



Tabligh in the Perspective of Thematic Hadith: A Conceptual Framework for Knowledge Dissemination and Its Implications for Library Science Development

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KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the concept of tabligh from the perspective of thematic hadith as a basis for formulating a conceptual framework for knowledge dissemination in Library Science. This study aims to map the construction of the meaning of tabligh in the hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and to formulate an ethical framework for knowledge dissemination that is relevant to the development of library practices. This study employs a qualitative approach using a literature review method and thematic hadith analysis (maudhu'i). The primary data consist of hadiths concerning the obligation to convey knowledge, the prohibition of concealing knowledge, and scientific responsibility, which are analyzed using content analysis techniques. The findings reveal three main thematic classifications within the concept of tabligh: (1) the normative-transformative dimension, which emphasizes the moral obligation to convey knowledge; (2) the communicative-epistemic dimension, which demands accuracy, clarity, and source validity; and (3) the social-beneficial dimension, which is oriented toward accessibility and public benefit. Based on this mapping, the study formulates an ethical framework for knowledge dissemination grounded in tabligh values, positioning librarians as both moral agents and information mediators. These findings extend the study of Islamic information ethics from a predominantly normative approach toward a conceptual formulation that is applicable within the context of Library Science development.

KATA KUNCI

Tabligh
Hadits Tematik
Penyebaran Pengetahuan
Etika Informasi
Ilmu Perpustakaan

ABSTRAK

Artikel ini mengkaji konsep tabligh dalam perspektif hadis tematik sebagai dasar perumusan kerangka konseptual diseminasi pengetahuan dalam Ilmu Perpustakaan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memetakan konstruksi makna tabligh dalam hadis Nabi Muhammad saw. serta merumuskan formulasi kerangka etis diseminasi pengetahuan yang relevan bagi pengembangan praktik perpustakaan. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode studi kepustakaan dan analisis hadis tematik (maudhu'i). Data utama berupa hadis-hadis tentang kewajiban menyampaikan ilmu, larangan menyembunyikan pengetahuan, serta tanggung jawab keilmuan, yang dianalisis menggunakan teknik analisis isi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan adanya tiga klasifikasi tematik utama dalam konsep tabligh: (1) dimensi normatif-transformatif, yang menekankan kewajiban moral penyampaian ilmu; (2) dimensi komunikatif-epistemik, yang menuntut akurasi, kejelasan, dan validitas sumber; serta (3) dimensi sosial-kemaslahatan, yang berorientasi pada aksesibilitas dan kebermanfaatn publik. Berdasarkan pemetaan tersebut, penelitian ini merumuskan kerangka etis diseminasi pengetahuan berbasis nilai tabligh yang menempatkan pustakawan sebagai agen moral sekaligus mediator



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informasi. Temuan ini memperluas kajian etika informasi Islam dari pendekatan normatif menuju formulasi konseptual yang aplikatif dalam konteks pengembangan Ilmu Perpustakaan.

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1. Introduction

Libraries are essentially institutions that play a role in managing, providing, and disseminating knowledge to the public. The function of information dissemination is a strategic element in ensuring that knowledge can be accessed and utilised optimally by library users (Sulistyo-Basuki, 2019). Dissemination in the context of Library Science is not only understood as a technical process, but also encompasses ethical dimensions, professional responsibility, and social benefit orientation.

The activity of disseminating knowledge in Islamic Tradition is known as *tabligh*, which means conveying messages or knowledge correctly and responsibly. This concept is rooted in the teachings of the Qur'an and the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad, which emphasise the obligation to convey knowledge as a moral trust (Al-Qardhawi, 2016). This value is relevant to the mission of libraries as agents of literacy and enlightenment for society.

The Prophet's hadith encourages the transmission of knowledge without limiting space and time. His words, "بَلِّغُوا عَنِّي وَلَوْ آيَةً" (Convey from me even if it is only one verse) (HR. al-Bukhari), demonstrate the importance of continuity, honesty, and responsibility in the transmission of knowledge (Al-Nawawi, 2018). This principle corresponds with the spirit of openness and accuracy of information in modern library practice.

Studies on the integration of Islamic values in Library Science have been conducted, particularly on the aspects of professional ethics and religious-based information services (Lasa Hs, 2017). However, these discussions tend to be normative and have not constructed *tabligh* as a concept of knowledge dissemination that is systematically formulated through thematic hadith analysis.

Knowledge dissemination in Library Science is understood as a planned process that includes the packaging, delivery, and effective utilisation of information (Pendit, 2018). The focus of this study generally lies on managerial and technical aspects, so that the theological dimension as the foundation of dissemination ethics has not been elaborated conceptually.

Research by Khoir et al. (2017) shows that libraries play a role in building social capital through the provision of inclusive information. However, this study has not linked the concept of information dissemination with the perspective of hadith or the construction of theological values as a systematic normative foundation.

Another study by Sutarno NS (2016) emphasises the function of libraries as centres of lifelong learning. The focus of this study is more on institutional and management aspects, so that the moral-spiritual dimension in the dissemination of knowledge has not been a major concern.

The thematic (*maudhu'i*) hadith method in Islamic studies is used to understand hadith comprehensively and contextually based on specific themes (Al-Suyuthi, 2015). This approach enables the systematic mapping of the concept of *tabligh* so that it can be constructed as a conceptual framework relevant to Library Science.

An interdisciplinary approach is important because knowledge dissemination is not only related to technical processes, but also concerns ethics, responsibility, and the usefulness of information for society (IFLA, 2021). Therefore, the integration of hadith studies and Library Science has academic and practical significance.

There is a conceptual gap between the study of information ethics based on Islamic values and the theory of knowledge dissemination in Library Science based on the description. There has been no research that specifically formulates tabligh as a conceptual framework for knowledge dissemination through a thematic hadith approach in the context of Library Science. This gap is the basis for this research.

The research question focuses on how the concept of tabligh in thematic hadith is constructed as a form of knowledge dissemination and how the resulting ethical framework is relevant to the principles and practices of Library Science.

The purpose of this study is to analyse and map the conceptual dimensions of tabligh based on thematic hadith and to formulate its contribution to the development of the concept of knowledge dissemination in Library Science. This contribution is aimed at strengthening the theoretical basis for the integration of Islamic values into the professional ethics of librarians (Basuki, 2020).

The scope of the research is limited to hadiths related to the command to convey knowledge and information responsibility. The discussion focuses on thematic analysis and conceptual formulation without examining technical aspects of information technology.

The novelty of this research lies in the formulation of an ethical framework for knowledge dissemination based on thematic hadiths that position tabligh as a conceptual model in Library Science. This research differs from previous studies, which were generally normative in nature, either religious or technical in nature (Rahayu, 2022).

This study emphasises that the values of tabligh correspond substantively with the principles of modern information dissemination, such as openness, accuracy, and social usefulness (Azra, 2019), and can be constructed as an applicable theoretical framework in the development of Library Science.

Thus, this study emphasises the importance of systematically formulating the concept of tabligh through thematic hadith as an ethical and conceptual foundation in the dissemination of knowledge in libraries, while enriching the development of information ethics theory from an interdisciplinary perspective.

2. Research Methodology

This study uses a qualitative research design with a library research type. The approach used is descriptive-analytical, which aims to identify, map, and analyse the concept of tabligh in the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad and formulate its conceptual construction as a model of knowledge dissemination in Library Science.

The scientific approach used is interdisciplinary, integrating Hadith Science and Library Science. This research applies the thematic (*maudhu'i*) method in the study of hadith to collect and analyse hadith based on the theme of knowledge dissemination. A conceptual approach from a Library Science perspective to the theory of knowledge dissemination is used to contextualise the findings of the hadith within the framework of modern information ethics.

The research data sources consist of primary and secondary data. The primary data are hadiths related to the command to convey knowledge, the prohibition of concealing knowledge, scientific responsibility, and scientific communication ethics sourced from *mu'tabar* hadith books. The search was conducted through thematic indexes and keyword-based searches such as *tabligh*, *balagha*, *'ilm*, and *katama al-'ilm*. From the initial inventory, 34 thematically relevant hadiths were obtained. After going through a selection process based on inclusion and exclusion criteria, 18 hadiths were obtained for in-depth analysis.

The inclusion criteria in this study included: (1) hadiths that explicitly discuss the obligation to convey knowledge; (2) hadiths that contain prohibitions on concealing knowledge; (3) hadiths that emphasise moral and social responsibility in the transmission of knowledge; and (4) hadiths that are of *sahih* or *hasan* quality. Meanwhile, the exclusion criteria included: (1) hadiths that were historical-descriptive in nature without conceptual relevance to the dissemination of knowledge; and (2) hadiths with a weak (*dha'if*) degree without adequate reinforcement.

Data collection techniques were carried out through documentation methods with the following stages: (1) literature search on hadith and identification of hadith texts; (2) verification of the quality and sources of hadith; (3) classification of hadith based on sub-themes; and (4) recording of the context, wording, and explanations from the hadith commentary book. Library Science literature and information ethics studies were also analysed to strengthen the interpretation and contextualisation process.

Data analysis techniques used content analysis combined with thematic analysis of hadith. The analysis process was carried out through several operational stages: (1) data reduction based on thematic relevance; (2) grouping of hadiths into conceptual categories; (3) identification of normative, epistemic, and social meaning patterns; (4) synthesis of findings in the form of thematic classification; and (5) formulation of an ethical framework for the dissemination of knowledge based on tabligh values. Data validity is maintained through source triangulation (comparison between hadith books and commentaries) and theory triangulation with Library Science literature to ensure consistency and validity of interpretation.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Research Findings

The results of the study show that the concept of tabligh in hadith not only means the normative obligation to convey knowledge, but also has practical implications in the information service system. The hadith "ballighū 'annī walau āyah" emphasises that the dissemination of knowledge is a moral obligation (Nawawi, 2025). According to library practice, This principle is reflected in reference services, where librarians are responsible for providing accurate, relevant, and accountable information to library users.

Findings regarding the orientation of information quality and usefulness indicate that tabligh does not focus on the quantity of delivery, but rather on its positive impact (Qardhawi, 2025). This principle is in line with library collection development policies that emphasise the selection of library materials based on academic value, user needs, and social benefits.

The aspect of information accuracy in tabligh emphasises the importance of verification before delivery (Azra, 2025). In librarianship practice, this is realised through source evaluation, the use of reliable scientific databases, and information literacy training so that library users are able to distinguish between valid and invalid information. This principle reinforces the standards of validity and reliability of information sources.

The principle of open access to knowledge contained in tabligh (Basuki, 2025) is relevant to library services based on social inclusion and open access. The provision of non-discriminatory services, facilities for people with disabilities, and digital access are concrete implementations of these values of inclusiveness.

The dimension of social responsibility in tabligh emphasises that useful knowledge has a long-term impact (Pendit, 2025). In the context of libraries, this is reflected in information literacy programmes, scientific source search training, and research assistance aimed at improving the quality of the public's understanding of information.

The principle of matching the message to the capacity of the recipient (Lasa Hs, 2025) is in line with the user-centred approach in library services. Librarians adjust the depth and form of information according to the needs of users, whether they are pupils, students, or researchers.

The gradual delivery method in tabligh (Sulistyo-Basuki, 2025) is relevant to information packaging systems, such as classification, indexing, abstraction, and metadata. These systems help users understand information systematically and structurally.

The value of intellectual honesty in tabligh (Rahayu, 2025) strengthens the professional ethics of librarians, particularly in maintaining neutrality, avoiding information manipulation, and ensuring source transparency. This is important in building public trust in library institutions.

The educational purpose of tabligh (Haryanto, 2025) is closely related to the educational function of libraries as centres for lifelong learning. Libraries not only provide information but also shape critical thinking and positive behaviour through literacy and education programmes.

The connection between tabligh and information literacy (Gita, 2025) shows that the dissemination of knowledge must be accompanied by critical understanding. In practice, libraries develop digital literacy training to improve the ability to evaluate and utilise information effectively.

The dimension of knowledge sustainability in tabligh (Zuhri, 2025) is in line with the preservation function of libraries. The digitisation of collections, manuscript conservation, and institutional archiving are tangible forms of maintaining the continuity of knowledge across generations. Communication ethics in tabligh (Azmi, 2025) are relevant to library service communication. Librarians are required to convey information in clear, polite, and easy-to-understand language so that the message is conveyed effectively.

The principle of professional responsibility (Basri, 2025) reinforces the competency standards of librarians in managing and disseminating information. The delivery of incorrect information can have a widespread impact, making professionalism a must. The adaptive nature of tabligh to the social context (Rahman, 2025) is also reflected in the development of community-based library services. Service programmes are designed according to the social and cultural characteristics of the local community to be more effective and relevant.

Overall, the results of this study indicate that the concept of tabligh in thematic hadiths contains principles of knowledge dissemination that are applicable and relevant to modern librarianship practices. The principles of accuracy, openness, ethics, sustainability, and user-oriented needs are not only normative but can be implemented in reference services, collection development, information literacy, and inclusive services (Kurniawan, 2025).

3.2. Discussion

The research findings indicate that the concept of tabligh in the hadith is conceptually consistent with knowledge dissemination in library science. The obligation to convey knowledge as emphasised in the hadith shows that knowledge dissemination is not merely a technical activity but also has a strong moral and ethical dimension. This broadens the understanding of the role of librarians as responsible conveyors of information.

The principle of information quality found in the concept of tabligh emphasises that the success of knowledge dissemination is not determined by the amount of information, but by its accuracy and usefulness. According to the context of library science, this finding reinforces the importance of the process of selecting, evaluating, and curating information to suit the needs of library users and not cause misinformation.

Tabligh's emphasis on information accuracy is in line with the principle of source validity in library science. This discussion shows that the prohibition on conveying false information in the hadith can be understood as a normative basis for collection management and reference services that uphold the truth and reliability of information.

The aspects of openness and inclusiveness in tabligh also have important implications for the development of library services. Libraries are required to provide fair and equal access to information without discrimination. Thus, the value of tabligh can strengthen the library's commitment to the principles of open access and information justice.

The dimension of social responsibility contained in tabligh emphasises the role of libraries as agents of social change. The dissemination of knowledge is not only oriented towards meeting individual information needs, but also towards contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of society as a whole.

Findings on the suitability of messages to the capacity of information recipients have important implications for user-based service approaches. In library science, this principle is relevant to the development of services that are responsive to the diverse characteristics, backgrounds, and needs of library users.

The clarity and systematic delivery of messages in tabligh can be understood as the basis for developing information packaging strategies in libraries. Structured information is easier for library users to understand and utilise, thereby increasing the effectiveness of knowledge dissemination.

The value of intellectual honesty found in the concept of tabligh reinforces the professional ethics of librarians. This discussion shows that librarians not only play a role as information managers, but also as guardians of the integrity of knowledge disseminated to the public.

The educational orientation of tabligh is in line with the function of libraries as centres of lifelong learning. This implication shows that libraries have a strategic responsibility in supporting formal and non-formal education processes through the dissemination of meaningful knowledge.

The connection between tabligh and information literacy indicates that the dissemination of knowledge must be accompanied by strengthening the ability of library users to understand and process information critically. This expands the role of libraries from mere providers of information to facilitators of information literacy.

The dimension of knowledge sustainability in tabligh reinforces the function of information preservation in libraries. This discussion emphasises that the dissemination of knowledge must go hand in hand with efforts to preserve information so that it can be utilised by future generations.

The ethics of communication emphasised in tabligh has implications for the quality of interaction between librarians and library users. The delivery of information in a wise, polite, and contextually manner will increase library users' trust in libraries as credible sources of knowledge.

The principle of professional responsibility in tabligh emphasises the importance of librarians' competence in disseminating information. This implication encourages the strengthening of librarian education and training so that they are able to carry out their role of disseminating knowledge professionally and ethically.

The adaptive nature of tabligh to the social context provides a foundation for the development of community-based library services. Libraries need to adjust their knowledge dissemination strategies to the social, cultural, and local needs of the communities they serve.

Overall, this discussion confirms that the integration of the concept of tabligh in knowledge dissemination contributes significantly to the development of the theoretical and practical foundations of library science. This study enriches scientific perspectives by presenting normative values that are relevant and applicable in the practice of knowledge dissemination in libraries.

4. Conclusion

The conclusion of this study shows that the concept of tabligh in thematic hadith has a strong relevance to knowledge dissemination in library science. Tabligh is not only understood as an activity of conveying information, but also as a process that emphasises the values of accuracy, openness, ethical responsibility, social benefit, and knowledge sustainability. The integration of tabligh values provides a normative foundation that enriches the theoretical framework of knowledge dissemination and strengthens the role of libraries and librarians as agents of literacy, education, and social change. Thus, this study confirms that the thematic hadith approach can contribute significantly to the development of library science oriented towards information values and ethics.

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Authors' Contributions

Touku Umar: Original draft writing; conceptual development; defining and refining research objectives. **Abustani Ilyas:** Supervision, critical review and editing of the manuscript. **Erwin Hafid:** Supervision support and methodological guidance.

Conflict of Interests

The authors affirm that there are no known conflicts of interest related to this publication, and that there has been no significant financial support that could have influenced the research outcomes.

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