

The Role of IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang Alumni and the Initiation of Digitalization as a Contribution to Strengthening the Tracer Study System in Islamic Education

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify the contributions of alumni from IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang during the period of 1971 to 2013, while simultaneously initiating the digitalization of alumni data as an initial step toward building a more structured tracer study system. Employing a qualitative descriptive approach, the research utilized documentation techniques and secondary data analysis, primarily sourced from printed alumni records and follow-up data tracking. The findings indicate that IAIN Raden Fatah alumni have played strategic roles across various sectors, including Islamic education, government, religious leadership, and community development, both at regional and national levels. Many alumni have served as educators, lecturers, policymakers, legal experts, religious scholars, and social leaders who actively contribute to the development of society. As part of a data management innovation, alumni records that were previously archived manually in handwritten logbooks are now being gradually converted into digital format using Google Sheets. This digital transition serves as the foundational phase in the development of a more responsive and integrated alumni information system. The use of a cloud-based platform allows for more accessible, collaborative, and efficient data handling, and opens possibilities for integration with future digital tracer study applications.

Keywords: Alumni Management, Data Digitalization, IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang Alumni, Islamic Education.

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INTRODUCTION

In today's digital era, managing alumni data has become an integral part of higher education governance. Alumni records are no longer merely administrative documents; they now serve as concrete indicators of educational success and reflect the broader societal contributions of graduates (Babu, Deepadharshini, Priya, & Janani, 2022). In the context of Islamic education, where values such as service, social responsibility, and ethically grounded knowledge are highly emphasized, an accurate and accessible alumni data system plays a crucial role in demonstrating how well institutions have fulfilled their mission to produce graduates who contribute meaningfully to society (Khasanah, 2019).

A tracer study built upon a well-organized alumni data system enables higher education institutions to reassess the outcomes of their educational processes. By tracking graduates, institutions can identify their positions in the workforce, their areas of contribution, and the relevance of the curriculum to societal realities. Therefore, digitizing alumni data becomes an essential first step in establishing a system that is sustainable, efficient, and responsive to the changing times. When alumni data remains fragmented and stored in physical formats, the process of tracking and utilizing such information becomes limited and even hindered.

The State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Raden Fatah Palembang, established in 1964, has played a significant role in providing Islamic higher education in South Sumatra and at the national level. The institution's contribution to producing graduates who are spread across various sectors of life is a reflection of the successful implementation of the three pillars of higher education: education, research, and community service. Thousands of alumni from IAIN Raden Fatah in various faculties such as Syariah, Tarbiyah, Ushuluddin, Da'wah, and Adab and Humanities have filled strategic roles as teachers, lecturers, judges, scholars, researchers, consultants, writers, preachers, and social contributors actively involved in society.

The transformation of IAIN into Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Raden Fatah in 2014, through Presidential Regulation Number 129 of 2014, marked a significant milestone in the institution's history. This transformation opened new horizons in institutional development and expanded the academic mandate. Alongside this change in status, the management of data and information has also been required to undergo substantial improvements, including in the area of alumni recordkeeping. UIN Raden Fatah currently has a web-based tracer study system for graduates from 2014 onward. However, alumni data from the IAIN Raden Fatah era, particularly for the period from 1971 to 2013, remains stored in handwritten printed documents kept manually in the administrative offices of the university (Adib, Fernando, Nopriani, Fadil, & Fadillah, 2022).

These documents contain important information such as alumni names, student identification numbers, faculties and study programs, thesis titles, graduation years, and diploma numbers. However, access to this information is very limited. Only administrative staff are authorized to retrieve and process the data, while the demand for alumni information continues to increase, both for personal, administrative, and institutional purposes (Maves, 1988). In practice, many alumni request degree verification, data confirmation, or documentation for job transfers, but these requests must be handled through a manual process that consumes considerable time and effort. When such requests occur repeatedly in large volumes, the administrative system becomes overburdened and risks operating inefficiently (Kodir, 2025).

Alumni data is not only important for individual purposes but also holds great potential in reflecting the institution's contribution to societal development. Many graduates of IAIN Raden Fatah have demonstrated a wide range of achievements across various regions, not only

in South Sumatra but also in other parts of Indonesia and even abroad. They have contributed to Islamic education, the development of Islamic law, humanistic approaches to da'wah, and the preservation of Islamic culture. Their presence serves as tangible evidence that Islamic higher education has produced graduates capable of applying their knowledge in inclusive and impactful ways. However, as long as this data remains undocumented in digital form, these contributions will continue to be hidden records that are difficult to compile into a comprehensive institutional narrative.

The initiative to digitize alumni data has become an urgent necessity to ensure that the full potential of this information can be accessed and utilized optimally. One feasible initial approach is to use platforms such as Google Sheets, which are web-based and support collaborative work (Falah, Donoriyanto, & Tranggono, 2021). This platform allows data entry to be carried out gradually and in a controlled manner, and it can be shared with various stakeholders, either in limited or open formats. In the long term, this simple step in digitalization can serve as a foundation for a more integrated tracer study system that connects with the academic information system of the university and supports data-based reporting and planning (Akbar & Hajriyanti, 2020).

Field experience has shown that digitized alumni data greatly facilitates the process of diploma verification, graduate mapping by faculty, and the development of alumni communication forums. In the context of internal quality enhancement, the existence of an alumni database also supports institutional accreditation, both at the program and institutional levels. Furthermore, a well-managed system can be leveraged to build networks for cooperation, expand internship and recruitment programs, and encourage alumni participation in campus development through academic and material contributions (Yunus & Rusli, 2023).

The achievements of alumni are a reflection of the quality and direction of education implemented by the institution. Proper documentation of alumni contributions will strengthen the institution's narrative of success and serve as a source of inspiration for both students and faculty (Samsudin & Lubis, 2022). For UIN Raden Fatah Palembang, digitizing the alumni records of IAIN Raden Fatah is not merely an administrative task, but part of a broader institutional strategy to affirm its identity and contributions to Islamic education in Indonesia. This effort also reflects the institution's awareness in responding to the demands of the times, embracing digital transformation, and preserving its valuable institutional memory.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach aimed at describing the profiles, achievements, and roles of alumni of IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang, as well as initiating the innovation of alumni data digitalization through an initial step of converting manual records into digital formats using Google Sheets. Before alumni data can be integrated into an application-based tracer study system, a preliminary stage is required in the form of structured data collection and organization in digital format.

The types of data used in this research include both primary and secondary data. Primary data refers to the main sources of information collected directly by the researcher during the study process. This may include observations, interviews, or questionnaire-based data collection (Sulung & Muspawi, 2024). Primary data was obtained through direct interviews with alumni of IAIN Raden Fatah who are spread across various regions, both within and outside the province of South Sumatra, in order to gather information on their achievements, career journeys, and contributions to society. According to (Helin, 2023), observation is an activity involving direct monitoring of the phenomena under study. Observation may be participatory (with researcher involvement) or non-participatory (observation only). Data

collection was carried out through direct observation of factual conditions in the field, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the distribution patterns of IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang alumni from the Faculties of Syariah, Tarbiyah, Ushuluddin, Da'wah, and Adab and Humanities during the period of 1971 to 2013.

Secondary data refers to data obtained indirectly through intermediary sources, originating from previously available references such as documents, literature reviews, or information compiled by other institutions. Examples of secondary data include reference books, scholarly articles, institutional reports, and statistical data such as census results published by government agencies (Sulung & Muspawi, 2024). In this study, secondary data was collected through documentation studies using alumni record books, which play a strategic role in retracing the historical paths and contributions of IAIN Raden Fatah alumni.

The population in this study consists of all alumni of IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang from the Faculties of Syariah, Tarbiyah, Ushuluddin, Da'wah, and Adab who graduated between 1971 and 2013, continuing until the required data is considered sufficient and saturated. The sampling method used is non-probability sampling with a snowball sampling technique. This technique was chosen due to the large population size and the extended time span covered by the study. The sampling process was conducted continuously until the information gathered was deemed sufficient to meet the data needs of the study.

Data analysis was conducted qualitatively by referring to the stages developed by Syamsi & Zamroni (2023), which include data condensation, data presentation, and drawing and verifying conclusions. This process began with a comprehensive reading of the data, grouping information into substantial categories, identifying relationships among categories, constructing a narrative based on field findings, and finally drawing logical and reflective conclusions. These stages enabled the researcher to gain in-depth understanding of the studied phenomenon and to produce a credible description of alumni contributions and the urgency of digitizing the tracer study system in the context of Islamic education.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

General Overview and Distribution of IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang Alumni

The distribution of alumni from IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang across the five faculties, namely the Faculty of Syariah, the Faculty of Tarbiyah, the Faculty of Ushuluddin, the Faculty of Da'wah, and the Faculty of Adab and Humanities, was recorded during the period from 1971 to 2013. Alumni from each faculty have spread widely and demonstrated concrete contributions in various strategic sectors such as education, government, religious affairs, and social development. Their presence goes beyond South Sumatra, covering various provinces across Indonesia and even reaching several countries abroad. This demonstrates the institution's capacity to produce high-quality graduates who are competitive at both national and global levels.

The documentation and management process of alumni data at IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang was carried out by paying attention to the distribution based on each faculty. The initial data, retrieved from handwritten alumni record books, contains essential information that was then classified according to the graduates' faculty of origin.



Figure 1. Alumni Record Books of IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang (1971 to 2013)

To support efficient data processing and mapping, a digital platform is needed that can facilitate systematic processes of data entry, classification, and analysis. In this context, Google Sheets was utilized as the primary platform to convert alumni data previously stored in manual books or printed documents. A total of 62 alumni record books have been successfully converted into digital format through data entry into Google Sheets. This platform was chosen because it is an effective digital tool that offers ease of access, real-time online collaboration capabilities, task management functions, and data sharing features that are accessible across multiple devices (Massoud, 2024). With this standardized format, alumni data can be managed more systematically and efficiently. Furthermore, Google Sheets also supports export to other formats in preparation for integration into the tracer study platform.

AlumniID (NIM)	NamaAlumni	Tahun_Lahir	Tempat_Lahir	Tanggal_Lahir	ProdiID	NamaProdi	Fakultas	Tahun_Lulus	Ng_Lulus	Judul	Isipah	Tanggal_Keluasan	Alamat
8711061	Yasmaun	1987	Muara Sinding	1988-09-23	74230	Peradilan Agama (PA)	1	Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum	1992	1993-11-24	Wani Anak Yang Masih Dalam Kandungan (Detail Menurut Hukum Perdata Dan Hukum Islam)	1993-11-24	Muara Sinding
8012804	Ujung Tinggi	1980	Teling Tinggi	1988-08-28	74231	Peradilan Agama Islam (PAI)	1	Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum	1982	1984-03-29	Tetapi Hukum Islam Terhadap Peranan Pemastut Hukum dalam Memeriksa Perkara Pidana	1984-03-29	Teling Tinggi
8913031	Isyani	1989	Guntung Agung	1989-12-02	74230	Peradilan Agama (PA)	1	Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum	1982	1994-05-31	Pandangan Pemuka Agama Kecamatan Dempo Utara Kabupaten Lahat dan Imam Abu Hanifah Terhadap Zabit Sayur Mayur	1994-05-31	Guntung Agung
8812191	Haridaya	1988	Kaepi Agung	1985-07-28	74231	Peradilan Agama Islam (PAI)	1	Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum	1982	1993-07-27	Peranan Yang Dilakukan Oleh Anak-Anak Ditinjau Dari Hukum Pidana Islam	1993-07-27	Kaepi Agung
8812216	Ihah	1988	Palembang	1986-10-14	74231	Peradilan Agama Islam (PAI)	1	Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum	1982	1993-11-23	Pembunuhan Berencana Menurut Pasal 340 KUHP Ditinjau Dari Hukum Islam	1993-11-23	Palembang
8713073	Sapiah	1987	Maur	1980-05-30	74230	Peradilan Agama (PA)	1	Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum	1982	1994-03-28	Hak Isteri Kedua, Ketiga, dan Keempat Terhadap Harta Bersama Menurut LUD No 1 Tahun 1974 dan Hukum Islam	1994-03-28	Maur
8812108	Syahul Khatih	1988	Tanjung Atap OKI	1988-09-02	74231	Peradilan Agama Islam (PAI)	1	Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum	1982	1994-03-30	Penaksiran Adat Perkawinan Desa Tanjung Atap Mei, Tanjung Bera Kabupaten OKI Ditinjau Dari Hukum Islam dan Hukum Positif	1994-03-30	Tanjung Atap OKI
8813003	Ali Raul	1988	Datar Lebar	1988-07-13	74230	Peradilan Agama (PA)	1	Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum	1982	1994-03-31	Triptisan Hukum Islam Terhadap Paralel dalam Perkawinan Adat Tugu Telang di Kecamatan Pare A Rawasari	1994-03-31	Datar Lebar
8812205	Nurhannah Gungay	1988	Ujung Pandang	1987-11-25	74230	Peradilan Agama (PA)	1	Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum	1982	1994-07-31	Perkawinan Seorang Wanita dalam Perspektif UU No.1 Tahun 1975 dan Triptisan dalam Hukum Islam	1994-07-31	Ujung Pandang
8813023	Jawahirah	1988	Gajah Masi	1985-04-10	74230	Peradilan Agama (PA)	1	Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum	1982	1994-05-30	Penaksiran Zakat pada Masyarakat Petani Padi di Desa Suka Merindu	1994-05-30	Gajah Masi
8813019	Marsuki HS	1988	Bumi Agung	1989-01-12	74230	Peradilan Agama (PA)	1	Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum	1982	1994-05-28	Konsep Perbuatan Asusila dan Hukumnya dalam Islam	1994-05-28	Bumi Agung

Figure 2. Alumni Data Entry into Google Sheets

As a result of the digitalization process in which alumni data was transferred from printed documents to Google Sheets format, a mapping was conducted to quantify the number of IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang alumni across different faculties during the period of 1971 to 2013. This mapping aims to provide a quantitative overview of graduate distribution based on time periods and faculty units, as well as to identify trends in the increase of alumni numbers over time. The data also reflects the institution's contribution to producing human resources distributed across various fields and regions.

The Faculty of Tarbiyah recorded the highest number of alumni, totaling 11,368 individuals, followed by the Faculty of Syariah with 4,733 alumni, and the Faculty of Ushuluddin with 3,227 alumni. Meanwhile, the Faculty of Da'wah and the Faculty of Adab and Humanities graduated 525 and 324 alumni, respectively. This distribution demonstrates the significant contribution of each faculty in producing graduates who have made an impact in various academic, social, and religious sectors, both at the local and national levels, as well as internationally.

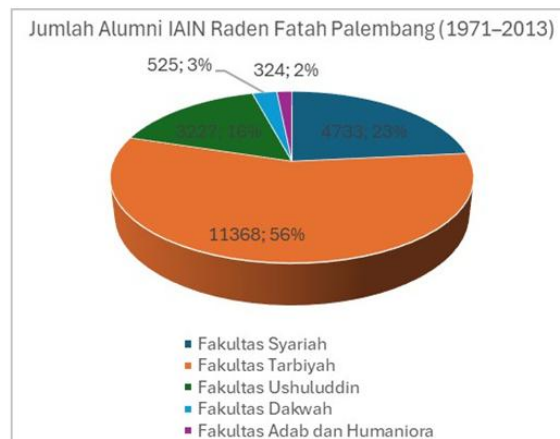


Figure 3. Total Number of IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang Alumni (1971 to 2013)

Profile and Achievements of IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang Alumni (1971 to 2013)

One of the key informants in this study is Prof. Dr. H. Janawi, M.Ag., an alumnus from the 1990 cohort of the Islamic Religious Education Program at the Faculty of Tarbiyah. He has served as Vice Rector for Student Affairs and Cooperation, and also as the head of STAIN Syaikh Abdurrahman Siddik before the institution transitioned into IAIN SAS Babel. In the interview, Prof. Janawi outlined various achievements and awards he has earned throughout his academic career. His contributions, along with those of other alumni, reflect their success in institutional development and in improving the quality of Islamic education across regions beyond South Sumatra.

Likewise, Prof. Dr. H. Hatamar, M.Ag., a 1990 graduate of the Arabic Language Education Program at the Faculty of Tarbiyah, currently serves as Vice Rector for Academic Affairs and Development at IAIN Syaikh Abdurrahman Siddik Bangka Belitung. The interview with Prof. Hatamar revealed his educational background, career dynamics, and the challenges faced by alumni who are contributing outside the South Sumatra region. These profiles illustrate the diversity of alumni contributions in both higher education and broader society. Their achievements serve as a testament to their success in academia, institutional advancement, and their commitment to improving education in the regions they serve.

The Role of IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang Alumni in Society (1971 to 2013)

Alumni of IAIN Raden Fatah, such as Prof. Hatamar and Prof. Janawi, have played significant roles not only in academia but also in the advancement of education and community development. Through interviews, both alumni provided in-depth insights into how they built networks, developed educational programs, and supported institutional policies and development at the places where they serve.

Their contributions beyond South Sumatra, particularly in the Bangka Belitung region, demonstrate the wide-reaching impact of IAIN Raden Fatah alumni at both regional and national levels. These interviews help to highlight the important role of alumni in promoting Islamic education and community development, offering inspirational examples for the next generation. Through this documentation, the study seeks to capture the strategic roles undertaken by IAIN Raden Fatah alumni not only in the field of education but also in social, political, and community development sectors across Indonesia.



Figure 4. Interview with IAIN Raden Fatah Alumni

The alumni of IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang, like Prof. Hatamar and Prof. Janawi, have made substantial contributions not only in academia but also in broader educational and social domains. In the interviews, they explained how they established networks, designed educational initiatives, and provided support for institutional policies where they work.

As graduates of the Faculty of Tarbiyah, they embody the spirit of inclusive Islamic education oriented toward social change. The education they received in the Faculty of Tarbiyah shaped their leadership perspectives, rooted in Islamic values. They have not only served as educators but also acted as initiators of policy reform and active contributors to community life. Their roles have influenced development beyond South Sumatra, especially in the Bangka Belitung region.

This demonstrates that the contributions of IAIN Raden Fatah alumni extend from regional to national scales, serving as compelling evidence of how alumni can be agents of progress in Islamic education and broader societal development. Through this documentation, the research aims to showcase the various strategic roles played by IAIN Raden Fatah alumni across sectors such as education, social development, politics, and national advancement. In particular, the contributions of Faculty of Tarbiyah alumni illustrate how strong Islamic education can produce graduates who make real, lasting impacts on the nation's progress.

CONCLUSION

The significant contributions of IAIN Raden Fatah Palembang alumni from the 1971–2013 period are evident across various strategic sectors such as education, government, religion, and community development, both at the local and national levels. Alumni from various faculties, especially the Faculty of Tarbiyah, have played a crucial role in advancing Islamic education and community development, including in areas outside South Sumatra such as the Bangka Belitung Islands. As a form of innovation in data management, this study also successfully initiated the digitalization process of alumni data by transforming manual records into a Google Sheets format. This initiative serves as an essential foundation for the development of a more adaptive, efficient, and structured application-based tracer study system. This digitalization not only enhances the effectiveness of academic administrative services but also represents a strategic step in supporting data-driven Islamic education policies and expanding the alumni network's contributions in a sustainable manner.

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