

THE URGENCY OF STUDYING THE ULUMUL QUR'AN IN MAINTAINING THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE INTERPRETATION OF THE QUR'AN IN THE CURRENT MODERN ERAFeny Aqila¹, Hidayatul Rahmi², Syaddul Fikri³, and Muhamad Yahya⁴¹ Universitas Islam Negeri Mahmud Yunus, Batusangkar, Indonesia² Universitas Islam Negeri Mahmud Yunus, Batusangkar, Indonesia³ Universitas Islam Negeri Mahmud Yunus, Batusangkar, Indonesia⁴ Universitas Islam Negeri Mahmud Yunus, Batusangkar, Indonesia**Corresponding Author:**

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Abstract

The development of digital technology in the contemporary era has significantly influenced how people access and interpret the Qur'an, leading to the widespread circulation of interpretations that are not always based on proper scientific principles. This condition highlights the importance of a strong methodological foundation to maintain the authenticity of Qur'anic interpretation. This study aims to analyze the urgency of studying Ulumul Qur'an in preserving the authenticity of Qur'anic interpretation in the modern era. The research employs a literature review method by examining various scientific sources, including books, journal articles, and relevant academic publications published between 2022–2026. The findings reveal that Ulumul Qur'an plays a fundamental role as an epistemological foundation in ensuring valid, contextual, and accountable Qur'anic interpretation. It also shows that the lack of public understanding of Ulumul Qur'an, combined with the rise of digital media, contributes to the emergence of partial and subjective interpretations. Therefore, strengthening the study of Ulumul Qur'an is essential in addressing contemporary interpretative challenges. This research contributes to the development of Islamic Studies by emphasizing the integration of classical Islamic scholarship with modern contexts and offers practical implications for enhancing religious literacy in the digital age.

Keywords: Authenticity, Contemporary Era, Islamic Studies, Qur'anic Interpretation, Ulumul Qur'an

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INTRODUCTION

The development of science and technology in the modern era has had a profound impact on various aspects of human life, including how Muslims understand their religious teachings. Advances in information technology, particularly through the use of the internet and social media, have opened up tremendous access for the public to obtain a variety of religious information quickly and without limits. Today, individuals no longer rely on traditional sources to study the Quran, but can instead access various forms of interpretation through digital platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, and various other Islamic websites (Armita 2025). This phenomenon indicates a significant shift in the distribution and consumption of religious knowledge, from previously limited to more open and accessible to all groups.

On the one hand, this development presents a tremendous opportunity to expand the reach of Islamic preaching and improve public religious literacy. Information about the Quran can be delivered more quickly and reach a wider audience without geographical limitations. However, on the other hand, this situation also presents various new challenges, particularly related to the validity and credibility of information circulating in the digital space. Not all religious content distributed is based on a strong scientific foundation. Some of these interpretations are instantaneous, partial, and even subjective, potentially leading to errors in understanding the full meaning of the Quranic verses.

The various forms of Quranic interpretations circulating in digital media are often not based on a clear and systematic interpretation methodology. This leads to understandings that do not align with the context of the verses or the basic principles of Quranic interpretation (Ahmad 2026). In some circumstances, errors in understanding Quranic verses can have quite serious consequences, such as the emergence of intolerance, social conflict, and even the development of extreme religious ideologies. Therefore, a solid scientific framework is needed to ensure that the process of Quranic interpretation remains on the right track and does not deviate from its true meaning.

Theoretically, Quranic interpretation cannot be conducted haphazardly without the support of adequate scientific tools. Within the treasury of Islamic scholarship, a discipline specifically addressing various aspects related to the Quran is Ulumul Qur'an (Rahmani and Alwizar 2024). This science encompasses various important branches, including asbabun nuzul (the study of the background to the revelation of verses), nasikh (the study of interpretations), and mansukh (the study of legal changes in the Qur'an), qira'at (the study of variations in readings), and the rules of interpretation, which serve as guidelines for comprehensively understanding the contents of the Qur'an.

Ulumul Qur'an plays a crucial role as a foundation for maintaining the authenticity and purity of the Qur'an's meaning. Through an understanding of Ulumul Qur'an, one can interpret Qur'anic verses more accurately and contextually. Scholars emphasize that interpretation of the Qur'an without a mastery of Ulumul Qur'an has the potential to lead to distortions in meaning (Al-Zarqani, 2001). Therefore, mastery of this science is essential for anyone who wishes to understand the Qur'an correctly and deeply.

Ideally, every interpretation of the Qur'an should be based on the scientific principles contained in Ulumul Qur'an. Interpretation should not only focus on textual meaning alone, but should also consider the historical, social, and cultural aspects underlying the revelation of the verses (Ali Sati et al. 2025). With this comprehensive approach, the meaning of the Qur'an can be understood more fully and cannot be separated from the main purpose of the revelation. Therefore, understanding the Ulumul Qur'an is not only important for scholars and academics, but also for society in general, especially in facing the rapid flow of information in the modern era.

However, current conditions in society demonstrate a gap between ideal conditions and current practices. Many people, especially the younger generation, understand the Quran textually without a deeper understanding of the fundamental principles of the Quran. This phenomenon is exacerbated by the proliferation of religious content on social media, which often presents instant interpretations without thorough and systematic study. As a result, various understandings emerge that do not conform to the rules of correct interpretation and have the potential to lead to religious misunderstandings.

Several studies have shown that the development of digital technology has had a significant impact on the dynamics of Quranic interpretation in society. Abdul Rouf (2025) stated that the digitalization of interpretation has expanded public access to various sources of interpretation, but has also led to a shift in interpretive authority from scholars with scholarly competence to popular figures on social media who may not have adequate scientific foundations (Abdul Rouf 2025). This situation demonstrates that easy access to information does not always translate into high-quality understanding.

Another study conducted by Andri Nirwana (2024) stated that the development of multimedia-based interpretation provides a significant opportunity to disseminate a broader and more engaging understanding of the Quran. However, without a proper mastery of interpretation methodology, this development can actually lead to distortions in interpretation. Furthermore, research by Fadhilah, Nugroho, and Azizah (2024) shows that studies of Quranic interpretation have increased significantly since 2022. However, research specifically addressing the importance of Ulumul Qur'an in maintaining the authenticity of Quranic interpretation remains relatively limited.

Based on these research findings, it is understandable that digitalization has had an ambivalent impact on the development of Quranic interpretation. On the one hand, digitalization facilitates access to religious knowledge, but on the other, it also increases the potential for errors in interpretation (Alparizi, Hakim, and Jamal 2022). Most previous research has focused on media and digital transformation, while studies highlighting the role of Ulumul Qur'an as the primary foundation for maintaining the authenticity of interpretation are still scarce.

This indicates a research gap that requires further study through more in-depth and systematic research. A study is needed that not only addresses Ulumul Qur'an conceptually but also relates it to the social realities developing in today's society. Therefore, this research is expected to contribute to bridging the gap between theory and practice in Quranic interpretation.

This research is highly urgent due to its broad implications, both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is expected to enrich the body of Islamic scholarship, particularly in the fields of Ulumul Qur'anic interpretation and tafsir. Practically, this research is expected to raise public awareness of the importance of studying Ulumul Qur'anic interpretation as a foundation for a correct understanding of the Qur'an. Furthermore, this research is also expected to serve as a reference for Islamic educational institutions in developing curricula that emphasize strengthening understanding of Ulumul Qur'anic interpretation. In the context of Islamic Religious Education, this research is highly relevant because it directly relates to efforts to improve the quality of students' religious understanding

(Febriani, Masfuah, and Ulyanti 2024). Islamic Religious Education serves not only as a means of transferring knowledge but also as a process of character formation and critical and responsible thinking in understanding religious teachings. Therefore, integrating Ulumul Qur'an learning into the education system is a strategic step in maintaining the authenticity of Qur'anic interpretation amidst the changing times.

Based on this description, this study aims to analyze the urgency of studying Ulumul Qur'an in maintaining the authenticity of Qur'anic interpretation in the current modern era. This research is expected to make a real contribution to strengthening public religious understanding and preserving the purity of Islamic teachings amidst increasingly rapid technological developments.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study is a library research study using a literature review approach. It aims to deeply analyze the concept and urgency of studying Ulumul Qur'an in maintaining the authenticity of Qur'anic interpretation in the modern era. The primary focus of this research is the review of various relevant scientific literature sources, such as books, journals, and research articles related to the topic discussed (Harun and Umar 2024). This research does not involve direct data collection in the field; instead, all data is obtained through academically credible written sources. The data sources used consist of primary and secondary data.

Primary data comes from scientific journals, books, and research articles that specifically discuss Ulumul Qur'anic understanding and Qur'anic interpretation. Meanwhile, secondary data is obtained from various supporting sources, such as reference books, proceedings, and other relevant scientific literature. These sources were selected with the publication period between 2022 and 2026 in mind to ensure the freshness and relevance of the information used in this study. The object of this research is the concept of Ulumul Qur'an and its role in maintaining the authenticity of Qur'anic interpretation in the modern era, with an emphasis on the importance of mastering Ulumul Qur'anic understanding in facing the challenges of interpretation amidst technological developments and the digitalization of religious information.

The research process was conducted through several systematic stages. The initial stage began with problem identification and determining the research focus related to the urgency of Ulumul Qur'anic understanding. Next, the researcher collected literature by searching various scientific sources in academic databases, such as journals and books relevant to the research topic. Subsequently, literature was selected based on topic suitability, source quality, and year of publication (Awwaliyah and Lutfianto 2026). The next stage was data analysis, which involved reviewing, comparing, and interpreting the content of the various selected sources to identify patterns and relationships relevant to the research focus. The final stage was drawing systematic conclusions based on the results of the data analysis.

The primary instrument in this research was the researcher herself, who played a role in collecting, selecting, and analyzing data from various literature sources. Furthermore, note-taking was used as a tool to document important information from each source studied, facilitating the analysis process. Data collection was conducted through documentation studies, compiling data from various written sources such as books, scientific journals, research articles, and other relevant documents. This data was obtained through searches of academic databases such as Google Scholar and national and international scientific journals.

The data analysis technique used in this study was content analysis, which involved an in-depth review of the collected literature. The analysis process involved grouping data by theme, comparing the results of previous research, and systematically interpreting the data to gain a comprehensive understanding. The analysis stages included data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Data reduction was achieved by simplifying and

selecting relevant data, presenting the data in a descriptive narrative, and drawing conclusions by formulating the research findings comprehensively (Muhyidin and M. Fathor Rohman 2022). Thus, this research method is expected to provide a clear and in-depth picture of the urgency of studying Ulumul Qur'an in maintaining the authenticity of Qur'anic interpretation in the modern era.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research findings obtained through a literature review approach indicate that Ulumul Qur'an plays a crucial role in maintaining the authenticity of Qur'anic interpretation, particularly in facing the various challenges emerging in the contemporary era. Based on a review of various relevant scientific sources, it can be concluded that advances in digital technology have had a significant impact on patterns of societal interaction with religious texts, including Qur'anic interpretation (Imam Sofii 2024). Access to various forms of interpretation is now increasingly open, rapid, and widespread through digital media such as the internet and social platforms. However, this ease of access is not always accompanied by adequate methodological capabilities, thus opening the opportunity for the emergence of shallow, subjective interpretations, even deviating from scientific principles in Islamic Studies.

In the context of a literature review, Ulumul Qur'an is understood as a set of disciplines that serve as the primary foundation for a comprehensive understanding of the Qur'an. This discipline includes various important scientific branches, such as *asbabun nuzul* which explains the historical background of the revelation of verses, *nasikh and mansukh* which examine changes in law, *qira'at* which relates to reading variations, as well as rules of interpretation which serve as guidelines for understanding the meaning of verses correctly. The research results show that mastery of the Ulumul Qur'an is a very determining factor in producing an interpretation that is not only textually valid, but also contextually relevant. Without this scientific basis, interpretation of the Qur'an risks losing the historical, linguistic and normative dimensions that are the core of the message of revelation.

Apart from that, the results of the study also show that there have been significant changes in the authority of the interpretation of the Al-Qur'an in the modern era. If previously this authority was mostly in the hands of *ulama* and academics who had scientific competence, now this authority has begun to shift towards individuals on social media who do not always have an adequate scientific background (Irpan Saputra Harahap et al. 2025). This phenomenon is characterized by the proliferation of religious content that presents instant and popular interpretations, but lacks support from in-depth scientific studies. This situation has the potential to threaten the authenticity of Quranic interpretations because the interpretation process does not follow a rigorous and systematic scientific procedure.

Furthermore, research results indicate that the public's low level of understanding of the Ulumul Qur'an is one of the main causes of misunderstandings in understanding the Quran. Many people interpret verses literally without considering the context in which they were revealed or the principles of interpretation formulated by scholars (Lewo 2024). This situation is exacerbated by the culture of instant information consumption in the digital age, where people tend to be more attracted to brief, easy-to-understand content without considering the depth of meaning. As a result, the understanding formed is often shallow and vulnerable to misinterpretation.

Within the framework of Islamic Studies, this phenomenon is a serious concern because it is related to the quality of Muslims' religious understanding. Ulumul Qur'an not only serves as a tool for analyzing the text but also as a guardian of the purity of the Quran's meaning from various forms of deviation. Therefore, the integration of Ulumul Qur'an into Islamic studies is crucial to ensure that every form of Qur'anic interpretation remains within the correct framework (Muhyi and Raya 2026). Research findings indicate that an approach based on

Ulumul Qur'an is capable of producing interpretations that are more systematic, contextual, and in line with the primary purpose of the Qur'an as guidance for humanity.

Further discussion reveals that the challenges in maintaining the authenticity of Qur'anic interpretations are not only related to methodological aspects but also encompass social, cultural, and technological dimensions. The development of digital media has changed the way society obtains information, where popular or viral information is often assumed to be true without adequate verification. In such conditions, Ulumul Qur'an acts as a scientific filter that can be used to assess the validity of an interpretation. Therefore, mastery of this science is crucial in dealing with the uncontrolled flow of information.

On the other hand, the discussion also highlights the importance of revitalizing Ulumul Qur'an learning in Islamic educational institutions. Based on the study's findings, learning, which has tended to be theoretical, needs to be developed to be more applicable and contextual. This aims to ensure that students not only understand concepts theoretically but also are able to apply them to correctly understand the Qur'an. With a more contextual approach, Ulumul Qur'an learning is expected to improve the quality of religious understanding among the younger generation while equipping them with critical thinking skills to address the various evolving forms of interpretation.

In terms of novelty, this study offers a perspective that positions Ulumul Qur'an as the primary solution to the challenges of interpretation in the modern era. Unlike previous research that focused more on the influence of digital media, this study emphasizes the importance of returning to classical scientific foundations as the basis for maintaining the authenticity of interpretation (Gusli and Charles 2026). This approach provides a new contribution to Islamic Studies by connecting classical scholarly traditions with modern dynamics.

The implications of this research indicate that efforts to maintain the authenticity of Qur'anic interpretation require the comprehensive involvement of various parties. Not only scholars and academics, but also educational institutions, the government, and the wider community (Simatupang and Arif 2026). A systematic strategy is needed to improve Ulumul Qur'an literacy through various educational channels, both formal and non-formal. Furthermore, the use of digital technology must be directed positively as a medium for religious education based on scientific principles.

Thus, the results and discussion of this study confirm that Ulumul Qur'an plays a crucial role in maintaining the authenticity of Qur'anic interpretation in the contemporary era. Without mastery of this science, interpretations have the potential to deviate, which can lead to misunderstandings in Islamic teachings (Nasution et al. 2024). Therefore, strengthening Ulumul Qur'anic studies is a necessity that cannot be ignored in facing the complexities of modern developments.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research conducted through a literature review approach, it can be confirmed that Ulumul Qur'an plays a vital role in maintaining the authenticity of Qur'anic interpretation, especially in the contemporary era marked by the rapid development of digital technology. The research findings indicate that easy access to information through digital media, on the one hand, positively contributes to the dissemination of religious knowledge, but on the other hand, also presents challenges in the form of the development of interpretations that are not always based on sound scientific principles. In this regard, mastery of Ulumul Qur'anic is the primary foundation for producing valid, contextual, and scientifically accountable interpretations.

Furthermore, the low level of public literacy in Ulumul Qur'anic, coupled with the proliferation of religious content on social media, contributes to the emergence of partial and subjective interpretations. Therefore, strengthening Ulumul Qur'anic studies is an urgent need to address the dynamics of interpretation in the modern era. This research also emphasizes the importance of integrating classical scholarship with contemporary contexts to maintain the purity of the Qur'anic meaning. Thus, increasing religious literacy based on Ulumul Qur'an is expected to be able to form a more critical, in-depth and responsible understanding in understanding the Qur'an.

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