

Re-Searching LIS: New Areas in LIS Research

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Abstract: - *This paper presents a study of the doctoral dissertations awarded by various universities in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS) in Maharashtra by analyzing the bibliographic details of doctoral degrees (Ph.D.) awarded by Maharashtra universities in the field of LIS. The main purpose of the study was to determine the trend of library and information science (LIS) scholarly publications in national and international LIS journals by Indian authors and also to find out authorship patterns, collaborative nature, research distribution, etc. as no such scholarly paper has studied the evaluation of India's LIS literature in international LIS journals. Content analysis was done to study the Journals.. This paper highlights the pattern and orientation of LIS literatures written by Indian authors. The findings show how and in which manner the Indian authors have contributed to the international LIS literature and also compare the literature at national level. This paper discusses the importance of Indian LIS research, as well as importance of citation analysis.*

Keywords: LIS Research: New Areas, Content and Citation Analysis, Bibliometrics.

1. Introduction

Research improves the quality of human life. It is a search for knowledge. It shows how to solve any problem scientifically. It is a careful enquiry through search for any kind of knowledge. It is a systematic effort to gain new knowledge in any kind of discipline. When it seeks a solution of any educational problem it leads to educational research. Research is a fact-

finding and problem-solving process. Research helps in the innovation of practices in the given field. It also helps to sustain the given services. Due to these and many other benefits, research has been carried out in every discipline, and subject field including librarianship. It helps in identifying strengths and weaknesses of a given library or system. It helps in initiating new library services, and providing quality services. Apart

from the research related with the various aspects of practice of librarianship there is research related with 'Library and Information Science' (LIS) education.

2. Significance of the Study

The present research will help to know what research methods are adopted and frequently used by the doctoral researchers in Maharashtra. The topics covered by doctoral researchers will be known through this research. This information will be useful for the research policy makers, LIS educators and the prospective researchers. This research will – Help in avoiding duplication in the research topics, Encourage the prospective researchers for adopting more innovative and suitable research methods and techniques, Help research policy makers, such as governments, universities, library associations, LIS departments etc. It will enable them to frame research policies and agenda, Help LIS educators for designing curricula of research methods.

3. Objective of the Study

The basic objective of the study is to investigate the status and development of scholarly publications in the field of LIS. This study will explicate the international profile and global research productivity of India in LIS:

1. To identify the LIS doctoral research in Maharashtra.
2. To study the given citations (Journals) by LIS researchers in theses.

4. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The present study covers LIS Ph.D. theses submitted in universities in Maharashtra. The journals citations (N=351) given in 150 theses from 2005 to 2015 are covered in this study.

5. Literature Review

A good number of studies have been carried out in different times on the citation analysis of LIS research in several countries, but few professional studies have documented the early study on progress and development of scholarly publication in library and information science in India. Patra and Chand (2006) found that according to LISA database, the contribution of Indian authors at international level is very low and LIS research output in India is chiefly published in Indian journals. Chikate and Patil (2008) carried out a citation analysis of theses of LIS submitted to Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune where more than 6,000 citations from 27 doctoral dissertations were analysed; the research shows that nearly half of the citations, 42.2 percent recorded are from journal articles. Chandrashekara and Ramsesh (2009) studied the perspective of the research activities in library and information science in Indian universities. Their study reveals that a good number of Ph.D. these were produced in the field of bibliometrics, scientometrics, informetrics, library management, university libraries, indexing system, information seeking behaviour, and library and information services. Davarpanah and Aslekia (2008) investigated 56 LIS international journals having 894 contributions and ascertained that about half

of the library scientists prefer to contribute their paper individually. They argue that collaboration is a critical component of research in the said discipline. Mukherjee (2010) quantitatively analysed Asian scholarly research in library and information science during the period 2001 - 2007 and showed that Asia's LIS research has a pattern of joint authorship. Wang (2011) studied the pattern and trends of papers by Chinese authors and made an international comparison between China and other major Asian countries such as India, Japan and Korea in terms of output in library and information science research. Wani, Bakshi and Gul (2008) studied country-wise growth and development of library literature, and noticed as per the geographical distribution in Asia, India takes the lead with 12 publications, which account for 1.50 percent of the total.

6. Methodology

Survey research method was used for the study. Data has been collected from LIS Ph.D. Theses submitted in total 09 Maharashtra universities during the period 2005 to 2015. Firstly of all core LIS journals are identified by several study subjects with a period coverage from 2005 to 2015. The citations are collected from theses by advance search facility limiting the date range to period between the year 2005 to 2015 and affiliation of the author to India. And after scrutinizing, 8814 journals (N=351) citations have been selected for the present study focusing on Indian contribution to the field of LIS studies. All

refined data are tabulated, classified in Microsoft Excel for necessary analysis.

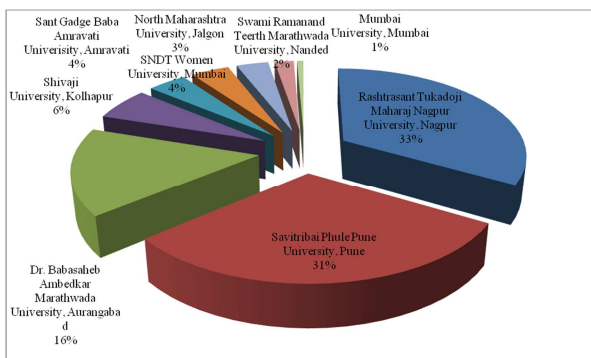
7. Data Analysis and Discussion-

1. To identify the LIS doctoral research in Maharashtra.

Table 1 Status of research in LIS from Universities of Maharashtra (MS)

Sr. No.	Name of University	Degree Awarded	Percentage	Rank
1	Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur	50	33.33%	1
2	Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune	46	30.66%	2
3	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad	24	16.00%	3
4	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	09	6.00%	4
5	Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati	06	4.00%	5
6	SNDT Women University, Mumbai	06	4.00%	5
7	North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon	05	3.33%	6
8	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded	03	2.00%	7
9	Mumbai University, Mumbai	01	0.66%	8
	Total LIS PHD Theses	150	100.00%	

Observation: - From the table it is observed that Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur stands at rank 1st in LIS area and awarded (150) degrees till 2015. The next in hierarchy are Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune standing at rank 2nd (46), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad at rank 3rd (24), Shivaji University, Kolhapur at rank 4th (09), Sant Gadge Baba Amravati Univerisity, Amravati at rank 5th (06) and SNTD Women University, Mumbai at rank 5th (06). These universities have proved strong base for the research activity. However North Maharashtra University, Jalgon stands at rank 6th (05) and Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded stand at rank 7th (03) showing less inclination towards research. While reviewing the status in the Maharashtra state of the India it is found that till 2015 in Maharashtra alone 150 theses are accepted for PhD degrees.



Graph 1: Status of Research in LIS from Universities of Maharashtra (MS)

2. To study the given journals (N=351) citations by LIS researcher in Theses. :

Table -2: Journal wise distributions of LIS literature(s)

Sr.No.	Name (Title) of the Journal	Literatures (n = 351)	Number of Percentage
1	Aslib Proceedings: New Information Perspectives	3	0.85%
2	Bottom Line: Managing Library Finances	2	0.57%
3	Collection Building	3	0.85%
4	Computers in Libraries	2	0.57%
5	D-Lib Magazine	4	1.13%
6	Education for Information	1	0.28%
7	Electronic Library	46	13.10%
8	Health Information and Libraries Journal	2	0.57%
9	Information Processing and Management	3	0.85%
10	Information Research	1	0.28%
11	Information Services and Use	2	0.57%
12	Information System Management	1	0.28%
13	Information Technology and Libraries	2	0.57%
14	Informing Science	1	0.28%
15	Interlending and Document Supply	6	1.7%
16	International Information and Library Review	6	1.7%
17	International Journal of Information Management	2	0.57%
18	International Journal of Information Technology and Management	1	0.28%
19	Journal of Academic Librarianship	3	0.85%
20	Journal of Advances in Management Research	1	0.28%
21	Journal of Digital Information Management	2	0.57%
22	Journal of Information Science	2	0.57%
23	Journal of Information Science and Engineering	1	0.28%
24	Knowledge Organization	2	0.57%
25	Library and Information Science Research	3	0.85%

26	Library Collections, Acquisition and Technical Services	2	0.57%
27	Library Hi-Tech	5	1.42%
28	Library Hi-Tech News	13	3.68%
29	Library Management	6	1.7%
30	Library Philosophy and Practice	78	22.1%
31	Library Review	19	5.38%
32	Libres	2	0.57%
33	Libri	3	0.85%
34	New Library World	2	0.57%
35	OCLC Systems and Services	2	0.57%
36	Online Information Review	9	2.55%
37	Program: Electronic Library and Information Systems	24	6.8%
38	Research Evaluation	1	0.28%
39	Scientometrics	25	7.08%
40	Serials Review	2	0.57%
41	World Patent Information	2	0.57%

Table-2 lists the selected 41 international journals where Indian LIS authors intend to publish their research articles. However, there is a set of core journals where majority of LIS literature is published. Graph-2 clearly shows the order of the journals in terms of literature contribution by Indian authors during the period 2005 to 2015. The data reveal that Library Philosophy and Practice is the most preferred journal for Indian authors having a contribution of 22.1 percent. Other preferred journals are Information and Library Review (17 percent), Electronic Library (13.10 percent), Scientometrics (7.08 percent), Program (6.8 percent), Library Review (5.38 percent), Library Hi-Tech News (3.68 percent), Online Information Review (2.55 percent), Library Management, and Interlending and Document Supply 1.7 percent each, Library Hi-

Tech (1.42 percent) and D-Lib Magazine (1.13 percent).

Rest of the journals have less than one percent of publication. Note worthy to mention here that Library Philosophy and Practice, being an open access journal, publishes the higher number of contributions in Indian LIS studies. Further, the trend may have multiple reasons; first, its open access facilitates the research openly and freely, second, it has less financial constraints and third, it reaches out the contributions from developing countries more easily. Ghosh and Das (2007) and Dibya Kishor Pradhan (2010) for instance show a similar opinion. They claim that the open access movement makes it possible to the researcher particularly from developing countries to target audience of the world's research communities.

3. State wise Distribution of LIS Literature Contribution:

Table-3 shows the share of various Indian states and territories towards the contribution to LIS literatures. Its associated figures present that Delhi is at the top position with the highest 85 (24.08 percent) number of papers, while Karnataka is at the second position with 41 (11.68 percent) papers. Uttar Pradesh remains in the third position with 10.77 percent and Tamil Nadu with 7.63 percent ranks four. Maharashtra and Gujarat have 7.65 percent each and occupy the fifth position. Orissa and Jammu & Kashmir have 17 (4.81 percent) contributions each followed by two states Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal having 14 (3.97

percent) publications. The state Punjab has 3.12 percent followed by Kerala 2.55 percent of contribution. The union territory Chandigarh has around 2 percent contribution, whereas other states such as Madhya Pradesh, and Assam, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and Goa have less than one percent contribution.

These data reveal that there is no symmetry in research productivity of Indian states due to uneven distribution of institutions where LIS researchers can get ample scope for research. Almost one fourth of the LIS literature from India is the contribution of Delhi region where many centralized institutions, documentation centres, information centres and libraries are located.

Table 3: State wise distribution of LIS literature Contributions

Sr.No.	State	No. of Contribution	Percentage
1	Andhra Pradesh	14	3.97%
2	Assam	14	3.97%
3	Chandigarh	7	1.98%
4	Delhi	85	24.08%
5	Goa	1	0.28%
6	Gujarat	27	7.65%
7	Jammu & Kashmir	17	4.81%
8	Karnataka	43	12.18%
9	Kerala	9	2.55%
10	Maharashtra	27	7.65%
11	Madhya Pradesh	3	0.85%
12	Orissa	17	4.81%
13	Punjab	11	3.12%
14	Rajasthan	2	0.57%
15	Tamil Nadu	34	9.63%
16	Uttar	38	10.77%

	Pradesh		
17	Uttaranchal	1	0.28%
18	West Bengal	14	3.97%
	Total	(n = 351)	100.00%

8. Major Findings of the Research:

1. The tendency of research oriented publications in international LIS journals by the Indian authors are increasing which indicates, in principle, that the advancement of communication facility encourages Indian authors to publish their papers in international journals.
2. More than half the articles are contributed by collaborative effort of the Indian authors. This indicates research collaboration. If the classification is made by number of authors per paper, it shows that maximum Indian authors contribute their papers individually.
3. Out of the 41 journals having 351 LIS articles, only seven journals cross more than 10 articles each. This result shows that there is only a small set of core journals where majority of LIS literature is published.
4. Delhi remains as the central place, having 24.08 percent publications, which has furthered the growth of LIS research in India.

9. Conclusion:

The result of the present study exemplifies that over the last few years LIS research activities are growing rapidly in India. The trend has witnessed a rapid growth in citation in various index databases. The trend of the research publications has progressed with the advancement of technology; on the one hand, with open access

system the trend has been progressing in LIS fields. Several states in the Indian scenario, with the advancement of technology and by virtue of access to multiple research resources, have contributed significantly. Research facilities in India remain uneven which, in long run, become a major concern. Information professionals who consult the research empower themselves to evaluate and analyse its quality in a critical fashion and ultimately add benefit of enhancing information professionals' appreciation of the research needs of their clients (Turner, 2002). Hence, in the Indian scenario, LIS research activities need constant improvement with contributions from all states and in multiple international journals to meet the global need of the day.

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