

# ***Takhrij al-Hadith* via Mobile Apps: Study of 9 Imam Encyclopedia, *Kutub Tis'ah* and *Mawsu'ah al-Hadith al-Nabawi al-Syarif***

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## **Abstract**

ICT boom has given a new dimension to the study of hadith which is at the same time considered an effort to strengthen, uphold and preserve the hadith within cyber Islamic environments. Therefore, this study has identified three selected mobile apps i.e. 9 Imam Encyclopedia, *Kutub Tis'ah* as well as *Mawsu'ah al-Hadith al-Nabawi al-Syarif*. The study was intended to demonstrate the ease of *takhrij al-Hadith* (verification and authentication) in this era and to explore some mobile apps that can be used to facilitate learning process. The methodology used was the quantitative data collection of hadith in the apps. On a positive note, the study found few important *takhrij* features have been refined on these apps including (1) *Masdar al-hadith* (original source text), (2) Ranking of hadith, (3) *Sanad* (chain of hadith narrators), (4) *Matn* (text of hadith), (5) Position of hadith in other sources (specifying *Shawahid* or witnesses and *Mutaba'at* or follow-up), (6) Narrator's biography (*al-Jarh wa Ta'dil*), (7) Categories of hadith based on the *Sanad*, (8) Categories of hadith based on the *Matn* and (9) *Hukm al-hadith* (juristic ruling of hadith). Significantly, 9 Imam Encyclopedia is concluded to be the best mobile apps that can be used by many hadith scholars and online users as it comes with nine features listed earlier.

**Keywords:** Science of hadith, *takhrij al-Hadith*, hadith and ICT, mobile apps, Mobile learning

## **1.0 Introduction**

In the process of assessing and validating a single hadith, Muslim scholars have established a framework of knowledge named *takhrij al-Hadith* (the science of hadith extraction and authentication). It becomes a necessity for all Muslims to evaluate the authenticity and source

of hadith so that mass of forgeries can be sifted out. Traditionally, *takhrij al-Hadith* is a process that is very complex where it requires the scholars' abilities to recognize the intricacies of hadith and be proficient in the search process using the original reference book of hadith. This is due to the methods of documenting and compiling the hadith that vary (Muazzam, A. S., 2014).

Tremendous changing sphere of mobile computing has evidently opened up a new chapter in the study of hadith. The science of *takhrij al-Hadith* that was once difficult can now be facilitated by many applications and mobile devices which can be accessed easily online. Apparently, Muslim content developers have successfully brought this treasure of Islamic studies into various forms i.e. website constructions, computer software system existence and mobile apps as further efforts to control and eliminate any form of abuse against hadith and the interpretations (Abdul Kadar et. all, 2011).

## 2.0 Definition Of *Takhrij al-Hadith*

According to Dr 'Abd al-Mawjud Muhammad 'Abd al-Latif, *takhrij al-Hadith* is actually a form of extensive research of hadith (after assessing the narrator's condition) by tracking its valid and reliable sources. This is done by the *muhaddithin* (hadith scholars) based on the *sanad* (chain of narrators) and *matn* (text) whether the hadith is actually *sahih* (sound), *hasan* (good), *da'if* (weak) or *maudu'* (fabricated, forged). *Takhrij al-Hadith* is also possibly to be defined as a study of narrators that are based on the views of hadith scholars of *al-Jarh wa al-Ta'dil* (criticism and praise) ('Abd al-Mawjud Muhammad 'Abd al-Latif, 1984). Meanwhile, Dr Muhammad Abu al-Layth al-Khayr Abadi (2005) further expresses his understanding of *al-takhrij* as a scientific knowledge which debates the principles and methods as in the context of current study. This scholar highlights it as a mean to facilitate the access to hadith position, to identify *mutaba'at* (follow-up) and *shawahid* (witnesses) from original sources, to differentiate resources that resembles the original ones and vice versa where this will justify the degree of hadith to be either accepted or rejected.

## 3.0 Significance Of *Takhrij al-Hadith*

This science of hadith which was founded by *Imam al-Tirmidhi* and followed by *al-Khatib al-Baghdadi* had received increasing attention in the sixth century of Hijrah. The privilege of the first book i.e. *Takhrij Ahadith al-Muhadhdhab fi al-Fiqh al-Shafi'i li al-Shirazi* written by Muhammad ibn Musa al-Hazimi has presented a number of significant findings (Munirah Abd Razzak et al., 2011):

- a. Determining the validity of hadith and a specific methodology to identify the quality of the traditions.
- b. Identifying if there is a difference in the text of hadith. Therefore, the status of hadith can be clarified whether it is *sahih* (sound), *hasan* (good), *shadh* (isolated), *munkar* (denounced), *da'if* (weak) or *maudu'* (fabricated, forged) which rest mainly upon the nature of the reporters in the *isnad*.

- c. Recognizing various hadith which can be very resourceful in extracting the laws of fiqh in a precise manner.
- d. Correcting a particular hadith text in terms of *al-Tahrif* (distortion) or *al-Tashif* (mispronunciation) in order to get the right *nas* (Subhi al-Salih, 2007).
- e. Correcting the wrong names in *sanad* (chain of hadith narrators), explaining unfamiliar narrators and also aligning it with the right line.
- f. Bearing this knowledge to students so that they will be able to assess and verify the hadith precisely.

#### **4.0 Development Of Hadith Mobile Apps**

Transforming the knowledge of hadith into digital forms has received attention by developers of mobile phone apps. These advancements have made the users get closer to the Prophetic hadith as it is more flexible and easy to use. Furthermore, learning approach through mobile phones has started to gain attention in Malaysia. In fact, Mobile Learning known as M-Learning has become widespread, though can be said new in terms of its implementation (Abdelghani et. al, 2015). It is a modern concept with emphasis on the ability to facilitate independent learning that does not require physical location. In a simple sense, learning process can occur anywhere, anytime and not in classrooms alone. Obviously, with this digital media, people are connected under the framework of M-Learning that may prove potential to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of lifelong learning (Syed Ardi Syed Yahya Kamal, 2008).

Among hadith apps developed through symbian operating system and the jar include Hadith Qudsi Islamic apps, Hadith Qudsi Pro Islamic/Hadith, *Maktabah al-Hadith*, *Al-Hadith al-Nabawi*, *Al-Hadith al-Nabawi Pro*, *Maktabah al-Hadith al-Syarif*, Translation of *Sahih Al-Bukhari*, *Mukhtasar Sahih al-Bukhari*, Hadith on Durood, Hadith Reader Basic Bukhari, Hadith 42 Imam al-Nawawi, Hadith Packet Mobile with Indonesian translations, Du'a of Prophet Muhammad, Indonesian Translation of *Sahih al-Bukhari* and *Sahih al-Muslim* (Hajj), Indonesian Translation of *Hadith Arba'in*, and also Sepercik Hikmah which is a collection of articles on Islam, Quran and Hadith and others (Shahril Nizam et al., 2013).

Based on the researchers' evaluations of the apps, most do not take the whole hadith as in the original source, yet merely a summary (*mukhtasar*) which only takes into account some of the main hadith of each chapter. It is likely due to limited ability of the operating system that can only accommodate light total capacity of data. Another possible reason is to avoid technical problems that mobile devices frequently experience such as crash, freeze, error, bandwidth restraints, slow launch times or an app that simply does not launch (Shahril Nizam, 2012).

Of all hadith mobile apps, the researchers have found that there are numerous apps that provide search services that are *takhrij al-Hadith* in nature. However, this study only focused on three main apps namely 9 Imam Encyclopedia, *Mawsu'ah al-Hadith al-Nabawi al-Syarif* and also *Kutub Tis'ah*. It appears that these apps have pioneered the category of hadith searching for educational purposes as they provide comprehensive references specifically for

sources, *sanad* and *matn* of hadith, validity of hadith based on the narrators' biography and accuracy of *matn* as well as the status of hadith to name a few. Based on the search results, these apps have met certain objectives in scientific discipline of *takhrij al-Hadith* (Faisal Ahmad Shah, 2010):

- a. Identifying the place of hadith in reference to its fundamental source.
- b. Identifying the narrators of hadith by assessing their positions from the view of *al-jarh wa al-Ta'dil* (a systematic approach to critiquing a narrator's position as a narrator).
- c. Stating the *sanad* (chain of narrators of the hadith) and *matn* (content of narrative).
- d. Establishing the authenticity of hadith whether it is *sahih* (sound), *hasan* (good), *da'if* (weak), *maqbul* (accepted) or *mardud* (rejected).
- e. Recognizing the status and reliability of hadith and their categories based on *sanad* as well as *matn*.

Therefore, in effort to refine the use of these apps, it has assisted the researchers to attempt initial evaluation towards the hadith from the view of *takhrij*. Nevertheless, it was not an easy task as the researchers had to establish in-depth critical study behind the compilation of the corpus of hadith. It is because of the legal ruling (*hukm*) decided by *al-Muhaddith* needs for a more detailed discussion of the scope. The numerous and complex classifications of hadith have been taken into consideration to ensure that misconception towards Islam specifically with the authenticity of hadith can be cleared out among Muslims and non-Muslims (Shahril Nizam et al., 2011).

## 5.0 Hadith Mobile Apps

### 5.1 *Mawsu'ah Al-Hadith Al-Nabawi Al-Syarif* Apps

*Mawsu'ah al-Hadith al-Nabawi al-Syarif* was developed by *al-Nazmu al-Ma'lumatiyyah al-Hadithah* (Modern Information System - MIS) (<http://www.mis-soft.com/>, 3 Feb 2016). This app has collected the hadith from the books of *Muwatta' Malik*, *Kutub al-Sittah*, *Sunan Imam Ahmad*, *Sunan al-Darimi* and *Riyad al-Salihin*.

#### 5.1.1 Privileges of *Mawsu'Ah Al-Hadith Al-Nabawi Al-Syarif* Apps

(1) Collected as much as 40 volumes of 50,000 pages containing almost 45,000 hadith. (2) *Sahih al-Bukhari* which is equipped with links to *matn* of similar hadith in different books and chapters. (3) *Musnad Imam Ahmad* which is completed with all narrated hadith. (4) *Sunan al-Darimi*, *Sunan al-Tirmizi*, *Sunan Ibn Majah* and *Musnad Imam Ahmad* with precise descriptions of hadith status. (5) Three additional search facilities i.e. *Ayyu min al-Kalimah*, *Kullu al-Kalimah* and *al-Jumlah Harfiyyan*.

As with *al-Jumlah Harfiyyan*, the user is required to put only a *kalimah* (word) to search a hadith while *Kullu al-Kalimah* concerns with a clause for example, *أنما الأعمال بالنيات*. The search

result will display the hadith containing the kalimah أعمال, أنما, وبالنيات in one specific *matn*. On the other hand, *Ayyu min Kalimah* is an online hadith search based on few different words such as صلاة نية. Consequently, the search results will display hadith related to صلاة نية. (6) Hadith text display has also been marked in different colors to explain the distinctive functions such as (a) Red specifically for the words of Allah (SWT). (b) Green dedicated to the words of Rasulullah (pbuh). (c) Black for the words of Companions. (d) Yellow for the word in *matn* which is based on the search keywords. (7) The text of hadith can be copied and pasted to encourage the dissemination of hadith where later it can be delivered via short message service (sms).

Figure 1: Search result display of *Mawsu'ah al-Hadith al-Nabawi al-Syarif* application

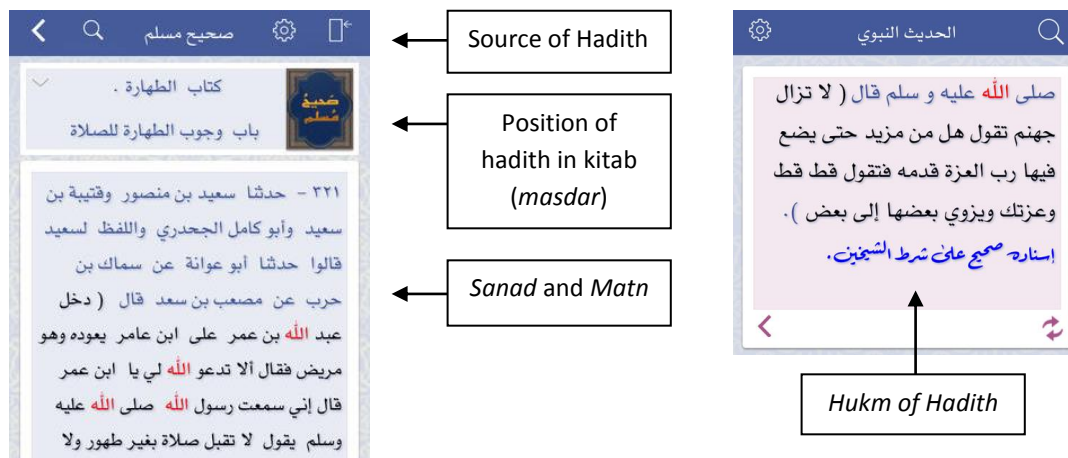


Figure 1 shows that through the search space available, a researcher can use keywords, for instance a specific word in *matn*, name of narrator (*rawi al-A'la*), and title of *hadith* (*Mawdu'i*).

**Hadith Search Results:** (1) Chain of *hadith* narrators (*sanad*). (2) Text of *hadith* (*matn*). (3) Source of *hadith*. (4) Book and chapter of the *hadith*. (5) Conclusion of ruling (*hukm of hadith*).

## 5.2 9 Imam Encyclopedia Mobile Version

This apps was developed by Lidwa Pusaka which stands for Lembaga Ilmu dan Dakwah serta Publikasi Sarana Keagamaan. It is an institution that is very committed in the development and publication of knowledge and propagation of Islam. Lidwa was founded by alumni of the Middle East, Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Islam dan Arab (LIPIA) Jakarta together with other universities (lidwa.com, 7 Feb 2016). Lidwa Pusaka also provides this 9 Imam Encyclopedia in the form of website and computer software.

### 5.2.1 Privileges of 9 Imam Encyclopedia Mobile Apps

(1) Loading nearly 63,000 hadith from 9 books of hadith i.e. *Kutub al-Tis'ah: Shahih Bukhari, Shahih Muslim, Sunan Abu Daud, Sunan Tirmidzi, Sunan Nasa'i, Sunan Ibnu Majah, Musnad*

Ahmad, Muwatta' Malik, and Sunan Darimi. (2) Equipped with Arabic texts and Indonesian translations. (3) Each hadith comes with a certain degree except for *Musnad Ahmad* and *Muwatha' Malik*. (4) Arabic texts and Indonesian translations can be shared. (5) Word search, either by Arabic or Indonesia text. (6) Hadith related to other hadith that is sought. (7) Hadith index or hadith collections according to different themes (*Iman, Akhlaq* and *Adab, Ibadah* etc.). (8) Hadith collections of *Qudsi, Mutawatir, Marfu, Mauquf, Maqthu, Mursal, Munqathi, Muallaq*. (9) Line diagram of *Sanad*: Various *sanad* of a hadith is shown in informative diagram form. (10) Detailed biography of each narrator to help finding a narrator's credibility easily. (11) Statistics of hadith narration from a narrator on 9 books of hadith.

### 5.2.2 Search Results of 9 Imam Encyclopedia Mobile Apps

Figure 2: Search result display of Encyclopedia of 9 Imam Mobile Application

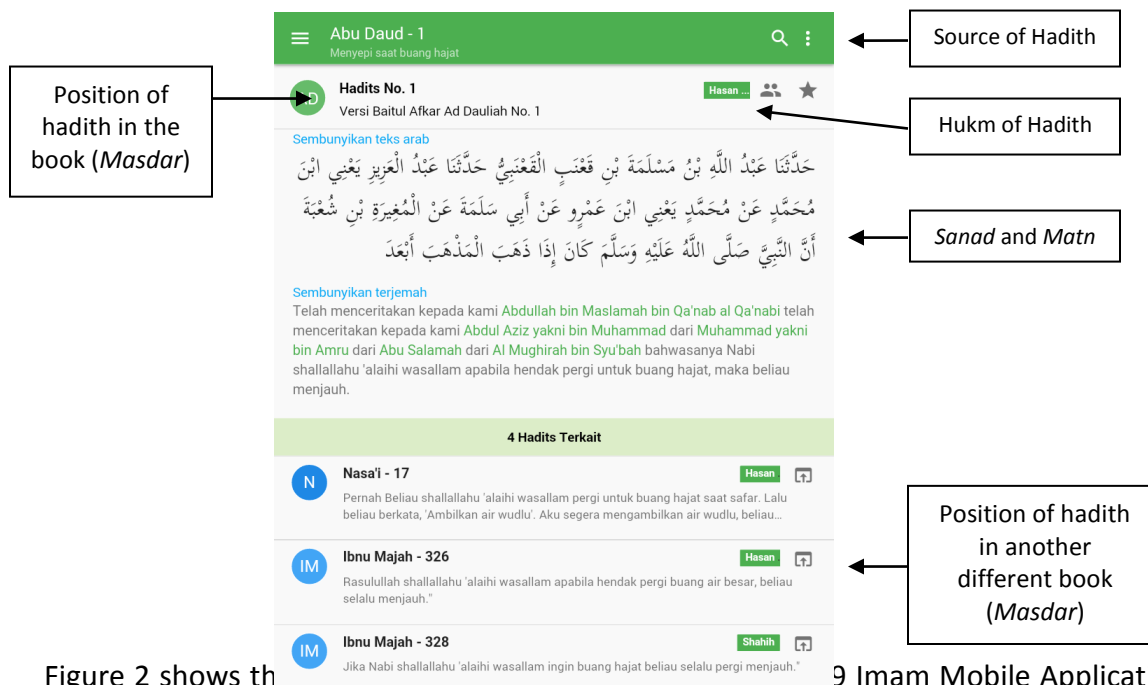


Figure 2 shows the search result display of the 9 Imam Mobile Application. It covers several important pieces of information in *takhrij al-Hadith* such as the position of *hadith* in the book (*masdar*), the position of *hadith* in another different book (*Masdar*), the source of *hadith*, the *hukm al-hadith*, the *sanad* and *matn al-Hadith*. Through the search space available, a researcher can use keywords such as specific words in *matn*, the name of the narrator (*rawi al-A'la*), and *hadith* topic (*Mawdu'i*).

**Figure 3:** Facility to view biographies of the narrators in the *sanad*, to assess the *hadith* and its type based on the *sanad* or *matn* and its position in another book of *hadith* (*masdar*).

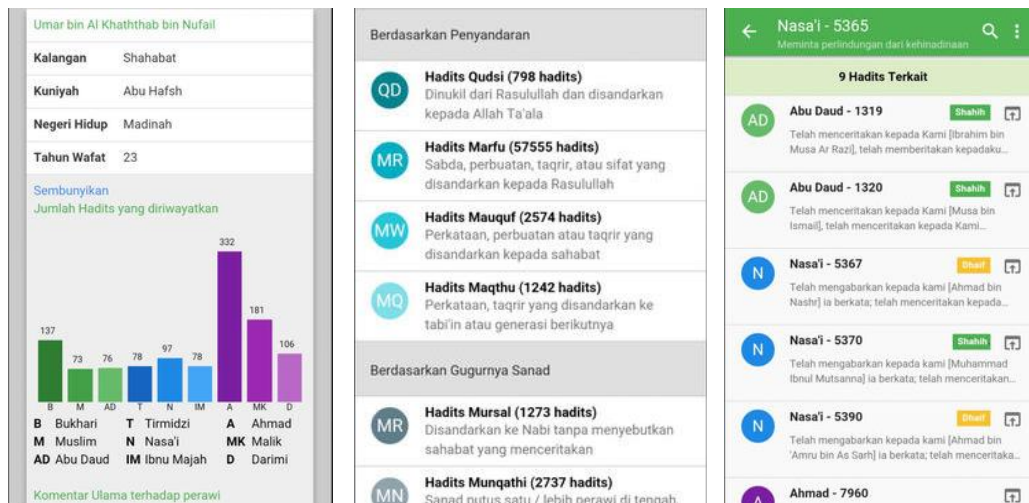


Figure 3 shows the other speciality of this apps that can be used to help researcher to view biographies of the narrators in the *sanad*, assess the hadith and its type based on the *sanad* or *matn* and its position in another book of hadith (*masdar*).

**Hadith Search Results:** (1) Chain of *hadith* narrators (*sanad*). (2) Text of *hadith* (*matn*). (3) Source of *hadith*. (4) Book and chapter of the *hadith*. (5) Status of *hadith* in other sources. (6) Narrator's biography. (7) Categories of *hadith* according to *sanad* and *matn*. (8) Conclusion of ruling (*hukm* of *hadith*).

### 5.3 Kutub Tis'Ah Apps

With the theme 'Merawat Tradisi, Meneroka Inovasi' (Nurturing Traditions, Exploring Innovations), Digitama Indonesia was responsible for developing *Kutub al-Tis'ah* apps. It was established in order to spread Islam, a religion of *Rahmatan li al-'alamin* i.e. soothing, educating, enlightening, moderating, balancing and tolerating in nature.

#### 5.3.1 Privileges of *Kutub al-Tis'ah* Apps

(1) Digital *hadith* apps that collects all *hadith* from 9 *hadith* books which becomes a reference for Muslims after the Qur'an, namely *Sahih al-Bukhari* (7,008 *hadith*), *Sahih Muslim* (5,362 *hadith*), *Sunan al-Tirmidzi* (3,891 *hadith*), *Sunan Abu Dawud* (4,590 *hadith*), *Sunan al-Nasa'i* (5,362 *hadith*), *Sunan Ibn Majah* (4,332 *hadith*), *Sunan al-Darimi*, (3,367 *hadith*) *Musnad Ahmad* (26,362 *hadith*) and *Muwata' Malik* (1,594 *hadith*). (2) Consisting 62,168 *hadith* completed with Arabic texts and Indonesian translations. (3) Enhanced with chain of *sanad*. (4) Evaluations by *hadith* scholars towards narrators to ensure that they are Allah-fearing, trustworthy in Islam with righteous conduct, accurate and strong memory and highly reliable.

### 5.3.2 Search Results of Kutub al-Tis'ah Apps

Figure 4: Search result display of Kutub al-Tis'ah apps

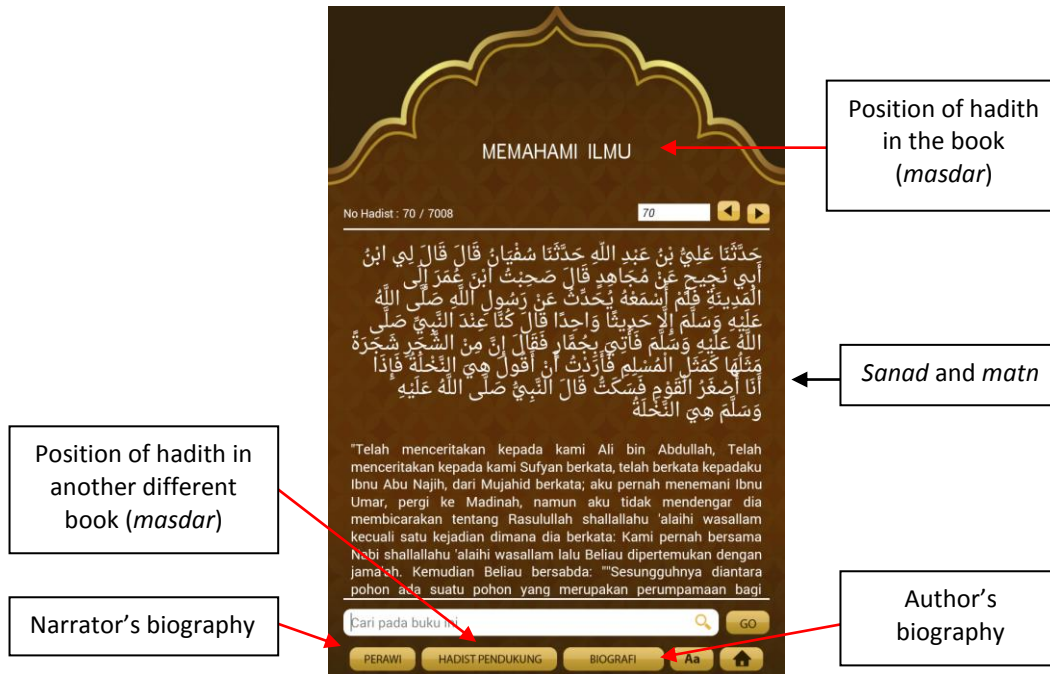


Figure 4 shows the search result display of *Kutub al-Tis'ah* Apps. It contains a several of important information in *takhrij al-Hadith* such as *position of hadith in the book (masdar)*, *position of hadith in another different book (Masdar)*, *sanad al-Hadith*, *matn al-Hadith*, also *narrator's and author's biography*. This apps does not provide a thorough search as it only provides a search facility for only one book of *hadith*. Therefore, *hadith* search results are limited to few selected books.

Figure 5: Facility to view biographies of the narrators in the *sanad* and *position of hadith in another book (masdar)*.





Figure 5 is the facility to view a simple biographies of the narrators in the *sanad* and position of hadith in another book (*masdar*). It just explains the date and birthplace of narrators, date of death, title of narrators (*kuniyah*), level of narrators (*tabaqat al-Ruwah*), number of narration and criticism of narrators (*jarh wa al-Ta'dil*).

## 6.0 Analysis Of Hadith Through Search Results

The analysis was conducted on the links to identify the best app that can be used by the researchers in the process of doing *takhrij al-Hadith*. Although limited to certain number of references, it could still facilitate the researchers to lots of important information about *hadith*. Assessment of the information is based on the objectives of *takhrij* i.e.:

- a. Identifying the place of *hadith* in reference to its fundamental source.
- b. Identifying narrators of *hadith* by assessing their positions from the view of *al-Jarh wa al-Ta'dil* (a systematic approach to critiquing a narrator's position as a narrator).
- c. Stating the *sanad* (chain of narrators of the *hadith*) and *matn* (content of narrative).
- d. Establishing the authenticity of *hadith* i.e. *sahih* (sound), *hasan* (good), *da'if* (weak) or *maudu`* (fabricated, forged).
- e. Recognizing the status and reliability of *hadith* and their categories based on *sanad* as well as *matn*.

Therefore, the researchers have concluded that approximately nine characteristics are necessary to meet the objectives above. Among them include:

- a. Source of *hadith*
- b. Position of *hadith* in the book and also in the chapter
- c. Chain of *sanad*
- d. *Matn*
- e. *Syawahid* and *mutaba'at*
- f. Biography of narrators
- g. Types of hadith based on *sanad*
- h. Types of hadith based on *matn*
- i. *Hukm* of *hadith*

According to Table 1 below, search facilities provided by 9 Imam Encyclopedia apps are more advanced as it provides main access to source of *hadith*, position of *hadith* in the book and also in the chapter, chain of *sanad* and *matn*, position of *hadith* in other books that enable the researchers to analyze *syawahid* and *mutabaat*, identifying the narrators of *hadith* by assessing their positions from the view of *al-jarh wa al-ta'dil*, types of *hadith* based on *sanad* and *matn*, as well as *hukm* of *hadith* as mentioned earlier. This is followed by *Kutub al-Tis'ah* apps where it can access to most information sought except for types of *hadith* that are based on *sanad* and *matn*. Finally, the apps of *Mawsu'ah al-Hadith* follows in the rank where it

provides access to only four main aspects; source of *hadith*, position of *hadith* in the book and chapter, and chain of *sanad* and *matn*.

Furthermore, 9 Imam Encyclopedia apps has recorded the highest number in the collection of 63,000 *hadith* as compared to *Kutub al-Tis'ah* with 62,168 and *Mawsu'Ah al-Hadith al-Nabawi al-Syarif* with 45,000 *hadith*. With these distinctions, 9 Imam Encyclopedia is viewed as the best apps that can be used to access information concerning *hadith* on electronic media.

**Table 1:** Result analysis of three apps

No.	Hadith Information	9 Imam Encyclopedia	<i>Mawsu'Ah al-Hadith al-Nabawi al-Syarif</i>	<i>Al-Kutub al-Tis'ah</i>
1.	Source of <i>Hadith</i>	√	√	√
2.	Position of <i>Hadith</i>	√	√	√
3.	<i>Sanad</i>	√	√	√
4.	<i>Matn</i>	√	√	√
5.	<i>Syawahid/Mutabaat</i>	√	x	√
6.	Biography of narrator ( <i>al-Jarh wa Ta'dil</i> )	√	x	√
7.	Types of <i>Hadith</i> based on <i>Sanad</i>	√	x	x
8.	Types of <i>Hadith</i> based on <i>Matn</i>	√	x	x
9.	<i>Hukm</i> of <i>Hadith</i>	√	√	√

## 7.0 Conclusion

9 Imam Encyclopedia, *Mawsu'ah al-Hadith al-Nabawi al-Syarif* as well as *Kutub al-Tis'ah* proven to be distinguished mobile apps that have been providing fast access to *hadith* on electronic media. It has primarily led the category of *hadith* specifically 9 Imam Encyclopedia which is seen to have dominated and solved the issues of *hadith* search with its distinct merits. In fact, all apps explored in this study have successfully established the effort of *hadith* analysis with their unique advantages and facilities of *takhrij al-Hadith*. Contributions and effort spent on this development should be a starting point for content producers in developing better Islamic software products in empowering and enhancing the *Sunnah* in the contemporary world.

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