An Analysis of Research Contributions Reflected in Pearl: A Journal of Library and Information Science

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ABSTRACT

The present study investigates research trends in different disciplines of library of information of science field. The analysis indicates that 300 articles are published during 2007-2014. This study analyses the volume-wise distribution of research contributions, authorship pattern, author affiliation and country-wise distribution of research contributions.

Keywords: Research Contributions, Bibliometric Studies, Scientometric Studies, Pearl Journal, Library, Content Analysis, Authorship productivity.

INTRODUCTION

Pearl: A Journal of Library and Information Science is a national periodical completely dedicated to the field of library and information serving the professional community by publishing research papers on diverse fields of library science duly encouraging the authors–young and old around the globe. It is a quarterly journal published since 2007.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Verma (1995) analysed the 87 research contributions of four volumes of ILA Bulletin and studied the average number of contributions in each volume of this journal. He also studied the authorship pattern, state-wise and institution-wise distribution of research contribution. In addition, he analysed 701 citations that appeared in four volumes of this journal and also presented a list of 23 cited journals and so on.

Razvi and Khan (1996) find out 108 research contributions in five volumes of *Herald of Library Science*, which is a well-known and a leading journal in the field of library and information science. They present information about contribution in each volume and analyse the authorship pattern, state-wise distribution and affiliation of authors with respect to the institution they serve. Further the contribution of articles to different fields of library and information science is identified.

Bansal *et al.* (2005) studied content analysis of DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology during the period from 2000 to 2004. It is found that recent developments in information technology, as applicable to Library and Information Centers, to help the librarians, documentation and information professionals, students and others interested in the field.

The paper of Tigga *et al.* (2005) is the outcome of the content analysis of 33 issues of DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology (DBIT) published during January 1997 to July 2002. DBIT gives more emphasis on IT-related areas. DBIT is a peer-reviewed journal and publishes thematic issues on different areas of IT, library management and information marketing and the contents of journal are analysed in this study. DBIT is a useful tool for library professionals, information managers, information scientists, and information specialists, computer personnel's and researchers with a vision for development in IT.

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OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study is an attempt to investigate mainly on the following objectives:

i. To find out the volume-wise distribution of research contributions in each volume

ii. To identify the average number of research contributions in each volume of the source journal

iii. To know the distribution of contributions in various subject disciplines

iv. To find out the authorship productivity of the research contributions

v. To identify the author affiliation of research contributions and

vi. To identify the country-wise distribution of research contributions

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study is focused on the analysis of the research contributions from the source journal *Pearl: A Journal of Library and Information Science* and covers 30 issues from volume 1 to 8 during 2007–2014. The research contributions were analysed according to the objectives of the present study.

METHODOLOGY

A total of 8 volumes were selected for the present study. The data collected on content page of research articles, authors name and their affiliation, country-wise distributions of research publications were analysed.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Table 1 presents the volume-wise distribution of research articles in eight volumes. Each volume contains four issues and last volume with three issues. A total of 300 research articles are identified. The highest numbers of articles are found in the year 2009 in volume 3 with 47 (15.67%) research articles, followed by 2010 with 45 (15%) research articles in volume 4 and 2008 with 44 (14.67%) articles in volume 2.

Table 1: Volume-wise distribution of research contributions

Year	Volume No.	No. of issues	No. of articles	Percentage
2007	1	4	29	9.67
2008	2	4	44	14.67
2009	3	4	47	15.67
2010	4	4	45	15.00
2011	5	4	43	14.33
2012	6	4	31	10.33
2013	7	4	34	11.33
2014	8	3(up to Sept.)	27	9.00
Total		**31**	**300**	**100**

Table 2: Average number of research contributions in each volume

No. of volumes	Total No. of articles	Average
8	300	37.5

From Table 2, it is identified that the research contributions in 31 issues of eight volumes of the source journal is 300, and the average number of research contributions per volume is 37.5.

Table 3: Subject-wise contributions of research articles

LIS core subject	No. of research contributions	Perce-ntage
ICT (information and communication technology, digital library, knowledge management, E-resource)	160	53.33
User study	47	15.67
Bibliometrics, citation analysis sciento-metrics and webometrics	41	13.67
Foundations of LIS	27	9
Library management	14	4.67
Marketing of information services and products	5	1.67
Research methodology	4	1.33
Information literacy	2	0.66
Total	**300**	**100**

Table 3 presents the distribution of research contributions in LIS core subject. Out of 300 research contributions, the highest number of research articles is 160 (53.33%) on ICT, followed by user study with 47 (15.67%), bibliometrics and its related area with 41 (13.67%) and information literacy with 2 (0.66%).

Table 4: Authorship productivity of research contributions

No. of authors	No. of research contribution	Percentage
Single author	121	40.33
Multiple authors	179	59.67
Total	**300**	**100**

Table 4 examines that the authorship productivity of research articles represents the multiple authors research contribution with 179 (59.67%), followed by single author contribution with 121 (40.33%).

Table 5: Author affiliation of research contributions

Author affiliation	No. of research contributions	Percentage
Non-teaching LIS professionals	207	69
Teaching LIS professionals	90	30
Incomplete (no address/affiliation)	3	1
Total	**300**	**100**

Table 5 shows the author affiliation of research contributions. There are 207 (69%) research contributions from non-teaching LIS professionals, followed by 90 (30%) research contributions from teaching LIS professionals. There are 3 (1%) research contributions which have incomplete information from author affiliations.

Table 6: Country-wise distribution of research contributions

Name of the countries	No. of research contributions	Percentage
India	282	94.00
Nigeria	9	3.00
UAE (United Arab Emirates)	2	0.68
Bangladesh	1	0.33
Belgium	1	0.33
Iran	1	0.33
Saudi Arabia	1	0.33
Incomplete	3	1.00
Total	**300**	**100**

Table 6 shows the country-wise distribution of research contributions in volume 8 of the source journal. Out of 300 research article contributions the highest 282 (94%) has been contributed by Indian authors, followed by Nigeria with 9 (3%) contributions. There are 3 (1%) incomplete

contributions, UAE with 2 (0.68%), Bangladesh, Belgium, Iran and Saudi Arabia each with 1 (0.33%) research contributions.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The following findings and conclusions can be drawn from the present study:

1. It is observed in Table 1 that the highest number of articles is 47 (15.67%) in 2009 followed by 45 (15.46%) articles in 2010.

2. It is observed in Table 2 that the average number of research contributions per volume is 37.5%.

3. It is clear from Table 4 that majority 179 (59.67%) of the contributions are from multiple authors, followed by 121 (40.33%) contributions from single author.

4. Table 5 shows the author affiliation of research contributions in different institutions. There are 207 (69%) contributions from non-teaching LIS professionals, followed by 90 (30%) contributions from teaching LIS professionals.

5. Most of the articles are published on information technology with 160 (53.33%), followed by user study with 47 (15.67%). bibliometrics and its related areas with 41 (13.67%) and lastly information literacy with 2 (0.66%).

6. Table 6 shows the country-wise distribution. India contributed 282 (94%) out of 300 contributions, followed by Nigeria with 9 (3%) contributions and the remaining countries with small number of research contributions.

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