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Verma, Manoj Kumar; Yadav, Sunil Kumar; and Singh, S N., "Research Publication Pattern of Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal): A Bibliometric Analysis during 2008-2017" (2018). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 1836.
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Research Publication Pattern of Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal): A Bibliometric Analysis during 2008-2017

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Abstract

The present study intends to analyse the publication pattern of papers in Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal) during 2008 to 2017. During these period, total 1478 scholarly papers has been published by LIS researchers around the world. The publication pattern was analysed by different bibliometric aspect like year wise contribution of papers, year wise growth of publication, average publication per author, geographical distribution of papers, authorship pattern, author productivity, degree of collaboration, Lotka's Law of Scientific Productivity of papers, reference distribution pattern and length of reference distribution etc. which provide depth information about publication of pattern of Library Philosophy and Practice journal.

Keywords: Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal), Authors Productivity, Degree of Collaborations, Lotaka's Law of Scientific Productivity, Length of references, Bibliometrics, Research publication

Introduction

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal) is an electronic peer-reviewed, accessible without any subscription charges journal in the field of Library and Information Science and indexed in Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISTA), DOAJ, Library & Information Science and SCOPUS. It was founded in 1998 and was published twice a year until 2007 when it began to publish a continuous annual volume. Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal) research papers are available at the websites of University of Nebraska Lincoln (USA), website <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/> and possess quite reliable publishing authority. Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal) is one of the leading peer-reviewed journals in the field of Library and Information Science and day by day a particular journal has increased its popularity which reflected the finding of the study. Researchers of the Library Science all over the world equally prefer to publish their research results in this journal. In 19 years long period the journal has tried to keep up its main aim of acting as a medium for communication of all sorts of information to librarians, scientists, and academicians. It's covered most of the professional areas and burning aspects profession with a good number of articles.

The word 'Bibliometrics' is derived from Latin words 'biblio' and the Greek word 'metrics' etymologically it means the application of Mathematics to the study of bibliography.

Bibliometrics is the application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other media of communication. Alan Pritchard suggested this term in 1969.

“In 1948, the great library scientist, Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, coined the term “Librametry”, which historically appeared first and was intended to streamline the services of librarianship. Bibliometrics is analogous to Ranganathan’s Librametrics, the Russian concept Scientometrics, Infometrics, and subdisciplines like Econometrics, Psychometrics, Sociometrics, Biometrics, Technometrics, Chemometrics, and Climetrics, where mathematics and statistics are applied to study and solve problems in their respective fields. Scientometrics is now used for the application of quantitative methods to the history of science and overlaps with bibliometrics to a considerable extent”. (S. Thanuskodi, 2010)

Literature Review

Shukla and Verma (2018) conducted a bibliometric study on the journal of Library Herald from (2008-2017). Total 222 published articles were examined and analyzed for authorship pattern, most productive authors, geographical distribution, references distribution and authorship pattern of references has been done and found that the highest 97 (43.68%) articles were contributed by single authors, followed by two authors with 87, constituting 39.18% contributions. Dr. K.P. Singh was the most prolific authors with 11 (31.43%) got the first rank. India emerged the first position for having maximum contributed 161, constituting 80.50% publications, followed by Iran with 17 (8.50%) contributions. Out of total 3060 references, the highest 1448 references has been cited by single authors and the maximum 1008 references has recorded in issue no. 2. Verma, Devi and Brahma (2017) analysed a bibliometric study of DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology from the period of 12 years (2005-2016). During the period of study a total 553 research papers were published in the journal. the study examine and analyzed that the maximum 229 (41.41%) research papers were contributed by two authors and in year 2012, 64 publications were published in the journal which was maximum no. of articles published in the particular journal from the marked period. The highest 88.95% articles contributed by Indian authors and B.M. Gupta was the most productive author with 25 (17.98%) contributions. Total 8516 references were cited with an average of 15.39 references per articles. Moyon and Shukla (2017) conducted a bibliometric analysis on International Research- Journal of Library and Information Science during the period (2011-2015) in which a total 218 articles were published in the journal. the present study examine and analyzed various bibliometric pattern such as authorship pattern, degree of collaboration, and geographical distribution of articles has been done and found that the highest 45.87% of articles were published by two authors, the average degree of collaboration is 0.66 and in the geographical contribution it observed that the 69.72% research papers were belong to national contribution and 28.89% were belong to international contributions. Sa and Barik (2016) analysed a study on contributions of Indian authors to library philosophy and practice (e-journal) during 2001-2015. The major finding of the study was the yearly growth rate is not constant. Tamil Nadu is the most productive state of India with 43 (21.5%) articles. Thanuskodi, S. is the most active author. Major areas of research publication are on bibliometric study. Saudi Arabia was the most collaborative foreign country with 2 (1%) articles.

Naheem and Shibu (2015) analyzed a study on Authorship Patterns and Collaborative Research in the Journal of Knowledge and Communication Management from (2011-2014). In which a total 46 articles were published in the journal and the study examine and found that the highest 22 articles (47.83%) were published by single authors, the average number of authors each article of the overall contribution is 1.67 and average productivity each author is 0.60, and the average degree of author collaboration is 0.52. V.S Rakhi (2014) conducted a bibliometric study on collaboration trend in Indian business management research (1997-2012). The study examined and found that there is significant correlation between collaboration and productivity, it is necessary to promote the collaboration ventures in Business Management discipline to increase the scholarly productivity. The most prolific institutes in BM research were Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi with 302 frequency of contribution, followed by Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore with 219 contributions. In author order in co-authored papers only 43.77% have contributed by Indian researcher as a main author and remaining 56.36% as collaborator. Edewor (2013) conducted a bibliometric study on an A Nigerian Library and Information Science Journal during the period of four years i.e. (2010-2013). The study examine, analyzed and found that the highest 30 research papers were published by multiple authors while 26 articles published by single author and the universities accounted for 76 authors, being (82%), followed by Polytechnics and Colleges of education accounted for 7 (8%) and 6 (7%) respectively. In the pattern of author's distribution by gender both male and female proportionate balance with 46 authors from the marked period of study. The most researched subject was Information Technology. Thanuskodi (2010) conducted a study on bibliometric analysis of the journal library philosophy and practice from 2005-2009. The study found that a total 249 articles published during the study period. The majority of contributions appeared under library and internet 54 (21.69%). The maximum number of contributors is single authors with (31.32%). The largest number of articles had two authors 94 (37.75%). The study revealed that majority of articles (96.85%) contains references which include journals, book, conference proceedings, dissertations, etc.

Scope

The scope of present study is limited on analyse the publication pattern of research papers published in Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal) on the basis of bibliometric parameters. The scope is further limited to the period of 10 years i.e. from 2008 to 2017.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of present study are to:

1. Find out the number of contributions, year wise distribution and growth of publication during the period of study
2. Analyse the authorship patter, authors productivity and degree of collaborations of publications
3. Examine the implementation of Lotka's law productivity
4. Know the geographical representation in publications of LPP
5. Find out the reference distribution pattern, authorship pattern and length of references of published papers in LPP

Methodology

This study is based on the articles published in Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal) during the period of 10 years i.e. 2008-2017. Thus, a survey and observation method was used to collect the raw data for study. The data was collected from website of LPP (e-journal) (<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/>) and it was scrutinized and tabulated for analysis.

Data Analysis

Year wise distribution of articles

Table and figure 1 show the year wise distribution of articles published in the journal within the specified period (2008-2017) and resolved that total 1478 research papers were published during this period with an average growth rate of 147.8 papers per year. A significant increase in number of publication was noticed after 2009 and it was continued in all latter years of study. The highest number of publications is visualized in the year 2011 with 197(13.33%) publications, 2017 with 193(13.06%) publications and 2012 with 192(12.99%) publications. The lowest number of publication is in 2008 with only 66 (4.47%) publications followed by 2009 with 78(5.28%).

Table-1: Year wise distribution of articles

Year	No. of Publications	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage
2008	66	4.47	4.47
2009	78	5.28	9.75
2010	156	10.55	20.3
2011	197	13.33	33.63
2012	192	12.99	46.62
2013	175	11.84	58.46
2014	154	10.42	68.88
2015	129	8.73	77.61
2016	138	9.34	86.95
2017	193	13.06	100.01
Total	1478	100	

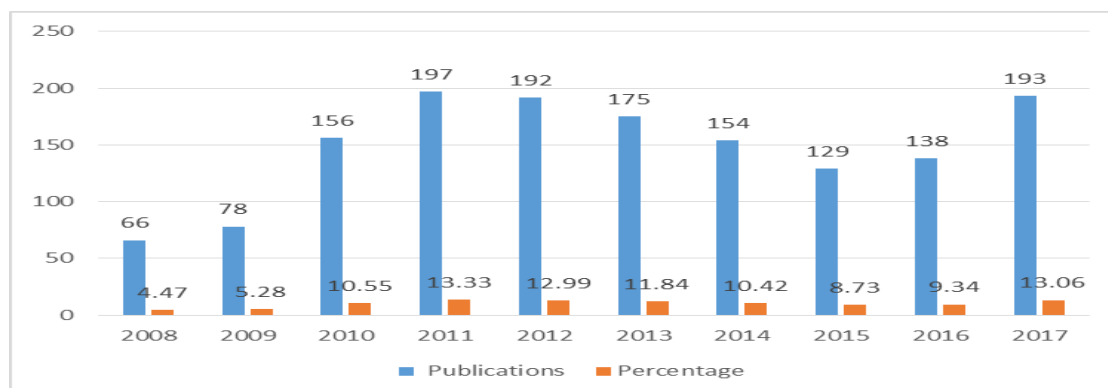


Figure-1: Year wise distribution of articles

Annual growth of publication

To obtain an overview of publication, the number of documents published during 2008-2017 was displayed in Table and Figure-2, which shows that a variation in publication. A total 1478 articles published with the annual average growth rate of 15.17%. By observation it found that year 2008 to 2011 and 2016 to 2017 growth is positive but in the year 2012-2015 growth is negative. The highest growth rate is recorded in year 2017 with growth rate 39.86% followed in year 2011 with 26.28%. Growth rate is calculated with the help of following formula:

$$r = \frac{P1 - P0}{P0} \times 100$$

Where, r = Publication growth in percentage

P0 = Number of publication in the base year

P1 = Number of publication in present year

Table-2: Year wise growth of publication

Year	Publications	Growth Rate	Average Growth Rate percent (%)
2008	66	0	0
2009	78	12	18.18
2010	156	78	100
2011	197	41	26.28
2012	192	-5	-2.54
2013	175	-17	-8.85
2014	154	-21	-12
2015	129	-25	-16.23
2016	138	9	6.98
2017	193	55	39.86
Total	1478	77	Average=15.17

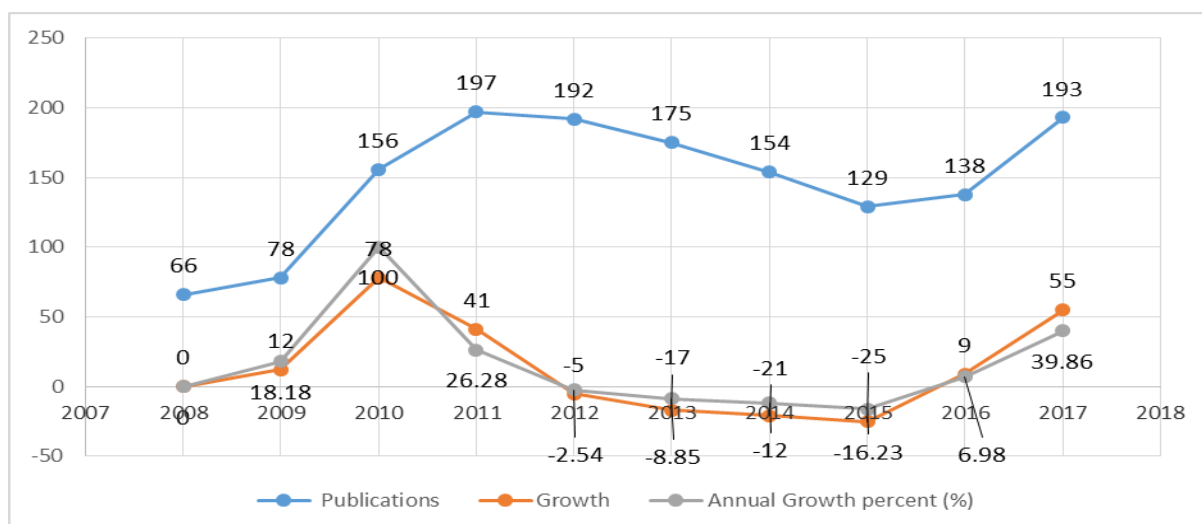


Figure-2: Year wise growth of publication

Authorship pattern

Table-3 shows the authorship pattern of articles published in LPP journal and reveals that majority of publications in LPP are in form of collaborative work and majority of collaboration are between two and three authors. There are total 1478 papers published during 2008-2017 by 2791 contributors out of which 39.24% articles are single author with a share of 20.78% authors share. In pattern of authorship analysis found that 580 articles contributed by the single author, followed by two authors contributions (574), three authors contributions (258), four authors with (54), five authors with (10), six authors with (1) and seven author with (1) contributions

Table 3: Authorship pattern

Sl. No.	Author Type	No. of Articles	Total No. of Authors	Percentage(%) of articles	Percentage(%) of Authors
1	Single	580	580	39.24	20.78
2	Two	574	1148	38.84	41.13
3	Three	258	774	17.46	27.73
4	Four	54	216	3.65	7.74
5	Five	10	60	0.68	2.15
6	Six	1	6	0.07	0.21
7	Seven	1	7	0.07	0.25
Total		1478	2791	100	100

Year wise authorship pattern of articles

Table-4 give a better understanding of the year wise authorship pattern of articles published in LPP journal during 2008-2017 and reveals that total 1478 articles were published during this period out of which in year 2011 highest 88 article published by single authors, in year 2017 highest 86 article published by two authors, in year 2017 highest 43 article published by three authors, in year 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017 highest 8 article published by four authors, in year 2017 highest 4 article published by five authors, in 2014 only 1 article published by six authors and in 2016 only 1 article published by seven authors.

Table 4: Year wise Authorship Pattern of Articles

Sl. No.	Year	Single Author	Two Authors	Three Authors	Four Authors	Five Authors	Six Authors	Seven Authors	Total
1	2008	34	23	9	0	0	0	0	66
2	2009	53	16	6	3	0	0	0	78
3	2010	77	61	13	4	1	0	0	156
4	2011	88	77	27	5	0	0	0	197
5	2012	84	76	26	4	2	0	0	192
6	2013	64	73	32	6	0	0	0	175
7	2014	55	55	34	8	1	1	0	154
8	2015	36	52	31	8	2	0	0	129
9	2016	37	55	37	8	0	0	1	138

10	2017	52	86	43	8	4	0	0	193
Total		580	574	258	54	10	1	1	1478

Degree of collaboration

Table-5 and figure-3 depicts the degree of collaboration of publications published during 2008-2017 in the journal Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal). In the degree of collaboration a total 580 articles are singled authored and 898 publications are multiple authored and the overall degree of collaborations is (DC=0.61). In the year 2016 & 2017, there is highest (0.73) degree of collaborations recorded while in year 2009, degree of collaborations is lowest (0.32).

The degree of collaboration was calculated by Subramaniam (1983) formula as mention below:

$$DC = \frac{Nm}{Nm + Ns}$$

Where,

DC = Degree of Collaboration,

Ns = Single Authored Publications

Nm = Multiple Authored Publications

Table-5: Degree of collaboration

Sl. No.	Year	Single Authored Publications (Ns)	Multiple Authored Publications (Nm)	Nm+Ns	Degree of Collaboration DC=Nm/(Nm+Ns)
1	2008	34	32	66	0.48
2	2009	53	25	78	0.32
3	2010	77	79	156	0.51
4	2011	88	109	197	0.55
5	2012	84	108	192	0.56
6	2013	64	111	175	0.63
7	2014	55	99	154	0.64
8	2015	36	93	129	0.72
9	2016	37	101	138	0.73
10	2017	52	141	193	0.73
Total		580	898	1478	0.61

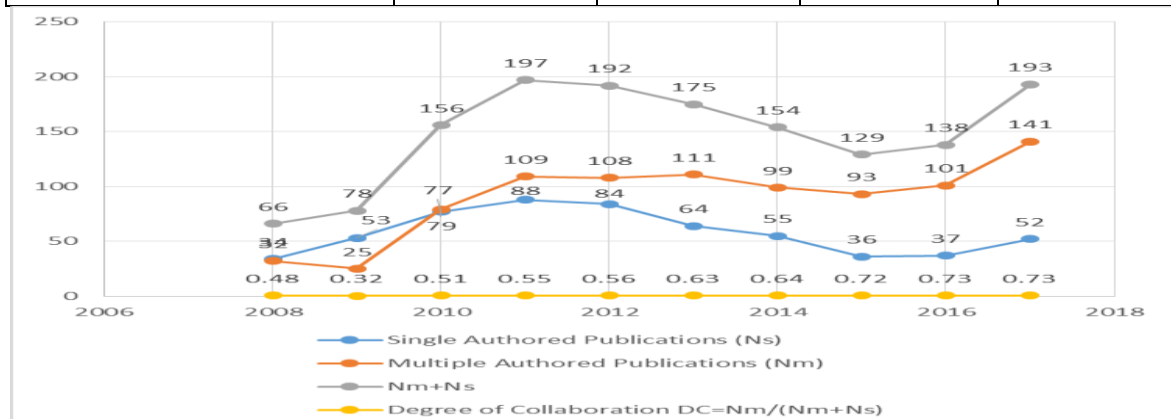


Figure-3: Degree of collaboration

Application of Lotkas's law of scientific productivity

Lotka's law of scientific productivity is used to calculate the authors' productivity in bibliometric study and this law stated that-"The number of authors making n contributions is about $1/n^2$ of those making one and proportion of all contributors that make a single contribution is about 60 percent. This means that out of all the authors in a field, 60% will have one publication, and 15% will be two publications, 7% of authors will have three publications and so on". Table-6 describes the application of Lotka's law of scientific productivity on the publication of papers in LPP journal data set and result promulgated that in one article published only 580, constituting (39.24%) authors were both observed and expected. Two articles contribution 574, constituting (38.84%) authors observed and 576, constituting (39.97%) authors expected. So, in the following analysis, it is found that the numbers of authors observed are somehow different with the numbers of authors expected.

Lotka's formula for scientific productivity of authors is as follows:

$$Y = \frac{C}{X^n}$$

Where,

X = Number of Publications

Y = Relative Frequency of Authors with X publications

C = Constants depending on the specified field

Putting the value in above equation,

X = 1, Y = 580 then,

We get, $580 = C / 1^n$

$C = 580 \times 1^n$

$C = 580$

Again putting the value of

X = 2, Y = 574, and

$C = 580$

$574 \times 2^n = 580$

$2^n = 580 / 574$

$= 1.01$

Taking Log on both sides,

$n \log 2 = \log 1.01$

$n = 0.01$

Table-6: Lotkas's law of scientific productivity

No. of Articles (X)	No. of Authors Observed (Y)	Percentage Observed	No. of Authors Expected (n=0.01)	Percentage Expected
1	580	39.24	580	39.24
2	574	38.84	576	39.97
3	258	17.46	574	38.84
4	54	3.65	572	38.7

5	10	0.68	571	38.63
6	1	0.07	570	38.57
7	1	0.07	569	38.49
8	0	0	568	38.43
9	0	0	567	38.36
10	0	0	567	38.36
>10	0	0	566	38.29

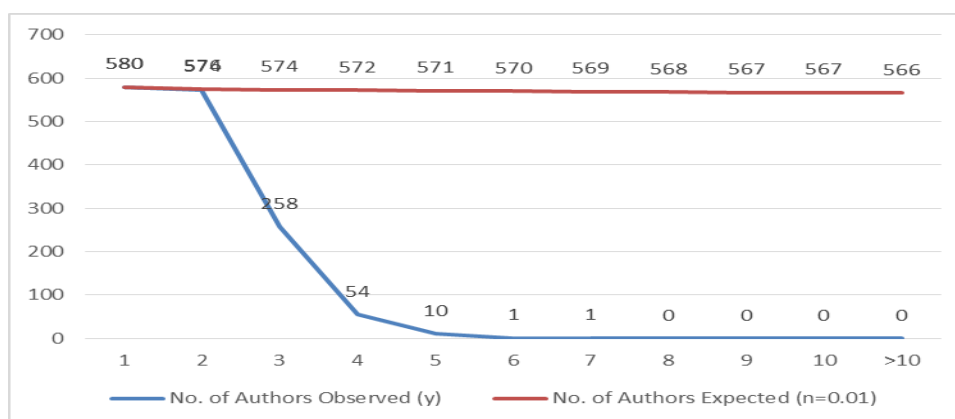


Figure-4: Lotkas's law of scientific productivity

Author productivity

Table-7 shows the author's productivity in LPP journal from 2008-2017. The overall average of contribution each author is (0.53) from 1478 publications with 2781 authors. The highest average number of publication per authors (0.68) was recorded in the year of 2009 and the lowest number of average contributions (0.46) of each author recorded in the year 2016.

Table-7: Author productivity

Year of Publication	Number of Publication	Number of Authors	Average Publication Per Author
2008	66	107	0.62
2009	78	115	0.68
2010	156	259	0.6
2011	197	343	0.57
2012	192	340	0.56
2013	175	330	0.53
2014	154	310	0.5
2015	129	275	0.47
2016	138	297	0.46
2017	193	405	0.48
Total	1478	2781	0.53

Geographical distribution of contributions & contributors

Table-8 and figure-5 shows the geographical distribution of papers published in LPP during 2008-2017 and found that LIS professional across the 35 countries contributed this journal which reflect the visibility and acceptability of LPP journal. Among the contributing country, Nigeria got the first rank with 630 (42.23%) publication among all country followed by India with 360 (24.13%) contributions and secured second positions, the third rank occupied by USA with 142(9.52%) contributions and Pakistan with 92(6.17%) and Ghana with 61(4.09%) publication secured 4th and 5th position respectively.

Table 8: Geographical distribution of contributions year 2008-2017

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Total No. of contributions (%)	Rank
1	Nigeria	630(42.23)	1
2	India	360(24.13)	2
3	USA	142(9.52)	3
4	Pakistan	92(6.17)	4
5	Ghana	61(4.09)	5
6	Iran	60(4.02)	6
7	Malaysia	27(1.81)	7
8	Bangladesh	19(1.27)	8
9	Tanzania	14(0.94)	9
10	Uganda	12(0.80)	10
11	South Africa	11(0.74)	11
12	Saudi Arab	9(0.60)	12
13	Kenya	5(0.34)	13
14	Zimbabwe	5(0.34)	13
15	Philippines	4(0.27)	14
16	Spain	4(0.27)	14
17	Fiji	3(0.20)	15
18	Italy	3(0.20)	15
19	Jordan	3(0.20)	15
20	Russia	3(0.20)	15
21	Sri Lanka	3(0.20)	15
22	Canada	2(0.13)	16
23	China	2(0.13)	16
24	England	2(0.13)	16
25	Indonesia	2(0.13)	16
26	Israel	2(0.13)	16
27	Malawi	2(0.13)	16
28	Sweden	2(0.13)	16
29	Turkey	2(0.13)	16
30	Australia	1(0.07)	17
31	Ethiopia	1(0.07)	17
32	Hungary	1(0.07)	17
33	Ireland	1(0.07)	17
34	Trinidad & Tobago	1(0.07)	17
35	Vietnam	1(0.07)	17
Total		1492(100)	

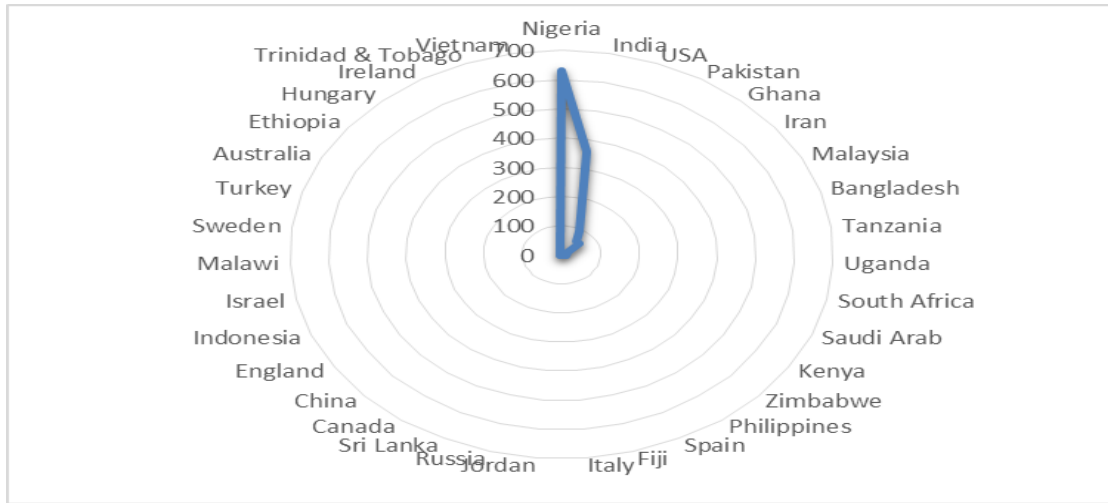


Figure-5: Geographical distribution of articles

Reference distribution pattern

Table-9 and figure-6 shows the reference distribution pattern in the articles published in LPP journal and found that 34907 references were cited in 1478 articles during the period of study. A significant year-wise growth was observed except 2014 and 2015 when total reference numbers decreases in comparison to previous year. The highest no. of references (5619) has recorded in the year 2017; in year 2016 has recorded the second highest references (4821), while in the year 2008 has recorded the lowest 928 references.

Table 9: Reference distribution pattern

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Articles	No. of References
1	2008	66	928
2	2009	78	1481
3	2010	156	2939
4	2011	197	3661
5	2012	192	3843
6	2013	175	4008
7	2014	154	3891
8	2015	129	3716
9	2016	138	4821
10	2017	193	5619
Total		1478	34907

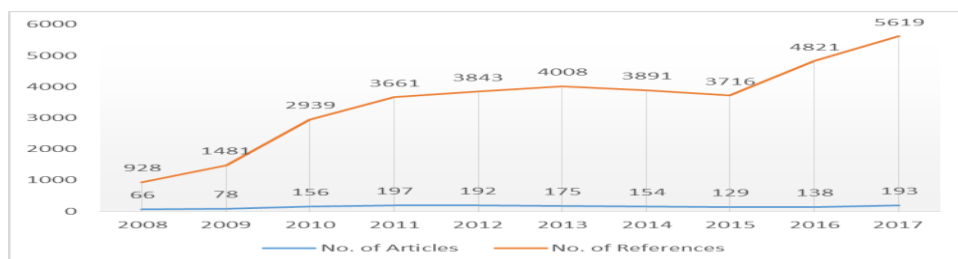


Figure-6: Reference distribution pattern

Authorship pattern of references

Table-10 describes the authorship pattern of references in published papers and reveals that out of total 34907 references, 18193(52.12%) references are single author pattern, 8132 (23.29%) references are two authors, 3082(8.83%) references cited by three authors and 1037 (2.97%) reference cited by four authors pattern while 137(0.39%) references cited more than six authors and 3714 (10.64%) organizational references cited in published paper. There are also 14 unidentified references.

Table 10: Authorship Pattern of References

Year	Author Type									Total References (%)	Cumulative References (%)
	Single	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	More Than Six	Organization	Not Available		
2008	609	160	58	7	3	2	1	85	3	928(2.66)	928(0.59)
2009	896	242	81	38	6	4	2	211	1	1481(4.24)	2409(1.54)
2010	1706	531	141	45	11	6	1	498	0	2939(8.42)	5348(3.41)
2011	2184	736	203	59	25	10	4	439	1	3661(10.49)	9009(5.74)
2012	2133	856	274	96	30	6	12	436	0	3843(11.01)	12852(8.19)
2013	2009	1004	357	140	46	11	21	419	1	4008(11.48)	16860(10.75)
2014	1965	928	366	134	55	23	14	405	1	3891(11.15)	20751(13.23)
2015	1876	921	384	140	69	26	27	272	1	3716(10.65)	24467(15.60)
2016	2252	1288	602	172	104	33	17	350	3	4821(13.81)	29288(18.68)
2017	2563	1466	616	206	88	40	38	599	3	5619(16.09)	34907(22.26)
Total	18193 (52.12)	8132 (23.29)	3082 (8.83)	1037 (2.97)	437 (1.25)	161 (0.46)	137 (0.39)	3714 (10.64)	14 (0.04)	34907 (100)	156819 (100)

Length of references

Table-11 shows per article references in the paper published in LPP and reveals that majority of papers (55.94%) had below 20 references while 31.77% articles have 21-40 references and 7.88% articles having 41-60 references. It is also notable that 2.85% articles have 61-80 references and even 1.56% articles have more than 80 references.

Table 11: Length of References

Reference	No of Article	Percent
Below 20	824	55.94
21-40	468	31.77
41-60	116	7.88
61-80	42	2.85
Above 80	23	1.56
Total	1473	100

Major Findings

The major findings of study are:

1. There are total 1478 research papers published during 2008-2017 in Library Philosophy and Practices journal. There is significant growth observed in number of papers in time span with an average growth rate of 147.8 papers per year.
2. The highest number of publications is in the year 2011 with 197(13.33%) followed by 2017 with 193(13.06%) and 2012 with 192(12.99%) publications. The average growth rate is not constant every year and during 2012 to 2015, the growth rate is negative. The highest growth rate (39.86%) is in 2017.
3. Majority of publications during 2008-2017 in LPP are in form of joint authorship and 41.13% articles are published in two authorship and 27.73% articles in three authorship pattern while 20.78% contribution is in single authorship.
4. It found that contributors are willing to publish their work in more in collaborative way. The highest degree of collaboration (0.73) is recorded in 2016 & 2017, while in year 2009, degree of collaborations is lowest (0.32) but the average degree of collaboration is 0.61.
5. The publication trend of LPP follows Lotka's law up to two authorship only and result are almost same as expected according to Lotka's law and actual in analysis but after two authors there are big gap between actual and expected value. Thus LPP publication trends partially follow the Lotka's law of scientific productivity.
6. From the 35 countries of world contributed their articles in LPP during 2008-2017. With 42.23% contributions Nigeria is in top rank while India (24.13%) and USA (9.52%) contribution stood second and third respectively.
7. There are total 34907 references cited in 1478 articles from 2008-2017 and highest number of references (5619) has recorded in the year 2017. The contributors cited 52.12% references of single author and 23.29% references of two authors and 10.64% references are cited in form organization. Majority of the published articles (55.94%) have below 20 references.

Conclusion

Bibliometrics is an important field of information science because it represents a unique set of techniques for determination of various scientific indicators, evaluation of scientific output and selection of journal for libraries, monitoring and analysis of e-resources, management of knowledge in social and organisational contexts.

The journal of Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal) is a top ranking open access journal and by findings of this study also prove it. The LPP journal has published 1478 articles during 2008-2017 and a vibrant growth rate and majority of paper published in joint authorship pattern and having 0.61 average degree of collaboration. The geographical coverage of journal is high with 35 country coverage and Nigeria, India and USA are respectively top most countries to contribute this journal. The publication trend of journal follows Lotka's law of scientific productivity up to two authorships only. There are total 34907 references cited in 1478 articles and majority of them are single author and majority of papers have less than 20 references.

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