

Authorship of Indian LIS literature

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Abstract

The UGC of India declared the librarians from universities and colleges ineligible to apply for research grants for major and minor research projects. Hence, this study was undertaken to find out if (Academic) Librarians produce research; if so, what is their share amongst authors of LIS research published from India. It was found that Indians are the largest contributors of LIS literature published from India, that nearly entire LIS literature published from India is contributed by LIS fraternity only, and that, among all Indian authors of LIS literature published from India, share of Academic Librarians is larger than LIS Faculty.

Keywords: Bibliometrics, Authorship Pattern, Research Productivity, LIS Faculty, Academic Librarians

1. Introduction

The University Grants Commission (UGC) of India is the agency that sets, maintains standards for higher education institutions in India (Ref.1). It also provides funds to the higher education institutions for various ends. One of among the various ends for which grants are provided is conduct of research. The UGC provides grants for Major and Minor Research Projects to the University and / or College Teachers. As per the 12th Plan guidelines for providing grants for Major research projects (Ref.2) and Minor research projects (Ref.3) only 'teaching faculty of Library Science, Physical Education, Principals and Vice-Chancellors will be also be eligible to participate in the scheme' (Ref.2 and Ref.3). This means the practicing librarians (University Librarians, Deputy Librarians, Assistant Librarians and College Librarians) are not eligible for applying for these grants. This distinct denial was the reason to investigate the research contribution of Library Science faculty and practicing Librarians. The study was

undertaken to find answers to following questions, 1) whether Indian librarians publish research (articles)? 2) whether academic librarians from India publish research? 3) what is the share of librarians among all authors of Indian LIS literature?

The easiest way to get answers would have been meeting or writing to the librarians of universities and colleges in India, and seeking the bibliographies of their publications. The other and better way to find answers to above questions was to study the authorship characteristics of the articles published in the journals in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS). This was a better way because it was objective, not restricted to seeking response from select respondents. Thus, this is an attempt to study the authorship characteristics of the articles published in LIS journal.

2. Review of Literature

The LIS literature is replete with studies on authorship patterns of literature on various subject areas including LIS itself. A selection of authorship studies of LIS literature, published after the beginning of the new millennium is reviewed here.



Tiew, Abrizah and Kaur (2002) analyzed the journal articles published during 1996 to 2000 in the Malaysian Journal of Library & Information Science to find out the authorship pattern and other characteristics of the articles published.

Mittal, Sharma and Singh (2006) analyzed the literature published on LIS education during the period 1995 to 2004 by sourcing the data from LISA database to study the authorship pattern among other things.

Verma, Tamrakar and Sharma (2007) studied the authorship pattern of LIS literature by analyzing the source articles published during 1999 to 2005 in 'Annals of Library and Information Studies'. Likewise Kumar and Moorthy (2011) subjected DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology published during the period 2001 to 2010 to bibliometric analysis to study various parameters such as authorship pattern, etc.

While Deshmukh (2011) analyzed the citations appended to articles published in Annals of Library and Information Studies during the period 1997 to 2010 to find out the authorship pattern of literature in the LIS field.

While studying the authorship pattern, all these above referred studies reveal is whether the literature contributed is by solo authors or multiple authors.

During the course of literature search, the author came across only a few studies, in the published literature, dealing with production of research articles by (Academic) Librarians and LIS faculty. The following chronological review of published literature discusses the details of those studies.

Olsgaard and Olsgaard (1980) conducted a study of contributions to 5 LIS periodicals over the 10-year period between 1967 to 1977 and found that among all authors the percentage share of Academic Librarians and LIS faculty as authors for each of the 5 journals is 51.6 and 16.6 for C&RL, 18.9 and 19.6 for LJ, 19.0 and 30.4 for LQ, 23.9 and 21.5 for LT and 44.8 and 17.3 for RQ respectively. That is, for all authors the percentage share of academic librarians as authors was more than that for the Library Science faculty as authors. However, it was also pointed that per capita contribution by Library Science faculty was more than academic librarians.

Cline (1982) conducted a bibliometric study of the journal 'College & Research Libraries' covering the 40 year period since its inception in 1939 to 1979. This two part study involved analysis of the source documents (1775 articles) in one part and analysis of 11658 cited documents in the other. The institutional affiliation of contributing authors was one of the many factors analyzed. This revealed that among all the 1775 authors, 1042 (58.7%) were affiliated to Academic libraries while only 156 (8.52%) were affiliated to library schools (LIS faculty or students).

Watson (1985) studied the production of scholarly articles by academic librarians and library school faculty by analyzing the affiliation of authors of 1537 articles published in 11 selected journals in field of Library Science during the period between 1979 to 1983 to find that most contributing authors were Academic librarians (44.2%) followed by Library Science faculty (20.9%). It was also found during the study that academic librarians more often published articles in the journals 'College & Research Libraries' and 'Journal of Academic Librarianship' while the Library Science faculty preferred publishing their articles in 'Journal of Library History', 'Library and

Information Science Research' and 'Library Quarterly'.

Metz (1989) continued after Cline (1982) to study the trends in LIS literature by analyzing the data from the journal 'College & Research Libraries' for the nine-year period between 1980 and 1988. Among the various parameters analyzed was the institutional affiliation of authors. This revealed that majority of authors were affiliated to Academic libraries (56.12%) while only 10.11% of all authors were affiliated to LIS Schools (LIS faculty).

Terry (1996) carried out a study of authorship profile focusing on gender, institutional affiliations and collaboration by gathering relevant data for 381 authors of articles published in College & Research Libraries during the period 1989 to 1994. It was found that share of academic librarians (69.4%) as primary authors was considerably higher than that of Library Science faculty (18.1%), and that, academic librarians and Library Science faculty together made up 88% of all published authors. The study also revealed that notwithstanding the primacy of authors, share of academic librarians (70.6%) as authors is more than that of Library Science faculty (14.43%).

Though the study by Galbraith, et. al. (2014) attempts to analyze the characteristics of authors contributing to the 23 top Library Science journals in the years 2007 and 2009 respectively by focusing on aspects such as faculty status and tenure of authors by categorizing authors into 10 different groups, it also reveals the share of Academic Librarians (with and without faculty status and with and without tenure-track appointments) and LIS Professors (faculty) as authors. This study categorizes Academic Librarians into 4 different groups based on their faculty status and tenure-track position. The study also

shows that 42% authors are Academic Librarians while 19% authors are LIS Professors (faculty).

All these studies have been based on the articles in the LIS journals published in United States of America (USA). And further, these studies were limited only to the subjects from United States of America. The literature search did not yield any similar study for subjects from India and / or Indian LIS literature.

3. Objectives of the study

This study aims to investigate the authorship characteristics of LIS research literature published in India. More specifically the study has the following objectives,

- 1) To find out the geographical distribution of authorship of LIS research literature published in India
- 2) To find out the share of Indian authors of LIS research literature published in India according to their profession.
- 3) To find out the share Academic librarians amongst the Indian authors of LIS research literature published in India.

4. Scope of the study

The scope of the present study is limited to the authorship and the affiliation thereof of articles in the LIS journal 'Annals of Library & Information Studies' published during the 5-year period from 2009 to 2013. The rationale behind selecting the journal 'Annals of Library & Information Studies' for this study is that it is the top Indian LIS journal (Sen, 2014).

5. Methodology

The data was collected from each article of every quarterly issue published during the 5-year period from 2009 to 2013. The data collected for each article included number of authors, affiliation of each of the authors as provided in the article. For the instances where the authors had multiple affiliations only the first affiliation was considered. The affiliation details included the contact address (institutional or residential), city, state and country (usually for foreign authors). The designation of authors was provided in most cases but not in all cases. While in certain cases the affiliation details stopped at city only, not mentioning the state (Indian) and country (India or foreign). In such cases, the details such as State (India) and Country (India or foreign) were identified and updated in the data set for the sake of analysis. Thus, each author was treated as a separate entry. The entire data set comprised of 342 (author) entries.

All the 342 entries were coded to identify the country of affiliation of the author. The entries were then sorted alphabetically by the name of the country.

The entries for authors with affiliation in India were further coded to identify whether they belonged to LIS profession or other.

The entries of authors belonging to LIS profession were further divided by coding them to identify their role in LIS profession as 'Librarians', 'Teachers', 'Others' or 'Unknown' based on the affiliation details.

Then, the entries coded as 'Librarians' were further coded to identify the type of library these authors practiced in among the four types of libraries, namely, 'Academic', 'Research', 'Special' and 'National'.

6. Results and Discussions

6.1 Geographical Distribution of Authorship

The data analysis revealed that authors from 16 different countries contributed articles in the journal 'Annals of Library and Information Science' during the period under study. The Table 1 provides a list of countries ranked according to the numbers of authors representing them.

Table 1: Country of Affiliation of Authors

Sr. No.	Country	No. of Authors	% share of Authors	Ranking
1	India	265	77.49	1
2	Nigeria	37	10.82	2
3	Bangladesh	10	2.92	3
4	Sri Lanka	6	1.75	4
5	Belgium	4	1.17	5
6	Uganda	3	0.88	6
7	USA	3	0.88	6
8	Botswana	2	0.58	7
9	Hungary	2	0.58	7
10	Iran	2	0.58	7
11	Malaysia	2	0.58	7
12	The Netherlands	2	0.58	7
13	China	1	0.29	8
14	Fiji	1	0.29	8
15	Russia	1	0.29	8
16	Tanzania	1	0.29	8
Total		342		

It is observed from Table 1 that authors from India (77.49%) are major contributors of LIS literature published in India. Nigeria (10.82%), Bangladesh (2.92%), Sri Lanka (1.75%) and Belgium (1.17%) take the second, third, fourth and fifth ranks respectively to complete the top five. The sixth, seventh and eighth ranks are shared by two, five and four countries respectively.

6.2 Profession of Authors of LIS Research Literature

The data set for this analysis was restricted to authors with affiliation in India. The 265 such authors were classified based on whether they belonged to LIS profession or Non-LIS profession. The distribution is tabulated in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Profession of authors with affiliation in India

Profession	No. of Authors	% share of Authors
LIS	263	99.25
Non-LIS	2	0.75
Total	265	100.00

It is observed from Table 2 that among Indian contributors to LIS literature published in India, a vast majority (99.25%) belongs to the LIS profession. Out of 265 authors, only 2 were from non-LIS profession. The existence of authors from different professions, even though in very small numbers, indicates inter-disciplinary contribution.

Further, the 263 authors were divided according to their role in the LIS profession. The more specific LIS roles were that of Librarians, LIS Teachers, Other (comprising LIS students, Research scholars and Project Fellows). While the authors whose designations were not mentioned in their affiliation, or, could not be placed in any of the earlier three roles, were classified as 'Unknown'. The Table 3 provides the share of authors in each of four roles within LIS Profession.

Table 3: Role of authors in LIS profession

Role in LIS Profession	No. of Authors	% share of Authors
Librarians	95	36.12
Teachers	63	23.95
Others	14	5.32
Unknown	91	34.60
Total	263	100.00

It is observed from Table 3 that 95 (36.12%) of India affiliated authors of LIS literature published in India are Librarians. While 63 (23.95%) of such authors are LIS Teachers. It is also observed that the role (in LIS Profession) of 34.6% authors considered here is not known as their designation is not specified in the affiliation section of the article. This is despite the journal 'Annals of Library and Information Science' instructing the contributors to provide the same while submitting the manuscript. Probably, the share of Librarians and / or the LIS teachers would have been larger, had these 91 authors provided their designations.

6.3 Share of Academic Librarians as Authors of LIS literature

It is observed from Table 3 above that among all 263 Indian authors from LIS profession 95 are Librarians. Their role was further analyzed by dividing them according to the type of library they are affiliated with. There were four types of libraries considered, namely, Academic libraries, Research libraries, Special libraries and National libraries. The Table 4 gives the 4 types of libraries and corresponding number of authors as librarians affiliated with them.

Table 4: Librarians According to Type of Library

Type of Library	No. of Authors	% share of Authors
Academic	74	77.89
Research	18	18.95
Special	2	2.11
National	1	1.05
Total	95	100.00

Thus, it is observed from Table 4 that the largest share among practicing librarians is of Librarians affiliated to Academic libraries making up 77.89% of all Indian authors who are Librarians. While, Librarians with affiliations to Research libraries (18.95%), Special libraries (2.11%) and National libraries (1.05%) take up the next three positions in that order.

The Table 5 gives the share of Indian authors with roles in LIS profession as Academic Librarians, LIS Teachers and so on. This is achieved by replacing the generic term 'Librarians' and its corresponding number of authors in Table 3 with the four specific types of Librarians and their corresponding numbers of authors from Table 4.

Table 5: Share According to Role in LIS Profession

Role in Profession	No. of Authors	% share of LIS Authors
Academic librarians	74	28.14
Research librarians	18	6.84
Special librarians	2	0.76
National librarians	1	0.38
Teachers	63	23.95
Others	14	5.32
Unknown	91	34.60
Total	263	100.00

It is clearly observed from Table 5 that the share of Indian authors whose roles in LIS profession are not known due to the missing designations in the affiliation section of their articles is the highest, making up 34.6% of all Indian authors from LIS profession. The Academic Librarians (28.14%) and LIS Teachers (23.95%) take the second and third rank. Between the two of them, the Academic Librarians have a larger share than the LIS Teachers. And, the difference in their share is 4.19%. This difference is too narrow compared to the results of previous studies by Cline (1982), Watson (1985), Metz (1989), Terry (1996) and Galbraith (2014) for subjects from USA.

7. Conclusions

The following conclusions can be drawn from the present study,

- 1) Authors from India (77.49%) are the largest contributors to the LIS literature published in India.
- 2) Nearly all the Indian authors contributing to the LIS literature published in India belong to the LIS profession.
- 3) Among all Indian authors contributing to LIS literature published in India, the share of Academic Librarians is larger than LIS Teachers.

8. Suggestions for Further Research

A similar study with data covered from a longer span of time would probably give better results. Likewise, a similar study with data covered from a different publication and / or a longer span of time might give more generalized results. Also, the present study can be extended to find out the extent of collaboration among and between the Academic Librarians and the LIS Teachers.

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