

Library and Information Science Research (Doctoral Theses) in India: A Bibliometric Study through INFLIBNET Shodhganga

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Abstract

The present paper deals about the bibliometric analysis of 548 Ph.D theses in LIS of Indian Universities during the year 2013-2017. The study is based on “Shodhganga”, hosted by INFLIBNET. Factor considered for the study are Year wise, Universities wise, State wise, Subject wise and Guide wise contribution of PhD theses in LIS. This paper focuses on quantitative study of research contribution made by LIS researchers in the field of LIS. All the studies will be helpful for improving their quality researches in this field. It is concluded that majority of work has been done upon the area of Library survey/User studies/Library Use while a very little work had been done in the field of Library Legislation, Library-Finance, database and indexing during the span of time 2013-2017. Since the libraries of 21st century is shifting their focus to newer work areas according to the shift of user’s interest, more research works are needed in the field of LIS in these newer areas instead of confining to areas like surveys.

Keywords: Bibliometric Analysis, LIS Research, Doctoral Theses, INFLIBNET, Shodhganga

1. Introduction

The Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) is an autonomous Inter-University Centre of the University Grants Commission (UGC). The objectives of the Centre are to modernize libraries and information centers for information transfer and access. Shodhganga stands for the reservoir of Indian intellectual output (Electronic Theses and Dissertations) stored in a repository hosted and maintained by the INFLIBNET Centre. It is mandatory to submit electronic version of theses and dissertations by the researchers in universities into a national repository with an aim to facilitate open access to Indian theses and dissertations to the academic community world-wide. Since 2010

January, the number of theses has grown progressively and the repository has reached above 2,01,000+ full Text theses in August, 2018 which makes Shodhganga the largest repository of PhD theses in India.

Research is carried out for development of knowledge, improvement of existing knowledge, to provide solutions to specific problems and to improve processes and practices. In the field of Library and Information Science (LIS), research has played a crucial role in the creation and improvement of knowledge relating to the collection, organization, preservation and dissemination of information in different formats. This has resulted in the scientific, social, political, economic and cultural development of human kind.



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2. Literature Review

A number of bibliometric studies have been done to evaluate the research output of Ph.D theses in the field of LIS.

Chatterjee, Rath & Poddar (1995) traced in their study that the maximum growth of research in India was in the year 1992 (47 theses) and the most popular area of research was “User Studies” (47 theses) and “Academic Libraries”(19 theses) during the time 1950-1980.

Another study (Lahiri, 1996) discussed type of work, growth pattern and productivity of the PhD theses awarded under different Indian Universities during the period 1950-95 and showed that researchers preferred “Survey and experimental research”. “User Studies” and “Information Needs” were the highest research topic in that time.

In a study, Kannappanavar and Vijayakumar (2000) shows that 1992 is the most productive year for doctoral research output.

Mahapatra & Sahoo (2004) showed that maximum number of LIS research was in the year 2003 (37 theses) and the lowest number of productivities of research was in the year 2000 (16 theses). It was also found that “User Study” was the most preferred area of research (31 theses).

Madasamy & Alwarammal (2009) found that area like “Information Sources and Services” (29 theses) was the most preferred area of research during the time 2003-2008 and the highest number of PhD theses were awarded in the year 2006 (43 theses) and the lowest number of theses was in 2003 (17 theses).

Dhiman (2011), in his study found that majority of theses are on “bibliometric study” and “library management”.

3. Objectives of the study

The major objectives of present study covering the time period 2013 to 2017 are as follows:

- ❖ To find out the year wise distribution of PhD theses in the field of LIS;
- ❖ To study the university wise contribution of PhD theses in the field of LIS;
- ❖ To find out the state wise contribution of PhD theses in the field of LIS;
- ❖ To indicate subject wise distribution of PhD theses in the field of LIS; and
- ❖ To find out the guide wise contribution of PhD theses in the field of LIS.

4. Research Methodology

The data presented in this paper have been taken from the “Shodhganga”- hosted by INFLIBNET. The basic data relating to PhD theses during 2013-2017 in LIS, has been collected in the month of June 2018. All the necessary information like title of the PhD thesis, university name, state name and name of the guide were recorded into MS-Excel^(R) worksheets. The raw data were examined, tabulated and analyzed quantitatively to make observations by means of bibliometric indicators, methods and techniques.

5. Data analysis and finding of results

5.1 Year wise distribution of PhD these in the field of LIS.

It is seen from the data that 548 theses had been awarded by the 74 Indian universities during the period 2013-17. The highest numbers of theses (126) were awarded in the year 2015 and the lowest number of theses (81) were awarded in the year 2017.

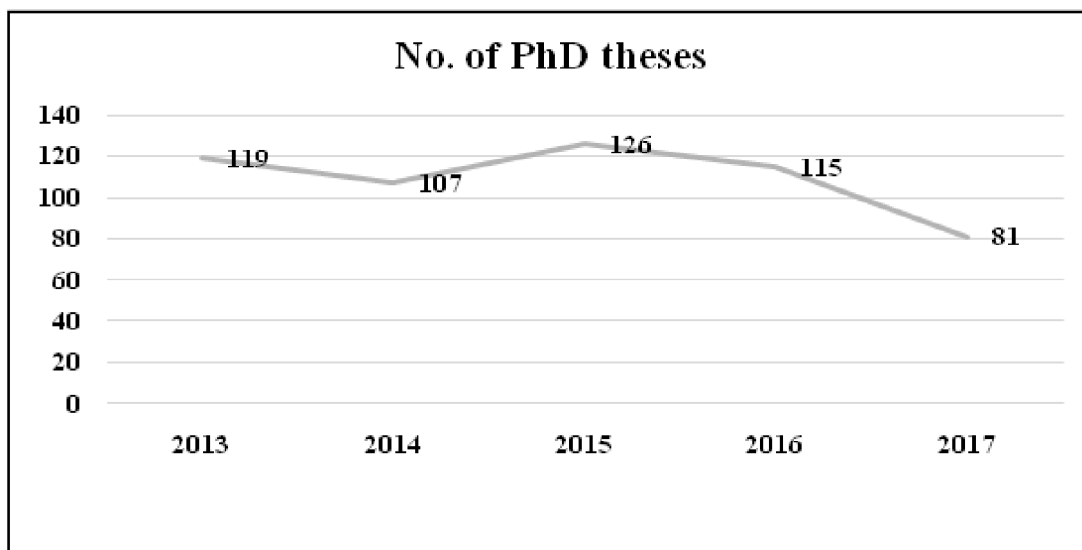


Figure 1: Year wise distribution of Ph D theses in the field of LIS

It is seen from the figure 1 that the growth of Ph D theses is stagnant during the period 2013 – 2016. There is a downfall in the year 2017 shows that the growth is not steady during 2013-2017.

5.2 University wise contribution of PhD theses in the field of LIS

Data reveals university wise contributions of Ph D theses in the field of LIS during 2013-2017. Out of 548 theses University of Mysore, Mysuru tops with 39 theses(7.12%) followed by Alagappa University, Tamil Nadu with 34 theses (6.20%). Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Maharashtra, and Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli have at 3rd position each with 31 theses (5.66%). It is seen that out of 74 universities, 16 universities have produced only one Ph.D thesis (0.18%) during 2013-2017.

5.3 State wise contribution of PhD theses in the field of LIS.

Data portraits that the highest numbers of Ph.D theses (168) have been produced by the Tamil Nadu State (30.66%). Maharashtra ranks 2nd position with 89 theses (16.24%) followed by Karnataka (3rd rank) with 88 theses (16.06%). West Bengal ranks 4th position with 27 theses (4.93%). Andhra Pradesh and Assam rank 5th position each with 24 theses (4.38%). Out of 20 states, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Delhi have produced only 2 Ph.D theses (0.36%) during 2013-2017.

5.4 Subject wise distribution of PhD theses in the field of LIS

It can be seen that 33 major subfields of LIS had been identified during the span of time 2013-2017. Data shows that majority of contributions had been done upon the area of Library survey/User studies/Library Use with 105 contributions (19.16%) followed by Bibliometrics/Scientometrics/

Webometrics with 94 contributions(17.15%), Information Technology with 65 contributions(11.86%) and Information Needs/ Seeking with 44 contributions (8.03%). It is also seen that a very little work had been done in the field of Library Legislation, Library-Finance, database and indexing where only one PhD (0.18%) had been produced during 2013-2017.

5.5 Guide wise contribution of PhD theses in the field of LIS.

Guide wise contribution of LIS theses during 2013-2017 was derived from the data. The highest 11 number of theses were guided by both Chinnasamy, K and Nithyanandam, K. followed by Khaparde, Vaishali S. with 10 theses. Majority of guide have guided only one candidate with single Ph D theses during the time span 2013-2017. It is important to point out that guide name of 4 theses have not been mentioned in the "Shodhganga" Database. Out of 548 Ph D theses, 13 theses were guided jointly.

6. Conclusion

The present study focuses on LIS contributions made by the LIS research scholars during 2013-2017. The growth is not steady during the period 2013-2017. There is a downfall in the year 2017. University of Mysore, Mysuru produced maximum number of Ph D theses (39, 7.12%). Tamil Nadu topped in state wise contribution list of Ph D theses (168, 30.66%) in the field of LIS during 2013-2017. A majority of work has been done upon the area of Library survey/ User studies/Library Use while a very little work had been done in the field of Library Legislation, Library-Finance, database and indexing during the span of time 2013-2017. The highest 11 number of theses were guided by both Chinnasamy, K and Nithyanandam, K.

Since the libraries of 21st century is shifting their focus to newer areas according to the shift of user's interest, more research works are needed in the field of LIS in these newer areas instead of confining to areas like surveys.

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Further Reading

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Note:

Online version of this paper, associated data, files and other supplementary materials are available on Institutional Repository of INFLIBNET Centre. It can be accessed online by scanning QR Code or using following URI:
<http://ir.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/1944/2290>



