

Annals of Library and Information Studies (ALIS) Journal: A Bibliometric Study (2002-2012)

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ABSTRACT

The present bibliometric study has been undertaken with the view to understand the latest publication distribution pattern of the articles published in *Annals of Library and Information Studies* (ALIS) journal during the last decade. Present analysis covers the areas like article distribution pattern, authorship pattern, reference, and geographical distribution of authors, etc. At the time of data mining of said journal, 310 articles were published during the period 2002-2012. India since being the host country, as such proved to be one of the major contributors of the journal in every respect. Individual contribution of authors to the journal has been tabulated as per articles contributed, highlighted in their standing order. On average 7.04 articles have been published in each issue of each volume. After analysing 5307 references, on average 17.11 references have been assigned to each article. Researchers from 16 different countries across the world have contributed research articles to the journal during the period of study. 65.81 % articles contributed to the journal during the period of study are based on co-authorship pattern, unveiling the fact that most of the research undertaken these days is on joint authorship pattern.

Keywords: Bibliometrics, references distribution, quantitative techniques, *Annals of Library and Information Studies*

1. INTRODUCTION

There are numerous reasons and variety of purposes for which bibliometric studies are undertaken. In the normal course, such studies are undertaken to evaluate research output of a particular subject during the particular period and it help us to develop a scientific acumen towards the potential of research trend in a particular science. Publication of qualitative research results, type and kind of scientific community which may have contributed in publishing their research results in a particular journal, etc. Upholding above view, the study aims to ascertain the research output of *Annals of Library and Information Studies (ALIS)* journal articles published during the period 2002-2012. *ALIS* is one the leading quarterly journals in the field of Library and Information Science, published by National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR), New Delhi, India, and do enjoy fair amount of popularity at global level.

Most of the bibliometric studies are undertaken to assess the research productivity of an institution, organisation, publications of particular subject or field, research results published in a particular journal or any other similar activity which is confined to

literature or research growth and its evaluation through quantitative techniques published during a particular period. Journals since being the primary sources of information as such undertaking bibliometric study to assess the research growth in a particular discipline is always advisable. The study article highlights the various facets of scholarly content published by this journal during 2002-2012, examines research output published in the journal during the period, publication and authorship pattern, geographical distribution of authors and reference distribution. The journal has given fair amount of coverage to articles' on bibliometrics, scientometrics, webometrics, infometrics, etc. Citation pattern of the journal was deliberately left out, as the same has already been undertaken by Deshmukh¹.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Several bibliometric studies have been undertaken by various researchers across the globe to understand the publication distribution pattern of a particular journal. Most of these studies are for those journals which enjoy fair amount of popularity in a particular discipline at global level. Tiew², *et al.*, Barkri & Willett³ and Rattan & Gupta⁴ undertook their study on *Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science*, covering different periods of time. Rattan and Gupta

in their study observed that 27 % articles were single authored and 73 % joint authored publications with maximum contribution from Malaysia. Verma⁵, *et al.* carried out same kind of bibliometric analysis of *ALIS* and observed that there are more single author contributions in journal with Delhi topping the list for most contributors. The study was undertaken on 131 research articles published in *ALIS* during 1999-2005 and the researchers observed that most of the contributions to the journal were as single author, and found that source journal was the most cited one.

Mete & Deshmukh⁶ analysed 202 articles of *Annals of Library Science and Documentation*, published during the period 1984-1993, having 1824 citations found that source journal is the most cited publication with 8 to 12 years as half life for books and journals respectively. Deshmukh¹ made a citation analysis of articles published during 1997-2010 in *ALIS* and observed that the half life period of journals and books in library and information science is 9 and 14 years respectively. In a similar study undertaken by Kumar & Kumar⁷, analysed 8093 citations of *Journal of Oil Seed and Research* published during 1993-2004, observed that majority of citations (almost 70 %) were given under main articles and rest 30 % under short communication and other write-ups. Dixit & Katore⁸ in a similar study undertaken on the *Journal of Indian Society for Cotton Improvement* studied 327 articles which included 3521 citation published over 1995-2004 concluded that 71.93 % citations are from source journal.

3. OBJECTIVES

The present study has been undertaken with the following objectives to

- Analyse the articles published in the journal *Annals of Library and Information Studies* during 2002-2012
- Analyse the authorship pattern and their geographical affiliation with number of contributions
- Rank countries according to number of articles, authors, and contributors
- Analyse average articles published per volume and reference distribution pattern with average reference per article per volume.

4. SOURCE AND METHODOLOGY

The data required for analysis was mined from its home website⁹. Articles published during 2002-2012 were scanned, and the relevant information, as per the objectives of the study was extracted and analysed. In all 310 articles were scanned from 11 volumes of the journal (Vol. no 49-59). The data retrieved was put to excel format for better analysis and understanding to achieve the set objectives.

Before the analysis, data was standardised to so as avoid any kind of misrepresentation of facts or coming up with results which may hamper the cause of study undertaken to achieve the results as per predefined objectives.

5. ANALYSIS

Keeping in view the nature of study, the data analysis of the present study was done by putting data into excel format to execute simple operations like addition, subtraction, drawing percentage etc. Percentage at all the places has been drawn maximum up to two decimal places and has also been rounded off to next higher value at second percentile value where third percentile value emerged above 0.005.

5.1 Year-wise Distribution of Articles

Table 1 is a depiction of articles scattered over 11 volumes of *Annals of Library and Information Studies* published quarterly, each volume having four issues published. From the tabulation, it was can see in that there was a steady increase in the number of articles published in each volume of the journal (from volume 49 to 59). Volume 57 has published as many as 43 articles, highest among all under study with average articles 10.75 per issue, which is better than 3.71 articles over 7.04 articles published on average in each issue during the entire decade. It is pertinent to mention here that issue 3 of volume 57 was published as special issue as a tribute to Eugene Garfield, information scientist extraordinaire, on his 85th birthday, covering 15 articles.

Table 1. Year-wise distribution of articles

Year	Vol. No.	Total publications (%)	Average articles per issue
2002	49	18 (05.81 %)	4.50
2003	50	19 (06.13 %)	4.75
2004	51	21 (06.77 %)	5.25
2005	52	23 (07.42 %)	5.75
2006	53	26 (08.39 %)	6.50
2007	54	28 (09.03 %)	7.00
2008	55	35 (11.29 %)	8.75
2009	56	34 (10.97 %)	8.50
2010	57	43 (13.87 %)	10.75
2011	58	36 (11.61 %)	9.00
2012	59	27 (08.71 %)	6.75
Total		310 (100 %)	7.04

5.2 Year-wise Authorship Pattern of Articles

Table 2 is confined to authorship pattern and distribution of authorship pattern spread over the issues of journal volumes under study. Single author contribution during the entire period remained at 34.19 %, which is second highest when compared to contribution of two author articles which remained

Table 2. Year-wise authorship pattern of articles

Year	Vol. No.	Single author	Two authors	Three authors	More than three authors	Total
2002	49	6	8	3	1	18
2003	50	6	11	2	0	19
2004	51	7	8	5	1	23
2005	52	9	8	5	1	23
2006	53	6	14	5	1	26
2007	54	12	10	6	0	28
2008	55	12	15	7	1	35
2009	56	6	20	8	0	34
2010	57	17	18	6	2	43
2011	58	14	14	7	1	36
2012	59	11	10	6	0	27
Total		106 (34.19 %)	136 (43.87 %)	60 (19.36 %)	8 (2.58 %)	310

at 43.87 %. 19.36 % articles were contributed jointly by three authors and only 2.58 % articles were contributed by more than three authors together. The interesting aspect, which on the whole emerged from the author distribution, is that 310 articles have been contributed by 599 persons, who for the given fact bring it down to 393 authors actually, after eliminating the repetition of authors in each set of authorship pattern.

5.3 Geographical Affiliation of Authors

Table 3 has been put forth to assess the geographical affiliation of authors, who have contributed to *ALIS* journal during the period of analysis, the tabulation also proved helpful to give better understanding about the maximum contribution to the journal from a particular country. An attempt has been made to eliminate all the repetitive authors in all kind and category of publications. Over all 393 authors have contributed to journal all across the globe irrespective of authorship pattern. Nine articles have been jointly contributed by authors from two or more countries, as such total count in number of contributions stands at 315. In all, authors from 16 different countries have contributed to the journal with maximum contribution 87.61 % from India, followed by 3.49 % contribution from Nigeria and Bangladesh 1.58 %. Four articles have been contributed from

Belgium; three each from Srilanka, Nepal and Botswana, and rest of the countries have contributed one each. Average percentage count of both the columns of contributions and authors has put India on top as largest contributing country with 88.48 % combined share percentage, followed by Nigeria with 4.16 % and Bangladesh with 1.80 % and Belgium 1.01 %, rest of the contributing nations enjoy share percentage less than 1 %.

5.4 Major Contributors and Pattern of Article Distribution

Table 4 reflects the authors who have contributed maximum number of articles to this particular journal in their standing order as per their contributions made during the specified period of investigation. Although a general picture about the total number of contributions made by an author to journal could be given, but to develop better understanding about the pattern of contribution it became imperative to analyse the contribution pattern of each article individually. B.K. Sen has contributed maximum 4 % articles, followed by B.M. Gupta with 2 % articles and K.C. Garg, with 1.50 %. Apart from these one author has contributed 9 articles, one has contributed 8 articles and one Six. Four authors have contributed 5 articles each; 14 authors have contributed 4 articles each; 16 authors have contributed

Table 3. Geographical affiliation of authors

Name of the country	No. of contributions (%)	No. of authors (%)	Average % age
India	276 (87.61 %)	342 (87.02 %)	87.31 %
Nigeria	11 (3.49 %)	19 (4.83 %)	4.16 %
Bangladesh	5 (1.58 %)	8 (2.03 %)	1.80 %
Belgium	4 (1.26 %)	3 (0.76 %)	1.01 %
Sri Lanka	3 (0.95 %)	3 (0.76 %)	0.85 %
Nepal	3 (0.95 %)	3 (0.76 %)	0.85 %
Botswana	3 (0.95 %)	1 (0.25 %)	0.60 %
Netherlands	2 (0.63 %)	2 (0.51 %)	0.57 %
Uganda	1 (0.31 %)	3 (0.76 %)	0.53 %
Hungary & Iran one each	1 (0.31 %)	2 (0.51 %)	0.41 %
Honolulu, U.K., U.S.	1 (0.31 %)	1 (0.25 %)	0.28 %
China & Russia (one each)			
Total	315	393	

Table 4. Major contributors and pattern of article distribution

Author contributions author name	Single author	Two author	Three authors	More than three authors	Total contribution (%)
Sen, B K	8	8	8		24 (4.00 %)
Gupta, B. M.	4	3	5		12 (2.00 %)
Garg, K C;		2	5	2	9 (1.50 %)
Dutta, Bidyarthi		4	4		8 (1.33 %)
Kumar, suresh		1	5		6 (1 %)
Kumar, S		3		2	5 (0.83 %)
Das, Anup Kumar		3	2		5 (0.83 %)
Jeevan, V K J	4	1			5 (0.83 %)
Pujar, Shamprasad M.		3	2		5 (0.83 %)
Four Papers 14 authors	9	26	14	7	56 (9.34 %)
Three papers 16 authors	9	25	9	5	48 (8.01 %)
Two papers 62 authors	20	59	34	11	124 (20.70 %)
One Paper 292 authors	52	134	92	14	292 (48.74 %)
Total	106	272	180	41	599 (100 %)

3 articles each. 62 authors have contributed 2 articles each and 292 authors have contributed 1 article each. In the above distribution 106 authors have contributed as single author, 272 authors as two-authors, 180 authors as three-authors, 16 as four-authors, 5 as five-authors, 6 as six-authors and 14 as seven-authors.

open access format and more and more documents are available in the electronic format. All this has helped a great deal in increasing the visibility of these documents and people as such are able to go thorough more related documents and access more electronic documents hence can cite them with greater ease.

Table 5. Reference distribution pattern

Year	Vol. No.	No. of articles	Total reference (%)	Cumulative references (%)	Avg. reference per article
2002	49	18	172 (3.24 %)	172 (3.24 %)	9.55
2003	50	19	330 (6.22 %)	502 (9.46 %)	17.36
2004	51	21	159 (3.00 %)	661 (12.46 %)	7.57
2005	52	23	303 (5.71 %)	964 (18.17 %)	13.17
2006	53	26	386 (7.27 %)	1350 (25.44 %)	14.84
2007	54	28	369 (6.95 %)	1719 (32.39 %)	13.17
2008	55	35	591 (11.14 %)	2310 (43.53 %)	16.88
2009	56	34	674 (12.70 %)	2984 (56.23 %)	19.82
2010	57	43	1039 (19.58 %)	4023 (75.81 %)	24.16
2011	58	36	819 (15.58 %)	4842 (91.24 %)	22.75
2012	59	27	465 (8.76 %)	5307 (100 %)	17.22
Total		310	5307 (100 %)		17.11

5.5 Reference Distribution Pattern

Table 5 shows distribution that has been crafted to give wider and broader understanding to assess the reference distribution of articles in most convenient way. On the whole 5307 references were cited in 310 articles making it on average 17.11 references per article. Vol. 51 represents lowest 7.57 references per articles contrary to 24.16 references per article by Vol. 57. From volume 49 to 59, one can see there is an increase in the number of references cited against each article. This increase in the number of references can be owed to the fact that more and more journals are being published in

6. CONCLUSIONS

The *Annals of Library and Information Studies* has maintained a steady pattern in publishing research results there is a steady increase in number of articles published in each issue of the journal as we move from volume 49 to 59. Contribution of articles by researchers from different countries across the globe corroborates the fact that the journal is enjoying fair amount of reputation across the globe. 34.19 % articles alone have been contributed in this journal during the period of study as single author articles. From the above data analysis on the whole it emerges that there is a growing trend

among researchers to carry out research on joint authorship pattern. More than 65 % articles published in the journal have been published on co-authorship pattern. Since India being the host country of *ALIS*, as such maximum contributions to the journal are from India. This in turn also unveils the fact that how far the journal may be of international repute still the maximum contributions are made by the authors from host country. All the top 9 contributors to the journal are from India, B.K. Sen, B.M. Gupta & K.C. Garg emerged the top three contributors of the journal, having contributed 24, 12 and 09 articles, respectively.

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