Trends in the Field of Library and Information Science Doctoral Research at Karnataka University Dharwad

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Abstract

The paper aims to explore the research trends in Library and Information Science (LIS) based on thesis submitted to Karnataka University Dharwad, Karnataka. For this study thesis were accessed through Shodhganga: a reservoir of Indian theses. In this article total of 110 theses were reviewed. The study has identified twenty-two sub-topic of research areas in Library and information science research.The study shows that the largest numbers (13.63%) of theses were published in the Scientometric/Bibliometric Study.The present study reveals the rend study helps to know the growth of the researchproductivity in Library and Information Science .

Keywords: Research trends, Library and Information Science Research, Research productivity.

Introduction:

Research trends in Library and Information Science (LIS) are an ever-current and interesting topic for the LIS research community and practitioners. (Kawalec, n.d.) Research is a systematic inquiry into a subject to discover or revise facts, theories, etc. In India, individual research started in the 1930s with Dr. S.R. Ranganathan who has been actively involved in various areas of the library and information science profession like cataloging, classification, documentation, library administration, etc. According to National Knowledge Commission (NKC) report (March 2007), "India has a long tradition of libraries & has contributed to the development of basic concepts in the discipline such as fundamental principles of library services and knowledge organization tools, Research and Development activities in LIS today are extremely limited. This is of utmost concern for the growth of Library and information science profession in India". Research is necessary to create new knowledge and contribute to the growth of LIS as a profession and discipline. LIS research contributes to the understanding of the information society and its development, enables professionals to relate more effectively to their working environment, provides practitioners with guidance, and promotes progress in the profession (McNicol and Nankivell 2003). Research trends help LIS professionals, Students, and Research scholars to know the growth and development of LIS.

Objectives:

The main objective of the research is to identify the areas of research in the field of Library and information science. Other objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the number of theses done by Karnataka University Dharwad.
2. To trace out the areas of research trends in LIS research publications in Karnataka University Dharwad.

3. To find out the decade-wise publication of LIS Doctoral Theses submitted to Karnataka University Dharwad.
4. To find out the average number of pages of Doctoral theses published by Karnataka University Dharwad.
5. To ascertain the productivity of the Research Guides in terms of the number of research scholars guided.
6. To identify which research method and data collection tool areused by doctoral researchers intheir research work.

Review of Literature:

Shukla highlighted the published research in Library and Information Science field contributed by LIS researchers in India by using the secondary source. during the last four decades, 1980-2019. this study has analyzed citations, publication, and authorship of all 4304 papers. It was found that 4304 articles were contributed by Indian LIS professionals out of a total of 426928 global contributions. (Shukla et al., n.d.).

Scott Miau and Jiann-Min Yangs review the literature growth and author productivity of Blockchain technology research from 2008 to March 2017. They find out that Since the end of 2008, Blockchain was known as a distributed ledger for both financial and non-financial activities is one of the fast-growing research topics in recent years. (Miau & Yang, 2018)

By using the 'University News-A weekly journal of higher education' Bhanu Partap analyzed to find out the current trends and areas of research, growth pattern, and productivity of universities along with broad and narrow subject areas in the discipline. (Partap, 2015)

Nirmal Singh study elaborates the Library education and research in the 21st century based on journal articles in Library and information science indexed in the Indian Citation Index (ICI). This study finds out that During the 21st century, LIS education and research have evolved to encompass

the subjects of mere automation of library operations to technology-based resources, services, tools applications, and facilities. (Singh et al., n.d.)

Soumen Teli, Bidyarthi Dutta Analysis Research Trend of Vidyasagar University since. It examines the authorship pattern of the research communication and the national and international collaborations of VU. This study has investigated the publishing behavior of scholars of Vidyasagar University.(Teli & Dutta, 2016).

Anggit Grahito Wicaksono analyzes various academic articles on discovery learning published from 2015 to 2019. This study uses selected bibliometric indicators to prove previous research models with the help of the Scopus database.(Wicaksono et al., 2021)

Chandrashekar m. The study has emphasized the perspective of the research activities in library and information science in Indian universities. Study find Good number of Ph.D. theses were produced in the field of bibliometrics/scientrometrics/Informatrics, library management, university libraries, indexing system, information seeking behaviour, and library and information service by referring the idyanidhi Indian Theses Database and journal of University News.(CHANDRASHEKARA M, 2009)

Methodology:

The study was carried out by reviewing secondary data. Shodhganga is referred to collect data for the study. Shodhganga is an Indian repository of (ETD)Electronic theses and dissertations. In this only Karnataka University, Dharwad Published theses were collected. Required data like a Title of theses, year of publication, research scholar and guide name, pages of theses, etc. were recorded in an excel spreadsheet and analyzed data for the final result.

Analysis:

1.   **Table No. 1. Decade-wise productivity of theses:**

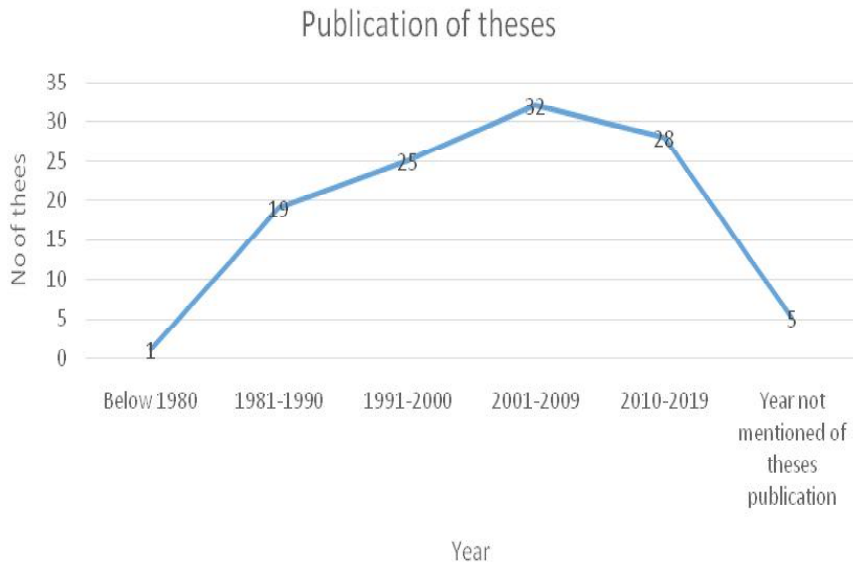| Decade	Publications of theses	Percentage(%)
Below 1980	1	0.90
1981-1990	19	17.27
1991-2000	25	22.72
2001-2009	32	29.09
2010-2019	28	25.45
Year not mentioned of theses	05	4.54
Total	110	100

Table no 1 shows from the year 1980 to 2019 total of 110 theses were published in Karnataka University Dharwad. From 2001 to 2009 the highest number of theses were published. And the low number of theses were published in the year 1980. Five theses publication year was not mentioned. Total 110 theses were published. The total Percentage is 100. the study observed that more male research scholars are perusing Ph.D. than females.

2.   **Table No. 2. Areas of Research in LIS:**

Sub-topics of research areas	No of theses publication	Percentage (%)
Scientometric/Bibliometric study	15	13.63
ICT	15	13.63
Information system and services	11	10
Public, Special, and Digital library	09	8.18
E-resources	09	8.18
Management	08	7.27
Classification and indexing	07	6.36
Information seeking behavior	06	5.45
Information literacy	05	4.54
User study and education	04	3.63
Use of information and requirement	04	3.63
Research trend and education	03	2.72
Job satisfaction	02	1.81
Resources sharing	02	1.81
Database	02	1.81
Marketing of information	02	1.81
Information Infrastructure	01	0.90
Library software	01	0.90
Characteristics of publication	01	0.90
Planning and designing of library	01	0.90
Cost-Effectiveness	01	0.90
National Digital repository	01	0.90
Total	110	100

Table no 2 shows the areas of research in library and information science Ph.D. theses publication by Karnataka University of Dharwad. Major areas of research are Scientometric, Bibliometric, and Information communication technology (ICT). 13.63 percent of theses are on the topic of scientometric, ICT, and Bibliometric. 10 percent theses are on Information system and services, 8.18 percent theses are on Public, Special, and Digital library, E-resources. 7.27 percent are on Management. 6.36 percent are on Classification and indexing. 5.45 percent are on Information seeking behavior. 4.54 percent are on Information literacy. 3.63 percent are on User study and education, Use of information and requirement. 2.72 percent are on Research trends and education. 1.81 percent are on Job satisfaction, Resources sharing, Database, Marketing of information. 0.90 percentare on Information Infrastructure, Library software,Characteristics of publication, Planning, and designing of the library, Cost-Effectiveness, National Digital repository.
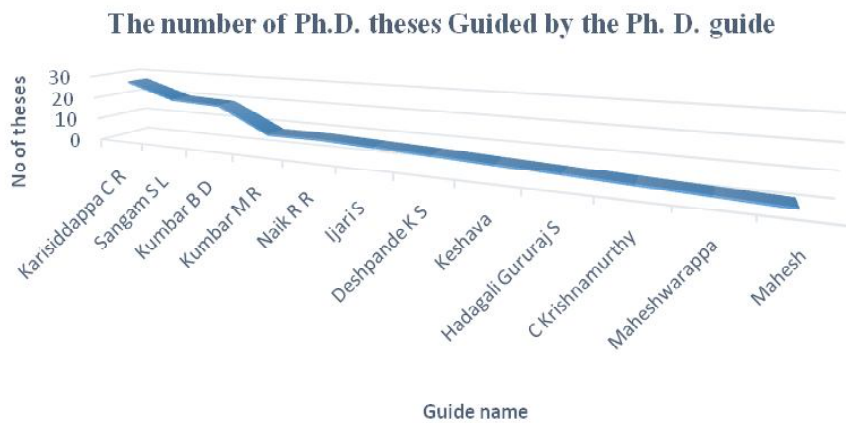
Sub-topics of research areas

- ■ Scientometric/Bibliometric study
- ■ ICT
- ■ Information system and services
- ■ Public, Special, and Digital library
- ■ E-resources
- ■ Management
- ■ Classification and indexing
- ■ Information seeking behavior
- ■ Information literacy
- ■ User study and education
- ■ Use of information and requirement
- ■ Research trend and education

3. Table No. 3. The number of Ph.D. theses Guided by the Ph. D. guide:

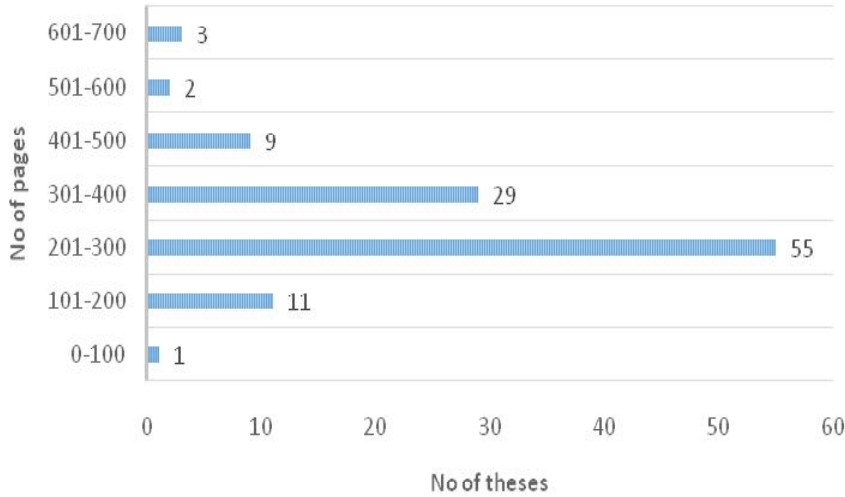| Name of the guide	No of Ph.D. scholars	Percentage(%)
Karisiddappa C R	27	24.54
Sangam S L	20	18.18
Kumbar B D	19	17.27
Kumbar M R	08	7.27
Naik R R	08	7.27
Ijari S	07	6.36
Deshpande K S	06	5.45
Keshava	05	4.54
Hadagali Gururaj S	04	3.63
C Krishnamurthy	03	2.72
Maheshwarappa	02	1.81
Mahesh	01	0.90
Total	110	100

Karisiddappa C R was Guided more number of theses. He guided 27(24.54%)theses. Secondly, Sangam S L has guided 20(18.18%)theses. 19(17.27%) theses were guided by Kumbar B Detc. Table 3 shows the total number of theses were guided by guides.

The number of Ph.D. theses Guided by the Ph. D. guide

4. Table No. 4. The average number of pages of theses:

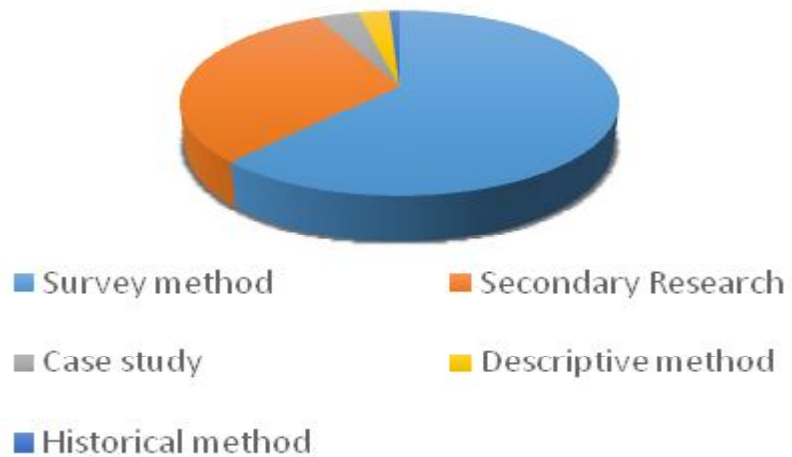| Number of Pages	Number of theses	Percentage(%)
0-100	01	0.90
101-200	11	10
201-300	55	50
301-400	29	26.36
401-500	9	8.18
501-600	2	1.81
601-700	3	2.72
Total	110	100

Table 4 shows the number of pages of Ph. D. theses submitted by Karnataka University Dharwad. 3(2.72%) Ph.D. theses were contents 601 to 700 pages. Only 1(0.90%) Ph. D. theses were contents below 100 pages.

5. Table No. 5. Research Methods:

Research methods	No of theses	Percentage(%)
Survey method	68	61.81
Secondary Research	34	30.90
Case study	04	3.63
Descriptive method	03	2.72
Historical method	01	0.90
Total	110	100

Table 5 shows for research which research method is used. More number of researchers are choosing the survey method of research for research.it helps to research scholars to easily gather data. 68(61.81%) theses were selected survey method. 34(30.90%) theses were done by using the secondary source of information. 04(3.63%) are case study method, 03(2.72%) are the descriptive method, 01(0.90%) are selected historical method of research.

Survey method   Secondary Research

Case study   Descriptive method

Historical method

6.   Table No. 6. Data collection tools used by Ph.D. scholars:

Tools of data collection	No of theses	Percentage(%)
Questionnaires	43	39.09
Secondary source	32	29.09
Questionnaires + Secondary source	08	7.27
Questionnaire + Secondary source + Observation	05	4.54
Interview + Questionnaires	04	3.63
Questionnaires + Secondary source + Interview	04	3.63
Questionnaires + Observation	03	2.72
Interview + Questionnaires + Observation + Secondary source	03	3.72
Secondary source + Questionnaires + Observation	02	1.81
Questionnaires + Questionnaire + Observation	02	1.81
Observation + Interview + Discussion	01	0.90
Secondary source + Observation	01	0.90
Discussion + Interview	01	0.90
Discussion + Observation + Secondary source	01	0.90
Total	110	100

There are different types of tools for data collection. Includes questionnaires, secondary sources, interviews, observation, discussion, dairy methods, etc. which help to collect information or data. In Karnataka University Dharwad 43(39.09%) theses were used questionnaires method to acquire data. 32(29.09%) theses used secondary resources for example books, journals, newspapers, websites, government records,etc. Above table 6 shows which data collection tools were used by Ph.D. scholars.

Conclusion:

Trend study helps to research scholars to know in which area research is taking place. In Karnataka University Dharwad the most preferred field of study is scientometrics, Bibliometric, and ICT. study shows that in Karnataka University Dharwad in the year 2010 to 2019, more theses were published and 68(61.81%) theses are done by using survey method of research. 39.09% are collects data through questionnaires. trend study helps to know the areas of research. Trend study helps to know the growth of the research productivity. To identify the most predominant subject areas in the field of LIS research. To examine the ongoing research trends and identify the prolific research area of the Theses published, (Barik & Jena, n.d.)Dealing with trends and the future is one of the most important innovation tasks. It provides the basis for the development of the innovation strategy and future orientation, from which the search fields and the roadmap are derived. We can't travel to the future to know how it will turn out. We can't read in any book what the world looks like in 15 years. We can only guess the future. The best source for the predictions and characteristics of trends is therefore to bring together as many expert opinions as possible. In order to obtain a good foundation from future information, with which we can continue to work in innovation management, a systematic approach, process, and methodology is required.

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