

**BEGINNINGS OF MODERN HISTORY STUDIES IN MALAYSIA: A
BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY OF THE *JOURNAL OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY*,
UNIVERSITI MALAYA, KUALA LUMPUR (1960-1969/1970)**

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Abstract

The *Journal of the Historical Society, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur*, is the first example of academic and university-based historical journals that appeared after Malaya attained independence from the British Empire in 1957. It was annually published between 1960 and 1969/1970. The main objective of the journal was to disseminate and encourage historical studies on Southeast Asia in general and Malaysia in particular. This study bibliometrically examines the *Journal of the Historical Society* in terms of the number of articles, the types of articles, their subject areas, author productivity, and authorship patterns. The study has found that 100 articles, 10 book reviews and 1 poem were published in a total of 10 issues of the journal between 1960 and 1969/70. A large number of articles are closely related to history; the rest are to international relations (IR), politics and archaeology. The journal gave priority to historical studies on Malaysia. Political history and historiography are predominant research areas among historians and history students in the 1960s. The number of English articles in the journal outnumbers that of Malay articles. All articles were written by a single author. The pattern of co-authorship did not exist in the journal.

Keywords: History, History Journal, Journal of the Historical Society, Malaysia, Bibliometrics

Introduction

The term “history journal” refers to a journal that is regularly published in the field of history and contains historical studies. Broadly speaking, there are two types of history journals: popular/non-academic and professional/academic. While the former is produced for non-expert audiences interested in history, the latter is for professional historians. This does not mean that students of history, history teachers, and professional historians do not buy and read popular historical journals.¹ Popular history journals, which are also called history magazines, are regarded as commercial products. They would cease publication in the case of low sales.² Popular history journals have several roles in society. These are the dissemination of historical studies, the creation of historical consciousness among the general public, and the arousing of interest in history.

Academic history journals are generally produced and published by universities and research institutions. They fulfill a set of important functions in academia. The first and foremost function is that they are a forum for the scholarly research output of professional historians and social scientists. The second function is that they are a meeting place for information-sharing and knowledge exchange. In this regard, they significantly contribute to the conveyance of history among scholars, academics, and history students. The third function is that the articles published in history journals are considered significant yardsticks in world

university rankings, academic careers and promotions.³ In brief, academic history journals significantly contribute to developing the discipline of history.

In present-day Malaysia, the origin of what can be described as scholarly journalism, including historical journalism, goes back to the period of the British colonisation of the Malay Peninsula. The British encouraged and supported the publication of scholarly journals for its administrative, political and economic advantages in the peninsula. The *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia* (1847-1862), *Journal of Eastern Asia* (1875) and *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (1878-) are the first instances of scholarly journals published during the British period.⁴ The first two journals, namely the *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia* and *Journal of Eastern Asia*, came into existence as a result of individual efforts made by two enthusiastic figures, James Richardson Logan (1819-1869), prominent lawyer, and James Collins, the Secretary and Librarian of the Raffle Library and Museum, respectively. On the contrary, the *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* was a product of the institutional and collective endeavours of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, the first colonial society established in Singapore on 6 May 1878. As colonial organizations, colonial museums in Malaya such as the Perak Museum, Selangor Museum and Sarawak Museum were also involved in the publication of scholarly journals in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In this regard, scholarly writing and journalism in the Malay Peninsula started as an individual enterprise and gradually developed into a collective and institutional effort.

The salient feature of British scholarly journalism is that colonial scholarly journals cover a broad range of subjects, from archaeology and anthropology to geology and history. It is no exaggeration to say that there was no proper history journal during the British administration in Malaya in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. However, colonial scholarly journals allocate considerable space to historical studies conducted by British administrator-scholars such as William Edward Maxwell (1846-1947), Richard James Wilkinson (1878-1966), and Richard Olaf Winstedt (1867-1941).

The Japanese occupation of the Malay Peninsula led to a three-year hiatus in scholarly journalism as a consequence of a lack of funding and articles. Upon the British defeat of Japan, scholarly journalism resumed in the Malay Peninsula.⁵ On the eve of Malayan independence, the Malayan Historical Society (Persatuan Sejarah Malaya) started to publish its journal named *Malayan Historical Journal* in 1954. It was a proper history journal. It continued its publication until 1985 with two different titles: *Malaya in History* (1957-1964) and *Malaysia in History* (1964-1985). Besides the Malayan Historical Society, the University of Malaya (UM) in Kuala Lumpur, established in 1958, also began the publication of a history journal after the independence of Malaya. The Historical Society (Persatuan Sejarah) of the History Department of UM, the sole university and history department in the country at that time, published its academic history journal named the *Journal of the Historical Society, University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur* (henceforth *Journal of the Historical Society*) in 1960. It was annually published in eight volumes and thirteen issues between 1960 and 1969/70. More important, it was a product of the joint and exemplary efforts of undergraduate history students and historians at the History Department of UM in Kuala Lumpur. It was a vehicle for the research output of the students and historians of the History Department of UM. The *Journal of the Historical Society* is the first proper, academic and university-based history journal that appeared after the independence of Malaya in 1957.

This study attempts to discuss the *Journal of the Historical Society* in terms of the number of articles published in the journal, the types of the articles, their subject areas, language, author productivity, and authorship patterns. An analysis of the journal reveals and reflects research trends and historiographical developments in Malaysia in the 1960s and 1970s when the history discipline was professionalised and institutionalised. It also provides the historical backdrop to the evolution and trajectory of contemporary historical journals in Malaysia, which will be analysed by researchers.

The study first introduces its main sources and methodological approaches and then briefly reviews the existing literature on the issue at hand. Subsequently, it offers an overview of the *Journal of the Historical Society* and finally discusses the articles and contributors of the journal.

Major Sources and Methodology

The primary sources for this study are the articles published in the *Journal of the Historical Society*. All volumes of the journal are available in the Za'ba Memorial Library at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. However, the online version of the journal does not exist. Therefore, the researcher, who works on the journal, may consult the collection of the journal which is preserved and kept in perfect condition in the Za'ba Memorial Library.

Data for this study is obtained from a total of 100 research articles and 10 book reviews published in the *Journal of the Historical Society* between 1960 and 1970. It is rigorously amassed and compiled based on several categories such as the titles of research articles, names of contributors, number of contributors and themes of articles. Collected data is analysed in a descriptive, interpretive and bibliometric manner. Descriptive and interpretive methods are utilized for the analysis of themes and research trends of articles in a particular journal. Bibliometrics is the main method of the study. It is defined as “the application of mathematical and statistical methods to book and other media”.⁶ The bibliometric analysis allows us to numerically understand the origin, development and features of a particular discipline, topic or journal. It is widely and commonly employed to examine article productivity, authorship productivity, authorship pattern and article content of a specific journal.⁷ It is also used to comprehend research trends by analysing the articles, research notes and book reviews that appeared in the journal.⁸ Since this study aims to comprehend research trends and historiographical developments in the Malaysian history profession, bibliometric analysis is indeed suitable and relevant to the objective of the study.

Literature Review

There are few studies on the origin and development of academic history journals published in Malaysia. Two different research trends are prevalent in the existing literature: (1) holistic studies on the origin and development of historical journalism in Malaysia and (2) single journal studies. The works of Wai Sin Tiew and Sivachandralingam S. Raja and Noraini M. Hassan are important examples of holistic studies on Malaysian historical journalism.⁹ While Wai Sin Tiew studies learned journals, including historical journals, published from the middle of the nineteenth century until the second half of the twentieth century, Sivachandralingam S. Raja and Noraini M. Hassan offer a broad overview of contemporary history journals in Malaysia published by local universities and museums in a historical and descriptive way. Even though their works have contributed significantly to the understanding of Malaysian historical

journalism, there is an urgent need for fresh and comprehensive studies of colonial and postcolonial history journals from a holistic perspective. Such an enterprise would definitely benefit enormously from single journal studies.

In addition to a holistic approach to historical journalism in Malaysia, a few single journal studies are conducted in the literature. The *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (JMBRAS)*, the prestigious journal of both Malaysian Studies and history, has received much attention. C. D. Cowan, J. M. Gullick, Choy Chee Meh nee Lum, and Wai Sin Tiew work on various aspects of *JMBRAS* from the idea of history in the journal to the authorship productivity and patterns.¹⁰ Another important single journal study is concerned with the *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia (1847-1862)* published during the British colonisation of the Malay Peninsula.¹¹ Nonetheless, historical journals published after the end of British rule have not been the subject of monographs as comprehensive as *JMBRAS*. More specifically, there is a dearth of studies on university-based historical journals published after the independence of Malaya such as *Sejarah* by the University of Malaya and *Jebat* by the National University of Malaysia even though history departments of local universities are principal publishers and producers of history journals. This study intends to fill this scholarly gap by analysing the *Journal of the Historical Society*, the first academic and university-based historical journal that appeared after Malaya attained independence. Furthermore, the study makes a significant and methodological contribution by applying bibliometrics to a history journal.

The Journal of the Historical Society: An Overview

The *Journal of the Historical Society* was the organ of the Historical Society, the Department of History, University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. It appeared once a year between 1960 and 1969/1970. The publication of the journal coincided with the independence of Malaya in 1957 and the establishment of the History Department at the University of Malaya in 1959. The journal also experienced the formation of Malaysia in 1963. Towards the end of its publication, the journal was also influenced by political and educational developments in Malaysia. The 1970s saw the beginnings of the emphasis on Bahasa Melayu in higher education. This may not be a policy in existing universities then but expressed in the sentiments of the community of Malay academics and scholars. Thus, the title of the journal was changed to *Jernal Sejarah* in 1970, one year before the May 13 incident. Even though *Jernal Sejarah* accepted English articles, the majority of articles published in the journal were written in the Malay language. *Jernal Sejarah* ended in 1978 and the History Department of UM did not attempt to publish any academic history journal until 1988, when the new history journal named *Sejarah* was published, except for a short-lived journal, *Monograf Sejarah* in 1984/85.¹² In brief, the *Journal of the Historical Society* achieved to appear once a year during the difficult and turbulent period of the newly independent country, and it was a pioneering history journal of the History Department of UM. *Jernal Sejarah* and *Sejarah* continued the mission of the *Journal of the Historical Society*. *Sejarah* is still following the legacy of its predecessor.

The *Journal of the Historical Society* was a specific journal devoted to Southeast Asian history in general and Malaysian history in particular. However, it published articles on American, European and Chinese history. The journal has several objectives. Its first and primary objective is to provide a significant forum for historians and students of the History Department of UM.¹³ It was absolutely a vehicle for local historians and students who were willing to express their views on historical issues and publish their studies.¹⁴ The second objective is to explore unknown and untold aspects of Malaysian history from an afresh and

local perspective and to collect, publish and introduce source materials of Malaysian history in both written and unwritten forms. More importantly, the contributors of the journal aimed at the re-interpretation and re-examination of Malaysian history, as well as a decrease in prevalent misconceptions and biases in Malaysian historical studies.¹⁵ The editorial writings of the journal reflect historiographical discussions in the 1960s, especially controversies on Eurocentric and Malay-centric writing of Malaysian history and the issue of the validity and reliability of local sources. Gilbert Khoo, the editor of Volume 2 (1963/64), emphasized the use of both colonial and local sources in a balanced manner.¹⁶ The editorial writing of Volume 3 (1964/65) mentioned that historical works were produced by non-Asians who mostly consulted non-indigenous sources and questioned whether an Asia-centric (or Malay-centric) perspective would correspond to the demands of historical objectivity.¹⁷ The final objective of the *Journal of the Historical Society* is to arouse an interest in history in academic and everyday spheres of Malaysian society as Prof. John Bastin states in his foreword to the maiden issue of the journal.¹⁸ The journal was a product of the collaboration of students and lecturers in the History Department; enthusiastic undergraduate students were editors and writers of the journal. They published their research in the journal. Prof. Bastin praised the quality of articles written by students.¹⁹ This is absolutely an inspiring example for the future generation of history students. Undoubtedly, the Malaysian history profession needs such an effort. It is hoped that local history departments and NGOs would follow in the footsteps and legacy of the *Journal of the Historical Society* and give considerable space to works of history and social science students in the academic journals.

The journal did not have a permanent editor. Every issue was edited by one of the undergraduate students of the members of the Historical Society. R. Bonney, Rasip Manap and Gilbert Khoo were among the undergraduate editors of the journal. Undoubtedly, the lecturers of the History Department facilitated the students in editing the journal. The *Journal of the Historical Society* is quite different from contemporary academic journals in several ways. The articles published do not have abstracts, keywords and bibliographies. Furthermore, in a large number of articles, there is no information on the institutional and geographical affiliations of the contributors to the journal, as well as a brief biographical sketch.

The *Journal of the Historical Society* is the first university-based history journal after the independence of Malaya and the predecessor of *Jernal Sejarah and Sejarah* published by the University of Malaya. Zealous history students and the staff of the History Department of UM played a vital role in the publication of the journal in the newly founded country. The journal was active in attempting to rewrite and re-interpret Malaysian history from a local perspective. It purports to have an active role in the writing of the new nation's history. The following section of the article is concerned with a comprehensive analysis of chosen categories such as the coverage, content and active contributors of the journal.

Bibliometric Description

Articles and Book Reviews

The journal was published in 8 volumes with 10 issues between 1960 and 1969/1970. There were 100 articles and 10 book reviews in 10 issues. In addition, one poem was published in Volume 5 (1966/67). This is excluded from the study. Every issue has exactly 10 articles and 1 book review. While the inaugural issue of the journal published 8 articles, the last issue published 14 articles. The lowest number of articles is 8 whereas the highest number of articles is 14. The journal did not seem to give priority to book reviews. While Volumes 6 and 7 give

space to 3 book reviews, there are any book reviews in volumes 1 no. 2, 2, 3, 4, and 5 (Table 1). It is observed that the journal attached more importance to the publication of research articles.

Table 1: The number of articles and book reviews by year

Volume and Year	No. of Articles	No. of Book Reviews
Volume 1, No. 1, 1960	8	1
Volume 1, No. 2, 1961	10	-
Volume 1, No. 3, 1962/63	8	1
Volume 2, 1963/64	8	-
Volume 3, 1964/65	10	-
Volume 4, 1965/66	11	-
Volume 5, 1966/67	11	-
Volume 6, 1967/68	10	3
Volume 7, 1968/69	10	3
Volume 8, 1969/70	14	2
Total	100	10

Types of Articles

Articles published in the journal may be classified under two main categories: theoretical and empirical studies. It is kept in mind that there is no clear distinction between the two categories. Undoubtedly, historians discuss their theoretical assumptions in empirical studies. However, some studies are purely theoretical. Therefore, the two main categories are necessary for an analysis of the articles published in the journal. The majority of the articles (94) are empirical while only 6 articles are theoretical. J. D. Frodsham's "Historical Explanation: Fundamentalism of the Controversy" and Zaidon Syed Mahmood's "Dual Dynamism in the Marxian Philosophy of History," are examples of theoretical studies published in the journal.²⁰

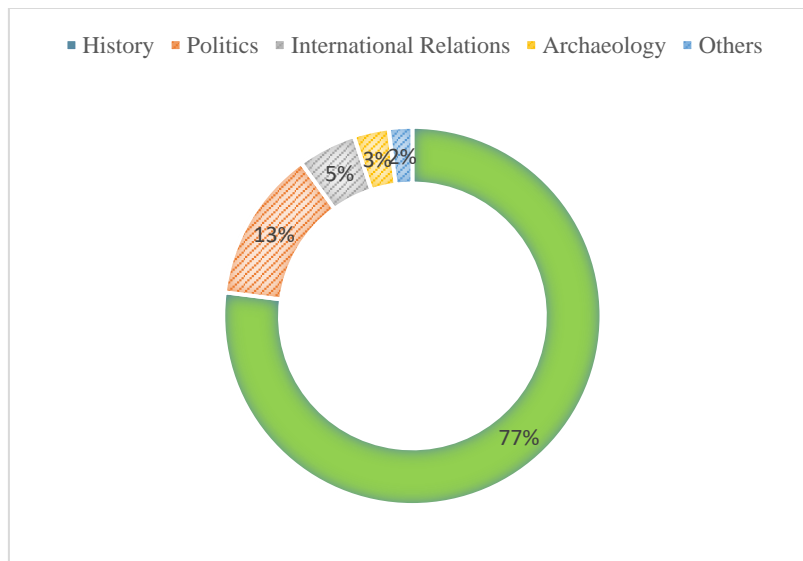
A large number of empirical works demonstrate the existence and prevalence of the global division of labour in the social sciences and humanities. The global division of labour refers to unequal and hegemonic relations between the global and local social science communities, manifesting intellectual imperialism and academic dependency. At the same time, it enables the maintenance and perpetuation of academic dependency. The significant facet of the international division of labour is a condition in which local scholars merely carry out empirical works while scholars of social science powers make both theoretical and empirical studies. This is called 'the division between theoretical and empirical intellectual labour.'²¹ The majority of the contributors to the journal are local Malaysians as will be explained in the following part of the study. Local historians tended to carry out more empirical studies rather than theoretical ones. Hence, there was a global division of labour in the Malaysian history discipline of the 1960s.

The Distribution of Articles By Disciplines

The *Journal of the Historical Society* is a historical journal, but it also gives coverage to articles in the disciplines of social sciences. Research articles in the journal are closely related to four disciplines: history, politics, international relations (IR) and archaeology. The number of historical studies (77%) is overwhelming in the journal. Studies on politics and IR account for 13% and 5% of all articles, respectively. Archaeological studies comprised 3% (Figure 1). In

the 1960s Malaysia, IR discipline was taught within history discipline. In this sense, it is only logical that political and IR studies are considered part of the history discipline in the journal.

Figure 1: The Distribution of Articles By Disciplines



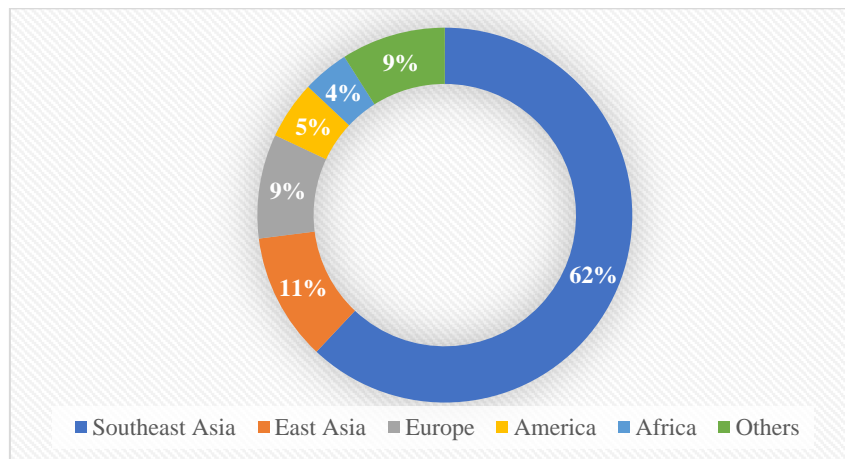
The Regional Distribution of Articles

The research articles published in the journal centre on five main regions: Southeast Asia, East Asia, Europe, America and Africa. There was a large number of articles (62%) on Southeast Asian countries. Naturally, the journal allocated considerable space to articles concerning Southeast Asian countries because it was published in Malaysia and was contributed by the staff of the University of Malaya whose majority hailed from Southeast Asian countries in general and Malaysia in particular. Furthermore, more than half of the articles on Southeast Asia are closely related to Malaysia. It is followed by several studies on Indonesia (4 articles), Thailand (3 articles) and Vietnam (2 articles). In this regard, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam had not received attention as much as Malaysia. However, it is kept in mind that these countries were also analysed in the journal articles which focus holistically on Southeast Asia as a broad research field.

Studies on East Asia and Europe are 11% and 9%, respectively. Chinese history, philosophy and politics are the main research topics of articles concerning East Asian countries. There are a few articles on the politics, economics and history of Europe. The articles of foreign scholars such as A. Short and Roman Dubsyky contribute to the development of the literature on Europe in Malaysia.

The number of articles on America and Africa is almost similar to each other at 5% and 4%, respectively (Figure 2). A few visiting American scholars at the University of Malaya such as Prof. Sane K. Padover played a vital role in the production of knowledge on American politics and history. Figure 2 demonstrates that even though the *Journal of the Historical Society* gives priority to articles on Southeast Asian countries, specifically Malaysia, it also publishes some studies on East Asia, Europe and America.

Figure 2: The Regional Distribution of the Articles



Analysing Articles on Malaysia

Malaysia is one of the important countries in Southeast Asia. The history, politics, culture and sociology of Malaysia are also significant research areas within Southeast Asian Studies and Malay Studies. As a Malaysia-based journal, the *Journal of the Historical Society* allocates notable space to Malaysia. The majority of works on Southeast Asia in the journal (38 articles) are related to Malaysian history (36 articles), archaeology (1) and IR (1) (Table 2). Every issue of the journal includes almost 4 articles on Malaysia. While the lowest number of articles on Malaysian is 1 in Volume 1, no. 3 (1962/63), the highest number is 7 in both volumes 4 (1965/66) and 6 (1967/68) (Table 3).

Table 2: The Distribution of Articles on Malaysia By Fields

Fields	No. of Articles
Malaysian History	36
Archaeology	1
International Relations	1
Total	38

Table 3: The Distribution of Articles on Malaysia By Issue

Volume	Number of Articles
Volume 1, No. 1, 1960	4
Volume 1, No. 2, 1961	2
Volume 1, No. 3, 1962/63	1
Volume 2, 1963/64	3
Volume 3, 1964/65	3
Volume 4, 1965/66	7
Volume 5, 1966/67	2
Volume 6, 1967/68	7
Volume 7, 1968/69	4
Volume 8, 1969/70	5
Total	38

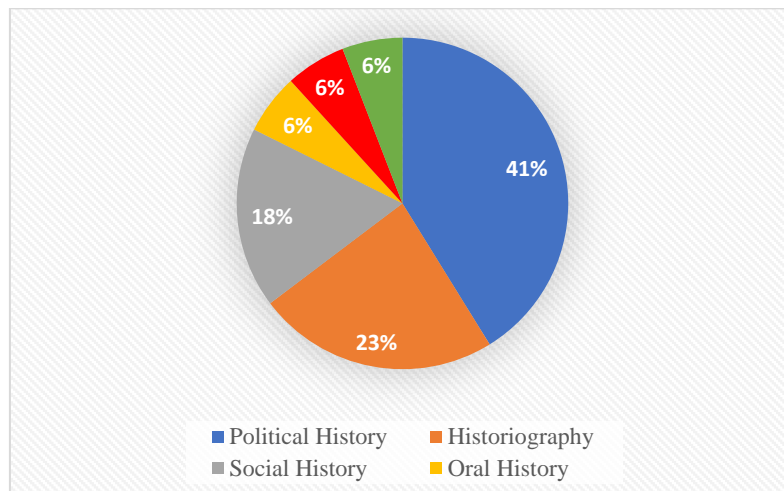
While 36 of 38 articles on Malaysia are single case studies, only 2 articles are comparative studies. It is apparent that the contributors to the journal tended to undertake single case studies and did not attach importance to comparative studies. A large number of single case studies in the journal reflected the existence of “the division between comparative and case studies”, as an important aspect of the global division of labour in the social sciences. This division refers to the false belief that local scholars carry out single case studies and comparative studies are in the hand of Western scholars.²² Colonial knowledge was still powerful and the production of knowledge was driven by the interest, priority and agenda of Western social sciences powers in 1960s Malaysia although there was a considerable critique of colonial and Eurocentric knowledge at that time. The social science communities of developing countries are endeavouring to overcome “the division between comparative and case studies”.

The main objective of this study is to comprehend research trends and historiographical developments within the Malaysian history profession through a bibliometric and interpretative analysis of articles published in the *Journal of the Historical Society*. Therefore, it is necessary to comprehensively analyse historical studies in the article. As has been mentioned above, there were scores of articles on Malaysian history (36 articles) published in the journal over ten years. They are overwhelmingly associated with the history of the Malay Peninsula except for one article titled “The Traditional Musical Instruments of Sabah” by James P. Ongkili.²³ It is also the sole example of cultural history. In this regard, the writers of the articles took a Peninsular-centric approach to Malaysian history and, consciously or subconsciously, ignored and omitted the history of Sabah and Sarawak. This would be due to the early periods of the transition to Malaysia in 1963, with the two states of Sabah and Sarawak considered new to the Federation.

The majority of studies in the field of Malaysian history (41%) are on political history (Figure 3). It means that historians paid attention to political affairs in the 1960s and 70s. They endeavoured to examine political figures, parties and movements during the colonial and postcolonial periods of Malaysia. Numbers of articles on Malaysian politics are closely related to the independence of Malaya in 1957. Undoubtedly, a discussion on the political aspect of Malaysian history enabled historians, scholars and politicians to better understand issues such as the formation of the nation-state and the process of nation-building. In this regard, it may be said that the interest of historians was affected by the political atmosphere of 1960s Malaysia.

The second important historical subdiscipline in the journal is historiography. Historiographical works account for 23 % of all Malaysian historical studies (Figure 3). The 1960s witnessed the critique of British colonial scholarship on Malaysian history and a new approach to Malaysian history. Furthermore, Malaysian history as an academic discipline started to be professionalised and institutionalised at that time. Therefore, the journal gives priority to historiographical studies such as the use of history, history education, and the importance of local source materials. Among important historiographical studies published in the journal are (1) “Sejarah Melayu as a Historical Source” by Kamaruzzaman Shariff, (2) “Some Aspects of Malay History” by Zainal Abidin bin Abdul Wahid, (3) “Towards Malaysian History” by R. Bonney, and (4) “The Use of History” by Wang Gungwu.²⁴ The journal is an important source of information on the origin and development of Malaysian historiography.

Figure 3: The Distribution of Articles on Malaysian History By Subdiscipline



Although social history had attracted the attention of historians, political history remained dominant. Oral history, War History and History of Ideas are important historical subdisciplines of articles published in the journal (Figure 3). More importantly, some contributors to the journal attempted to write a history of Malay cities and villages based on oral accounts.²⁵ This reflected concerns by Malaysian, particularly Malay scholars on issues of indigeneity, culture and identity in the early years of the nation. They are significant and exemplary attempts in the field of Malaysian history. Local historians attached importance to oral histories.

Articles on Malaysian history published in the journal are analysed based on historical periods. Malaysian history is divided broadly into three main periods: pre-colonial, colonial and postcolonial. Based on this division, a large number of articles (28 articles) are related to the colonial period of Malaysia. The majority (27 articles) focus on the political, socio-economic and administrative facets of the British administration in the Malay Peninsula in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Studies on the British history of the Malay Peninsula concentrate on the developments in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which directly affected Malayan independence and the political and socio-economic thoughts of the Malays. The Portuguese and Dutch eras of Malaysia did not receive the necessary attention. Articles on British rule are followed by post-colonial studies on Malaysian history, specifically Malay nationalism. Historians did not pay attention to the pre-colonial history of Malaysia. There are just two works in this period (Table 4).

Table 4: The Periodical Distribution of Articles on Malaysian History

Periods	No of articles
Pre-colonial	2
Colonial	28
Post-colonial	8
Total	38

The analysis of historical articles indicates that Malaysian history was the main subject. The contributors to the journal geographically focus more on the Malay Peninsula and thematically paid much attention to the political history of Malaysia during the British colonial period. Historiographical studies were given much credit by history students and historians. They shaped and formed the trajectory and development of the history profession in Malaysia. However, historiography is still a neglected field of study among local historians in Malaysia even though it is instrumental in developing the discipline of history.²⁶

Language of Articles

The journal was bilingual (English and Bahasa Malaysia). The number of English articles is overwhelming. Merely 3 of 100 research articles were written in Bahasa Melayu: 1) Mohd Nor Long, “Gerakan Kebangsaan Sa-Belum Perang Dunia Kedua,” 2) Mohd Nor Long, “Hikayat Raja 2 Pasai dan Sejarah Melayu: Satu Perundingan Bentok Persejarahan,” and 3) Ibrahim bin Ismail, “Raja Ali Haji dan Abdullah Kadir Munshi: Satu Perbandingan Sebagai Ahli2 Sejarah.”²⁷ While the first article in the local language appeared in Volume 6, 1967-68, the last Malay article was published in Volume, 1969/70. The publication of the first Malay article is related to that Malay became the mere official language of Malaysia.²⁸ In short, the journal predominantly published English articles because the medium of instruction in higher education was English in the 1960s and 1970s. Furthermore, the majority of scholars and historians were either ex-colonial administrators or expatriates. These factors also affected the language of articles published in the journal.

Author Productivity

The students and staff at the History Department of the University of Malaya made significant efforts to publish the journal. The students edited the journal and also authored many articles for the journal.²⁹ The undergraduate students wrote 45 articles between 1960 and 1969/70. It means that almost half of the research articles were produced by undergraduate students. For instance, Volume 1, number 2, 1961/62 included the articles of six students. Volume 1, Number 3, 1962/93 had three students’ studies (Table 5). Gilbert Khoo and Mohd. Nor Long are the most productive final-year contributors to the journal. A prominent historian of Malaysia, Cheah Boon Kheng (1939-2015), wrote one article entitled “The MDU: A Brief History,” when he was an undergraduate student at the History Department of the University of Malaya.³⁰ The abundance of research articles in the journal is a good and inspiring instance of how students from the history department play a role in the development of the history discipline.

Table 5: The Distribution Of Student Articles In The Journal By Year

Volume	Articles
Volume 1, No. 1	4
Volume 1, No. 2	6
Volume 1, No. 3	3
Volume 2	4
Volume 3	2
Volume 4	5
Volume 5	4
Volume 6	4
Volume 7	6
Volume 8	7
Total	45

Apart from students, foreign and local professional historians are the main contributors to the journal. A total of 26 research articles were written by professional historians, who have completed their PhD. Prof. Wang Gungwu, Dr. D. K. Bassett and Dr. J. D. Frodsham are among those who contributed to the journal. The number of foreign scholars outnumbered that of local scholars. In the 1960s, knowledge production on Malaysian history was still dominated by foreigners.

As for the most active contributor to the journal, it was R. Bonney, with four articles. They are closely related to the historiographical problems of Southeast Asian history generally and Malaysian history particularly. In this regard, he significantly contributed to the study of Malaysian historiography. Khoo Kay Kim, Wang Gungwu and J. M. Pluvier contributed 4 articles to the journal. While the articles of Khoo Kay Kim are particularly concerned with Malaysian history, Wang Gungwu wrote articles on Malaysian history and the Vietnam issue, a popular topic of the 1960s because of the Vietnam War. J. D. Frodsham, Roman Dubsy and Anthony Short published their three articles in the journal, respectively (Table 6). A list of productive authors indicates that the History Department of the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur is the main institution of knowledge production with R. Bonney, Khoo Kay Kim, Wang Gungwu and Jan M. Pluvier. All were affiliated with the History Department of UM.

Table 6: Ranked List of Productive Authors

Rank	Author's Name	No. of Articles	No. of Book Review
1	R. Bonney	5	1
2	Khoo Kay Kim	4	-
3	Wang Gungwu	4	-
4	Jan M. Pluvier	4	-
5	J. D. Frodsham	3	-
6	Roman Dubsy	3	-
7	Anthony Short	3	-

Authorship Patterns

As for the issue of authorship patterns of articles published in the Journal, single authorship is predominant. All articles that appeared in the journal were written by a single author. The co-authorship pattern is not found in the journal. There was possibly a strong belief in the individuality of historical research in the 1960s. Even though the journal published the articles of undergraduate students, the lecturers of the History Department did not engage in a co-authorship pattern.

Conclusion

The Journal of the Historical Society published 100 research articles, 10 book reviews and 1 poem in a total of 10 issues of the journal over a ten-year period. A large number of research articles are empirical. Theoretical studies are limited. While case studies are overwhelming, there are few comparative studies in the journal. An abundance of empirical and case studies is related to academic dependency and the global division of labour in the social sciences and humanities. Malaysia was under British rule for a long time. The British colonial administrator-scholars monopolized knowledge production on social sciences in general Malaysian history in particular in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries and there was a handful of local professional historians in the 1950s and 1960s. Furthermore, the teaching of history at the tertiary level began in the 1950s. In this regard, the Malaysian social sciences in the 1960s were dependent on Western social sciences. The types of articles indicate that local scholars conduct more empirical and case studies than theoretical and comparative ones.

The majority of research articles are geographically related to Southeast Asia in general and Malaysia in particular. Malaysian history had attracted considerable attention among history students and historians. Articles on Malaysian history focus on the history of the Malay Peninsula. In this regard, they took a Peninsular-centric approach to Malaysian history. The history of Sabah and Sarawak was neglected. Political history and historiography are popular research topics that historians study in the 1960s. Some history students and historians work on social history, particularly the history of cities, based on oral accounts. Their attempts are valuable and meaningful during that time.

English is the principal language of research articles and book reviews in the journal. Articles are produced by a single author. There is no co-authorship pattern in the journal. The students and lecturers of the History Department of the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur played a vital role in the publication of the journal. More specifically, the undergraduate students of the department edited the journal and contributed their articles to the appearance and continuation of the journal. In this sense, they are role models for the history students of the present and future generations.

Finally, this study has analysed one academic history journal through bibliometric analysis. There is also a large number of academic journals in Malaysia. They would be analysed separately and comparatively by bibliometric analysis. Examples are *Sejarah* of UM, *Jebat* of UKM, and *Kemanusiaan the Asian Journal of Humanities* of USM. A study of history journals offers a deep understanding of the history, development and problems of the history discipline and profession in Malaysia. It also enables scholars and researchers to identify research lacunas in the field.

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