



Epistemic Responsibility and Digital Information Ethics in Contemporary Quranic Interpretation

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ABSTRACT

The development of digital technology has expanded access to the interpretation of the Qur'an through various online platforms. Although it provides opportunities for the dissemination of Islamic knowledge, this condition also poses challenges related to the validity of sources, scientific authority, and ethics in the dissemination of religious information. This research aims to analyze the role of epistemic responsibility and digital information ethics in the contemporary interpretation of the Qur'an. The research uses a qualitative approach through literature analysis on the study of interpretation, epistemology, and ethics of digital information. The results show that digital transformation expands participation in interpretation production, but also increases the risk of non-methodological interpretations. Therefore, the integration of classical interpretation principles with digital information ethics is necessary to maintain scientific integrity and responsibility in the interpretation of the Qur'an in the digital age

INTRODUCTION

The development of digital technology in recent years has brought about significant changes in the way religious knowledge is produced, disseminated, and consumed by the public. Digital transformation allows for wider access to various Islamic sources, including Qur'anic interpretation, through online platforms, social media, and various digital applications. This phenomenon expands public participation in religious discourse while changing the pattern of scholarly authority in contemporary Islamic traditions (Campbell & Evolvi, 2020; Bunt, 2022). In this context, the interpretation of the Qur'an is no longer limited to academic spaces or formal scientific institutions, but also develops in a more open and dynamic digital space.

On the one hand, the digitization of religious knowledge provides a great opportunity for the wider dissemination of the Qur'anic understanding. Various digital platforms allow people to access classical and contemporary interpretations more easily, thereby increasing Qur'an literacy among Muslims. Research shows that digital technology plays an important role in shaping new religious practices and the way people understand religious texts in the information age (Anderson, 2021; Hoover & Echchaibi, 2021). However, these developments also pose new challenges related to the validity of sources, interpreting authority, and ethics of disseminating religious information in the digital space.

In the Islamic scientific tradition, the interpretation of the Qur'an is a scientific activity that has strict epistemological methodologies and principles. Scholars of interpretation emphasize that the understanding of the Qur'an must be based on a deep knowledge of the Arabic language, the science of hadith, *asbab al-nuzul*, as well as the principles of Islamic hermeneutics. Al-Zarkashi (2019) in *Al-Burhan fi 'Ulum al-Qur'an* explains that a *mufassir* must have comprehensive scientific competence so that interpretation does not go out of the correct methodological framework. Similarly, Al-Suyuti (2020) in *Al-Itqan fi 'Ulum al-Qur'an* emphasizes the importance of scientific integrity in the interpreting process so that the meaning of the Qur'an is not misunderstood.

In addition, classical *mufassirs* such as Ibn Kathir and Al-Tabari also emphasized the importance of scientific responsibility in interpreting the verses of the Qur'an. Ibn Kathir (2000) in *Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim* emphasizes that interpretation must be based on the Qur'an, hadith, as well as the explanations of the companions and *tabi'in* as an authoritative source in understanding revelation. Meanwhile, Al-Tabari (2001) in *Jami' al-Bayan fi Ta'wil al-Qur'an* shows that the interpretive process requires verification of history and strong scientific arguments so that the resulting interpretation has epistemological validity.

In the contemporary context, the development of digital technology has expanded the space for interpretation production beyond traditional scientific institutions. This phenomenon creates new opportunities for the democratization of religious knowledge, but also poses a risk of spreading interpretations that are not based on an adequate interpretation methodology. Research shows that the digital space is often an arena for the dissemination of religious interpretations

that do not always follow established academic standards or scientific authorities (Hjarvard, 2022; Campbell, 2021). This condition can trigger the emergence of simplistic interpretations, decontextualization of verses, or even the dissemination of inaccurate religious information.

In the perspective of contemporary epistemology, the phenomenon is related to the concept of epistemic responsibility, which is the responsibility of individuals in producing, verifying, and disseminating knowledge ethically and responsibly (Medina, 2021). This concept emphasizes that the production of knowledge is not only concerned with the truth of information, but also with the moral responsibility to ensure that the information conveyed has a valid and accountable basis. In the context of Qur'anic interpretation, epistemic responsibility becomes important to ensure that interpretations circulating in the digital space remain in harmony with the methodological principles in the Islamic tradition of interpretation.

On the other hand, the development of information technology also demands a new approach in digital information ethics. Floridi (2021) explains that digital information ethics is related to responsibility in the production and distribution of information in a complex digital environment. In the context of the interpretation of the Qur'an, this ethics includes the obligation to maintain the accuracy of information, respect for scientific authority, and avoid the dissemination of unfounded interpretations.

Although the study of Qur'an interpretation and digital transformation has evolved in recent years, most research still focuses on technological aspects or changes in religious practices in general. Studies that specifically link the concept of epistemic responsibility, digital information ethics, and contemporary interpretation of the Qur'an are still relatively limited. In fact, understanding the relationship between these three aspects is very important to ensure that the development of digital technology does not reduce scientific integrity in the interpretation of the Qur'an.

Based on this background, this study aims to analyze the role of epistemic responsibility and digital information ethics in the interpretation of the contemporary Qur'an. This research is expected to make a theoretical contribution to the development of interpretation studies in the digital era and offer an epistemological and ethical framework that can maintain scientific integrity in the practice of interpreting the Qur'an in the midst of the development of the digital knowledge ecosystem.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Epistemic Responsibility in Knowledge Production

The concept of epistemic responsibility refers to the moral and intellectual responsibility of individuals in producing, verifying, and disseminating knowledge accurately and accountably. In the study of contemporary epistemology, epistemic responsibility relates to the individual's obligation to ensure that knowledge claims are based on valid evidence, appropriate methods, and ethical awareness of the social impact of the information disseminated (Fricker, 2021; Battaly, 2022). In the context of knowledge production in the

digital age, epistemic responsibility is becoming increasingly important because information can be produced and disseminated quickly without going through an adequate verification process.

In the study of religion, epistemic responsibility has important implications in maintaining the integrity of religious knowledge. The interpretation of sacred texts, including the Qur'an, is not only concerned with the understanding of the text, but also with the scientific responsibility of ensuring that the resulting interpretation has a strong methodological basis. Several studies show that epistemic responsibility is an important element in maintaining the credibility of religious interpretation in the midst of the development of digital knowledge production that is not always controlled (Lynch, 2022).

In the Islamic tradition, the concept that is in line with epistemic responsibility can be found in the principle of scientific trust, which is the scientific responsibility to convey knowledge correctly and honestly. Tafsir scholars emphasize that a mufassir must be careful in conveying the interpretation of the verses of the Qur'an so as not to deviate from the scientific principles that have been established in the tradition of tafsir (Al-Dhahabi, 2018). Therefore, epistemic responsibility is an important foundation in maintaining the validity and integrity of the interpretation of the Qur'an.

Digital Information Ethics

The development of digital technology has given rise to new challenges in the field of information ethics. Digital information ethics is related to the moral principles that govern the production, distribution, and use of information in an increasingly complex digital environment (Ess, 2020). In the context of a digital society, information can be easily disseminated through various platforms without going through rigorous editorial or verification processes, thereby increasing the risk of spreading inaccurate or misleading information.

Research shows that digital information ecosystems often produce what is referred to as information disorder, which is a condition in which unverified or inaccurate information can spread widely and affect public perception (Wardle & Derakhshan, 2022). In a religious context, this condition can have an impact on the emergence of interpretations of sacred texts that do not have a strong methodological basis.

In the perspective of Islamic ethics, the dissemination of information also has a very important moral dimension. The principle of information verification has long been emphasized in Islamic teachings, especially in the context of imparting knowledge to the public. Scholars emphasize that the dissemination of information must be carried out responsibly so as not to cause misunderstandings or deviations in religious practice (Kamali, 2021). Therefore, the integration between digital information ethics and Islamic epistemological principles is important in maintaining the integrity of religious knowledge in the digital era.

Methodological Foundations of Quranic Interpretation

The interpretation of the Qur'an has a methodology that has developed over the centuries in the Islamic scientific tradition. This methodology is known as *usul al-tafsir*, which is a set of principles used by scholars to understand the meaning of the verses of the Qur'an systematically and contextually. In the tradition of interpretation, the understanding of the Qur'an cannot be separated from linguistic analysis, historical context, and the relationship between verses in the Qur'an (Mustaqim, 2021).

The classical *mufasssir* emphasized that the interpretation of the Qur'an must follow a clear hierarchy of sources, namely interpreting the Qur'an with the Qur'an, with the hadith of the Prophet, with the opinions of the companions, and with an in-depth analysis of the Arabic language. This principle aims to maintain methodological consistency in the interpretive process so that the resulting interpretation remains within a valid epistemological framework (Al-Qattan, 2019).

In contemporary developments, the methodology of interpretation has also adapted to various new social and intellectual contexts. Modern scholars emphasize the importance of a contextual approach in understanding the Qur'an, especially in the face of social changes and technological developments that affect the way humans understand religious texts (Saeed, 2020). This approach does not aim to replace classical interpretation methodologies, but to broaden the framework of interpretation to remain relevant to the challenges of the times.

Contemporary Quranic Interpretation in the Digital Era

The digital era has created a new space for the development of contemporary Qur'an interpretation. Digital media allows the interpretation of the Qur'an to be disseminated more widely and quickly through various online platforms, including social media, religious blogs, and digital video channels. This phenomenon creates what is called digital interpretation, which is the practice of interpreting the Qur'an mediated by digital technology (Larsson, 2020).

Although these developments provide a great opportunity for the dissemination of Qur'anic knowledge, some studies suggest that the digital space can also be a breeding ground for interpretations that do not have a strong methodological basis. Without a scientific verification mechanism, the interpretation of the Qur'an circulating in the digital space has the potential to lose the historical and linguistic context that is important in understanding the meaning of the verse (Bunt, 2021).

Therefore, it is important to develop an epistemological framework capable of integrating the tradition of classical interpretation with digital information ethics. This approach can help ensure that the interpretation of the Qur'an that develops in the digital age maintains scientific integrity as well as social relevance in modern society.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative approach with the library research method to analyze the relationship between epistemic responsibility and digital information ethics in contemporary Qur'an interpretation. The qualitative approach was chosen because this research aims to understand in depth the concepts, epistemological principles, and ethical implications that arise in the practice of interpreting the Qur'an in the digital era. This approach allows researchers to conduct interpretive analysis of various literature sources related to the study of interpretation, knowledge epistemology, and digital information ethics (Creswell & Poth, 2018; Flick, 2022).

The research method used is a conceptual and thematic analysis of the relevant literature. This research examines various primary and secondary sources that include classical commentary books, contemporary commentary works, and academic literature that discusses the epistemology of interpretation and the ethics of digital information. This approach aims to identify the epistemological principles underlying the practice of interpreting the Qur'an as well as how these principles can be applied in the context of the production of religious knowledge in the digital age (Bowen, 2009; Snyder, 2019).

The data sources in this study consist of two main categories, namely primary sources and secondary sources. Primary sources include works of Qur'anic interpretation that have an important influence on the Islamic scientific tradition, such as classical commentary and the study of *usul al-tafsir*. Meanwhile, secondary sources include journal articles, academic books, and contemporary research that discusses the transformation of Qur'an interpretation in the digital era, the epistemology of knowledge, and the ethics of digital information. The selection of literature was carried out selectively by considering the relevance of the topic, academic credibility, and its contribution to the development of the research conceptual framework (Hart, 2018).

The data analysis process is carried out through qualitative thematic analysis. This analysis is carried out by identifying the main concepts related to epistemic responsibility, digital information ethics, and Qur'anic interpretation methodologies. The analysis stage includes the process of collecting literature, classifying key concepts, identifying theoretical themes, and interpreting the relationship between these concepts within the framework of contemporary interpretive epistemology. This approach allows researchers to develop a conceptual framework that connects classical interpretive traditions with the challenges of information ethics in digital ecosystems (Braun & Clarke, 2021).

In addition, this study also uses a hermeneutic analysis approach in understanding the relationship between Qur'anic texts, interpretation traditions, and contemporary social contexts. The hermeneutic approach is used to interpret how methodological principles in the tradition of interpretation can be applied in the face of the epistemological challenges that arise in the digital age. This approach is important in the study of interpretation because it allows for a more comprehensive understanding of the relationships between texts, interpreters, and social contexts that influence the interpretive process (Saeed, 2020).

To maintain academic validity, this study applies a process of triangulation of literature sources, which is comparing various different academic sources to ensure the consistency and credibility of the information analyzed. In addition, the researcher also conducts a critical evaluation of the literature used to ensure that the resulting interpretation has a strong methodological basis and is in accordance with the principles of interpretive epistemology (Flick, 2022).

RESEARCH RESULTS

The results of the literature analysis show that the relationship between epistemic responsibility, digital information ethics, and contemporary interpretation of the Qur'an can be understood through several main themes. These themes illustrate how digital transformation affects the practice of interpreting the Qur'an while affirming the importance of epistemic responsibility in maintaining the integrity of religious knowledge in the digital age.

Table 1. Summary of Thematic Findings

Theme	Description	Key Concepts
Epistemic Responsibility in Quranic Interpretation	Scientific responsibility in interpreting the Qur'an based on the methodology of interpretation	verification of sources, scholarly authority
Ethical Challenges in Digital Religious Information	Ethical challenges in the dissemination of interpretation in the digital space	misinformation, lack of verification
Transformation of Interpretive Authority	Changes in interpretive authority due to digitization of knowledge	democratization of interpretation
Integrating Tafsir Methodology with Digital Ethics	Integration of classical interpretation principles with digital information ethics	responsible digital interpretation

Epistemic Responsibility in Quranic Interpretation

Analysis of the literature shows that epistemic responsibility is an important element in maintaining the validity of the interpretation of the Qur'an. In the tradition of classical interpretation, scholars emphasize that the interpretation of the Qur'an should be based on rigorous scientific methodology, including analysis of the Arabic language, understanding of the historical context, as well as the use of authoritative sources such as hadith and the opinions of the Companions. This principle shows that the interpretation of the Qur'an is not only an intellectual activity, but also has a dimension of moral responsibility in maintaining the accuracy of the understanding of revelation.

In the context of contemporary epistemology, epistemic responsibility deals with the individual's obligation to ensure that knowledge claims are based

on valid evidence and accountable methods. Literature analysis shows that this principle is in line with the concept of scientific mandate in the Islamic scientific tradition, which emphasizes integrity and honesty in the production of religious knowledge. The principle of responsibility for knowledge is also affirmed in the Qur'an, as Allah says in QS Al-Isra: 36:

وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا

"And do not follow anything about which you have no knowledge. Indeed, hearing, sight, and heart, all of these will be held accountable." (Qur'an 17:36).

This verse affirms that every individual has a moral responsibility for the knowledge they receive and spread. According to Ibn Kathir's interpretation, this verse forbids a person to speak or convey something without a clear basis of knowledge, because every information conveyed will be held accountable before Allah (Ibn Kathir, 2000). Similarly, Al-Tabari explained that this verse is the basis of epistemological ethics in Islam which requires verification and prudence in receiving and conveying information (Al-Tabari, 2001).

In addition, the principle of information verification is also affirmed in QS Al-Hujurat: 6, which emphasizes the importance of ensuring the correctness of information before disseminating it:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنْ جَاءَكُمْ فَاسِقٌ بِنَبَأٍ فَتَبَيَّنُوا

"O you who have believed, if a wicked person comes to you with a message, then examine the truth." (Qur'an 49:6).

According to the interpretation of Al-Qurtubi, this verse shows the obligation to verify information so as not to cause misunderstandings or detrimental decisions (Al-Qurtubi, 2006). In the context of the production of religious knowledge, this principle is an important basis in maintaining the integrity of the interpretation of the Qur'an.

Thus, the teachings of the Qur'an itself have provided a strong epistemological foundation regarding the importance of responsibility for knowledge. The principles of verification, prudence in conveying information, and intellectual integrity are values that are in line with the concept of epistemic responsibility in contemporary epistemological studies. Therefore, the concept of epistemic responsibility can serve as an epistemological framework that connects the tradition of classical interpretation with the challenges of knowledge production in the digital age.

Table 2. Principles of Epistemic Responsibility in Quranic Interpretation

Principle	Explanation	Relevance to Digital Context
Verification of sources	Ensuring the credibility of information sources	Prevents misinformation
Methodological interpretation	Following established tafsir methodology	Maintains interpretive accuracy
Scholarly authority	Interpretation by qualified scholars	Preserves epistemic credibility
Ethical dissemination	Responsible sharing of religious knowledge	Prevents misuse of religious texts

Ethical Challenges in Digital Religious Information

The results of the study also show that the development of digital technology has created new challenges in the dissemination of religious information. The digital space allows the interpretation of the Qur'an to be widely disseminated through social media, religious blogs, and other digital platforms. This creates opportunities for the wider dissemination of Islamic knowledge, but it also increases the risk of spreading interpretations that are not academically verified.

Some literature shows that the digital information ecosystem often produces the phenomenon of information disorder, which is a condition in which inaccurate or unverified information can spread quickly and affect people's understanding of religious issues. In the context of Qur'anic interpretation, this condition can lead to the emergence of simplistic interpretations, decontextualization of verses, or even the spread of interpretations that do not have a strong methodological basis. These findings show that digital information ethics is an important factor in maintaining the quality of religious knowledge circulating in the digital space.

Transformation of Interpretive Authority

The results of the analysis also show that the digitization of knowledge has changed the pattern of authority in the interpretation of the Qur'an. In the classical Islamic scientific tradition, the authority of interpretation usually lies with scholars who have scientific competence in the field of interpretation and knowledge of the Qur'an. However, in the digital era, interpretations of the Qur'an can be produced and disseminated by various actors who do not always have a scientific background in the study of the Qur'an.

This phenomenon creates what is called the democratization of interpretation, which is a condition in which access to the interpretation of the Qur'an becomes more open to the wider community. While this condition can expand public participation in religious discourse, research has also shown that it can trigger the emergence of interpretations that do not have a strong methodological foundation. Therefore, changes in interpretive authority in the digital space require an epistemological framework that is able to maintain the quality and integrity of the interpretation of the Qur'an.

Table 3. Comparison between Classical and Digital Quranic Interpretation

Appearance	Classical Interpretation	Digital Interpretation
Authority	Qualified scholars	Wider public participation
Verification	Strong scholarly verification	Often limited verification
Methodology	Usul al-tafsir	Diverse interpretive approaches
Dissemination	Books and scholarly institutions	Social media and digital platforms

Integrating Tafsir Methodology with Digital Ethics

The latest findings of this study show that the integration between classical interpretation methodologies and digital information ethics is important in facing the challenges of interpreting the Qur'an in the digital age. The methodology of classical interpretation provides a strong epistemological

framework in understanding the meaning of the Qur'an systematically and contextually. Meanwhile, digital information ethics provides moral principles that can govern the production and distribution of information in the digital ecosystem.

The integration of these two approaches allows the development of a model of interpretation of the Qur'an that not only maintains scientific integrity, but is also able to adapt to the dynamics of knowledge production in the digital age. Thus, contemporary interpretation of the Qur'an can remain relevant to technological developments while maintaining methodological principles in the Islamic interpretation tradition.

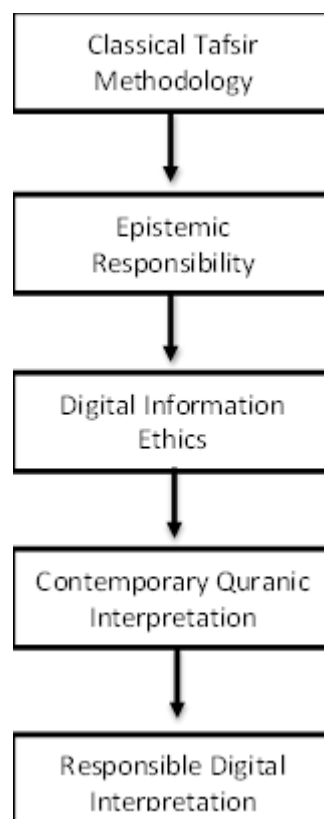


Figure 1. Conceptual Model of Responsible Digital Quranic Interpretation

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study show that the development of digital technology has brought significant changes in the practice of contemporary Qur'an interpretation. Digital transformation allows the dissemination of Qur'an interpretation through various online platforms such as social media, religious blogs, and various digital knowledge-based sites. This condition expands public access to Islamic literature and opens up space for public participation in religious discourse. However, at the same time, these developments also pose epistemological challenges related to the validity of information and the authority of interpretation in the digital space. Several studies have shown that the development of digital media has changed the way religious knowledge is produced and disseminated so that religious authority is no longer fully within traditional scientific institutions (Campbell, 2022; Jouili, 2021). In this context, the

concept of epistemic responsibility is important to ensure that the interpretation of the Qur'an maintains scientific integrity in the midst of the dynamics of the digital information ecosystem.

The principle of epistemic responsibility in the interpretation of the Qur'an has actually long been part of the Islamic scientific tradition. Classical commentators emphasize that the interpretation of the Qur'an should be based on a systematic scientific methodology, including linguistic analysis, an understanding of the historical context, and the use of authoritative sources such as hadith and the history of the Companions. This methodological approach shows that the interpretation of the Qur'an is not only an intellectual activity, but also has an ethical dimension related to responsibility for the truth of knowledge. In the perspective of Islamic epistemology, this responsibility is often associated with the concept of scientific trust, which is the moral obligation of an interpreter to maintain scientific integrity in imparting knowledge (Nasr, 2020).

The principle of responsibility for knowledge also has a normative foundation in the Qur'an. For example, some verses of the Qur'an affirm the prohibition of following or conveying something without a clear basis of knowledge (Qur'an 17:36). In the study of classical interpretation, this verse is understood as a warning so that humans do not convey information that is not based on valid knowledge. The mufassir interpret this verse as the basis of epistemological ethics that requires caution in receiving and conveying religious knowledge (Al-Razi, 2000). Therefore, the principle has strong relevance to the concept of epistemic responsibility in contemporary epistemology which emphasizes the importance of verification and accountability in knowledge production.

In addition, the Qur'an also emphasizes the importance of verifying information before disseminating it to the public, as reflected in the teachings on the obligation to check the truth of a news (Qur'an 49:6). In the tradition of interpretation, this verse is often understood as the basis for the principle of prudence in receiving information so that there are no mistakes in decision-making or the dissemination of incorrect information. In the context of a digital society, the principle of verification is becoming increasingly important because information can be disseminated widely and quickly through various digital platforms without going through an adequate academic verification process.

The findings of this study also show that the digitization of knowledge has affected the structure of authority in the interpretation of the Qur'an. In the classical Islamic scientific tradition, the authority of interpretation generally lies with scholars who have competence in the field of interpretation and the sciences of the Qur'an. But in the digital age, interpretations of the Qur'an can be produced and disseminated by various actors who do not always have an academic background in the study of the Qur'an. This phenomenon creates a change in the structure of religious authority that is often described as a form of democratization of interpretation. A number of studies show that the development of digital technology has opened up new spaces for the production of more open and participatory religious discourse (Mandaville, 2020; Eickelman, 2021). Although this condition can expand people's access to religious

knowledge, it also poses challenges related to the credibility of interpretations circulating in the digital space.

In this context, the integration between classical interpretation methodologies and digital information ethics is becoming increasingly important. The classical methodology of interpretation provides a strong epistemological framework for understanding the meaning of the Qur'an systematically and contextually. Meanwhile, digital information ethics provides moral principles that can govern the production and distribution of information in a complex digital ecosystem. By integrating these two approaches, the practice of interpreting the Qur'an in the digital era can maintain scientific integrity while being able to adapt to the dynamics of information technology developments (March, 2021). Therefore, strengthening digital literacy, epistemological awareness, and ethical responsibility in knowledge production are important factors in ensuring that the interpretation of the Qur'an remains credible and relevant in an ever-evolving digital society.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

This research shows that the development of digital technology has changed the landscape of contemporary Qur'an interpretation by expanding public access to various sources of interpretation while raising new challenges related to the validity of information, interpretive authority, and ethics of disseminating religious knowledge. The results of the study confirm that epistemic responsibility and digital information ethics are important frameworks in maintaining the scientific integrity of the interpretation of the Qur'an in the digital era. The principle of epistemic responsibility requires an interpretation process based on a valid interpretation methodology, adequate source verification, and ethical awareness in conveying knowledge to the public.

Based on these findings, this study recommends the importance of strengthening digital literacy and scientific literacy in interpretation studies so that the interpretation of the Qur'an that develops in the digital space still has a strong methodological basis. In addition, academic institutions and the Islamic scientific community need to develop ethical guidelines in the production and dissemination of digital interpretations to ensure that technological developments can be used responsibly without compromising scientific integrity in the interpretation of the Qur'an.

FURTHER STUDY

Further research can explore the practice of interpreting the Qur'an in the digital space more empirically, including the analysis of interpretations on social media and digital platforms. In addition, further studies can also examine the influence of new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, on the authority and methodology of interpretation in the context of contemporary Muslim society.

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