

## Contribution by Indian Authors in Foreign Origin Library and Information Science Journals during 2006-2015: A Scientometrics Study

Dhiman Mondal<sup>#,\*</sup>, Satish Kanamadi<sup>@</sup>, and Kingsuk Das<sup>#</sup>

<sup>#</sup>Ananda Mohan College, Kolkata - 700 009, India

<sup>@</sup>Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Deonar, Mumbai - 400 088, India

<sup>\*</sup>E-mail: dhiman.bon@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

Contribution of Indian authors in foreign library and information science journals during 2006-2015 using Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts database is examined in this study. This scientometrics study analyses the research publication productivity and trend according to year, authorship, most prolific authors, Indian states, institutions, preferred journals for communication and subject. It is found that Indian authors contributed a total number of 234 articles during the covered period and collaborative articles with two-authors are highest in numbers. *Library Philosophy and Practice* has emerged as the most preferred journal by authors for publication. In terms of keywords/areas of study 'Users' and 'Study' has emerged as the most preferred research area to publish during the period.

**Keywords:** Scientometrics study; Foreign LIS journals; Indian authors; Research productivity, LISTA database

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The 20<sup>th</sup> century may be described as the century of the development of metric sciences like librmetrics, bibliometrics, scientometrics, cybermetrics or webometrics and lastly informatics<sup>1</sup>. The objective is to use quantitative techniques and methods to assess the knowledge domain. Scientometrics has become prominent day by day because of the need to measure and evaluate the huge investments in science and technology (S&T) sectors, especially in research and development activities<sup>2</sup>. Journals are the primary communication channel in disseminating research and scholarly information and publishing papers in high impact and good quality national as well as international journals is strongly related with gaining prestige, reputation and academic achievement in higher education environment.

After independence, increase in library science schools and libraries of different types in India has provided impetus for number of publications in the library and information science (LIS) literature. As a result, significant number of national as well as international journals has been launched to disseminate the growing research output. Evaluating such foreign journal literature would help us to identify the LIS domain, the research trend and characteristics pattern. Therefore, this study is an attempt to assess the LIS literature output by Indian authors in foreign journals indexed in the LISTA database.

### 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Harinarayana<sup>3</sup>, *et al.* found that 303 articles were published during 1970-2005 in various foreign LIS journals and Scientometrics is the most preferred foreign journal for

Indian authors. Subbaiah Arunachalam contributed maximum articles and they also recommended that Indian authors should give more attention to increase their level of productivity in foreign periodicals.

Wani<sup>4</sup>, *et al.* assessed the trend of LIS research literary outputs available through Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts. This chronological study covering the period 1850 to 2000 indicated that LIS literature has been expanding its subject boundaries and developing countries like India have also made laudable contributions to LIS literature. In county-wise output, U.S.A. ranked first and India is positioned at 6<sup>th</sup> place.

Chandrakar & Arora<sup>5</sup> analysed 302 journal articles literature that was published during the years 2000 to 2010 and indexed in the SSCI database on the Web of Science platform. This study revealed National Institute of Science Technology & Development Studies published maximum articles and USA topped in terms of co-authorship with the Indian institutions.

Pradhan & Chandrakar<sup>6</sup> in their study revealed that Indian authors contributed over 228 articles in foreign LIS journals during 2000-2009. Scientometrics journal published maximum articles by Indian authors and K.C. Garg contributed highest articles during the study period. The study concludes that international collaboration of Indian authors has less representation.

Rakhi & Nagarajan<sup>7</sup> analysed the research trends in library and information science in Asian countries during 1996-2011 as reflected in the SCImago Journal and country ranking (SJR) database and depicted that China contributed highest number of publications followed by India. Further, the trend of self citing is dominating among the researchers in China and India.

Barik & Jena<sup>8</sup> analysed 385 articles published during 2004-2013 and indexed by Scopus database. It is found that Library Philosophy and Practice has been identified as most favoured LIS journal and the application of Lotka's law revealed that the numbers of authors observed are somehow different with the numbers of authors expected.

Mangi<sup>9</sup> assessed the quantitative aspect of LIS research output scenario of BRIC nations for the period 1996-2012 and Britain stood first among four nations, namely Britain, Russia, India and China. Britain has maximum number of publications to its credit. China and India were also seen as contributing significantly in LIS research output.

Pradhan<sup>10</sup> examined the 353 articles published in 41 LIS journals contributed by the Indian authors during 2001-2010 and stated that there was only a few set of core journals where majority of LIS research was published. He concluded that 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.

Sa & Barik<sup>11</sup> retrieved 200 scholarly papers from SCOPUS database which were contributed by Indian LIS researchers in *Library Philosophy & Practice Journal* during 2001-2015 and analysed the different bibliometric aspects like contribution of papers by year, geographical distribution of papers, most active authors, type of documents, most cited papers, most productive institutions, foreign collaboration, authorship pattern and degree of collaboration etc.

### 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study assesses the articles publication pattern and trend of Indian authors in foreign LIS journals. The objectives of the study are as follows:

- i. To examine the year wise publication of articles and growth rate
- ii. To understand the authorship pattern and collaboration of Indian authors
- iii. To identify the most prolific Indian states, institutions and authors
- iv. To illustrate the international collaboration of Indian authors
- v. To depict the most preferred foreign journals by Indian authors and
- vi. To find out the emerging research areas preferred by Indian authors.

### 4. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The present study is restricted to only research publication output of Indian authors in foreign library & information science journals which are indexed by LISTA database of EBSCO. Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA)<sup>12</sup> is an open-access mega indexing/abstracting database of EBSCO. This reputed bibliographic database covers librarianship, classification, information management, and indexes more than 700 periodicals plus books, research reports, and proceedings with coverage dating back to the mid-1960s.

For information retrieval, following limiters have been used to refine the necessary data during 25<sup>th</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup>

December, 2016.

Geographic term: India

Publication date: 01-01-2006 to 31-12-2015.

Publication type: Academic Journal

Document type: Article

Language: English

Total 1,379 articles have been retrieved and then from the publication list, 33 foreign LIS journals (appendix) have been selected to refine the relevant data. The bibliographical details of each of the articles of search results have been thoroughly scanned and verified. Finally, a total of 234 journal articles which are written by the Indian affiliated authors have been shortlisted and retrieved for the study. This has also been supplemented by searching and verifying Google Scholar online database to get the citation data of articles.

The raw data are then analysed and recorded separately in an MS-Excel file. Then MS-Word and MS-Excel were used to organise, tabulate and analyse the necessary data for the study.

## 5. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The authors analysed and interpreted the available data on the basis of year wise distribution, authorship pattern, author productivity, most prolific authors, most prolific state, most prolific institutions, international collaboration, productive journals and subject wise.

### 5.1 Year wise distribution and Relative Growth Rate

Table 1 and Fig. 1 depict the year wise distribution and relative growth rate of articles published in foreign LIS journals. Indian authors contributed a total number of 234 journal articles during 2006 to 2015. It is clear from the figure that the growth rate is fluctuated during the period. There is a sudden increase in the growth of articles in the years 2008, 2010 and 2011. Otherwise, uniformity has been seen in the publication trend of foreign LIS journals during last 10 years. The relative growth rate shows that the growth of publications is found to be positive in 2008, 2010, 2015 and the remaining years indicate negative growth.

The relative growth rate (RGR) means the increase in a number of publications/Pages per unit of time. Hence, the

**Table 1. Year-wise distribution and relative growth of articles**

Year	Articles	Percentage	$W_1$	$W_2$	Relative growth rate
2006	14	5.98	--	2.6390	--
2007	13	5.55	2.6390	2.565	-0.074
2008	30	12.82	2.565	3.4012	0.8362
2009	23	9.83	3.4012	3.1355	-0.2657
2010	45	19.23	3.1355	3.8066	0.6711
2011	33	14.10	3.8066	3.4965	-0.3101
2012	25	10.68	3.4965	3.2188	-0.2777
2013	17	7.26	3.2188	2.8332	-0.3856
2014	16	6.84	2.8332	2.7726	-0.0606
2015	18	7.7	2.7726	2.8904	0.1178

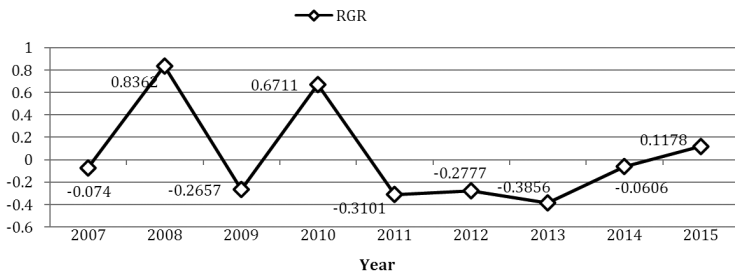


Figure 1. Year-wise relative growth of articles.

mean relative growth rate  $R(1-2)$  over a specific period of the interval can be calculated from the following equation<sup>13</sup>.

$$R_{(1-2)} = W_2 - W_1 / T_2 - T_1$$

where  $R$  = Mean relative growth rate over the specific period of interval;  $W_1 = \text{Log } W_1$  (Natural log of initial number of publications/pages);  $W_2 = \text{Log } W_2$  (Natural log of final number of publications/pages);  $T_2 - T_1 =$  Unit difference between the initial time and final time.

Therefore,  $R_{(a)}$  = Relative Growth Rate per unit of publications per unit of time (Year),  $R_{(p)}$  = Relative Growth Rate per unit of pages per unit of time (Year).

5.2 Authorship Pattern and Collaboration

Table 2 illustrates the authorship pattern of published articles in foreign LIS journals. Total 234 articles have been contributed by 467 authors. It is clear from the figure that two-authored papers constitute maximum 97 articles (41.45%) followed by single-authored papers with 79 articles (33.76 per cent) and three-authored papers with 42 articles (17.95 per cent). Fewer articles (1.71 per cent) were written by five authors. Further, the Collaborative Coefficient (CC) as defined and formulated by Ajiferuke<sup>14</sup>, *et al.* indicates that the average CC of total 234 articles is 0.38 which clearly shows the trend towards joint authorship pattern among the authors for publishing papers in foreign journals. In 2006, the collaboration is decreased

to minimum i.e. 0.161 and in 2015 the collaboration is moved towards maximum i.e. 0.481.

The mathematical formula of CC is mentioned as follows:

$$= 1 - \frac{\sum_{j=1}^k \left(\frac{1}{j}\right) f_j}{N}$$

where  $f_j$  is Number of  $j$  authored research papers,  $N$  is total number of research papers,  $K$  is greatest number of authors per paper.

5.3 Most Prolific Indian State

Figure 2 illustrates the top 15 most productive states based on the contribution of their authors. The geographical distribution of articles is decided based upon the address of authors' affiliation given in the article. Authors from Delhi state contributed a maximum of 61 articles followed by Uttar Pradesh with 29 articles and Karnataka with 26 articles.

5.4 Most Prolific Indian Institutions

Table 3 presents the most prolific institutions which have contributed at least 6 articles. Out of total 161 institutions, authors from 10 institutions contributed at least 06 articles

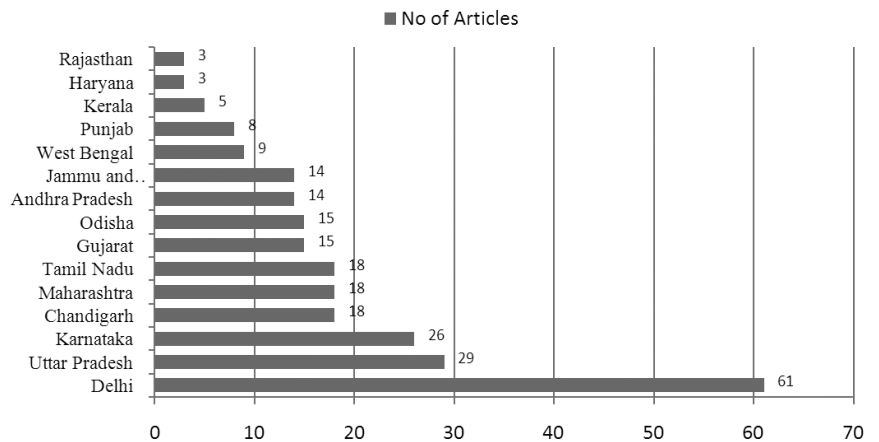


Figure 2. Distribution of top 15 most prolific state.

Table 2. Authorship pattern and collaboration

Year	Authorship					Total articles	CC
	1	2	3	4	5		
2006	10	3	0	1	0	14	0.161
2007	3	7	3	0	0	13	0.423
2008	11	13	5	0	1	30	0.354
2009	9	9	3	1	1	23	0.35
2010	13	20	10	2	0	45	0.404
2011	13	9	8	2	1	33	0.367
2012	7	11	4	2	1	25	0.418
2013	4	8	4	1	0	17	0.436
2014	6	8	1	1	0	16	0.338
2015	3	9	4	2	0	18	0.481
Total =	79 (33.76%)	97 (41.45%)	42 (17.95%)	12 (5.13%)	04 (1.71%)	234 (100%)	0.38

CC= Collaborative Coefficient

in foreign LIS journals during the study period. Out of them, University of Delhi ranks first with 18 publications followed by National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies with 14 articles and Panjab University with 13 articles. The articles of Indira Gandhi National Open University received maximum average citations of 22.16 followed by University of Delhi with 16.39 average citations and National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies (NISTAD) with 16.36 average citations.

**5.5 Most Prolific Authors**

Table 4 reveals the distribution of most prolific Indian authors who have contributed at least 4 articles in foreign LIS journals during 2006-2015. Out of total 338 authors, 13 authors have contributed at least 4 journal articles in foreign LIS journals. Among them, B.M. Gupta tops the list with maximum

number of 09 articles to his credit, closely followed by Preeti Mahajan with 7 articles. Besides, Maitrayee Ghosh and Margam Madhusudhan have contributed 6 articles each. The articles of Margam Madhusudhan received maximum average citations of 29.83 per article followed by Preeti Mahajan with 20.14 average citations.

**5.6 Collaboration of Indian Authors with International Institutions**

Table 5 depicts the collaboration of Indian authors with international institutions for their publications. It is observed that Indian authors published 12 articles in collaboration with the authors of 9 different countries. Among the foreign countries, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia leads the table with 4 articles followed by South Africa and USA with 2 articles. Rest of the countries contributed one article each. Among 12 foreign

**Table 3. Most prolific Indian institutions**

Institution	Publications	Times cited	Average citations per article
University of Delhi, Delhi	18	295	16.39
CSIR-NISTAD, Delhi	14	229	16.36
Panjab University, Chandigarh	13	189	14.54
Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu	11	92	8.36
University of Kashmir, J&K	11	102	9.27
Sambalpur University, Odisha	09	83	9.22
Aligarh Muslim University, Uttar Pradesh	08	47	5.87
Indira Gandhi National Open University, Delhi	06	133	22.16
Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	06	56	9.33
CSIR-NISCAIR, New Delhi	06	87	14.5

Citation Source: Google Scholar as on 14-06-2017

**Table 4. Most prolific authors who have contributed at least 4 articles**

Author	Institution	Publications	Times cited	Avg. citations per article
B.M. Gupta	CSIR-NISTAD, Delhi	9	165	18.33
Preeti Mahajan	Panjab University	7	141	20.14
Maitrayee Ghosh	IIT Kanpur	6	62	10.33
Margam Madhusudhan	University of Delhi	6	179	29.83
Sadagopan Dhanavandan	Gandhigram Rural Institute	4	34	8.5
Gayatri Doctor	ICFAI Business School	4	76	19
S. Mohamed Esmail	Annamalai University	4	35	8.75
Sumeer Gul	University of Kashmir	4	33	8.25
V.K.J. Jeevan	IGNOU, Delhi	4	23	5.75
Shiv Kumar	Panjab University	4	30	7.5
G. Mahesh	CSIR-NISCAIR, Delhi	4	43	10.75
Sarika Sawant	SNDT Women's University	4	42	10.5
S. Thanuskodi	Annamalai University	4	44	11

Citation Source: Google Scholar as on 14-06-2017

affiliated institutions, King Saud University collaborated with Indian authors and published highest 3 articles followed by University of Swaziland with 2 articles.

### 5.7 Most Preferred Journals

Table 6 lists most preferred journals of Indian authors for publishing their research. Out of 33 foreign LIS journals, *Library Philosophy and Practice* has published maximum 62 articles followed by *Scientometrics* with 25 articles, *Program* with 20 articles and *Electronic Library* with 19 articles. Out of top 13 most preferred journals, 6 journals have impact factor and Scientometric journal has been considered as the highest impact factor journal with 2.084.

**Table 5. Collaboration of Indian authors with international institutions**

Country	Institutions	Articles	Total
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	King Saud University	3	4
	King Faisal University	1	
South Africa	University of Swaziland	2	2
USA	California State University	1	2
	Iowa State University	1	
Canada	Simon Fraser University	1	1
Iran	University of Shahed	1	1
Mexico	Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla	1	1
Pakistan	University of the Punjab	1	1
	National University of Sciences and Technology	1	
Republic of China	Henan Normal University	1	1
Sri Lanka	University of Colombo	1	1

### 5.8 Research Area wise Distribution of Articles

Indian authors contribute research publications in foreign journals from the different sub-domains of LIS disciplines. It is observed that majority of the articles 22.67% (56 articles) were published in the area of ‘users’ study’ field, followed by ‘scientometrics/bibliometrics studies’ with 45 articles (18.22%) and ‘digital library and institutional repository’ with 19 articles (7.7%). It is also noted from the analysis of data that very little research is published in the field of ‘open source software’, ‘Information Search/retrieval and Search Engine’, ‘RFID’, ‘school library’ and ‘special library’. Few articles have been written in current topics, such as, ‘webometric analysis’, ‘e-governance’, and ‘mobile library applications’. A few articles come in the category of more than one subject category.

### 7. CONCLUSIONS

The growth of Indian LIS literature in foreign origin journals has shown growth over the last 10 years. During the period of 2006 to 2015, Indian authors contributed total 234 articles in 33 foreign LIS journals with an average 23 articles per year. However, this may not be encouraging trend as this is significantly less. Therefore, more attention is needed to be given by the Indian authors to do research and publish quality articles in foreign LIS journals. The average collaborative coefficient clearly shows the dominance of joint authors in research publications and authors from Delhi have contributed maximum articles to foreign LIS journals. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, the USA based open access (OA) journal has been discovered as the most preferred and influential foreign LIS journal among Indian authors. Further, among the research focus areas for Indian authors, majority of the articles are published in the sub-domain of ‘Users’ Studies’ area, followed by ‘Scientometrics/ Bibliometrics Studies’. It is essential that the Indian authors should give more attention and emphasis on

**Table 6. Most preferred Foreign LIS journals by Indian authors**

Journal	Publisher	Country	Publications	IF (JCR-2016)
<i>Library Philosophy and Practice</i>	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	United States	62	--
<i>Scientometrics</i>	Springer	Netherlands	25	2.084
<i>Program</i>	Emerald	UK	20	1
<i>Electronic Library</i>	Emerald	UK	19	0.436
<i>International Information &amp; Library Review</i>	Taylor & Francis	United States	16	--
<i>Library Review</i>	Emerald	UK	10	--
<i>IFLA Journal</i>	Sage	UK	09	--
<i>Chinese Librarianship</i>	Internet Chinese Librarians Club	United States	07	--
<i>Library Hi Tech</i>	Emerald	UK	07	0.798
<i>Malaysian Journal of Library &amp; Information Science</i>	University of Malaysia	Malaysia	07	0.476
<i>Collection Building</i>	Emerald	UK	06	--
<i>Library Management</i>	Emerald	UK	05	--
<i>Interlending and Document Supply</i>	Emerald	UK	05	0.444



other innovative emerging research areas also.

This study has also indicated less number of International collaboration with fewer numbers of countries by Indian authors in LIS discipline. Hence there is a need to enhance the research collaboration with LIS scientists from different countries. This move is bound to increase the collaborative research output in the international arena.

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## CONTRIBUTORS

**Mr Dhiman Mondal** has obtained MLIS from Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), MPhil from University of Calcutta and PGDLIM from TISS, Mumbai. He is presently working as Librarian of Ananda Mohan College, Kolkata. He has published 13 papers in journals, books and conference proceedings. His areas of interest are bibliometric analysis, e-resources, open access sharing of information, etc.

Contribution in the current study, he conceptualised and carried out the data collection, literature review, analysis and interpretation works. He also contributed in drafting and revising the manuscript.

**Dr Satish Kanamadi** is an alumnus of Karnatak University, Dharwad, and a distinguished professional whose research contributions include over 30 articles in journals, edited volumes, etc. Currently 7 scholars are pursuing PhD under his supervision. Presently working as University Librarian at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. His areas of interest are :Web resources, information access and metadata.

Contribution in the current study, he suggested, drafted, revised and improved the contents of the manuscript to shape it in final approval version.

**Mr Kingsuk Das** obtained his 5-years Integrated MLIS from University of Calcutta. Presently working as an Assistant Librarian at Ananda Mohan College, Kolkata. His areas of interest are : Scientometrics, legal information system, information source, system and services, digital library, human relation and services.

Contribution in the current study, he carried out the data collection process and contributed towards literature review.

**List of Foreign (Non-Indian) origin LIS journals indexed in LISTA**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Journals title</b>
1.	<i>Advances in Librarianship</i>
2.	<i>ASLIB Proceedings</i>
3.	<i>Bottom Line: Managing Library Finances</i>
4.	<i>Chinese Librarianship</i>
5.	<i>Collection Building</i>
6.	<i>Electronic Library</i>
7.	<i>Focus on international library and information work</i>
8.	<i>Health Information and Libraries Journal</i>
9.	<i>IFLA Journal</i>
10.	<i>Interlending &amp; Document Supply</i>
11.	<i>International Information &amp; Library Review</i>
12.	<i>Journal of Business &amp; Finance Librarianship</i>
13.	<i>Journal of Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries</i>
14.	<i>Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship</i>
15.	<i>Journal of Interlibrary Loan, Document Delivery &amp; Electronic Reserves</i>
16.	<i>Journal of Library &amp; Information Services in Distance Learning</i>
17.	<i>Journal of Web Librarianship</i>
18.	<i>Library Collections, Acquisitions, &amp; Technical Services</i>
19.	<i>Library Hi Tech</i>
20.	<i>Library Management</i>
21.	<i>Library Philosophy and Practice</i>
22.	<i>Library Review</i>
23.	<i>LIBRI: International Journal of Libraries and Information Studies</i>
24.	<i>Malaysian Journal of Library &amp; Information Science</i>
25.	<i>New Library World</i>
26.	<i>OCLC Systems &amp; Services: International digital library perspectives</i>
27.	<i>Online Information Review</i>
28.	<i>Program</i>
29.	<i>Science &amp; Technology Libraries</i>
30.	<i>Scientometrics</i>
31.	<i>Serials Librarian</i>
32.	<i>Singapore Journal of Library &amp; Inf. Management</i>
33.	<i>Vine: Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems</i>