

Preference for Journals and Productive Authors in Library and Information Science Departments of Select Universities of North India

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Abstract

Research and publication not only enhance advancement in any discipline, but have also become important criteria for visibility, reputation, and recognition of the academic institutions globally. This paper aims to study the most influential authors of the department of Library and Information Science (LIS) in the select north Indian universities and reveals the preferred journals of faculty members in the LIS department in the select north Indian universities. A total of 2,420 publications were published by the LIS faculty until 31st December 2014.

Keywords: Influential Authors, Library and Information Science, North Indian Universities, Preferred Journals

Introduction

Research and publication have become important criteria for visibility, reputation, and recognition of the academic institutions globally. These activities also enhance advancement in any discipline. This is evident from the rankings of educational institutions published by several reputed agencies. Furthermore, research-related activities form the core of the Performance Based Appraisal System (PBAS) based on Academic Performance Indicators (APIs) in recruitment and Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) adopted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for higher educational institutions in India. A similar criterion for academic performance appraisal is widely adopted in various countries.

Objectives of the Study

- To depict the most influential authors of the department of Library and Information Science (LIS) in the select north Indian universities.
- To reveal the preferred journals of faculty members in the LIS department in the select north Indian universities.

Research Questions

- Which journals are the most preferred journals for publishing in the discipline of LIS?
- Who are the influential authors in the discipline of LIS?

Methodology

The data for the study were collected through a questionnaire and from the websites of select universities. A total of 2,420 publications were published by the LIS faculty until 31st December 2014. The study covered 15 select universities of north India, which have the department of LIS; here, presently working permanent employees were considered for gathering publication details. Below is a table containing the list of state-wise universities along with faculty members.

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Table 1: State Wise List of Universities in North India

Sr. No.	Name of the State	Name of the University	Number of Faculty Members
1	Punjab	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	3
		Punjabi University, Patiala	6
2	Haryana	Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra	6
		Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak	4
3	Himachal Pradesh	Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala	3
4	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu University, Tawi	3
		Kashmir University, Srinagar	6
5	Delhi	University of Delhi, Delhi	8
6	Chandigarh	Panjab University, Chandigarh	3
7	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh	9
		Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow	5
		Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	5
		Bundelkhand University, Jhansi	4
		Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Agra	1
		University of Lucknow, Lucknow	1
7 States		15 Universities	67

Source: <http://www.ugc.ac.in/oldpdf/alluniversity.pdf>

Influential Authors

The examination of research performance of an individual faculty member is one of the factors determining one's intellectual calibre in the given discipline or sub-discipline / area of the same field to prepare research papers. The intellectual contribution of the researchers could be viewed from the publications in which their names are enrolled. In this table, the individual faculty member who has published a research paper has been rated on the basis of the number of publications.

Table 2 exhibits the high intellectual calibre of the faculty members of north Indian universities. They all excel in their respective fields. This table carries a list of authors having highest publications in the select universities of north India. This list is in decreasing order. The author that possesses maximum numbers of publication is on the top position. The table shows top 10 authors (Faculty Members) out of respondents in the north Indian universities.

Table 2: Most Prolific Authors

S.No	Name of Faculty Member	Name of University
1	Prof. Jagtar Singh	Punjabi University, Patiala
2	Prof. Inder Vir Malhan	Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala
3	Prof. Preeti Mahajan	Panjab University, Chandigarh
4	Dr. K. P. Singh	University of Delhi, Delhi
5	Dr. Rakesh Kumar Bhatt	University of Delhi, Delhi
6	Prof. K. L. Mahawar	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow
7	Prof. Amritpal Kaur	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
8	Dr. Sharad Kumar Sonker	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow
9	Prof S. P. Singh	University of Delhi, Delhi
10	Dr Margam Madhusudan	University of Delhi, Delhi

Amongst the 67 faculty members, Prof. Jagtar Singh (Punjabi University) is the most prolific author on the basis of number of publications followed by Prof. Inder Vir Malhan (Central University of Himachal Pradesh). Third most prolific author is Prof. Preeti Mahajan (Panjab University).

The study reveals that Dr. K.P. Singh, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Bhatt, Prof. S.P. Singh, and Dr. Margam Madhusudan from University of Delhi obtained 4th, 5th, 9th, and 10th ranks, respectively, in terms of research productivity. Prof. Amritpal Kaur from Guru Nanak Dev University is at 7th position in the list. Prof. K.L. Mahawar and Dr. Sharad Kumar Sonker affiliated to Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University are at 6th and 8th ranks, respectively, on the basis of number of publications. The table also indicates that highest designation have more number of publications owing to a longer tenure.

Top Ten Preferred Journals

Bibliometric studies evaluate a field that usually begins with the determination of some core set of periodicals and articles by a statistical analysis and utilize these to generate links to show their relationship in that field. In the present table, the journals are ranked on the basis of their published papers on scientific research output. Table 3 highlights the journals in which LIS faculty members of select universities have preferred to publish their research papers. Further, it is analysed to find out the most preferred journals in the field of LIS which has been brought out with a larger number of publications published by the faculty members.

Table 3: Top Ten Preferred Journals

S.N.	Name of Journal (International & National)	Publisher	Scope (Indian/ International)	Accessibility (Open/ Close)	Format (Print/ Online)	No. of Publications
1	Library Herald	Delhi Library Association, Delhi	Indian	Partially Open Access	Both	58
2	Journal of Library and Information Science (JLIS)	The Department of Library and Information Science, University of Delhi, Delhi	Indian	Close	Print	48
3	IASLIC Bulletin	Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), Kolkata	Indian	Close	Print	47
4	Library Philosophy and Practice (LPP)	University of Idaho Library, United States	International	Open Access	Online	43
5	SRELS Journal of Information Management	Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science, Karnataka	Indian	Close	Both	41
6	DESIDOC Journal of library & Information Technology (DJLIT)	Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre (DESIDOC), DRDO, Delhi	Indian	Open Access	Both	36
7	Trends in Information Management	Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kashmir, Srinagar	Indian	Open Access	Both	35
8	Annals of Library and Information Studies (ALIS)	National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR), Delhi	Indian	Open Access	Both	31

S.N.	Name of Journal (International & National)	Publisher	Scope (Indian/ International)	Accessibility (Open/ Close)	Format (Print/ Online)	No. of Publications
9	Journal of Indian Library Association (earlier ILA Bulletin)	Indian Library Association, Delhi	Indian	Open Access	Both	30
10	University News	Association Of Indian Universities, Delhi	Indian	Close	Print	24

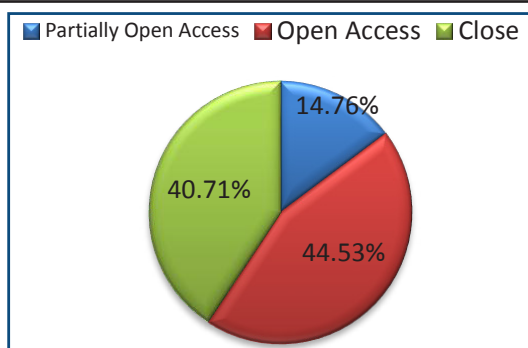


Fig. 1 (A)

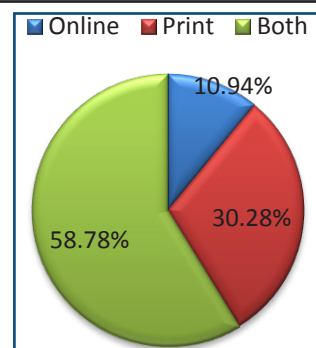


Fig. 1 (B)

Proportion of (Partially Open Access, Open Access & Close) & (Print, Online, Both) Preferred 10 Journals

The study depicts that the faculty members under study have published 1,038 articles in 227 journals. Among these 227 journals, Library Herald is the most preferred journal with the highest number of publications (58) in it, followed by JLIS (48) and IASLIC Bulletin (47). LPP holds 4th rank with 43 publications in the list of top 10 preferred journals followed by SRELS Journal of Information Management with 41 publications. DJLIT (36), Trends in Information Management (35), ALIS (31), and Journal of Indian Library Association (30) hold 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th ranks, respectively, in the above table. The University News occupies the last rank with the least number of publications (24).

Out of the top 10 most preferred journals, Library and Information Science Journals, Library Philosophy and Practice, DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information, and Annals of Library and Information Studies are indexed by Scopus. The publication behaviour of LIS faculty members indicates their preference to publish their research in Indian journals. LPP is the only international journal in the above table. The list includes three print journals, one online journal, and six both (print + online) journals. In the top 10 preferred journals, there are five

open-access journals followed by four paid (close) journals and one partially open journal.

Conclusion

The study concludes that Prof. Jagtar Singh (Punjab University) is the most prolific author on the basis of number of publications, amongst the 67 faculty members followed by Prof. Inder Vir Malhan (Central University of Himachal Pradesh). Third most prolific author is Prof. Preeti Mahajan (Panjab University). The study reveals that the faculty members under study have published 1,038 articles in 227 journals. Amongst these 227 journals, Library Herald is the most preferred journal, with the highest number of publications (58) in it, followed by JLIS (48) and IASLIC Bulletin (47). Out of the top 10 most preferred journals, Library and Information Science Journals, Library Philosophy and Practice, DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information, and Annals of Library and Information Studies are indexed by Scopus.

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