ANNALS OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (ALIS) JOURNAL: A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY (2013-2015)

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Abstract The present bibliometric study has been undertaken with the view to understand the distribution pattern of the articles published in the Annals of Library and Information Studies (ALIS) Journal during the period 2013-2015. The present analysis has been done in two steps: 1. analysis of articles (covering mainly the distribution of articles, authorship pattern with institutional / geographical affiliation, language-wise distribution, length of articles, and the subject area covered) and 2. analysis of citations (including distribution of citations etc.). At the time of data mining of the said journal, 110 articles were published by 203 authors during the said period. The result reveals that out of 110 articles, articles contributed with single authorship were 42 (38.18%), while the rest 68 (61.82%) articles were contributed by joint authors. Furthermore, researchers from 7 different countries across the world have contributed research articles to the journal during the period of study which shows that the maximum contribution, 88 (80%) by 149 (73.39%) authors was from India and the rest, 22 (20%) contribution by 54 (26.60%) authors was from foreign sources and majority of the articles 71 (64.54%) have the length of 6-10 pages. The main subject area covered is library and information science. After analysing 2252 references, an average 20.47 references have been assigned to each article.

Keywords: Bibliometric Analysis, Annals of Library and Information Studies, Authorship Pattern, Citation Analysis, References

INTRODUCTION

The term 'bibliometrics' was coined by Pritchard in 1969. Pritchard defined the term 'bibliometrics' as "the application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other media of communication." We can also define it as quantitative evaluation of literature through mathematical and statistical applications. In order to understand the latest trend and pattern of publication distribution in the field of library and information sciences in India, it was conceived to undertake the bibliometric study on one of the leading journals of LIS in INDIA and accordingly Annals of Library and Information Studies (ALIS) was chosen for the purpose. The present study remains confined to 2013-15 by applying bibliometric techniques. ALIS is one of 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 is very popular at global level. The journal was started under the name "Annals of Library Science" in 1954 by Indian National Scientific Documentation centre (INSDOC). The title was changed to "Annals of library Science and Documentation" in 1964 and again renamed as "Annals of Library and Information Studies" (ALIS) in 2001. At present, the journal has completed 62 years of publication and is now available in open access at its website: nopr.niscair.res.in/

handle/123456789/66 from vol. 1, Issue no. 1 (1954). ISSN- 0972-5423 (print); ISSN- 0972- 2404 (online).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature plays an important role in research activities as it forms the very first step of a research pursuit. Research publications are the ideas of the intellectual thought contents expressed in published literature whose main objective is to transmit innovative ideas or information to any specific field of knowledge towards further development of the subject or a discipline. Moreover, assessment and quantitative evaluation of research output of scholarly content at regular intervals of times is equally an important activity as the research carried out in a discipline itself. In this respect, bibliometric study is regarded as one of the crucial areas of research in the field of library and information science. Several bibliometric studies have been undertaken by various researchers across the globe to understand the publication distribution pattern of articles published in a particular journal. Some of these studies include Pandita's (2013) research on "Annals of Library and Information Studies" for the period 2002-2012 which reveals that 5307 references were cited in 310 articles. Lochan Jena, Swain, and Sahoo (2012) carried bibliometric studies on "Annals of Library and Information Studies" (ALIS) from 2001-2010. In this study, B. K. Sen is

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the leading author contributing 20 articles. Paliwal (2015) carried scientometric analysis on "Annals of Library and Information Science" from 2009-2013 in which he analysed 177 research papers. From the above studies, it has been observed that there is a steady increase in number of articles; and journals are the most citing documents. Moreover, Indian contributions are found to be at the top. Garg and Bebi (2014) studied on a citation study of "Annals of Library and Information Studies" (ALIS) and "DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology" (DJLIT) from 2010-2013. This study indicates that DJLIT has published more papers having more citations and a better immediacy index than ALIS. However, citations per paper for both the journals are almost equal. So on comparing two journals in terms of citations and calculated impact factor, it is revealed that both the journals are more or less on equal footing.

Thanuskodi (2011), in his paper, Library Herald Journal: A bibliometric study (2006-2010), analysed 138 articles and observed that maximum number of contributions are from single authors with a figure 83 (52.17%) and maximum contributions are from India with 89.85% while foreign contribution is very less. Thanuskodi (2011), in his paper, Bibliometric analysis of the Indian journal of chemistry (2005-2009), revealed that out of 974 articles, maximum number of articles published in the year 2005 and maximum number of contributions were from India with joint authorship, and journals are the most citing documents.

Rao and Basak (2013) conducted bibliometric studies on "Journal of Documentation" during the period 2005-2010. Their study reveals growth in contributions and average number of contributions per volume is 41. Total 10601 citations were provided over 6 years for total contribution of 246 papers. An important thing in this study is that, the author has analysed self-citations, and ratio between selfcitations and total number of citations is 1:16. In all the above studies, researchers carried out research on joint authorship pattern except in one study, i.e. Thanuskodi's Library Herald Journal: A bibliometric study (2006-2010), which reveals the maximum number of contributions is from single authors with 83 (52.17%).

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The present study has been undertaken with the following objectives:

- To analyse the articles published in the Journal (ALIS) during the period of study.
- To study the authorship pattern of articles.
- To determine the institution- wise contribution.
- Geographical analysis of authors and distribution of articles.
- Language wise distribution of articles.

- Length of articles.
- To study the subject area of the articles.
- Distribution of citations.
- Types of publications cited.

METHODOLOGY

The required data were collected from the NISCAIR website (i.e. NISCAIR Online Periodicals Repository NOPR). Articles published during the period 2013-2015 were scanned and the relevant information as per the objectives of the study was extracted and detailed out. In all, 110 articles were scanned from three volumes of the journal, i.e. Volume 60, 61, and 62. The data retrieved was put to excel format for better analysis and understanding to achieve the set objectives.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The analysis is done in two steps:

Step 1: In the first step, the articles are analysed.

Analysis of Articles

The details regarding each published article such as title of the article, pagination, number of authors, their geographical affiliations, and number of references, etc. were recorded and analysed for making observations. The data has been calculated and represented in tables. The analysis was conducted by using various statistical techniques.

Distribution of Articles

The number of research publications of this journal for the period 2013-2015 has been given year wise in Table 1. The table shows that the maximum number of articles was published in the year 2015 i.e. 38 articles (34.54%) and minimum number of articles was published in the year 2014 i.e. 35 articles (31.81%).

Table 1: Distribution of Articles

Year	Vol. no.	No. of Issues	Total articles (%)	Average articles per issue
2013	60	4	37 (33.63)	9.25
2014	61	4	35 (31.81)	8.75
2015	62	4	38 (34.54)	9.50
Total		12	110	9.16

Issue-wise Distribution of Articles

Table 2 reveals the distribution of articles issue wise. Volume number 62 shows the highest number of articles. The second

Month	Vol.	TOTAL		
	60 61		62	
	(2013)	(2014)	(2015)	
March	9	9	6	24
June	9	8	7	24
September	9	11	9	29
December	10	7	16	33
Total	37	35	38	110

Table 2: Issue-Wise Distribution of Articles

highest is occupied by Volume number 60 and the lowest number of articles in Volume number 61.

Year-wise Authorship Pattern of Articles

From Table 3, it is found that out of 110 articles, articles authored by two authors are highest i.e. 50 (45.45%), followed by articles by single author i.e. 42 (38.18%) and by three authors i.e. 12 (10.90%). The minimum number is for articles by more than three authors i.e. 6(5.45%).

Table 3: Year-wise Authorship Pattern of Articles

Year	Vol.no.	Single au- thor	Two authors	Three authors	More than three authors	Total
2013	60	12	18	5	2	37
2014	61	12	18	3	2	35
2015	62	18	14	4	2	38
Total		42(38.18%)	50(45.45%)	12(10.90%)	6(5.45%)	110

Institution-wise Distribution of Articles

Table 4 shows that maximum number of contributions is from universities i.e. 75 (68.18%), followed by research institutions and Science and Technology. Minimum contribution is from colleges and DESIDOC i.e. 2 (1.81%).

Table 4: Institution-wise Distribution of Articles

	No	. of Artic	cles	
Name of institutions	2013	2014	2015	Total %
Universities	26	21	28	75 (68.18%)
Research institutions	8	9	4	21 (19.09%)
Science and Technology	2	3	5	10 (9.09%)
Colleges	0	1	1	2 (1.81%)
DESIDOC	1	1	0	2 (1.81%)
Total	37	35	38	110

Geographical Analysis of Articles

Table 5 indicates geographical distribution of authors. In all, authors from seven different countries have contributed to the journal with maximum contributions from India, i.e. 88 (80%) contributions by 149 (73.39%) authors (however some

authors are repetitive). Nigeria stands on the second position i.e. 9 (8.18%) articles by 30 (14.77%) authors, Sri Lanka on third position i.e. 6 (5.45%) articles by 9 (4.43%) authors, then comes Bangladesh i.e. 4 (3.63%) articles by 10 (4.92%) authors. Tanzania, Fiji, and Iran have contributed one article each. Average of count of both columns of contributions and authors has put India on top as largest contributing country with 76.69 combined share percentage, followed by Nigeria with 11.47% and Sri Lanka with 4.94%, Bangladesh with 4.27%, Iran with 1.18%, and rest of the two nations (Fiji & Tanzania) contributed less than 1%.

Table 5: Geographical Analysis of Articles

Country	Number of contributions (%)	Number of authors (%)	Average (%)
India	88 (80%)	149 (73.39%)	76.69
Nigeria	9 (8.18%)	30 (14.77%)	11.47
Sri Lanka	6 (5.45%)	9 (4.43%)	4.94
Bangladesh	4 (3.63%)	10 (4.92%)	4.27
Iran	1 (0.90%)	3 (1.47%)	1.18
Tanzania	1 (0.90%)	1 (0.49%)	0.69
Fiji	1 (0.90%)	1 (0.49%)	0.69
Total	110	203	

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Language-wise Distribution of Articles

English is the most preferred language of the articles from year 2013-2015 (Table 6).

Table 6: Language-wise Distribution of Articles

S. No.	Year	Language
1	2013	English
2	2014	English
3	2015	English

Length of Articles

Table 7 indicates that the majority of articles, i.e. 71 (64.54%) have the length of 6-10 pages followed by 24 (21.81%) articles of the length of 1-5 pages, followed by 14 (12.72%) articles of the length 11-15 pages and only one (0.90%) article is of the length of 26 pages i.e. of more than 16 pages.

Table 7: Length of Articles

Pages	2013	2014	2015	Percentage	Total
1-5	5	6	13	21.81	24
6-10	29	22	20	64.54	71
11-15	3	6	5	12.72	14
>16	Nil	1	-	0.90	1
Total	37	35	38		110

Subject-wise Distribution of Articles

Table 8 shows the subject-wise distribution of articles. The maximum number of articles belongs to the library and information science subject i.e. 38 (34.54%), followed by the subject computer applications i.e. 18 (16.36%), academic libraries with 17 (15.45%) articles, 4 articles each on information resources, medical journals and agricultural sciences, 3 articles each on science & technology, organic chemistry and solar cells, and two articles each on knowledge management and citation analysis. The least rank belongs to the library patrons, Tagore's writings, the environment, and the altmetrics study.

Table 8:	Subject-wise	Distribution	of Articles
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Subject	No. of	Percentage
	Articles	
Library and Information Science	38	34.54
Computer applications & web Technology	18	16.36
Academic Libraries	17	15.45

Subject	No. of Articles	Percentage
Digital /Information Literacy	8	7.27
Information Resources/Services	4	3.63
Medical Journals/Publications	4	3.63
Agriculture Sciences	4	3.63
Science and technology	3	2.72
Organic Chemistry	3	2.72
Solar cells	3	2.72
Knowledge Management	2	1.81
Citation Analysis	2	1.81
Library Patrons	1	0.90
Rabindranath Tagore's writings	1	0.90
Altmetrics Study	1	0.90
Environment	1	0.90
Total	110	

Step 2: In Step 2, the citations appended to the papers are analysed.

CITATION ANALYSIS

The references provided by the authors at the end of their articles are the basis of citation analysis. Citation traces a connection between two documents, one which cites and the other which is cited. Citation analysis is one of the popular methods applied to derive the following benefits.

Year-wise Distributions of Citations

Table 9 indicates that maximum number of citations 803 (35.65%) was produced in the year 2014 of the Volume 61, followed by 797 (35.39%) citations in the year 2013 and 652 (28.95%) in 2015. On the whole, 2252 references were cited in 110 articles at an average of 20.47 references per article. Vol. 62 represents the lowest avg. references per article i.e. 17.15.

Table 9: Year-wise Distributions of Citations

Year	Volume number	Number of ar- ticles	Total ref- erences %	Avg. Reference per article
2013	60	37	797(35.39%)	21.54
2014	61	35	803(35.65%)	22.94
2015	62	38	652(28.95%)	17.15
Total		110	2252	20.47

Issue-wise Distribution of Citations

Table 10 reflects the issue wise distribution of citations. In 2013 and 2015, there is a continuous increase of citations in every issue but in the year 2014, there is a decrease in issue 3 and 4.

Volume	Year	Issue	Issue	Issue	Issue	Total
		1	2	3	4	
60	2013	157	180	220	240	797
61	2014	206	309	113	175	803
62	2015	80	144	212	216	652

Table 10: Issue-wise Distribution of Citations

Types of Publications Cited

Table 11 shows the types of publications cited year-wise. Out of all, journals are the most cited documents i.e. 1177 (52.26%), online search/ websites are 533 (23.66%), followed by books cited i.e. 320 (14.20%) 127 (5.63%) as conference proceedings/ seminars/ workshops, reference sources 45 (4.52%), and theses/ dissertations 27 (1.19%). The least cited documents are projects/ reports i.e. 23 (1.02%).

Table 11: Types of Publications Cited

Types of publica- tions	Number of Citations				
	2013	2014	2015	Total	Percentage
Journals	510	398	269	1177	52.26
Online search/ websites	125	200	208	533	23.66
Books	75	107	138	320	14.20
Conference Proceedings/ Seminar	52	49	26	127	5.63
Reference sources	14	25	6	45	4.52
Theses/ Dis- sertations	11	11	5	27	1.19
Projects/ Reports	10	13	-	23	1.02
Total	797	803	652	2252	100

FINDINGS

The findings of the study are summarised as:

1. The study shows that 110 articles have been published by 203 authors.

- 2. On an average, there are 9.16 articles per issue.
- 3. Maximum articles are from universities.
- 4. All the articles are in English language.
- 5. Maximum articles are of the length of 6-10 pages.
- 6. Volumes with minimum articles have maximum references.
- 7. Although journals, books, and websites are the main citing documents, but journals are the most cited.
- 8. Researchers prefer research on joint authorship pattern.
- 9. Indian contributions are more than foreign contributions.
- 10. Maximum articles i.e. 38 (34.54%) are on the subject library and information science whereas only 1 article each belongs to the subjects on Tagore's writings, library patrons, altmetrics study, and environment .
- 11. The analysis of 2252 references indicate that an average of 20.47 references have been assigned to each article.
- 13. Maximum citations (803) are produced in the Vol. 61 (2014) but among the four issues, issue 2 has the highest citations.
- Vol. 61 (3) Sept. 2014 of ALIS was the special issue on Indian LIS periodicals whose guest editor was Prof. B.K. Sen.

CONCLUSION

From the above study, it has been concluded that bibliometric studies are growing at faster rate as only the traditional bibliographic skill and methods are not sufficient for the researchers to update the latest literature growth and techniques of study. These studies will be helpful for making collection policy by providing the precise and much needed information to the managers to take right decision in right time in selection of documents resulting in cost saving and their valuable time. They also help in planning and organisation of resource sharing, networking and consortia. Thus, institutes may filter titles from their subscription list as per their requirement. This study is regarded as one of the crucial areas of research in the field of library and information science.

Finally, it is expected that ALIS will grow further in the near future. Journals being the primary sources of information, undertaking bibliometric study to assess the research growth in a particular discipline is always advisable. These sources play a significant role as guide to the researchers working in the same field.

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