONE* 15, no. 5 (Mei 2020): 1–11.

¹¹ Zulqarnain Baloch et al., "Unique Challenges to Control the Spread of COVID-19 in the Middle East," *Journal of Infection and Public Health* 13, no. 9 (September 1, 2020): 1247–1250.

¹² Nor Fazila Che Mat et al., "A Single Mass Gathering Resulted in Massive Transmission of COVID-19 Infections in Malaysia with Further International Spread," *Journal of Travel Medicine* 27, no. 3 (Mei 2020): 1–4.

¹³ Stephen M. Modell and Sharon L. R. Kardia, "Religion as a Health Promoter During the 2019/2020 COVID Outbreak: View from Detroit," *Journal of Religion and Health* 59, no. 5 (October 1, 2020): 2243–2255.

¹⁴ Harold G. Koenig, "Maintaining Health and Well-Being by Putting Faith into Action During the COVID-19

¹ Curtis W. Hart and Harold G. Koenig, "Religion and Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic," *Journal of Religion and Health* 59, no. 3 (June 1, 2020): 1141–43; Simon Dein et al., "COVID-19, Mental Health and Religion: An Agenda for Future Research," *Mental Health, Religion & Culture* 23, no. 1 (January 2, 2020): 1–9.

² Nicholas Kuipers, Saiful Mujani, and Thomas Pepinsky, "Encouraging Indonesians to Pray From Home During the COVID-19 Pandemic," *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 8, no. 3 (ed 2021): 1–12.

³ Saber Yezli and Anas Khan, "COVID-19 Social Distancing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Bold Measures in the Face of Political, Economic, Social and Religious Challenges," *Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease* 37 (September 1, 2020): 101692.

⁴ Huda Dulaijan Al Dulaijan, "The Economy of Inspiration and Its Role in Achieving Food Security during the Covid-19 Pandemic (An Applied Study - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)," *International Journal of Inspiration & Resilience Economy* 4, no. 2 (2020): 50–57.

⁵ Ziad A. Memish et al., "Pausing Superspreader Events for COVID-19 Mitigation: International Hajj Pilgrimage Cancellation," *Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease* 36 (July 1, 2020): 101817.

⁶ Shahul H Ebrahim and Ziad A Memish, "Saudi Arabia's Drastic Measures to Curb the COVID-19 Outbreak:



religion became a force in helping people overcome their dismay and anxiety during their encounter with COVID-19¹⁵; a research also demonstrated that in Malaysia religion has enhanced people's resilience during the pandemic time. Likewise, a research by Sinding Bentzen et al¹⁶ in Europe revealed an increase in people's religiosity, as marked by the growing use of religious terms on the internet. These researches showed that COVID-19 has influenced people's religious lives in many countries.

This article examines the hypothesis that COVID-19 also has an impact on the religious life of Indonesians. In addition to coloring Muslims' lives in the country, COVID-19 has also marked a growing trend of hadith studies in Indonesia. This research is essential because hadith holds a fundamental position in Islam after the Qur'an.¹⁷ Since Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population,¹⁸ the trajectory of Islam in this country should be always a critical focus of scholarly attention so that the rest of the world would be aware of the latest development there. It is an irony that the world recognizes well the trend of Islamic studies in smaller countries in the Middle East that are regularly rocked by warfare. However, Indonesia—which is the world's largest Muslim

population living relatively in harmony without war—appears to the rest of the world to be a blank space, as if Indonesian Muslim scholars lack academic competence. In other words, the significance of COVID-19 in the development of hadith studies in recent Indonesia needs to be exposed comprehensively to the world.

This research employs a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods (a mixed-method). Google Trends (GT) is used as the first analytical instrument to compile the data. To read the trend before and after the pandemic, the time variable is set to the last ten months (1 December 2019 to 20 August 2020). The days in December represent the situation prior to the crisis and are used as the control data as well as the starting point in this study. Four keywords are used as queries in GT to represent the relationship between hadith and COVID-19. They are *hadis wabah*, *hadis covid*, *doa wabah*, and *doa covid*. The search area is limited to the region of Indonesia. The GT data is presented in the form of visual graphics and geographical maps.

The validity test is conducted in two ways: content validity and comparison with external datasets. The first validity test compares the four selected keywords to the words provided by GT as 'related queries'. If these four keywords are coherent with the words in 'related queries', the data is considered valid. The second validity test—the comparison with external datasets—works through comparison between GT data and data coming from other sources,¹⁹ which is in this case Google Chrome rating. The selection of Google Chrome rating is based on the fact that, as reported by Netmarketshare, 70% of Indonesians are using

Pandemic," *Journal of Religion and Health* 59, no. 5 (October 1, 2020): 2205–2214.

¹⁵ Jaffary Awang et al., "Planned Problem-Solving Strategy, Resilience and Element of Religion in Coping of Covid 19 Disease in Malaysia," *International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation* 24, no. 1 (June 29, 2020): 5476–5484.

¹⁶ Jeanet Sinding Bentzen, "In Crisis, We Pray: Religiosity and the COVID-19 Pandemic," *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 192 (December 2021): 541–583.

¹⁷ Istianah Istianah and Sri Wahyuningsih, "The Hadith Digitization in Millennial Era: A Study at Center for Hadith Studies, Indonesia," *Qudus International Journal of Islamic Studies* 7, no. 1 (June 3, 2019): 25–44.

¹⁸ Abdurrohman Kasdi, "Reconstruction of Fiqh Nusantara: Developing the Ijtihad Methodology in Formulating Fiqh from Indonesian Perspective," *QIJS (Qudus International Journal of Islamic Studies)* 7, no. 2 (December 30, 2019): 239–266.

¹⁹ Jonathan Mellon, "Internet Search Data and Issue Salience: The Properties of Google Trends as a Measure of Issue Salience," *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* 24, no. 1 (January 2, 2014): 45–72; Sudhakar V. Nuti et al., "The Use of Google Trends in Health Care Research: A Systematic Review," *PLOS ONE* 9, no. 10 (Okt 2014): e109583.





Chrome browser;²⁰ Statcounter even claimed that 75,24% of Indonesian people are using Chrome.²¹ Accordingly, the probability of Indonesians using those four keywords in their internet activity is extremely high. The more the data from GT and Chrome are coherent, the more it becomes valid. The compiled data was then scrutinized through a content analysis and further described analytically and critically to deepen the analysis.

Nevertheless, before going any further, it is necessary first to explain GT and its use in academic researches on Islam. Although GT has been widely used in researches in natural and social-humanities sciences, it has yet to be taken into consideration in Islamic studies. Thus, a brief explanation about GT would help understand this article in general.

The Use of Google Trends for Academic Researches on Islam

Google Trends (GT) is one of the Google.inc platforms that provides temporal information about the trajectory of a keyword of a specific topic as measured by the average volume of relevant internet searches, which is displayed as a graph with a geospatial pattern.²² In the current era of "Big Data", when the internet is a necessity, GT becomes one of the research tools not only for researches in information and technology, but also for health, economy, and politics. To understand the visual data provided by GT, the technical terms of the platform.²³

The result of research using GT is not intended to reveal a generalization because the available data comes from society having internet access only.²⁴ Nevertheless, this does not negate the importance of GT research. The research that compared the search of dengue-related keywords in GT with the official data from the Ministry of Health in 2012-2016 proves the coherence of GT data with that of the government.²⁵ Furthermore, GT can detect the escalating case one to three months before the government's official data is released.

The same could also be the case for Islamic studies, including hadith studies. For example, during the controversy of the Gubernatorial Election of Jakarta in 2017²⁶, it is almost certain that the search for textual references, either from the Qur'an or the hadiths, on the issue of non-Muslim leadership on internet increased at a significant rate.

²⁰ "Netmarketshare: Chrome dia manana amin'ny fomba ofisialy ny 70% amin'ny tsehan'ny navigateur desktop.," *MSPoweruser*, last modified July 1, 2020, accessed February 27, 2022, <https://mspoweruser.com/>.

²¹ "Browser Market Share Worldwide," *StatCounter Global Stats*, accessed February 27, 2022, <https://gs.statcounter.com/>.

²² Matthew M. Pier et al., "Otolaryngology-Related Google Search Trends during the COVID-19 Pandemic," *American Journal of Otolaryngology* 41, no. 6 (November 1, 2020): 1-5.

²³ Google News Initiatives Training Centre, *Google Trends: Understanding the Data*, Training Centre

Fundamentals 1, n.d., <https://newsinitiative.withgoogle.com/training/course/google-trends>.

²⁴ Putri Limilia and Benazir Bona Pratamawaty, "Google Trends and Information Seeking Trend of COVID-19 in Indonesia," *Jurnal ASPIKOM* 5, no. 2 (July 15, 2020): 188-205.

²⁵ Atina Husnayain, Anis Fuad, and Emily Chia-Yu Su, "Applications of Google Search Trends for Risk Communication in Infectious Disease Management: A Case Study of the COVID-19 Outbreak in Taiwan," *International Journal of Infectious Diseases* 95 (June 1, 2020): 221-223.

²⁶ More on this issue see, Muzayyin Ahyar and Alfitri Alfitri, "Aksi Bela Islam: Islamic Clicktivism and the New Authority of Religious Propaganda in the Millennial Age in Indonesia," *Indonesian Journal of Islam and Muslim Societies* 9, no. 1 (May 24, 2019): 1-29.



Table I. Technical Terms of Google Trends

No.	Terminology	Explanation
1	Interest Over Time	is a graphic displaying the trajectory of a particular query within a particular period that is used as the keyword by the public in a particular space in the Google search machine
2	Relative Popularity	is the numerical figure (scale of 0-100) situated at the left side of the vertical line in the 'interest over time' graphic that shows the relative popularity of a particular keyword in a particular area. Accordingly, it is not an absolute figure of the search for the keyword in the area.
3	Interest by subregion	is a geographical map that displays the distribution of particular keywords searched through Google in a particular region. The more time a keyword is searched by Internet users in an area, the more the score it has. The score is decided as a numerical figure with a scale of 0-100, placed at the right side of the geographical map. The darker color indicates a higher score of search probability. Therefore, the more score a keyword has, the darker the color, which means the more intense the use of the keyword has been.

This technology has the potential to be a turning point in the studies of popular hadiths. Hadith scholars have always been concerned about the popularity of hadiths, as proven by the writing of a specific genre of hadith codification that compiles popular hadiths.. Al-Suyūṭī (d. 911) wrote *Ad-Durar al-Muntaṣirah fī al-Aḥādīṣ al-Mushtahirah*²⁷, al-Sakhāwī (d. 902) wrote *al-Maqāṣid al-Hasana fī Bayān Kathīr min al-Aḥādīṣ al-Mushtahira ‘ala al-Asīna*²⁸, and al-Zarqānī (d. 1122) wrote *al-Mukhtaṣar al-Maqāṣid al-Ḥasana fī Bayān Kathīr min al-Aḥādīṣ al-Mushtahira ‘ala al-Asīna*²⁹. Using GT, the popularity of hadith could not only be compiled as a book like those mentioned earlier. Beyond that, its relative popularity could be measured, its distribution could be pictured, and the period of the fall and rise of its popularity could be revealed.

²⁷ Jalāl ad-Dīn as-Suyūṭī, *Ad-Durar al-Muntaṣirah fī al-Aḥādīṣ al-Mushtahirah*, ed. Muḥammad ibn Luṭfī aṣ-Ṣībāg (Riyad: Imādah Shu’ūn al-Maktabat, Jāmi’at al-Muluk al-Su’ud, n.d.).

²⁸ Muḥammad ibn ‘Abd ar-Raḥmān ibn Muḥammad Shasm ad-Dīn as-Sakhāwī, *Maqāṣid al-Ḥasana fī Bayān Kathīr min al-Aḥādīṣ al-Mushtaharah ‘ala al-Asīnat*, ed. Muḥammad ‘Uṭhmān al-Khashaṭ (Beirut: Dār Al-Kutub al-‘Ilmiyyah, 1985).

²⁹ Muḥammād ‘Abd al-‘Azīm al-Zarqānī, *Mukhtaṣar Maqāṣid al-Ḥasana fī Bayān Kathīr min al-Aḥādīṣ al-Mushtaharah ‘ala al-Asīnat*, ed. Muḥammad ibn Luṭfī aṣ-Ṣībāg, 4th ed. (Beirut: Al-Maktab al-Islāmī, 1989).

Trends of Surfing Hadith Contents during the COVID-19 Pandemic

As mentioned earlier, this study discusses four keywords that reflect the correlation between COVID-19 and hadith studies, namely *hadis wabah*, *hadis covid*, *doa wabah*, and *doa covid*, whose search region is set to Indonesia. The following is the result of the exploration of the use of those words.

A. A Keyword Search for “*hadis wabah*”

Before the Chinese government announced the outbreak of a new virus on 31 December 2019, Indonesians did not conduct extensive Google searches for the term *hadis wabah*. A flat-low graphic displays this figure. Twenty days later, on 19 January 2020, the figure for the search for *hadis wabah* increased. GT records that the relative popularity of the keyword *hadis wabah* has increased to a figure of 11. As explained above, relative popularity is a score indicating the relative popularity of a word on a scale of 0-100 over a specified time period.

This is an interesting phenomenon because the figure had increased within one and a half months despite the negligence of the government in believing the virus would not enter Indonesia. Indeed, in mid-February 2020, the government promoted national tourism even though many other countries had decided





to close all entry points.³⁰ The Minister of Health, Terawan Putranto, also objected to a publication from the Journal of medRxiv reporting on the possible entry of the virus into Indonesia in January.³¹ In this circumstance, as GT data shows, the people searched for information on the internet using the keyword *hadis wabah*. Until early March 2020, the figure of this search remained constant at 10-20.

After 2 March 2020, the search for *hadis wabah* increased significantly. On 4 March 2020, the figure of this search scored 23 and reached its peak on 24 March (the score 100). The trend slightly decreased over time and eventually settled on a range of 1 to 25. This progression is shown in picture 1.

Geographically, the search for *hadis wabah* spreads across Java, Sumatera, and Kalimantan. South Sulawesi became the province with the highest score of searches (100), followed by West Java (66), Central Java (55), Jambi (51), and East Java. The higher the score, the more times the word has been searched in the region.

B. A Keyword Search for “*hadis covid*”

Comparing the term “*hadis covid*” with “*hadis wudu*” –assuming the word refers to hadith(s) related to *wudu*’ –suggests that the term “*hadis covid*” is somewhat absurd because there will never be a hadith that explicitly mentions COVID-19. Nonetheless, many people in Indonesia have been looking for information about COVID-19 from an Islamic perspective using the word “*hadis covid*”. GT has detected an increase in the use of the word in internet search since 17 March 2020, reaching a relative popularity score of 17.

³⁰ Reza Gunadha and Husna Rahmayunita, “Cuitan Lawas Jokowi Promosikan Pariwisata di Tengah Corona, Ramai Diungkit,” *suara.com*, last modified March 25, 2020, accessed Feb 27, 2022, www.suara.com.

³¹ Ananda Muhammad Firdaus, “Menurut Studi Harvard, Harusnya Virus Corona Sudah di Indonesia,” *Ayo Purwakarta*, last modified Feb 10, 2020, accessed Feb 27, 2022, <https://purwakarta.ayoindonesia.com>

In general, the figure of the search using *hadis covid* fluctuates. On 3 April, the search using this word peaked at a score of 100. In mid-April, the score significantly decreased (0), and then re-emerged in late-April, reaching a score of 75, and has remained fluctuating ever since. 14 July 2020 is noteworthy as it recorded a significant rise, reaching a score of 91. Geographically, the search for *hadis covid* is relatively concentrated in West Java; the other regions do not record any figure. This means that the people outside of West Java do not search for the term on the internet.

C. A Keyword Search for “*doa covid*”

With regards to the keyword *doa covid*, GT detects an increase in the use of the word on 27 February 2020, with a relative popularity score of 10. Furthermore, the use of this keyword decreased and eventually rose again in early March 2020. The President Joko Widodo’s announcement in early March that COVID-19 had arrived in Indonesia may have influenced the trajectory of the word. The use of the word increased steadily and peaked at a score of 100 on 1 April 2020. Throughout April, the use of the word remained high, reaching a score of 80s. For around three months (March, April, and May), *doa covid* was the most searched keyword on the internet. Within these months, the relative popularity score of the word was above 75. Although the figure began to decline in early June, the term continues to be used in internet searches until 20 August 2020.

Geographically, the people using this keyword were spreading across Java, Sumatera, Kalimantan, and Sulawesi. North Sulawesi has the highest score (100), followed by Lampung (30), nearly one-half of the figure in North Sulawesi), DI. Yogyakarta (28), Central Java (23), and East Java (22).

D. A Keyword Search for “*doa wabah*”

The keyword *doa wabah* is a unique query. This keyword is recorded to experience an increasing use on 1 December 2019. This means



that some Indonesians used the word in their internet searches that day; otherwise, the GT algorithm would have missed it. It is difficult to understand its use in the context of COVID-19, because China did not declare the COVID-19 crisis until 31 December 2019. GT data, however, indicates that 30 days before China announced the existence of COVID-19, Indonesians have surfed the guidance of praying to prevent such calamity on the internet using the keyword *doa wabah*; the inclining statistic disappears though early May onwards.

One month later, on 24 January 2020, GT records the figure of the use of *doa wabah* at a score of 5, and then exponentially increased to 26, before further went down. In early March, the figure went up once again, following the government's announcement about the coming of the virus into Indonesia. The figure steadily increased and reached its peak on 22 March 2020, and then declined to its lowest score of 27 in May. June showed another significant increase but it shortly went down substantially. Between June and August 2020, the relative popularity score of the word remained consistent within a range of 0-25.

The number of people searching for *doa wabah* on the internet continued to grow throughout Indonesia. The region that records the most search using the word is Gorontalo (the score of 100), followed by West Nusa Tenggara (the score of 82), Southeast Sulawesi (the score of 79), West Java (the score of 78), and East Nusa Tenggara (the score of 77).

The Rate of Each Keyword According to Google RankBrain Algorithm

To determine the validity of Google Chrome's rating system, we must first know how Google's rating system works. For this reason, we need to understand the Google RankBrain algorithm. Google RankBrain is an artificial intelligence system created by Google to improve the presentation and listing of search results in Chrome. Since 2015, this algorithm has been used and continuously upgraded many

times each year.³² For example, before the use of Google RankBrain, if one types the word *hadis Indonesia*, the search result would provide websites that contain the exact keyword in question. With Google RankBrain, however, the search result would include not only websites that contain the typed keyword, but also websites that are considered relevant to the typed keyword. We may come across, for example, *perkembangan hadis di Indonesia*, *cari hadis.com*, *asilha*, *kitab hadis sekunder*, *komunisasi hadis*, and others that the artificial intelligence considers relevant to the keyword *hadis Indonesia*.

In addition, the Google RankBrain algorithm would also assess the satisfaction of the visitor with the website. When a particular internet user visits a particular website, and he/she is satisfied with the content provided on the site, Google will place the site at the top list of thousands or millions of searches. Nevertheless, if the user appears to be dissatisfied, the rating of the site will decline, and Google may even decide to remove the site from the search result page.³³ How does Google determine a user's level of satisfaction?

Google uses four parameters to assess the satisfaction an internet user has from the website he/she visits: *Dwell Time*, *Click-Through-Rate (organic CTR)*, *Bounce Rate*, and *Pogo-Sticking*. Dwell time is the total amount of time spent by a user on a website from the first second the site is opened to the moment it is closed. The more time a user spends on a particular website, the higher the site's satisfactory score, and the higher the score of Dwell Time, the more valuable the website is to Google. As for Click-Through-Rate (Organic CTR), it represents the total amount of users

³² Dave Davies, "A Complete Guide to the Google RankBrain Algorithm," *Search Engine Journal*, last modified September 2, 2020, accessed February 27, 2022, www.searchenginejournal.com.

³³ Muhammad Sholeh, "Mengenal, Memahami Dan Menghadapi Algoritma Google RankBrain," *Kirim Email Indonesia*, April 23, 2018, accessed February 27, 2022, <https://kirim.email/>.



who visit the site. The higher the CTR score of a website, the more Google values it. Both parameters would result in an increase in the rating of a particular website on the search result page.³⁴

On the other hand, Bounce Rate and Pogo-Sticking both contribute to a website's rating decline. Bounce Rate is calculated by comparing the number of visitors who leave after viewing only one page to the total number of visitors to the website. For example, a website may keep track of the visit of 100 users. Sixty of those users decide to leave the site right after their visits without coming to other pages on the site. The other 40, however, are becoming more interested in browsing the website and opening some other pages. In this case, the bounce rate of the website is 60%. The higher a site's bounce rate, the lower its value.

Pogo-sticking is a term that refers to a situation in which a user clicking one website from the search result page returns to the search result page so he could come for the other website. The duration of both bounce rate and pogo-sticking is what differentiates them. For the bounce rate, the duration of the visit could be longer than pogo-sticking, and the user closing the website does not come back to the search result page. As for pogo-sticking, in addition to the short visit duration, the user closing the websites he/she has just opened comes back to the search result page to look for better or more relevant information from other websites.³⁵ The higher the score of bounce rate and pogo-sticking of a website, the worse its position is, and it may also mean that it is drowning in the internet's ocean

Those are four parameters that the Google RankBrain algorithm considers when determining the order in which websites appear on the search result page. Based on this rating system, I explore the keywords of *hadis wabah*, *hadis covid*, *doa wabah*, and *doa covid*.

The above picture shows the rating of Google (top three positions) for the keywords *hadis wabah*, *hadis covid*, *doa wabah*, and *doa covid*. There is a similarity between the result of searches for *hadis wabah* and *hadis covid*; both keywords lead to the same website. This is how Google RankBrain algorithm is working. Between the keywords *hadis wabah* and *hadis covid*, the artificial intelligence of Google considers both keywords to be inter-related.

Rate of Popular Websites and Articles during Pandemic Outbreak

The word 'trending' is widely used on the internet. The users of Twitter, for example, are familiar with the term 'trending topics', which refers to the list of the most frequently mentioned topics on Twitter.³⁶ A similar feature on YouTube is called YouTube trending or tab trending, which refer to which videos are currently trending on YouTube worldwide. To see which hadiths were popular during the period of the research (1 December 2019-20 August 2020), GT does not give any clue. With regards to *hadis wabah*, for example, GT could only provide related topics or queries that gained public interest; these related topics/queries did not include any actual text of hadith. For this reason, to know which hadith was raising in popularity, I used the Chrome browser, observing the list of search results, the website popping up, opening those websites, and identifying the authors of the articles and the hadith contained within.

For the keyword *hadis wabah*, Google Chrome detects ±358.000 search results. From this figure, an article from Agung Danarto, a prominent figure from Muhammadiyah Central Board "Ini Daftar Hadits Shahih dan Dha'if tentang Wabah COVID-19" in [Republika Online](https://www.republika.com) was at the top of the list. This article encourages religious figures attempting to educate people about

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ "40 Istilah Dalam Twitter Lengkap Dengan Artinya," *Studio Antelope Indonesia*, May 13, 2021, accessed February 27, 2022, <https://studioantelope.com>.



COVID-19 to exercise caution in their *fatwas*, citing only sound (*ṣaḥīḥ*) hadiths and leaving aside unsound (*daʿīf*) ones. This article was initially published on the official website of the Central Board of Muhammadiyah, before being re-published by *Republika*. In this article, Agung Danarto provides five-sound hadiths that could be referred to during the COVID-19 crisis, as well as an explanation of four unsound hadiths that should not be referred to.³⁷

The search for the keyword *hadis covid* results in twenty times as many articles as that of *hadis wabah*, namely 7.250.000 articles. The previous article from [Republika Online](#) was also at the top of the list. At the second, comes an article entitled “Hadits Anjuran Rasulullah untuk Tetap di Rumah Selama Wabah Penyakit” written by Subhan Nur, the Director of Islamic Information, in [Madani News](#). This article explains one hadith (narrated by al-Bukhārī, al-Nasāʾī, and Aḥmad from ʿĀʾisha) that the people dying from a pandemic situation deserves the reward of *shahīd*.³⁸ The third is occupied by an article entitled “Kumpulan Hadis Shahih tentang Wabah dan Cara Menghadapinya” in [wartakota.tribunnews.com](#). This article is identical to Danarto’s.

Concerning the keyword *doa wabah*, the search through Google Chrome presents about 8.890.000 results. Appear at the top of the page the related posters, and subsequently follow the websites containing the word *doa wabah*. From almost nine million results, at the top of the list is an article entitled “Teks Doa Rasulullah untuk Terhindar dari Wabah Penyakit” published by [Republika Online](#). The author of the article, as written below the title, is Hasanul Rizqa, most likely the reporter of *Republika*. This article contains the text of the prayer of the Prophet

Muhammad in which he prayed for protection against infectious diseases, such as leprosy, mental illness, and other horrible illness.³⁹ This article makes no explicit reference to the source of the hadith.

The same prayer is contained in the second article in the search result list, entitled “Doa Terhindar dari Wabah Virus Corona, Doa Rasulullah SAW Agar Terhindar dari Wabah Penyakit” and is published in [Tribun News Cirebon](#). Unlike the above article, this one includes reference to its source, which is a hadith narrated by Abū Dāwud through a reliable chain. This article is taken from *nu.or.id*, explaining that the term “sayyi’ al-aqṣām” means several dangerous diseases that worsen the physical beings of human beings, such as Tuberculosis, and ascites.⁴⁰

As for the keyword *doa covid*, the Chrome search machine records 125.000.000 search results. The top article is “Pandemi COVID-19, Baca Doa Ini agar Terhindar dari Wabah, written by Novie Fauziah and published in [Okezone](#). This article mentions three prayers, one of which is identical to the one provided in the above two articles, namely the prayer recited to avoid infectious diseases such as leprosy, mental illness, and the other horrible illness. The other prayer contains *shalawat ṭibb al-qulūb*, whereas the last one is a prayer for protection against disasters, pandemic crises, and earthquakes.⁴¹

The second article on the list is “Doa Singkat Agar Terhindar dari COVID-19” written by Muhyiddin in [Republika Online](#). This article

³⁹ Hasanul Rizqa, “Teks Doa Rasulullah untuk Terhindar dari Wabah Penyakit,” *Republika Online*, last modified April 17, 2020, accessed February 27, 2022, <https://republika.co.id/share/q8xncl458>.

⁴⁰ Mumu Mujahidin, “Doa Terhindar Dari Wabah Virus Corona, Doa Rasulullah SAW Agar Terhindar Dari Wabah Penyakit,” *Tribuncirebon.Com*, last modified May 12, 2020, accessed February 27, 2022, <https://cirebon.tribunnews.com>.

⁴¹ Novie Fauziah, “Pandemi Covid-19, Baca Doa Ini Agar Terhindari Dari Wabah,” *Okezone.Com*, last modified June 18, 2020, accessed February 27, 2022, www.okezone.com.

³⁷ Agung Danarto, “Ini Daftar Hadist Shahih dan Dha’if tentang Wabah Covid-19,” *Republika Online*, last modified March 21, 2020, accessed February 27, 2022, <https://republika.co.id/share/q7iy6m63571849323000>.

³⁸ Abi Abdul Jabbar, “Hadits Anjuran Rasulullah Untuk Tetap Di Rumah Selama Wabah Penyakit,” *Madaninews.Id*, April 29, 2020, accessed February 27, 2022, <https://www.madaninews.id/11213/>.





contains the prayer that is adopted from a hadith narrated by Abū Dāwud and al-Tirmidhī, that goes: “*bi ism Allāhi al-ladhī lā yaḍurru ma‘ā ismihi shai‘ fi al-arḍ wa lā fi al-samā‘ wa huwa al-samī‘ al-‘ālim*”.⁴² Following this is an article from Liputan6.com with the title “Di Tengah Pandemi COVID-19, Baca Doa Ini agar Diberi Kesehatan oleh Allah SWT” by Camelia. This article also contains a prayer taken from a hadith that reads: “*allāhumma ‘āfinī fi badani allāhumma ‘āfinī fi samī‘i allāhumma ‘āfinī fi baṣarī lā ilāha illā anta*”.⁴³

The mentioned data shows that the popular news portals occupy the top search of every keyword, such as *Republika Online*, *Grup Tribun News*, *Okezone*, and *Liputan6*. Accordingly, these channels are the most visited and read by the internet users, despite the fact that they only reproduced contents previously published on the websites belonging to Muhammadiyah and Nahdlatul Ulama. It also indicates that the websites of Islamic education institutions, such as universities or *pesantren*, do not attract visitors. Therefore, those popular websites become the intermediary that connects the messages originally produced by Muhammadiyah and NU about religious guidelines for people in dealing with COVID-19. See Table 2 below for the broader internet users.

Nonetheless, it is worth noting that the order displayed in the search result page, which is determined by the rating of those websites, is not static; it changes over time based on the Google RankBrain algorithm's real-time assessment.

⁴² Muhyiddin, “Doa Singkat Agar Terhindar dari Covid-19,” *Republika Online*, last modified April 13, 2020, accessed February 27, 2022, <https://republika.co.id/share/q8ppp0430>.

⁴³ Camelia, “Di Tengah Pandemi Covid-19, Baca Doa Ini agar Diberi Kesehatan oleh Allah SWT,” *Liputan6.com*, last modified April 28, 2020, accessed February 27, 2022, <https://www.liputan6.com/ramadan/read/4234789/>.



Table II. the rate of popular websites and articles containing hadith in Google Chrome during the pandemic

KEYWORD	AUTHOR	PUBLICATION	RATING-TITLE OF ARTICLE	AMOUNT OF SEARCH	PROVIDED HADITHS	SOURCE OF ARTICLE
HADIS WABAH	Agung Danarto	republika.co.id	1. Ini Daftar Hadis Shahih dan Dha'if tentang Wabah Covid-19	358.000	5 sound hadiths and 4 unsound hadiths related to covid-19	muhammadiyah.or.id
	Subhan Nur	madaninews.id	2. Hadis Anjuran Rasulullah untuk Tetap di Rumah Selama Wabah Penyakit		1 sound hadith narrated by al-Bukhārī, al-Nasā'ī, and Ahmad from 'Ā'isha	Referring to prominent hadiths compilation books
	Admin	wartakota.tribunnews.com	3. Kumpulan Hadis Shahih Tentang Wabah dan Cara Menghadapinya		5 sound hadiths and 4 unsound hadiths related to covid-19	muhammadiyah.or.id
HADIS COVID	Agung Danarto	republika.co.id	1. Ini Daftar Hadist Shahih dan Dha'if tentang Wabah Covid-19	7.250.000	5 sound hadiths and 4 unsound hadiths related to covid-19	muhammadiyah.or.id
	Subhan Nur	madaninews.id	2. Hadits Anjuran Rasulullah untuk Tetap di Rumah Selama Wabah Penyakit		1 sound hadith narrated by al-Bukhārī, al-Nasā'ī, and Ahmad from 'Ā'isha	Referring to prominent hadiths compilation books
	Admin	wartakota.tribunnews.com	3. Kumpulan Hadis Shahih Tentang Wabah dan Cara Menghadapinya		5 sound hadiths and 4 unsound hadiths related to covid-19	muhammadiyah.or.id
DOA WABAH	Hasanul Rizq	republika.co.id	1. Teks Doa Rasulullah untuk Terhindar dari Wabah Penyakit	8.890.000	1 sound hadith narrated by Abū Dāwud	No explanation
	Admin	cirebon.tribunnews.com	2. Doa Terhindar dari Wabah Virus Corona, Doa Rasulullah SAW Agar Terhindar dari Wabah Penyakit		1 sound hadith narrated by Abū Dāwud and its explanation that is referred to a <i>sharh</i> book.	nu.or.id
	Admin	manado.tribunnews.com	3. Doa Untuk Minta Perlindungan, Petunjuk, hingga Dijauhkan dari Segala Macam Wabah Penyakit		4 prayers were taken from a hadith asking for protection in the world and the afterlife.	nu.or.id
DOA COVID	Novie Fauziah	okezone.com	1. Pandemi Covid-19, Baca Doa Ini agar Terhindari dari Wabah	125.000.000	3 prayers (1 from a hadith, 1 not from hadith, and 1 other <i>ṣalawāt Tibb al-Qulūb</i>)	Interview with Ust. Fauzan Anun, the head of the Indonesian Qur'an-hadith scholars' association.
	Muhyiddin	republika.co.id	2. Doa Singkat Agar Terhindar dari Covid-19		2 prayers taken from a hadith narrated from Abū Dāwud, al-Tirmidhī, and al-Nasā'ī	Interview with ust. Isn'an Anshory
	Camelia	liputan6.com	3. Di Tengah Pandemi Covid-19, Baca Doa Ini agar Diberi Kesehatan oleh Allah SWT		1 prayer taken from a hadith narrated by Abū Dāwud	No explanation

Conclusion

This study concludes that the hypothesis of the research is accurate; COVID-19 has its mark on the growing trend of hadith studies in Indonesia. GT records the increasing number of internet searches using four keywords that indicate the relationship between COVID-19 and hadith, namely *hadis wabah*, *hadis covid*, *doa wabah*, and *doa covid*. Among those keywords, searches using *hadis covid* is somewhat limited in West Java. *Doa Covid*, on the other hand, is the most searched keyword across Indonesia, both in Java Island and others. In term of content, searches for keywords *hadis wabah* and *hadis covid* resulted in similar trending articles in the top three positions in each. Conversely, searches for keywords *doa covid* and *doa wabah* returned a different list of articles. The hadiths containing the prayer of the Prophet in dealing with the pandemic situation or for the

salvation in the world and the afterlife are found in popular news portals, such as *republika.or.id*, *tribun.news* network, *madaninews.com*, *okezone*, and *liputan6.com*. They are essentially reprints of articles previously published on the official website of civil organizations such as Muhammadiyah or NU, or of interviews with various scholars.

Nevertheless, this research encourages further investigations due to the nature of the data presented. For example, it could not disclose the total number of readers for each article containing popular hadiths about COVID-19 that Google Chrome (or other browsers) indexed during the pandemic crisis. The discussions about hadith taking place in social media platforms, especially during the pandemic, are merely identified.



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None of the authors of this study has a financial or personal relationship with other people that could inappropriately influence or bias the content of the study.

Author's Contributions

Ali Imron is the sole author of this fieldwork investigation article.

Ethical Considerations

This article followed all ethical standards for research, without direct contact with human or animal subjects.

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Data Availability

Data sharing does not apply to this article as no new data were created or analyzed in this study.

Disclaimer

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