

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PATTERNS IN JOURNAL OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP (2004-2013): A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY

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Abstract The Present study based on the Journal of Academic Librarianship covering the period 2004-2013. In 848 articles, only 134 articles are acknowledged. Highest number of articles is acknowledged in the year 2011 i.e. (19.10%). Acknowledgements included in this journal are further analyzed in order to find out frequency of their occurrence, types, number of acknowledgements per paper. Most articles are acknowledged in Peer Interactive Communication (PIC), followed by Moral support. Highly acknowledged is belong to individuals.

Keyword: Journal of Academic Librarianship, Acknowledgements, Bibliometrics

INTRODUCTION

Acknowledgement is a bibliometric technique that allows researcher to reflect his/her gratitude for any type of help received from others during the progressing of his/her work.

Normally researcher looking for and needs help; specially from people in the same field or from others who can give any types of helping i.e access support, moral support, technical support and so on.

Acknowledgement is much more than a simple catalogue of indebtedness. It is a statement of indebtedness to others to give due recognition to individuals or parties for the successful completion of a research article, book, thesis, and project or experiment. It offers insight into the persona of the writer and the practice of expectation and etiquette that is involved in the patterns of engagement that define collaboration and interdependence among scholars. Acknowledgement to give others a perception of the many contributions by others to the work completed and reflect a rich mix of personal, moral, instrumental, financial, technical and conceptual support received from institutions, agencies, coworkers, peers, family members, subjects and mentors (Cronin et al., 1993). But, their importance in bibliometric studies have been overlooked or neglected at many times and bibliometricians show more inclination to citation studies.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(Mackintosh, 1972) examined acknowledgements pattern in sociology in an unpublished dissertation. He concluded that the lack of interest in acknowledgements does not necessarily indicate their irrelevance. A three-tier classification scheme was developed for the study, viz., facilities, access to data and help of individuals to study acknowledgements in the American Sociological Review.

(McCain, 1991) conducted a study using the acknowledgement section of 241 experimental papers published in the 1988 volume *Genetics*. To aid her study, she developed a five-part classification scheme independently to categories the collected acknowledgements, namely, access to research-related information, access to unpublished results or data, peer interactive communication, technical assistance and manuscript preparation.

(Davis and Cronin, 1993) examined those acknowledgements that suggest significant intellectual indebtedness, and proposed a mathematical model that matches empirical data closely. The use of Kolmogorov-Smirnov two-sample test to elucidate citation patterns shows promise for estimating individual's influence in a field and hence assists in determining cognitive interdependence among disciplines.

(Cronin & Overfelt 1994) conducted a survey involving major US research universities to explore the normative

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bases of acknowledgement behavior. Measures of agreement and divergence were established in respect of five issue sets pertaining to acknowledgement practice: expectations, etiquette, ethics, equity and evaluation. The results confirm the substantive role played by acknowledgements in the primary communication process. It was argued that acknowledgement data could be mined to lay bare the rules of engagement that define the dynamics of collaboration and interdependence among scholars.

(Salager, Alcaraz, & Berbesi, 2009) analyzed the acknowledgement Para text of medical research articles in English and Spanish in three countries, Venezuela, Spain and United States of America. The results showed that acknowledgements from the English-language samples were significantly more frequent and longer than those from both the Spanish and Venezuelan samples. Similarly, US had greater number of persons acknowledged and of grants received than those from both the Spanish and corpora language. There were differences in the number and types of funding sources. Moreover, in the three samples technical/instrumental assistance was more frequently acknowledged than peers' ideational input.

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the year-wise distribution of articles with acknowledgements.
2. To determine the year-wise distribution of acknowledgements in articles.
3. To find out number of acknowledgements in articles.
4. To find year-wise categories of acknowledged articles.
5. To find out number of acknowledgements per individual.
6. To enumerate the number of addresses acknowledged at a time.

METHODOLOGY

The study was scanned the location of acknowledgements in all the research articles and short communications published in the Journal of Academic Librarianship during 2005-2013. These acknowledgements were then examined, classified and analyzed from various angles and results were tabulated.

The present study is bibliometrically analyzed. The acknowledgements section of the article indicated more than one acknowledgement. Hence, the number of acknowledgements per article is counted and multiple acknowledgements of the same category in an article were considered as one. Apart from that, names of individuals acknowledged in peer interactive communication (PIC) type acknowledgements were noted down for further analysis to

identify highly acknowledged individuals in the Journal of academic librarianship.

Scope and Limitation

The present study is based on 10 volumes, 60 issues in the journal of academic librarianship during 2004-2013. The Journal of academic librarianship was the first published in March 1975 and has been a bimonthly publication ever since. It was initially edited by Richard M. Dougherty and William H. Webb.

Data Analysis

Analysis of information /data is one of the important parts of any study. Out of 848 articles, 134 were acknowledged in the journal of academic librarianship during 2004 to 2013. Various parameters were used and analysis work is done by helping of SPSS.

Result and Discussion

Table 1. Number of Acknowledgments Articles in the Journal of Academic Librarianship

Acknowledged and Not Acknowledged Articles	Total	%
Acknowledged Articles	133	15.68
Not Acknowledged Articles	715	84.32
/	848	100%

Figure 1. Shows the Number of Acknowledgments Articles in the Journal of Academic Librarianship

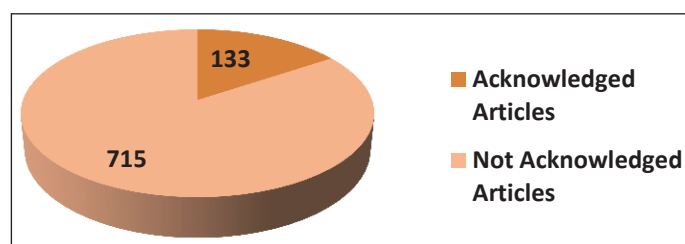


Table No. 1 and fig. no. 2 show the number of Acknowledged Articles in the Journal of Academic Librarianship during 2004-2013. Out of 848 articles, there are 135 (16.68%) articles have acknowledgements, whereas 714 (84.32%) articles have not acknowledgements.

Figure 2. Acknowledgements Appearing in the Journal

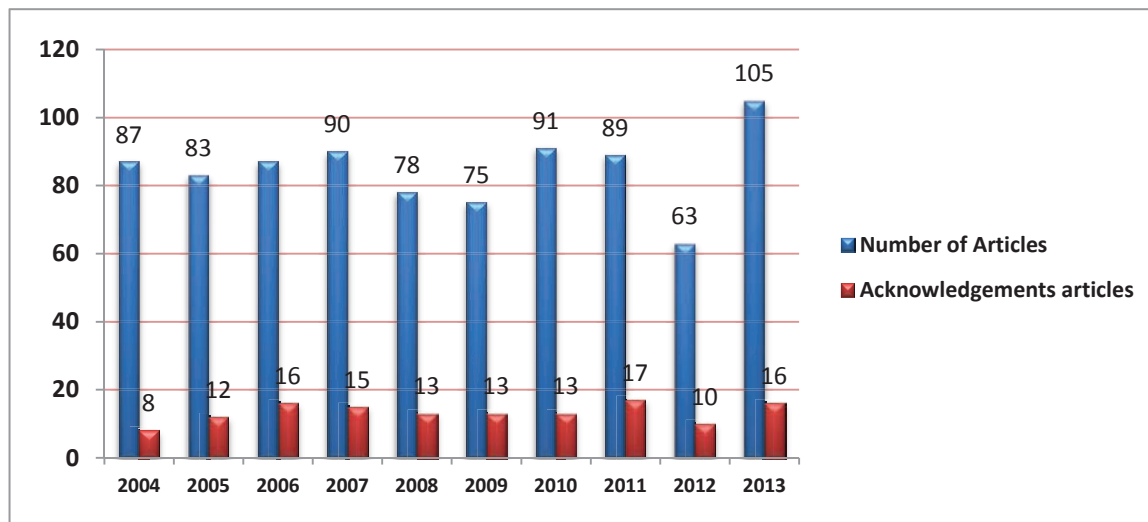


Figure 3. Shows Distribution of Acknowledgements Per Article

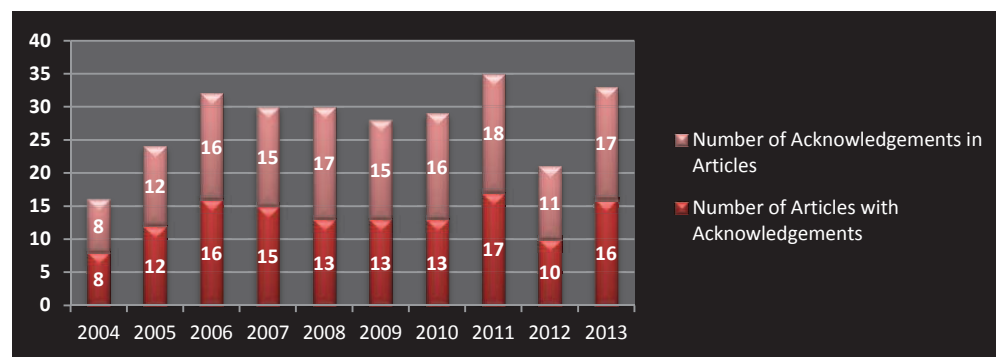


Table 2. Year-wise Distribution of Acknowledgements Appearing in the Journal

Year	Number of Articles	Number of Articles With Acknowledgements	%
2004	87	8	9.2
2005	83	12	14.46
2006	87	16	18.39
2007	90	15	16.67
2008	78	13	16.67
2009	75	13	17
2010	91	13	14.29
2011	89	17	19.10
2012	63	10	15.87
2013	105	16	15.24
Total	848	133	15.68

Table no. 2 and fig. no.2 show that, out of 848 articles, there are 134(15.68%) articles are acknowledged. The maximum

number of articles with their acknowledgements are in the year of 2011 i.e. 17(19.10%), and the minimum number of articles with acknowledgements are in the in 2004 i.e. 8(9.2%).

Table No. And Figure 3 reports that the distribution of Acknowledgements per Article. The highest number of acknowledgements per article is 17 (1.31) is found in 2008, and the lowest number of acknowledgement per article in 2004. i.e. 8 (0.1). On an average, each article contained 1.09 acknowledgements.

Table 3. Year-Wise Distribution of Acknowledgements per Article

Year	Number of Articles with Acknowledgements	Number of Acknowledgements in Articles	Mean
2004	8	8	01
2005	12	12	01
2006	16	16	01

2007	15	15	01
2008	13	17	1.31
2009	13	15	1.15
2010	13	16	1.23
2011	17	18	1.06
2012	10	11	1.1
2013	16	17	1.06
Total	133	145	1.09

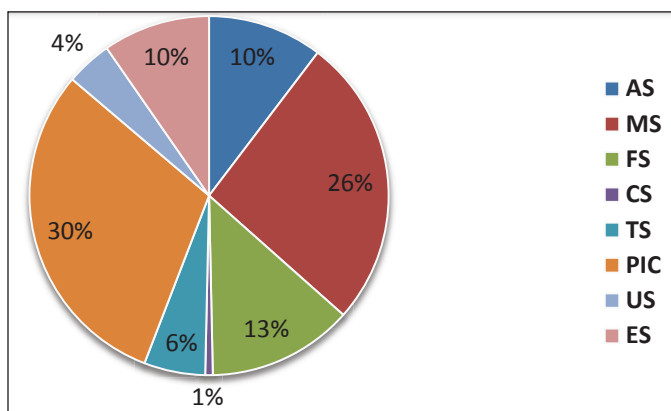
Figure 4. Shows Categories of Acknowledgement

Table No. and Figure 4 Show Categories of acknowledgements in the Journal of Academic Librarianship during 2004-2013. Most articles (30.34%) are acknowledged in Peer Interactive Communication (PIC), followed by Moral support (26.2%), financial support (13.1%), Access support (10.13%), and Editorial support (9.65%), Technical support (5.51%), articles are Unclassified (4.13%). And only one article is acknowledged in Clerical support (0.69%).

Table 5. Peer Interactive Communication Acknowledgement (PIC)

Year	No. of articles with acknowledgements	PIC in Acknowledged articles	%
2004	8	2	25
2005	12	7	58
2006	16	8	50
2007	15	2	13
2008	13	6	46
2009	13	2	15
2010	13	5	38
2011	17	4	24
2012	10	1	10
2013	16	7	44
Total	133	44	33

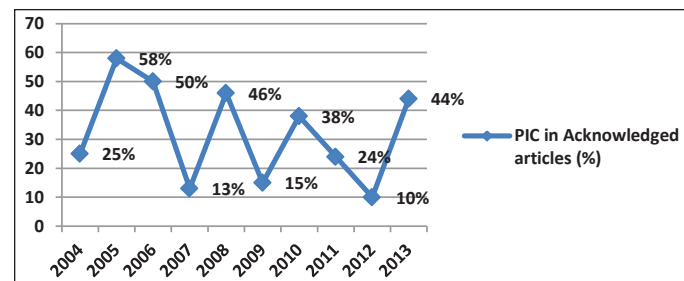
Figure 5. PIC Acknowledgement.

Table No. 5 and figure No. 5 Shows the distribution of PIC Acknowledgements. The highest number of PIC acknowledgements 7 (58%) is seen in 2005. While the lowest number of PIC acknowledgement 1(10%) in 2012,

Table 4. Categories of Acknowledgement

Year	AS	MS	FS	CS	TS	PIC	ES	UC	Total
2004	2	1	1	-	-	2	1	1	8
2005	1	1	1	-	1	7	1	-	12
2006	1	4	1	-	1	8	1	-	16
2007	1	6	4	1	-	2	-	1	15
2008	1	6	1	-	1	6	1	1	17
2009	3	4	2	-	-	2	3	1	15
2010	1	3	4	-	1	5	2	-	16
2011	2	5	1	-	3	4	3	-	18
2012	2	4	1	-	1	1	1	1	11
2013	1	4	3	-	-	7	1	1	17
Total	15	38	19	01	08	44	14	06	145
	10.13%	26.2%	13.1%	0.69%	5.51%	30.34%	9.65%	4.13%	

and the mean is 33%.

Table 6. No. of Acknowledgements per Individual

No. of times acknowledged	No. of individuals
1	40
2	2

Table 6 reveals the number of acknowledgements per individual. Out of 44 individuals acknowledged, only two have been mentioned two times while the rest have been acknowledged once.

Table 7. List of Individual Acknowledgement

Names	Acknowledgement Score
David F. Kohl	2
Susan Ryan	2
Alicia King Redfern and Dr. Jeffrey Leitzel	1
Carol A. Hryciw-Wing	1
David Douglass	1
Dr. Jon Austin	1
Diana Dianforth	1
Diana Wu and Mei Li	1
Dowling	1
Dr. David F. Kohl	1
Dr. G. David Gentry	1
Dr. George	1
Dr. Peter Dettami	1
Dr. Richard H. Richardson	1
Dr. Samson Soong	1
Erik T. Mitchell, Mary Ann Mahoney	1
Ethelene Whitmire	1
Faith Akiteng	1
Foellmer, A. Freeman, A. Stump and A. Ward	1
Foundation Grant	1
Ingemar Gunnarsson	1
Iranian Ministry of Science	1
James Comes, Deb Dulmaine-Coonan, Barbara Ingrassia,	1
Janis Johnston	1
Jianping Sun and	1
Joanne	1
John Whisler,	1
Karen Bordonaro and Barbara Boehnke	1
Kevin Rogers	1

Lancey, Uday Nair and Rachel Straney	1
Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe	1
Philip Davis	1
Roberta Brody	1
Rosalind Alexander, Katie Buehner, Kerr Creelman	1
Sarah Poynton	1
Schreiner-Roles and Germann	1
Somerville	1
Susan Bray,	1
Alex Hodges	1
Sweetko	1
Taylor & Baker	1
Tom Sanville and Thomas	1
Total	44

List of individuals acknowledged in PIC category is shown in table no.7. It reveals that David F. Kohl and Susan Ryan have been acknowledged twice, while the rest individuals are each acknowledged once.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Acknowledgements provide a valuable space to writers to present themselves as thinkers and debtor having a professional and social identity. In this study following facts are concluded.

- Out of 848 articles, there are 133 (15.68%) articles are acknowledged.
- Average number of acknowledgements per article is 1.08
- The maximum number of articles with their acknowledgements are in the year of 2011 i.e. 17(19.10%)
- On an average, each article contained 1.09 acknowledgements.
- The most common type of acknowledgement is peer interactive communication (PIC) category accounting 30.34% of the total acknowledgements, followed by Moral support (26.2%)
- Out of 44 individuals acknowledged in peer interactive communication, only there are Two individuals David F. Kohl and Susan Ryan have been acknowledged twice

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