Doctoral Studies in Library and Information Science in India: A Study

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Abstract

Universities are demanding a doctoral degree for library and information science faculty as well as for professional seniors in university and other higher education and research libraries. This led to increased research activity at various library schools in India. This paper provides statistics of doctoral research in India. The data of the doctoral research in India has been analysed chronologically, subject-wise, guide-wise, and university-wise.

1. INTRODUCTION

Till recently doctoral study in library and information science in India invited a Pandara's box of silly and vexing questions about the need for and utility of such a degree. Research, which was individualistic and a case for satisfying inner urge, has become completing a necessity—with the recommendation of the Sen Committee of UGC that a doctoral degree is a requisite qualification for university teachers—and doctorate as 'the PhD syndrome' or 'the PhD octopus'. It is a point beyond contention that a doctorate in the subject gives a certain edge to the faculty members. Universities are demanding a doctoral degree for library and information science faculty as well as for professional seniors in university and other higher education and research libraries. This led to increased research activity at various library schools in India.

2. CHRONOLOGICAL STUDY

Provision for PhD in library and information science in India was made for the first time in

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1948 by University of Delhi. The first PhD in Library (and Information) Science was awarded by the same university in 1957 to DB Krishna Rao for his thesis 'Facet Analysis and Depth Classification of Agriculture.' Dr SR Ranganathan was his guide.

However, Mr Munindranath Basu is the first librarian to earn a doctorate for his thesis 'Musum Method and the Process of Cleaning and Preservation/library Preservation' in 1950. He was awarded PhD by the Calcutta University.

Dr JS Sharma was the first Indian and one of the first few to earn doctorate from USA. He was awarded PhD by Michigan University for his thesis 'Mahatma Gandhi: A Descriptive Bibliography'. The second PhD in Library and Information Science in India was awarded in 1977 almost after a lapse of 20 years. That was to Dr Pandey SK Sharma for his thesis Expansion and modification of Dewey Decimal Classification (18) for classifying indological books with special reference to Indian philosophy and Indian religion' by Punjab University. Dr JS Sharma was his guide.

The following table gives the chronological distribution of doctorate awards to library professionals:

Year	No. of doctorate awards
1950	1
1951	1
1952	1
1954	1
1957	1
1966	2
1972	1
1973	5
1977	6
1978	2
1979	4
1980	7
1981	2
1982	12
1984	15
1985	15
1986	10
1987	6
1988	8
1989	24
1990	9
1991	29
1992	48
1993	11
1994	29
1995	23
1996	13
1997	7

From the above data we can learn that there has been a steady growth in the number of doctorates awarded to library and information science professionals since 1977. In all 293 professionals were awarded doctorates, out of which, 264 awards were in Library and Information Science and the rest 29 were in disciplines other than library science. Maximum number of doctorates (48) were awarded in 1992 (the birth centenary year of Dr SR Ranganathan). In 1991 and 1994, 29 candidates were awarded doctorates in each year Next come 1989, in which year 24 candidates were awarded doctorates.

2.1 Subject-wise Analysis

The subject-wise break-up of doctorates is given in Appendix 1.

Analysing data in Appendix 1, we can observe that the following is the decreasing sequence in choice of major topics.

Topic	No.
University Libraries	20
Information Services	15
Information Technology	14
Library Profession	14
Bibliometric Studies	11
Classification	11
Linrary Education	10
Library Personnel	10
Library Automation	09
Special Libraries	09
User Education	09

Library classification was one of the major areas of research before a decade. But, during the last decade, information related subjects like information services, information technology, bibliometric studies gained importance.

2.2 Guide-wise Analysis

Data in Appendix 2 indicates that 293 scholars were guided by as many as 94 guides. Out of these, 71 are from library and information science field and 23 are from other disciplines. When guides in the field of library and science were not available, some of the professionals selected a library related topic and registered under a related discipline. Some of them registered under library and information science with a guide from a related discipline. Co-guides were very few. This phenomenon is more evident in the theses submitted to Jiwaji University, Gwalior.

Out of the 71 guides in library and information science the most productive one (five and above) are given below:

S. No	Name	No. Awarded
1	Gunjal	14
2	Kumbhar, MR	13
3	Karisiddappa, CR	12
4	Tripathi, SM	12
5	Berua, P	08
6	Sharma, JS	08
7	Deshpande, KS	06
8	Issac, KA	06
9	Kumar, PSG	06
10	Mahapatra, M	05
11	Narasimha Raju, GVSL	05
12	Riswadkar, MR	05
13	Sardana, JL	05
14	Siva Reddy, K	05

2.3 University-wise Analysis

Research facilities in library and information science are available in 34 universities in India. Following table is the list and number of awards—university-wise (these include awards to library professionals from allied disciplines as well):

S.No.	Universities	No. Awarded
1	Agra	01
2	allahabad	01
3	Amravati	01
4	Andhra	16
5	Banaras (BHU)	07
6	Bangalore	03
7	Behrampur	05
8	Bhagalpur	02
9	Bombay	01
10	Burdwan	10
11	Calcutta	03
12	Calicut	02
13	Cochin	03
14	Delhi	18
15	Guahati	01
16	Gujarat	01
17	Gulbarga	13
18	GND	06
19	HS Gaur, Sagar	02
20	Himachal	01
21	IIT, Delhi	01
22	Jadavpur	03
23	Jammu	03
24	JNU	01
25	Jiwaji, Gwalior	16
26	Karnataka	37
27	Kerala	07
28	Lucknow	02
29	Madras	04
30	Madurai-Kamraj	02
31	MS University, Baroda	02
32	Mangolore	02
33	Manipur	03
34	LN Mithila Univ, Darbhanga	03
35	Mysore	05
36	Nagpur	09
37	Osmania	04
38	Padmavati, Tirupati	01
39	Punjab, Chandigarh	17
40	Pune	01
41	Rajasthan	20
42	Ranchi	04
43	Ravindra Bharti	01
44	Ravishankar, Raipur	02
45	Sambalpur	02
46	Shivaji, Kolhapur	01
47	SV Univ, Tirupati	05
48	Utkal, Bhubaneswar	07
49	Vikram, Ujjain	05
50	Other	16

Among the above excepting 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 16, 20, 24, 31, 34, 42, 43, 46 and 60, all other are having research facilities in library and information science.

Following table shows out of the various universities, following universities are available engaged in research in library and information science:

S.No	University	No. of Doctorates Awarded
1	Karnataka University, Dharwad	37
2	University of Rajasthan, Jaipur	20
3	University of Delhi	18
4	Punjab University, Chandigarh	17
5	Jiwaji University, Gwalior	16
6	Andhra University, Visakhapatnam	16
7	Gulbarga University	13
8	University of Pune	11
9	University of Burdwan	10
10	Nagpur University	09

2.4 D Litt

So far there is only one D Litt awarded in library and information science in India. That was in 1992 by Utkal University, Bhubaneswar to Dr BB Shukla for his thesis *The work and impact of a pioneers in library and information science : A critical study of the work of Prof Prithvi Nath Kaula.*

Subject wise break-up of doctorates in Library and Information Science

Area	No.	Area	No.
Anthropology	1	Libraries	
History	2	Academic	7
Library & Inf Sc		Children's	1
Archives	2	Medical	1
Automation	9	National	2
Bibliography	5	Public	11
Bibliometric Studies	11	Special	9
Citation analysis	7	University	20
Cataloguing	2	Management	
Classification	11	General	4
Documentation	3	Financial	6
Indexing	12	Personnel	10
Indic names	1	Manuscripts	2
Information needs	6	Non book Material	1
Networking	2	OTHER	
Retrieval	2	Literature	
Services	15	English	1
Systems	2	Hindi	6
Technology	14	Sanskrit	1
Knowledge	5	Kannada	1
Preservation	3	Urdu	1
Reading Habits	3	Scientometric Studies	2
Reference Literature	5	Periodical Lit	8
User Studies	9	Political Science	2
Library		Religion	
Building	3	Buddism	1
Education	10	Christianity	1
History	4	Islam	1
Legislation	6	Science	
Movement	5	Chemistry	1
Profession	14	Pharmacology	1
Use	6	Sociology	4
Networking	8		
Total			**293**

Guide-wise analysis of doctorate degrees in Library and Information Science

Name	No. of Doctorates	Name	No. of Doctorates
Agrawal, SS	1	Murthy, AT	3
Anand, AK	1	Murthy, TAV	2
Andhare, DR*	1	Narasimha Raju, GVSL	5
Asundi, AY	2	Navalani, K	1
Bakshi, A	1	Navjot Kaur	2
Banerjee, M*	1	Neelameghan, A	2
Baradol, AK	1	Panda, KC	1
Barua, P	8	Pandey, Y*	1
Bavakutty, M	3	Pandit, BS*	1
Bhattacharya, G	1	Patil, PK	1
Bhargava, GD	1	Prasad, HN	2
Chakraborty, M*	1	Prashar, RG	1
Deshpande, KS	6	Raghavan, KS	1
Dhawalikav, MK	1	Rajan Pillai	3
Dhyani, P (Ms)	3	Raju, AAN	2
Gandhi, KG	1	RamaKrishna Rao, K	1
Gangadhara Rao, P	2	Ranganathan, SR	1
Garg, BS	2	Riswadkar, MR	5
Gupta, RC*	1	Roy Choudhary, P	1
Gupta, SR	1	Sangam, SL	4
Gurumurthy*	1	Sarada, K	2
Guruswamy Naidu, N	1	Sardana, JL	5
Ijari, SR	3	Sen, SK*	1
Isaac, KA	6	Sengar, HS	3
Jagtar Singh	2	Sharma, JS	8
Jha, SK*	1	Sharma, CD	4
Kamath, VA	1	Shastri, U*	1
Karisiddappa, CR	12	Shrinarayan Singh*	1
Kashyap, MM	1	Shukla, BB	3
Kaula, PN	4	Siddiqui, JA*	1
Khan, HA	3	Singh, SN	1
Krishan Kumar	3	Singh, SL	1
Krishna Rao, DB	1	Siva Reddy, K	5
Kulkarni, AR*	1	Soma Raju, P	2
Kulkarni, DB	1	Sridhar, MS	1
Kumar, PSG	6	Srivastava, SN	5
Kumbhar, MR	13	Surve, GS*	1
Malhan, IV	2	Taikku, VK	2
Mangla, PB	2	Talawar, VG	2
Mahajan, SG	2	Tiwari, Prof	1
Mahapatra, M	5	Tripathi, Sm	12
Mesh, RK*	1	Usha Pawan	3
Mishra, A	1	Vashishta, CP	1
Mishra, AK*	1	Verma, AK	1
Mukaiah, DV*	1	Verma, SC	3
Mukherjee, B*	1	Vijayalakshmi, B	3

*These are guides from outside library and information science.