Assessing Library Professionals of among Top Seven IITs Registration Status on IRINS

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Abstract

The research conducted is based on the registration status of library professionals of the Indian Institute of Technology in the Indian Research Information Network System (IRINS) platform. IRINS is an extensive platform used for the handling of research information which gives important information on the publications and citations of academicians of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) across India. It primarily focuses on how IRINS can improve scholarly communication and research support services extended by library professionals and evaluates the adoption and use of IRINS by the library professionals, based on the data collected from the IRINS platform and other added information. This paper highlights the effects of IRINS on the institutional, departmental, and individual progress in the academic and research environment while looking into the features, benefits, and potential of integrating it. The results indicate that IRINS plays as an integral part of enhancing the profile of LIS professionals, making them collaborate with other institutions to build their research capacity within them. Future studies on the strategic use of IRINS by library professionals would be provided a clear picture of the registration trends and utilization patterns, offering insights for implementing impactful interventions.

Keywords: IRINS, LIS Professionals, IITs, Scholarly Communication, VIDWAN

1. Introduction

The academic landscape is significantly shaped by research visibility in a knowledge and information-driven era. Academic establishments, especially IITs, act as strongholds for knowledge creation and research. Effective administration and distribution of the research material is an important prerequisite in the dynamic environment of academics and institutions conducting research. IRINS is a platform that serves the purpose of projecting the research output, competencies, and talents of researchers and institutions in the scientific arena. Grounded on the VIDWAN database, it effectively blends with most data sources and integrates with current systems to hence act as an effective tool in the promotion of growth of the institution, department, and individual. The selection of Seven IITs is based on the NIRF ranking 2023, IRINS is growing in popularity at more than 100 plus institutions, including all the prestigious Seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). This would have a dual advantage of enhancement in research capacity and increased professional visibility

of the library in the scenario positioning library professionals as the most important pillars in scholarly communication activities. The following study explores the number of features and benefits of IRINS in enhancing academic research and empowering library personnel. The Indian Research Information Network System is useful in that it would aid LIS professionals to manage and easily use large research data resources. It offers one-stop access to research information in facilitating professionals in the management and showcase of scholarly communication activities. In addition, the large amount of data that the library handles is manageable by library experts using IRINS, an output of Research Information Management (RIM), which aids in the proper management of such important data resources. (Anbalagan & Balasubramani, 2021)

2.   Review of Literature

It has been observed that various studies are going on publication and citations of scholars and researchers in an academic profession. However, the studies are very limited on IRINS. The study reviews the following literary works-

Bansode & Khot (2023) prepared the list of the top ten prolific authors of Shivaji University, Kolhapur, which placed Dr. Pramod S. Patil at the top of the list with 503 publications and maximum citations to himself. Significantly, nine of its professors are placed in the world's top 2% of scientists by Stanford University. It is recommended that running workshops would be involved and requirements for training faculty would be inscribed in the profile to keep the visibility of the research. It is also suggested that IRINS would be across academic institutions to give much better exposure at the global level to research work, which would represent importance in management.

Ranjan & Singh (2023) studied that from publication and citation wise, central universities are leading in the institution followed by state universities, with private institutions lagging in the list of publications, while both private and state excel in citations; colleges rank the least in terms of productivity, with a recommendation to improve restricted online access of journals and enhancement of library services to improve research outcomes.

Patel et al. (2023) analyzed these metrics for the productivity of the Computer Science faculty members are elaborated in the metrics at the IRINS database: Professors contributed the most and received the highest metrics of impact due to their contributions to the most diverse range of publications with the highest h-index scores. In contrast, the publications and citations of the Assistant Professors were comparatively more null than the Associate Professors and Professors, End of the document. Most of the faculty members, primarily Assistant Professors, their profiles did not reflect details of articles and citations mentioned on IRINS.

Tyagi (2021) obtained profiles of 29 Indian universities which are mainly funded by the central government, and through the obtained profiles, it is found that Banaras Hindu University has the highest number of researcher profiles (1022) and scholarly publications (16376). The same university has the highest number of Scopus citations, i.e., 208604 (22.05% of the total citations), and CrossRef citations i.e. 175973 (23.26% of

the total citations). The Department of Physics and Astrophysics, University of Delhi boasted of the highest h-index (107 in numbers).

Anbalagan (2020) adds, that this shift has been driven by technology and has transformed the traditional way of managing research to digital. The review explains how the dissemination and sharing of research are impacted by the internet and social media and how web-based tools, like figshare and ResearchGate, have become serious solutions for the management of a researcher's research output. It reflects how identifiers need to be unique, such as Scopus ID, and suggests more research information systems like IRINS to bring better visibility to institutional research.

3. Objective of the Study

The primary objectives of the study are outlined below:

❖ To access the availability of profiles of LIS Professionals from all IITs on IRINS.

❖ To analyze the publication within IIT profiles on IRINS.

❖ To evaluate the number of staff against profiles of IITs on IRINS.

❖ To compare best practices at IITs on IRINS.

❖ To provide decision support through data-driven insights.

4. Methodology

The profiles including faculty publications, citations, and all other necessary information were collected from the IRINS websites of the various Indian Institutes of Technology. MS-Excel software was used to further simplify the data collected from different IIT-registered IRINS websites. The development of the research methodology was collaboratively done by 12 LIS professionals from the seven IITs. This data was put into Excel spreadsheets for each IIT, and basic calculations and analysis of the research output of each institute were done. It comprised the charting and graphing of the different trends and patterns, which helped a great deal in comparing research profiles effectively. All along the analysis, it was made sure that the data was accurate and consistent, drawing IIT profiles.

5. Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1 shows the research contribution summary made by library professionals from top IITs which illustrates the difference in publication output between the individuals and the respective institutes quite clear. (IRINS, 2024)

Table 1: Publication Output of Library Professionals across Top Seven IITs

Name	Designation	Institute Name	Publications
Dr. Mahendra N. Jadhav	Librarian	IIT Madras	33
Dr. Nabi Hasan	Librarian	IIT Delhi	87
Ms. Vanita Khanchandani	Assistant Librarian	IIT Delhi	16
Dr. Manu T.R.	Assistant Librarian	IIT Delhi	42
Mr. Vijay Kumar Verma	Assistant Librarian	IIT Delhi	11
Dr. Mohit Garg	Assistant Librarian	IIT Delhi	14
Dr. Neeraj Kumar Chaurasia	Deputy Librarian	IIT Delhi	27
Dr. Ranjit Kumar Das	Assistant Librarian	IIT Bombay	38
Mr. Prashanta Kumar Behera	Assistant Librarian	IIT Kanpur	6
Dr. B. Sutradhar	Librarian	IIT Kharagpur	3
Dr. Samir Kumar Jalal	Deputy Librarian	IIT Kharagpur	7
Dr. Tamal Kumar Guha	Librarian	IIT Guwahati	15

6. Major Findings

This study emphasizes the necessity of ensuring adequate representation for LIS professionals of IITs on IRINS platform which is expanded to bring in varied publication output and bring out the possibility of carrying out diverse collaborative endeavors within the field of Library & Information Science across the country within these prestigious institutions. The research conducted based on the India Rankings 2023, underlines the elite status of these institutions and the absence of financial constraints or manpower issues. Important insights are that the profiles of other staff members are missing, which would have further enhanced the visibility of the research, mainstreamed good practices, and fostered inclusivity within a range of different institutions. Closing this gap will not only add color to the research ecosystem but also enhance collaborative knowledge within the broad academic community. (Anbalagan & Balasubramani, 2021)

Figure 1: Academic Research Information System Search Results
(https://irins.org/irins/a/searchc/search)

As depicted in Figure-1, list of search results for academic publications of researchers or faculty members is displayed which belonging to the general or broader academic and research community on Indian Research Information Network System (IRINS) webpage. Major Findings of the study reveal the following based on the data available on IRINS portal:

6.1 The study reveals that amongst all the IITs considered, LIS professionals have taken the top spot for the number of publications by IIT Delhi led by Dr. Nabi Hasan, who has 87 published works to his credit.

6.2 Also, the professionals in the libraries of IIT Kharagpur and IIT Guwahati have a good number of publications.

6.3 There are no published works available for library professionals at IIT Roorkee on IRINS portal.

7. Major Observations

The following observations were made while analyzing data on IRINS portal:

7.1 Contribution

The professionals of libraries from six IITs - Delhi, Madras, Bombay, Kanpur, Kharagpur, and Guwahati contribute their resources to the IRINS, indicating their visibility on this IRINS Platform.

7.2 Designations

It is evident that there are Librarians, Assistant Librarians, and Deputy Librarians in the libraries.

7.3 Variability of Publication Output

A lot of variation exists in the publication output of LIS professionals. While some are very productive in conducting research, others are just not very productive regarding publication counts.

7.4 Very High Publication Output

It has been a very high publication output by many library professionals, especially those with the designation of Librarian, indicating their great involvement in research and scholarly activity in the field of Library & Information Science.

7.5 Institutional Differences

Individual LIS professional are working in all IITs show differences in publication outputs, which can be the reflection of either different areas of research focus or an abundance of resources, like institutional support for scholarly activities, in their library departments.

7.6 Collaborative Opportunities

LIS professionals of IITs included in the IRINS platform should provide opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and joint research among the libraries of different IITs, hence fostering and advancing the practice of Library & Information Science nationally and globally.

7.7 Data Limitations

It must be mentioned here that the provided data deals only with the total number of publications and does not give information about types of publications or citation metrics to give a feel for the quality and impact of research output. These observations inform the representation of LIS professionals from the top IITs on the IRINS platform, their publication output heterogeneity, and the potential of collaborative efforts across the said institutions within the discipline of Library & Information Science.

8. Limitations of the study

The potential weaknesses of this study are mentioned below:

8.1 Limited Scope

The research was based only on the top seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and may not represent the totality of all library professionals across all academic and research institutions within India.

8.2 Data Availability and Consistency

Inconsistent data with missing information might have been collected from the IIT websites and IRINS platform, as all library professionals and institutes might not have updated and completed profiles on that platform. Being quantitative, this study was looking more at publication or citation metrics, meaning that it might not get at the qualitative side of research contributions or service impacts on the library. The data collection and analysis represent a snapshot at a point in time and may not capture the dynamic nature of research output and profile updating on the IRINS platform.

8.3 Exclusion of Other Factors

This study excluded other probable factors that could be affecting the status of registration and research output of library professionals within institutions, like institutional policies, resource distribution, or individual motivations. Taking cognizance of these, future researchers can identify such flaws and undertake more inclusive and detailed research on issues touching on the understanding of the status of registration, research output, and impact on knowledge by library professionals on IRINS as well as larger scholarly community.

9. Suggestions

LIS professionals from IIT Roorkee, who have not registered on IRINS, leading to zero publications attributed to them, should encourage and support their LIS professionals to take up research activities and publish

their work in reputed journals or conferences. Each IIT should proactively facilitate the library professional in creating his/her academic profile on any such platform, including IRINS, for wide visibility of his/her research outputs and improving discoverability. Such incentives and allocations might also be awarded to the institutions for the promotion of research activities by library professionals, as institutions play an important part in supporting the academic and research ventures of the institute. Collaboration and sharing of knowledge between library professionals of IITs could be organized to better improvement in their research capacities and make a more vibrant research culture in the library community. By actively encouraging research and promoting the creation of academic profiles in platforms such as IRINS, IITs can better reflect the intellectual contributions of their library professionals, thus strengthening their positioning as leading research institutions.

10. Scope for Further Research

Based upon the data and findings from the study, future research could be included as follows:

This study would help in getting a general idea from a national perspective as to the status of registration and research output of the LIS Professionals on IRINS portal by collecting data from a larger set of institutions, including non-technical universities and research organizations. These reasons might range from institutional policies, availability of resources, or individual motivations among others for the differing levels of participation and publication output among library professionals. This study will investigate the effects of registration in IRINS and the visibility of research on the opportunities for professional development such as collaborations and job opportunities for Librarians. Identify possible barriers or challenges that may be encountered by library professionals in the development and maintenance of their IRINS profiles and provide ways forward or support mechanisms to address such challenges. It would also be included that the study of the relationship between the registration on IRINS, the output of the research, and the delivery of good library service to the concerned institutions by Library professionals. (Tyagi, 2021)

11. Conclusion

IRINS has demonstrated its significance as a valuable tool in transforming the face of academic and research institutions by facilitating the efficient management and dissemination of research information. It allows user to access the output of research, knowledge, and institutions' progress by using multiple sources of data and interaction with the VIDWAN database. The rest of the IITs follow with profiles at the levels of Assistant Librarians or Librarians only, but IIT Delhi takes the lead in publications, as well as registration in all categories, among the professional levels of the library. The effective roll-out of IRINS calls for reaching as many levels of library staff as possible in its registration to realize its potential in promoting academic communication and research initiatives. Eventually, this will bring changes into academic institutions, which in turn will promote better collaboration, productivity of research, and better, more fact-based decision-making.

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