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## Content Analysis of Journal Literature published from UK and USA

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# Content Analysis of Journal Literature published from UK and USA

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## **Abstract**

This paper aims to identify the types of research papers/articles, current trends in the choice of subjects, being included in the Library and information science (LIS) journal literature published from UK and USA. The study also aims to find out the impact of information and communication technology (ICT) on LIS subject fields. A content analysis of 165 research papers and journals articles published in the year 2008 in six LIS journals was conducted. Findings indicate that 93 (56.36%) of the articles out of the total 165 were research based. The variation is found with regard to coverage of core subject areas published from UK and USA. This study will try to fill gaps in library and information science research as it can help in identifying the fields on which major work has been done as well as the subjects which are not worked upon. Project of this type, done for different years, would provide valuable information concerning the nature of research in librarianship and its development.

## **Introduction**

Published literature of a discipline such as journal articles, trade publications, monographs, conference proceedings etc. present the knowledge base of a given discipline and reflect the discipline's history, trends, research norms, and social structures of communication among scholars. By analyzing published record of the discipline much can be learned about a discipline itself. Mittermeyer and Houser (1979) argue that "the literature of a discipline is or becomes the discipline itself". Windsor and Windsor (1973) said that "the knowledge bank of any field is its published literature". Similarly, Feehan et al. (1984) pointed out that "the subjects concerns of a discipline are nowhere better reflected than in its research literature". Like many other fields, most research in library and information science is published as journal literature.

Journals form the backbone of research activities. They provide a platform for the communication of ideas, the exchange of experience and the transmission of current information. Their regular and usually frequent publication ensures that material contained between their covers is almost invariably more up-to-date than that contained in

book form. Journals in library and information science also, as is the case in other professions are important instruments for communicating new discoveries; theories or opinions formed by researchers to others. They are intended to be the major vehicles for publication of papers on the theory and practice of a discipline and are thus supposed to be the principal means of prompt communication of the results of significant research finding in a particular field (Anand, 1991). LIS journals help in achieving life-long literacy and professional education. They are the main sources of professional education, which helps us in exchange of ideas and work as formal channels of communication. They reach out to more people across the world. In the present study the content of journal literature published in the field of library and information science was analyzed in order to have understanding of the current status of research in the field and in order to identify the major fields on which the work has been done and also to find out the subjects which are not worked upon in library and information science.

### **Purpose of the Study**

Most professions evaluate their literature from time to time in order to ascertain the special trends prevailing in the professional literature. In the case of the literature of library and information science not many efforts have been made to systematically analyze and evaluate the essential nature of the literature, considering the rate at which the literature is growing today. It is vital to conduct analysis of journal literature in order to understand the true nature of the present state of library profession. The emergence of the concept of evidence based librarianship (EBL) has also put stress on producing and identifying evidence that librarians can use to inform their professionals practice and support their library services and positions, thereby furthering the profession. (Koufogiannakis et al., 2004)

Thus the purpose of this study was to determine the percentage of research papers versus non-research articles published in LIS; to examine the subject distribution of articles in selected LIS journals and to find out the impact of ICT on LIS subject fields. The findings of study hopes to present a better understanding of the type of articles, current trends in the choice of subjects, being adopted in the journal literature published from UK and USA. The quantitative analysis which was carried out will serve to authenticate the findings.

### **Review of Literature**

The growing maturity of librarianship is revealed in great deal by library and information science literature that is being published today. The journal literature in the field of librarianship has been viewed and analyzed by authors from various angles.

Nour's study (1985) examined the issues of forty-one selected core journals for 1980 to determine methodologies, subject classification, and she also analyzed references, end notes and bibliographies following each article. Feehan et al. (1984) analyzed the issues and trends in library and information science research published in 91 English-language journal articles during 1984. They identified all substantive articles and then examined the random sample of those articles, classifying each article as either research or non-research. The characteristics that they investigated include the subject dispersion of research activities and the type of libraries on which the research centers. Harter and Hooten (1990), in their analysis of information science publications, modified the classification scheme developed by Feehan, et al.

Some investigators conducted content analysis of issues published in one particular journal only. Such as, Cline (1982), in her study analyzed the publications appeared in 'College and Research Libraries' from 1939 through 1979 (40 yrs). Verma (1995), in her study entitled "Analysis of Contributions of ILA Bulletin" analyzed 87 contributions of four volumes of 'ILA Bulletin' from 1989-90 to 1992-93. Another study of similar nature was conducted by Razvi and Khan (1996, pp. 189-194) in which they analyzed 108 contributions of five volumes of 'Herald of Library Science' published from 1990-1994. Tigga, Lihitker and Rajyalakshmi (2005) conducted content analysis of 33 issues of 'DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology' published during January 1997 to July 2002. Tedd (2006) reports the analysis of the journal 'Program: Electronic Library and Information Systems' and its contents over its first 40 years.

In addition to the above mentioned studies there are various scholars who used content analysis method for conducting studies which focused on particular geographic areas such as; Cooper (1987) studied articles published in three leading library journals in Mainland China during 1985. Kajberg (1996) conducted the content analysis of

library and information science serial literature published in Denmark to determine the subject focus of the literature from 1957-1986 and Alemna (1996) analyzed the contents of periodical literature of library and information science in Africa during 1990-1995. Dorner study (2001) reports on a study of content of library and information science journals published in Australasia. The purpose of this study was to analyze how the content of the Australasian LIS journals affecting knowledge creation among LIS community of professionals, technicians, academicians and students of Australasia.

Number of content analysis studies has also been conducted focusing on a particular specialty or subject area within LIS. Such as, Houser (1988) used content analysis for conceptual analysis of the first 15 volumes, 1974-1984, of Journal of the American Society for Information Science (JASIS) to discover the nature of information science, to examine the relationship between information science and library science and to determine if information science is a new branch of science. McKechnie and Pettigrew (2002), and Jeong and Kim (2005) conducted a content analysis of LIS articles published in LIS journals to examine the use of theory in LIS research. Allard (2005) in the article entitled 'The Librarian's Role in Institutional Repositories: A Content Analysis of the Literature' identified areas that are being addressed in the institutional repository (IR) literature, and determine what the role of the librarian will be in IR projects, where as Liu and Wan (2007) analyzed the publication trends of scholarly journal articles on open access in the library and information science literature from 2000 to 2005.

### **Scope and Limitations of the Study**

Libraries and librarians play a very significant role in the generation of information and knowledge by providing access to already published literature. Therefore LIS is an important area of study. There are large numbers of journals published in the field of LIS from all over the world. This study covered six prominent journals in LIS to collect the data and timely accomplishment of the objectives of the investigation. Only those journals were selected which cover material on all aspects of LIS. All the journals selected are refereed journals. The scope of the study is limited to the contributed articles or research papers published in six LIS journals and book reviews, editorials, letters to the editor, personal and conference news, and advertisement were excluded from this study. To make a comparative study among UK and USA following six journals were selected:

- **Journals Published From UK**
  - i. Journal of Documentation (JOD)
  - ii. Journal of Librarianship and Information Science (JOLIS)
  - iii. Library and Information Science Research (LISR)
  
- **Journals Published from USA**
  - iv. Library Resources and Technical Services (LRTS)
  - v. Library Trends (LT)
  - vi. The Library Quarterly (LQ)

The study has been limited in the following respect:

- The research findings of the study have been based on six source journals only.
- A potential for researcher bias exists since coding is done by one coder only.
- The data is collected for only one year i.e 2008.

### **Methodology**

In the present study, the journal articles and research papers in the field of library and information science have been analyzed with the help of content analysis methodology. Neuendorf (2002), defined, "content analysis is a summarizing, quantitative analysis of messages that relies on the scientific method (including attention to objectivity, intersubjectivity, a priori design, reliability, validity, generalizability, replicability, and hypotheses testing) and is not limited as to the types of variables that may be measured or the context in which the messages are created or presented." In this paper, articles and research papers published in journals were taken as unit of analysis, and each of them was investigated to know the type of article (e.g. research or non research); subject area of research papers and non research articles (using specially developed scheme of categories for classification of

library and information science subjects see Appendix II). To differentiate between research and non research articles, Peritz's (cited in Nour, 1985) definition of research was used: "Research is an inquiry, which is carried out, at least to some degree, by a systematic method with the purpose of eliciting new facts, concepts or ideas". For conducting the study, the content of each article or paper was scanned and the relevant information was transformed onto coding sheets (see Appendix I), so that each sheet contained the information from one article or paper. Once the coding sheets were completed the information contained in them was grouped, tabulated and analyzed.

## Analysis and Findings of the Study

### Number of Research Papers/Articles Published in Source Journals

Journal articles as well as research papers published in the selected library and information science journals were chosen as unit of analysis for conducting this study. The following table provides the number of research papers/articles published.

*Table: 1 Distribution of Number of Research Papers/ Articles Published in Source Journals*

Name of Journal	No. of Research Papers/ Articles	%
<b>JOD</b>	43	26.06
<b>JOLIS</b>	18	10.91
<b>LISR</b>	29	17.58
<b>LQ</b>	14	8.48
<b>LRTS</b>	23	13.94
<b>LT</b>	38	23.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Variation is found with regard to number of research papers/ articles published in six source journals in LIS. The comparative analysis regarding the maximum number of research papers/articles per journals reveals that Journal of Documentation published highest number of papers/articles 43 (26.06%) followed by Library Trends (23.03%). The Library Quarterly contributed minimum number of papers/articles i.e.14 (8.48%).

### Distribution of Type of Articles

The total number of articles published in six source journals was classified as either research papers or non- research based articles. 56.36% of the articles were found as research based papers where as 43.64% was found as non-research based articles. The table 2 shows total number of research papers and non research articles published.

**Table 2: Distribution of Research Papers and Non Research Articles in Source Journals**

Name of Journal	Type of Article				Total
	Research		Non Research		
	f	%	f	%	Total
JOD	32	34.41	11	15.28	43
JOLIS	13	13.98	5	6.94	18
LISR	21	22.58	8	11.11	29
LQ	10	10.75	4	5.56	14
LRTS	11	11.83	12	16.67	23
LT	6	6.45	32	44.44	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>165</b>

From table 2, it can be seen that Journal of Documentation had largest number of research papers i.e. 32 (34.41%) in comparison to the other five journals selected for inclusion in the study. The second highest research papers were published in Library and Information Science Research i.e. 21 (22.58%). In case of non research articles Library Trends published i.e. 32 (44.44%) articles followed by Library Resources and Technical Services i.e. 12 (16.67%) articles which is closely followed by Journal of Documentation i.e. 11 (15.28%) articles. The minimum number of non research articles were contributed by the Library Quarterly i.e. 4 (5.56%) articles.

### Geographical Distribution of Articles Published

The source journals included in the study are published from UK and USA. Thus the data collected from six source journals was also analyzed on the basis of their country of publication to know which country is contributing maximum number of research papers.

**Table 3: Geographical Distribution of Articles Published**

Country	Type of Article				Total	
	Research		Non Research		f	%
	f	%	f	%		
UK	66	70.97	24	33.33	90	54.55
USA	27	29.03	48	66.67	75	45.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The analysis of data reveals that journals published from UK contains more articles as compared to journals published from USA. Total 90 articles (54.55%) were published from UK, out of which 66 (70.97%) were research based papers and 24 (33.33%) were non research based articles where as the journals published from USA had contributed 75 (45.45%) articles, out of which i.e. 27 (29.03%) were research based papers and 48 (66.67%) were non research based articles.

### Subject Coverage in Articles

Each article was classified by subject using a coding scheme which consisted of 9 major LIS subject fields' categories, 38 sub-fields categories and 8 specific areas within sub-fields categories. (For coding scheme see Appendix II). Each article or paper was assigned to one and only one category depending on the emphasis or perceived intent of the article.

**Table 4: Distributions of Major LIS Subjects Fields in Source Journals**

Subject Fields	Journals						Total	
	JOD	JOLIS	LISR	LQ	LRTS	LT	f	%
<b>General Areas in LIS</b>	8	-	12	3	1	5	29	17.58
<b>Library &amp; Resource Centers</b>	1	1	3	1	1	-	7	4.24
<b>Library &amp; Info. Centre Management</b>	2	4	1	3	3	6	19	11.52
<b>Technical Services</b>	4	1	1		6	1	13	7.88
<b>User Services</b>	3	7	4	3	-	1	18	10.91
<b>Use and User Studies</b>	10	3	5	3	2	2	25	15.15
<b>Information Storage &amp; Retrieval</b>	13	-	3	-	4	5	25	15.15
<b>Library &amp; ICT</b>	1	2	-	1	4	11	19	11.52
<b>Related Fields</b>	1	-	-	-	2	7	10	6.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It can be seen from table 4 that maximum articles were contributed on subject field of general areas in LIS 17.58% (i.e. 29 articles) out of which 12 were published in Library and Information Science Research followed by Journal of Documentation (8 articles). The fields of information Storage and retrieval and use and user studies gained equal attention, 15.15% of articles were contributed on each of these areas. The field of user services with 7 articles is the most popular in Journal of Librarianship and Information Science, the field of technical services is most popular in Library Resources and Technical Services where as in Library Trends, the field of library and ICT received maximum attention with 11 articles.

#### **Distribution of Type of Articles by Specific Subject Areas of LIS**

The total source articles including research papers comprised 165 articles. The table 5 tabulates the data for each of the specific field within the major field. This table highlight the popular fields on which the research papers were written as well the fields not worked upon.

**Table 5: Distribution of Research Papers and Non Research Articles in Specific Subject Areas of LIS**

Specific Subject Areas	Type of Articles			
	Research		Non Research	
	f	%	f	%
<b>1.0 General Areas in LIS</b>	-	-	-	-
1.1 Librarianship	2	2.15	8	11.11
1.2 Library History	-	-	-	-
1.3 Library Legislation	-	-	-	-
1.4 Education for LIS	4	4.30	3	4.17
1.5 LIS- Research	3	3.23	-	-
1.6 Library and Information Science Studies	3	3.23	6	8.33
<b>2.0 Libraries and Resource Centres</b>	-	-	1	1.39
2.1 National Libraries and State Libraries	-	-	-	-
2.2 Public Libraries	4	4.30	-	-
2.3 Government Libraries	-	-	-	-
2.4 Archives	-	-	1	1.39
2.5 Academic Libraries	1	1.08	-	-
2.6 Special Libraries	-	-	-	-
2.7 Information Centers	-	-	-	-
<b>3.0 Library and Information Centre Mgmt.</b>	1	1.08	-	-
3.1 Collection Development	1	1.08	1	1.39
3.11 Periodicals and Newspaper	3	3.23	5	6.94
3.12 Reference Sources	-	-	-	-
3.13 Old and rare material	-	-	-	-
3.14 Grey Literature	-	-	-	-
3.15 Other Print Materials	-	-	-	-
3.16 Electronic Resources	3	3.23	1	1.39
3.17 Resources by Subject	-	-	-	-
3.18 Resources for Special Category of Users	1	1.08	-	-
3.2 Collection Maintenance	-	-	-	-
3.3 Library Resources-Conservation & Restoration	-	-	1	1.39
3.4 Financial Management	2	2.15	-	-
3.5 Human Resource Management	-	-	-	-
3.6 Library Buildings	-	-	-	-
<b>4.0 Technical Services</b>	1	1.08	2	2.78
4.1 Classification	2	2.15	3	4.17
4.2 Cataloguing	2	2.15	3	4.17
4.3 Other Services	-	-	-	-
<b>5.0 User Services</b>	4	4.30	1	1.39
5.1 Circulation Service	-	-	-	-
5.2 Reference Services	1	1.08	2	2.78
5.3 User Education	9	9.68	1	1.39
5.4 Reprography Service	-	-	-	-
5.5 Other Services	-	-	-	-
<b>6.0 Use &amp; Users Studies</b>	-	-	-	-
6.1 Bibliometrics, Scientometrics, Infometrics & Webometrics	10	10.75	2	2.78



6.2 Information Seeking Behaviour	9	9.68	1	1.39
6.3 Reading Habits	2	2.15	1	1.39
<b>7.0 Information Storage &amp; Retrieval</b>	13	13.98	7	9.72
7.1 Subject Indexing	1	1.08	2	2.78
7.2 Thesaurus	2	2.15	-	-
<b>8.0 Library &amp; ICT</b>	3	3.23	2	2.78
8.1 Library Automation	-	-	-	-
8.2 Digital Library & Digitization	4	4.30	10	13.89
8.3 Library Resource Sharing & Networks	-	-	-	-
<b>9.0 Related Fields</b>	-	-	-	-
9.1 Publishing	1	1.08	7	9.72
9.2 Book Selling & History of Books	-	-	-	-
9.3 Bibliography	-	-	-	-
9.4 Other Aspects	1	1.08	1	1.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 5 highlights that, the area of information storage and retrieval (13.98%) was the most popular area of research followed by bibliometrics, scientometrics, infometrics and webometrics (10.75%). The area of information seeking behavior (9.68%) and user education (9.68%) have received equal attention. In case of non research articles the digital library & digitization (13.98%) was the most popular area followed by librarianship (11.11%), and information storage and retrieval (9.72%) and Publishing (9.72%). Few non research based studies were also reported on library and information science studies (8.33%) and periodical and newspapers (6.94%). Another area which received attention was user services, 4.30% research papers were published on user services in comparison to 1.39% of the non research articles. The research studies were also reported on areas like public libraries, academic libraries and library and information centre management, education for LIS, financial management, library and ICT, digital library and digitization.

On areas like publishing, periodicals and newspapers, classification and cataloguing slightly more non research based articles appeared as compared to research based ones, whereas on areas such as electronic resources, reading habits of users, library and information science-research, more research based articles were published. Not a single study i.e. research and non-research is reported on various areas such as library history, library legislation, government libraries, information centers, reference sources, library building, circulation service, collection maintenance etc.

### Five Top LIS Subjects

Table 6 shows five top most specific subjects of research on the basis of number of times each area was written about.

**Table 6: Most Frequent LIS Subjects in Research Paper by Specific Subject Areas**

<b>Popular Research Subjects</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Information Storage & Retrieval	13.98	I
Bibliometrics, Scientometrics, Infometrics & Webometrics	10.75	II
User Education	9.68	III
Information Seeking Behaviour	9.68	III
Education for LIS	4.30	IV
Public Libraries	4.30	IV
User Services	4.30	IV
Digital Library & Digitization	4.30	IV
LIS- Research	3.23	V
Library and Information Science Studies	3.23	V
Periodicals and Newspaper	3.23	V
Electronic Resources	3.23	V
Library & ICT	3.23	V

It was found that the largest body of research papers focused on the studies related to information storage and retrieval (13.98%) followed by bibliometrics, scientometrics, infometrics and webometrics (10.75%). The third position is shared by two fields user education and information seeking behavior (9.68%), followed by Education for LIS, Public Libraries, User Services and Digital Library & Digitization at fourth position and LIS- Research, Library and Information Science Studies, Periodicals and Newspaper, Electronic Resources and Library & ICT at fifth position.

#### **LIS Subjects in Non Research Article by Specific Subject Areas**

Table 7 shows five top most areas of non research based articles by specific areas on the basis of number of times each area was written about.

**Table 7: Most Frequent LIS Subjects in Non Research Article by Specific Subject**

<b>Popular Non Research Subjects</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Digital Library & Digitization	13.89	I
Librarianship	11.11	II
Information Storage & Retrieval	9.72	III
Publishing	9.72	III
Library and Information Science Studies	8.33	IV
Periodicals and Newspaper	6.94	V

It was found that the most popular subject categories among non research based article were digital library and digitization (13.98%), followed by librarianship with 11.11% at second position. The third position is shared by Information Storage and Retrieval and Publishing. Library and Information Science Studies holds rank fourth and periodicals and newspaper is at rank fifth.

#### **Geographical Distribution of LIS Subject Areas**

The country wise distribution of LIS areas has been done in table 9. On the basis of that analysis the top five most frequently published LIS areas in each of the two countries under study have been shown in table 9.

**Table 8: Country-wise Distribution of Specific Subject Areas of LIS Published in Source Journals**

Specific Subject Areas	Country			
	UK		USA	
	f	%	f	%
1.0 General Areas in LIS	-	-	-	-
1.1 Librarianship	4	4.44	6	8
1.2 Library History	-	-	-	-
1.3 Library Legislation	-	-	-	-
1.4 Education for Library & Information Science	4	4.44	3	4
1.5 Library & Information Science- Research	3	3.33	-	-
1.6 Information Science Studies	9	10	-	-
2.0 Libraries & Resource Centers	-	-	1	1.33
2.1 National Libraries & State Libraries	-	-	-	-
2.2 Public Libraries	3	3.33	1	1.33
2.3 Government Libraries	-	-	-	-
2.4 Archives	1	1.11	-	-
2.5 Academic Libraries	1	1.11	-	-
2.6 Special Libraries	-	-	-	-
2.7 Information Centers	-	-	-	-
3.0 Library & Information Centre Management	1	1.11	-	-
3.1 Collection Development	-	-	2	2.67
3.11 Periodicals & Newspapers	2	2.22	6	8
3.12 Reference Sources	-	-	-	-
3.13 Old & Rare Material	-	-	-	-
3.14 Grey Literature	-	-	-	-
3.15 Other Print Material	-	-	-	-
3.16 Electronic Resources	3	3.33	1	1.33
3.17 Resources by Subject	-	-	-	-
3.18 Resources for Special Category of Users	-	-	1	1.33
3.2 Collection Maintenance	-	-	-	-
3.3 Library Resources-Conservation & Restoration	-	-	1	1.33
3.4 Financial Management	1	1.11	1	1.33
3.5 Human Resource Management	-	-	-	-
3.6 Library Buildings	-	-	-	-
4.0 Technical Services	-	-	3	4
4.1 Classification	5	5.56	-	-
4.2 Cataloguing	1	1.11	4	5.33
4.3 Other Services	-	-	-	-
5.0 User Services	2	2.22	3	4
5.1 Circulation Service	-	-	-	-
5.2 Reference Services	3	3.33	-	-
5.3 User Education	9	10	1	1.33
5.4 Reprography Service	-	-	-	-
5.5 Other Services	-	-	-	-
6.0 Use & Users Studies	-	-	-	-
6.1 Bibliometrics, Scientometrics, Infometrics & Webometrics	7	7.78	5	6.67
6.2 Information Seeking Behaviour	9	10	1	1.33
6.3 Reading Habits	2	2.22	1	1.33
7.0 Information Storage & Retrieval	13	14.44	7	9.33
7.1 Subject Indexing	1	1.11	2	2.67
7.2 Thesaurus	2	2.22	-	-
8.0 Library & ICT	3	3.33	2	2.67
8.1 Library Automation	-	-	-	-
8.2 Digital Library & Digitization	-	-	14	18.67
8.3 Library Resource Sharing & Networks	-	-	-	-
9.0 Related Fields	-	-	-	-
9.1 Publishing	-	-	8	10.67
9.2 Book Selling & History of Books	-	-	-	-
9.3 Bibliography	-	-	-	-
9.4 Other Aspects	1	1.11	1	1.33

With regard to subject coverage in UK, information storage and retrieval appeared most popular, 14.44% of the total articles were published on this area. The areas information science studies (10%), user education (10%) and information seeking behavior (10%) appeared equally popular in the UK. The next two popular areas in UK included bibliometrics, scientometrics, infometrics and webometrics (7.78%) followed by classification (5.56%). The other areas of interest in UK included library and information science-research, public libraries, electronic resources, reference services, and Library and ICT. All these areas had equal share of 3.33%. In comparison to USA, on areas digital library and digitization and publishing no article appeared in UK where as both of these areas appeared most popular in USA. 18.67% of the articles were published on digital library and digitization and 10.67% on publishing in USA. The next most popular area in USA appeared information storage and retrieval (9.33%) followed by librarianship (8%), periodicals and newspapers (8%), bibliometrics, scientometrics, infometrics and webometrics (6.67%), cataloguing (5.33%).

### Top Five LIS Subject Areas Published from UK and USA

The country wise distribution of LIS areas has been done in table 8. On the basis of that analysis the top five most frequently published LIS areas in both the countries under study have been shown in table 9.

**Table 9: Top Five LIS Subject Areas Published from UK and USA**

Name of the Country					
UK			USA		
Subject	%	Rank	Subject	%	Rank
Information Storage & Retrieval	14.44	I	Digital Library & Digitization	18.67	I
Information Science Studies	10	II	Publishing	10.67	II
User Education	10	II	Information Storage & Retrieval	9.33	III
Information Seeking Behaviour	10	II	Librarianship	8	IV
Bibliometrics, Scientometrics, Infometrics & Webometrics	7.78	III	Periodicals and Newspaper	8	IV
Classification	5.56	IV	Bibliometrics, Scientometrics, Infometrics & Webometrics	6.67	V
Librarianship	4.44	V			
Education for LIS	4.44	V			

Table 9 above clearly depicts that in UK the maximum contribution is made on area information storage and retrieval, it ranks first with 14.44% of total contribution. Rank second is shared by three LIS areas namely, information science studies, user education and information seeking behavior which are equally popular in UK. 10% of the total articles were published on each of these areas. The next area in order popularity is bibliometrics, scientometrics, infometrics & webometrics, which is on rank three with 7.78% of total articles followed by LIS area classification (5.56%). The areas of librarianship and education for library and information science are on position fifth. Both of them have got equal share of 4.44% each. In USA the maximum contribution is made on area, digital library and digitization, it ranks first with 18.67% of total contribution. It is followed by publishing (10.67%) at rank two, information storage and retrieval (9.33%) at rank three, librarianship and periodicals and newspapers (8%) at rank fourth and Bibliometrics, Scientometrics, Infometrics & Webometrics at rank fifth.

### ICT Application in LIS Subject Fields

Figure 1 shows application of ICT in various LIS subject fields.

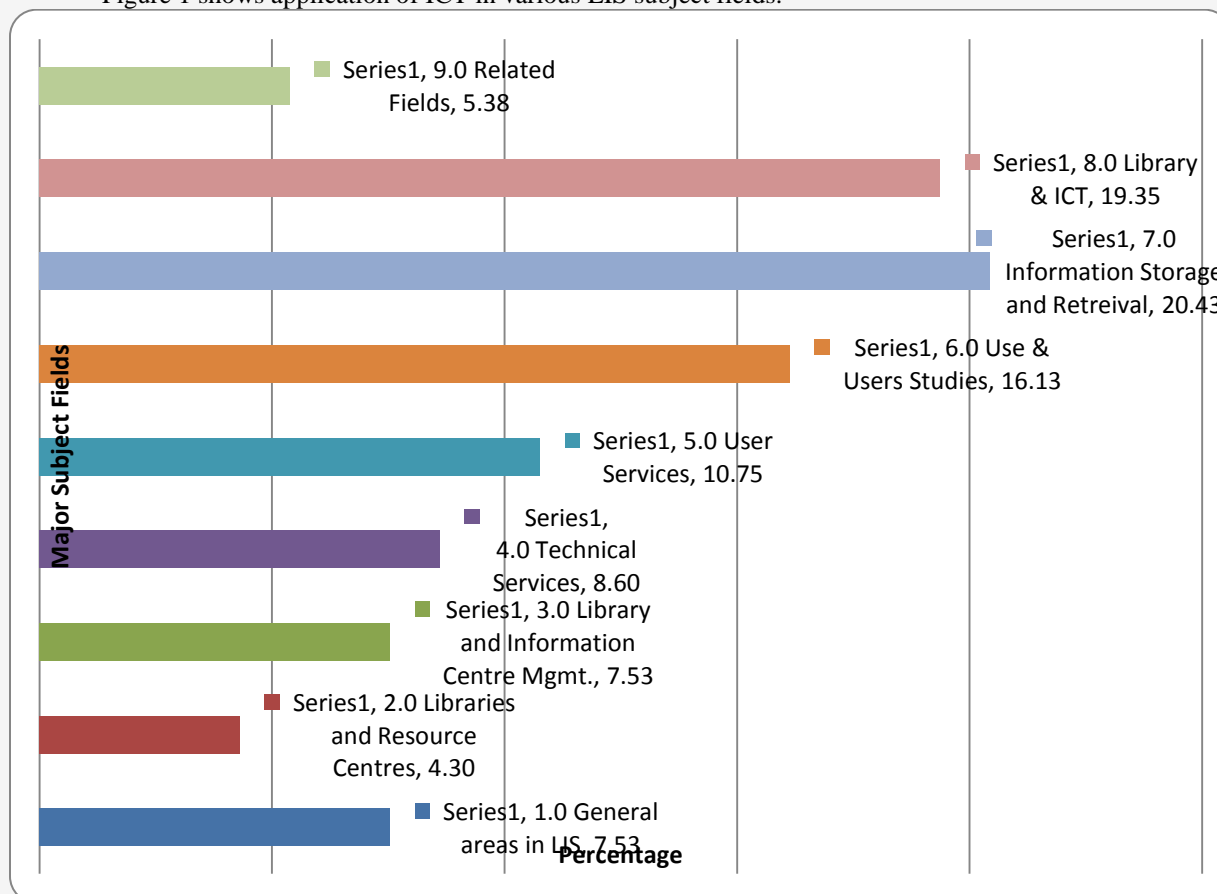


Figure 1: ICT Application in LIS Subject Fields

On the basis of analysis done, it was found that ICT has put impact on all LIS subject fields. Figure 1 highlights that maximum application of ICT was on field of information storage and retrieval, within in this field 20.43% of the articles shows impact of ICT, followed by area library and ICT which included studies on areas like digitization, digital repositories, networking, resource sharing, and other general studies related to ICTs. Total 19.35% of the articles discussed application of ICT within this field. The next major subject field having maximum studies on this aspect is use and user studies (16.13%). Within this field it was observed that for conducting user studies or user surveys, researchers preferred to collect data through online questionnaires, or through emails, they were making use of web based surveys also conducted with the help of web-based instruments such as LibQUAL+(TM) etc. The others fields were also greatly influenced by ICT such as user services, within in this field 10.75% of the articles shows impact of ICT, followed by technical services (8.60%), library and information centre management (7.53%), general areas in LIS (7.53%), related fields (5.38%) and libraries and resource centers (4.30%).

## Conclusion

The present study seeks to conduct the content analysis of selected journals in library and information science published from UK and USA in order to find out current research trends in the LIS field.

This study shows that subjects discussed in the articles in various LIS journals clearly reflect the prevailing trends affecting the profession. Due to the impact of ICT, information is being produced at the fastest rate in the history of man. It has completely changed the management of libraries and their services. The subject trends in the journals studied shows that the area of information storage and retrieval is the most popular area of research followed by bibliometrics, scientometrics, infometrics and webometrics and information seeking behavior, where as in case of

non research articles the area digital library & digitization is the most popular followed by librarianship. Few non research based studies were also reported on area of information storage and retrieval. User education and user services are also very popular areas of research, in comparison to the non research based articles. The research studies were also reported on areas like public libraries, academic libraries and library and information centre management, education for LIS, financial management, library and ICT, digital library and digitization. The subject trends in the journals studied also highlights that all the subject areas today are greatly influenced by ICT.

On areas like publishing, periodicals and newspapers, classification and cataloguing slightly more non research based articles appeared as compared to research based ones, whereas on areas such as electronic resources, reading habits of users, library and information science-research, more research based articles were published. On others areas like library history, library legislation, government libraries, information centers, reference sources, library building, circulation service, collection maintenance etc., no attention has been paid to them in both research and non research articles. Not a single study was conducted and published in selected source journals. Hence it is suggested that research needs to be done on these areas to fill the gap in library and information science.

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## APPENDIX -I

### CODE SHEET

1. JOURNAL NAME (Vol. and Issue No.): \_\_\_\_\_
2. ARTICLE TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. TYPE OF ARTICLE: \_\_\_\_\_
4. SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_
5. APPLICATION OF ICT: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX –II

### CODING SCHEME FOR CONDUCTING CONTENT ANALYSIS

#### A. CATEGORIES FOR CLASSIFICATION OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE SUBJECTS



## **1.0 GENERAL AREAS IN LIS**

(This category includes general articles about the discipline including concerns such as status, image, staff, professional ethics, organizations etc.)

- 1.1 Librarianship
- 1.2 Library History (includes articles on the history of libraries and librarianship)
- 1.3 Library Legislation (includes articles related to law and legislations)
- 1.4 Education for Library and Information Science (includes articles on education for librarianship, education and in-service-training of librarians, continuing education, library school education, Library Science- study and teaching methods etc.)
- 1.5 Library and Information Science- Research (includes studies conducted on methodology, research trends in the field, etc.)
- 1.6 Information Science Studies (this category includes information related studies such as studies devoted specifically to information science and concepts such as information policy, information management, information theories, information access etc.)

## **2.0 LIBRARIES AND RESOURCE CENTERS**

(This category includes articles about role of libraries and information centers)

- 2.1 National Libraries and State Libraries
- 2.2 Public Libraries
- 2.3 Government Libraries
- 2.4 Archives (including national and government archives, business archives, sound and film archives, web archives etc.)
- 2.5 Academic Libraries (includes articles on university libraries, college libraries and school libraries)
- 2.6 Special Libraries (includes research libraries and special subject libraries such as humanities libraries, science, technology, medicine libraries etc.)
- 2.7 Information Centers (includes resource centers such as academic resource centre, media resource centre etc.)

## **3.0 LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTRE MANAGEMENT**

(This category includes articles related to management and administration of libraries including planning, library policies, rules and regulations, other procedures and operations)

- 3.1 Collection Development (includes material selection or material acquisition, collection development policy etc., articles which deals with specific information resources are placed in categories 3.1.1 to 3.1.8)
  - 3.11 Periodicals and Newspapers
  - 3.12 Reference Sources
  - 3.13 Old and Rare Material
  - 3.14 Grey Literature
  - 3.15 Other Print Material (such as patents, standards, conference literature, govt. publications etc.)
  - 3.16 Electronic Resources (includes audio-visual material, e-books, e-journals etc)
  - 3.17 Resources by Subject (includes such as business information resource, humanities resources, science and technology resources etc)
  - 3.18 Resources for Special Category of Users (such as for children, young people, women, farmers etc.)
- 3.2 Collection Maintenance (Includes management and organization of material, shelving, stock verification, weeding, discarding, etc)
- 3.3 Preservation and Conservation of information resources
- 3.4 Financial Management (library Finance)
- 3.5 Human Resource Management (recruitment, staffing etc.)
- 3.6 Library Buildings (includes studies related to planning and design of library buildings and other facilities like their furnishings, suppliers, administration etc.)

## **4.0 TECHNICAL SERVICES**

(Includes articles related to technical processing and other technical services)

- 4.1 Classification (includes the creation or analysis of intellectual systems for the classification or arrangement of knowledge, classification schemes etc.)
- 4.2 Cataloguing (includes studies on cataloguing, bibliographic description, cataloguing standards, types of catalogues such as online catalogues, CD-ROM catalogues, resource description etc)
- 4.3 Other Services

## **5.0 USER SERVICES**

(Includes studies related to user services, their role, evaluation and assessment)

- 5.1 Circulation Service
- 5.2 Reference Services (includes reference work, CAS, SDI, and electronic reference services such as digital reference service, virtual reference service etc.)
- 5.3 User Education (user instruction, user training, information literacy)
- 5.4 Reprography Service
- 5.5 Other Services (such as translation, newspaper clipping etc)

## **6.0 USE AND USERS STUDIES**

(Includes articles related to use studies such as information usage pattern, studies which reports citation pattern etc. and users studies, where focus is on person)

- 6.1 Bibliometrics, Scientometrics, Infometrics and Webometrics (includes studies which reports citation patterns and structures, information usage pattern as well as analysis of the web etc.)
- 6.2 Information Seeking Behaviour (includes such as studies related to user search behavior, user information needs etc, here focus is on person)
- 6.3 Reading Habits (includes studies dealing with reading and reading habits or skills of users)

## **7.0 INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL**

(Includes studies related to information browsing, searching, search strategies etc. as well as information storage and retrieval systems which includes various search systems like bibliographic retrieval systems (bibliographic databases), image retrieval systems (image databases), online information retrieval systems (online databases), search engines, etc.)

- 7.1 Subject Indexing (types, tools, evaluation etc.)
- 7.2 Thesaurus (structure, function, use, construction, evaluation etc.)

## **8.0 LIBRARY AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

(Includes studies which are related ICT and their application in library and information centers)

- 8.1 Library Automation (includes studies on automation of library in-house operations and processes, studies on library automation software)
- 8.2 Digital Library and Digitization (includes studies related to digital libraries and digitization of library materials, digital library software, issues and challenges related to digitization such as copyright, DRM etc.)
- 8.3 Library Resource Sharing and Networks (includes studies on interlibrary cooperation, inter-library resource sharing, library and information networks etc.)

## **9.0 RELATED FIELDS**

(Includes categories which contains articles not directly on libraries, librarianship or information science)

- 9.1 Publishing (concerned with production, including printing, copyright, electronic publishing)
- 9.2 Book Selling and History of Books
- 9.3 Bibliography
- 9.4 Other Aspects (includes articles which does not fit into above classes).