RECENT TRENDS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE RESEARCH: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Efforts were made to find out the research trends in Library and Information Science in India in the last decade. Publication trend in the top five Indian LIS journals is analyzed with the help of 2414 articles published in the last decade. The 1288 LIS Ph.D thesis were analyzed according to their area of research. The results of the study show that the subjects Information Communication Technology, Information Science and bibliometrics/scientometrics/webometrics attracted more authors for writing the research papers. Where as user study, e-Resources and Information Communication Technology were the top ranking research areas chosen by the research scholars for their doctoral research. The subjects classification and cataloguing were the most ignored research areas.

KEYWORDS: *Library, Information, Communication & Research Papers*

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INTRODUCTION

The foundation of LIS education in India goes back to 1911. Maharaja Sayajirao Gakewad of the Baroda State invited W. A. Borden to India for imparting professional LIS education and to develop the public library system of the state. Currently, the LIS education is imparted at various levels such as diploma, certificate, degree and research by Indian Universities and institutes.

Research is an important activity for the overall development of a particular discipline/subject. Dr. S. R. Rangnathan was the pioneer of the doctoral research in LIS in India. The foundation of LIS doctoral research in India goes back to 1952 when Delhi University started the first Ph.D course in LIS. Mr. D. B. Krishna Rao was the first registered candidate for Ph.D at Delhi University under the guidance of Dr. S. R. Rangnathan. His research topic was "Facet analysis and depth classification of Agriculture" and he awarded the Ph.D degree in 1957. The second Ph.D degree was awarded by the Panjab University, Chandigarh in 1977.

SELECTED REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Some relevant studies which give the insight of the present study are mentioned here. **Khanchandani, Vanita (2019) & Khumbar, Debbarma & K. Praveen (2019)** presented the scenario of LIS education in India with types of courses offered by the LIS schools i.e. diploma, degree and research programs. The authors also discussed opportunities and challenges in LIS education. **Singh, Joginder (2018)** analyzed the scenario of the current LIS research trends in the North India. He concluded that the preferred topics of offered by the North India LIS schools includes users behavior, Web based resources, Information literacy, Digital libraries, Library Services, Cost effectiveness and Cost Benefit Analysis, Electronic resources, Collection development, Bibliometric study,

Information Technology, Information resources, Quality Management, Public Libraries. **Chauhan, Suresh & Mahajan, Preeti (2017)** carried out a study to measure the quality and quantity of the Indian LIS research output. The results of the study show that the growth in PhD production does not result in the growth of article publications at international level. The authors found that most of the research was on bibliometric analysis. The authors emphasize the necessity of research on the other areas of LIS also. **Garg, K.C. and Sharma, Chetan (2017)** analyzed 2428 papers indexed in Indian Citation Index (ICI) during 2004 – 2015. The findings of the study shows that the pattern of research output and the annual growth rate of research are highly inconsistent. The authors found that Bibliometrics/Scientometrics as most preferred research topic and it is followed by User Studies. **Singh, Shashi Prabha & Babbar, Parveen (2014)** conducted a study on doctoral research in Library and Information Science in India up to 2012. The findings of the study show that LIS doctoral research in India was at low ebb up to 1970s and onwards it was increased decade by decade. The LIS doctoral research in India was increased up to 144 PhDs per year from 2010 to 2012. **Mittal, Rekha (2011)** carried out a study on the LIS research trends in India by analyzing 4735 descriptors from 1408 journal for the period of Jan.1990 to June 2010 by using co word analysis method to identify core research areas in LIS. The results of the study shows that the LIS research areas moved towards copy right, digital libraries, institutional repositories, CD-ROM databases and Web 2.0, open access, World Wide Web are some of the new burning issues which attracted the researchers. **Chandrashekhara, M. and Ramasesh, C.P. (2009)** analyzed total 802 doctoral theses submitted to the 24 Indian universities for the period of 1957 to 2008. The research topics analyzed according to the rank and the results of the study shows that bibliometrics / scientometrics / informatics is the preferred topic of doctoral research among the LIS researchers and it was followed by the Library Management, University Libraries, Information Systems, Information Seeking Behavior etc. LIS Education was ranked on the tenth position.

METHODOLOGY

The recent trends in LIS research in India was analyzed on the basis of the 2414 articles published in the top five Indian LIS journals and the doctoral thesis submitted to the Indian Universities in the last decade (2009-2019). The data of the top five Indian LIS journal is collected online and the 2414 articles published in the total 262 issues of the top five Indian Journals in the last decade were analyzed according to their subjects. The data of the 1288 Ph.D thesis from 103 Indian Universities having submission year between 2009 to 2019 was collected from the Shodhganga: An ETD of Indian thesis and dissertations. The 1288 Ph.D thesis were analyzed according to the university, state, top ranking subject and emerging research trends.

Scope and Limitations

The study is limited for the period of 2009 to 2019. The study is limited to the 2414 journal articles published in the top five Indian LIS journals. The study is also limited to the 1288 doctoral thesis available on the Shodhganga ETD which are having submission year between 2009-2019.

The Source Journals

The information of the source journals used for the present study and the total number of articles published during the period 2009-2019 is presented in table 1.

Table 1: The Source Journals

S.N	Name of the Journal	ISSN	Indexed in	Publisher	Total Number of Issues Published (2009-2019)	Total Number of Articles Published (2009-2019)
01	Annals of Library & Information Studies	0972-5423 (Print) 0975-2404 (Online)	Scopus, WoS, ICI, LISA, LISTA, EBSCO, ProQuest	NISCAIR, New Delhi	44	359
02	DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology	0974-0643 (Print) 0976-4658 (Online)	SCOPUS, LISA, LISTA, EBSCO, WoS, ProQuest, EBSCO etc.	DESIDOC, DRDO, Delhi	66	609
03	Library Herald	0024-2292 (Print) 0976-2469 (Online)	Indian Citation Index, EBSCO Discovery, Summon (ProQuest), Google Scholar etc.	Delhi Library Association, New Delhi	44	360
04	PEARL Journal of Library and Information Science	0973-7081 (Print) 0975-6922 (Web)	Indian Citation Index, NAAS, EBSCO Discovery, Summon (ProQuest), Google Scholar etc.	University Library Teacher's Association of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad	44	470
05	SRELS Journal of Information Management	0972-2467 (Print) 0976-2477 (Online)	I-Scholar, J-Gate,	Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science, Bangalore	64	616
					262	2414

Subject Wise Analysis of the Articles

The 2414 articles published in the top five Indian LIS journals were analyzed according to their subjects. Table 2 reveals the data about subject wise articles published in the top five Indian LIS journals during the period of 2009-2019. It is clear from table 2 that ICT, Information Science and Bibliometrics/Scientometrics/Webometrics were the preferred topics by the authors for writing research papers in the journals. Whereas very less number of articles were published on the topic classification and cataloguing.

Table 2: Subject Wise Analysis of the Articles

S.N	Subject	Name of the Journal					
		Alis	Desidoc	Library Herald	Pearl	Srels	Total
01	ICT	82	264	73	178	213	810
02	Information Science	131	134	95	92	145	597
03	Bibliometric/Scientometric/Webometric	72	86	123	31	73	385
04	Library Management	29	52	40	107	92	320
05	Digitization	6	27	8	24	31	96
06	Education	13	16	12	24	2	67
07	Automation	2	13	6	9	9	39
08	Classification	11	5	1	0	9	26

09	Cataloguing	1	6	1	2	2	12
10	Other	12	6	1	3	40	62
Total=		359	609	360	470	616	2414

Figure 1

Authorship Pattern

Efforts were made to know the authorship pattern of the published articles. Table 3 contains the data regarding authorship pattern of the published articles. It can be seen from the table 3 that double authorship pattern was found popular for publishing research papers in the journals and it was followed by single author and three authors pattern respectively.

Table 3: Authorship Pattern

S. N	Name of the Journal	Single Author	Double Author	Three Author	More Than Three Authors	Total
01	ALIS	123	168	53	15	359
02	DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology	195	285	95	34	609
03	Library Herald	196	121	34	9	360
04	PEARL Journal of Library and Information Science	183	215	60	12	470
05	SRELS Journal of Information Management	201	313	82	20	616
Total=		898	1102	324	90	2414

LIS Doctoral Research: Statewide Contribution on Shodhganga

Efforts were made to find out the LIS doctoral thesis uploaded on Shodhganga ETD by the Indian Universities. The 1288 LIS doctoral thesis having thesis submission year between 2009-2019 were searched and sorted according to the state of the submitting university. Table 4 contains the data regarding state wide LIS doctoral thesis uploaded Shodhganga ETD having thesis submission year between 2009-2019. It can be seen from the table 4 that Tamil Nadu state of the India have uploaded highest number of LIS thesis (thesis submission year between 2009-2019) on Shodhganga ETD.

Table 4: LIS Doctoral Thesis on Shodhganga EDT: State Wide Contribution

Sr No.	State	No of Thesis
1	Tamil Nadu	353
2	Karnataka	159
3	Maharashtra	155
4	Uttar Pradesh	88
5	Gujrat	84

6	West Bengal	74
Table 4: Contd,...		
7	Andhra Pradesh	66
8	Assam	49
9	Rajasthan	34
10	Punjab	24
11	Madhya Pradesh	23
12	Haryana	21
13	Meghalaya	21
14	Mizoram	21
15	Chhattisgarh	20
16	Chandigarh	17
17	Odisha	17
18	Jammu and Kashmir	15
19	Kerala	15
20	Manipur	14
21	New Delhi	12
22	Telangana	4
23	Puducherry	2
Total=		1288

LIS Doctoral Research: Subject wise Analysis

An attempt has made to analyze the LIS doctoral thesis uploaded on Shodhganga ETD by the Indian Universities. The 1288 LIS doctoral thesis having thesis submission year between 2009-2019 were analyzed according to their area of research. The 1288 thesis have been broadly categorized in to the 32 broad subject areas. The data is presented in descending order i.e. top ranked subjects to the less attracted area of LIS research. It can be revealed from table 5 that the subjects User Study, e-Resources and ICT attracted more number of research scholars towards them and it was followed by the Library Management and Bibliometrics / Scientometrics / Webometrics. The less attracted areas for research include Accreditation, Content Management and Classification.

Table 5: LIS Doctoral Thesis on Shodhganga ETD: Subject Wise Analysis

Sr No.	Subject	No of Thesis
1	User Study	199
2	e-Resources	161
3	ICT	161
4	Library Management	154
5	Bibliometric/Scientometric/Webometric	147
6	Library Services	73
7	Digitization	48
8	Public Library	36
9	Academic Libraries	35
10	Citation Analysis	24
11	Information Literacy	24
12	Library Network	23
13	Web Resources	21
14	Library Software	20
15	Human Resource Management	19
16	Library Automation	17
17	Research Publication	17
18	Special Library	17
19	Library Science Education	16
20	Other	15
21	Content Analysis	11

22	Subject Development	11
Table 5: Contd.,		
23	Social Networking	7
24	Knowledge Management	6
25	Library Finance	6
26	Library Movement	5
27	IPR	4
28	Indexing	3
29	Information Retrieval	3
30	Classification	2
31	Content Management	2
32	Accreditation	1
Total=		1288

LIS Doctoral Research: Top ten Universities on Shodhganga

Efforts were made to find out the universities who have uploaded highest number of LIS thesis on Shodhganga ETD. The data regarding top ten universities who have uploaded highest number of LIS thesis is presented in table 6.

Table 6: LIS Doctoral Thesis on Shodhganga ETD: Top Ten Universities

Sr No	Name of the University	State	No of Thesis
1	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli	Tamil Nadu	89
2	University of Mysore, Mysore	Karnataka	60
3	Bharathiar University, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	58
4	Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh	Uttar Pradesh	48
5	Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh	48
6	Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli	Tamil Nadu	46
7	Dr.BabasahebAmbedkarMarathwada University, Aurangabad	Maharashtra	45
8	Alagappa University, Karaikudi	Tamil Nadu	44
9	Gauhati University, Guwahati	Assam	43
10	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune	Maharashtra	39

FINDINGS

The results of the study show that the subjects Information Communication Technology, Information Science and bibliometrics/scientometrics/webometrics attracted more authors for writing the research papers. Whereas user study, e-Resources and Information Communication Technology were the top ranking research areas chosen by the research scholars for their doctoral research. Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli have uploaded highest number of LIS thesis on Shodhganga. The Universities from the states Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra contributed highest number of LIS thesis on Shodhganga.

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