

Information Use by Library Professionals : A Scientometric Analysis

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References appended to eighty postgraduate library and information science dissertations, submitted to the Department of Library and Information Science, Kuvempu University during 1995-1999 form the base of the study. The paper identifies forms, average number of citations per dissertation, year-wise distribution of literature, area-wise distribution of dissertations, availability of cited journals in Kuvempu university, frequency distribution of periodicals, and the core journals.

Keywords : Scientometrics, Library & Information science, Core journal.

INTRODUCTION

Scientometrics is a branch science of science. Scientometricians explain output in terms of organizational structure and resource inputs, develops benchmarks to evaluate the quality of information sources; packages information for decision making in science; defines appropriate data aggregation producers and methods for diachronic analysis; empirically describes the constantly changing relationships between science, technology and the market; and forecasts productivity of scientists, so that dynamics of scientific research and technological development can be understood [1].

SCOPE

The present study attempts to find out the pattern of information use by the project researchers in the field of library and information science. The study is based on the references appended to postgraduate library and information science dissertations accepted by the Department of Studies and Research in Library and Information Science, Kuvempu University during 1995-1999.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 To find out the number of citations per dissertation.
- 2 To identify the forms of reading materials used by project researchers.
- 3 To show year-wise distribution of the literature.
- 4 To identify library-wise distribution of the literature.

- 5 To check the availability of cited documents in Kuvempu University library.
- 6 To show the frequency distribution of cited periodicals.
- 7 To identify the core journals in the field of library and information science.

ANALYSIS

Table-1

Average number of citations per dissertation

S No.	Year	Total No of Dissertations	Total No. of Citations	Average No.of Citations per Dissertation
	1995	11	494	44.91
2	1996	19	745	39.21
3	1997	14	502	35.85
4	1998	16	618	38.62
5	1999	20	734	36.70
		80	3093	38.66

Table 1 reveals the number of dissertations submitted every year varied from 11 to 20 and average number of references per dissertation is found to be 38.66.

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Table-2

Form-wise distribution of cited literature

Form of Literature	Total No. Citations	Percent
Books	1788	57.81
Journals	1011	32.69
Conference Papers	78	2.52
Encyclopaedias	52	1.68
Reports	48	1.55
Govt. Publications	34	1.1
Dictionaries	23	0.74
University Pub.	21	0.68
Manuals	16	0.52
Thesis	13	0.42
Phamphlets	3	0
Felicitation	2	0.06
Newspapers	2	0.06
Yearbooks	2	0.06

Table-3

Subject wise distribution of dissertation

S No	Library	Total No	Percent
	College library	34	4.25
2	University library	10	1.25
3	Public library	10	1.25
4	Health science library	7	8.75
5	School library	4	5
6	R & D Library	3	3.75
7	Agricultural Library	2	2.5
8	Engineering Library	2	2.5
9	Rural Library	2	2.5
10	Law library		1.25
11	Pharmacy library		1.25
12	Others	4	5
		80	100.00

Table-3 reveals that 34(42.5%) dissertations are on college libraries, 10(12.5%) on university libraries. The remaining 36 dissertations are on public libraries, health science libraries and others.

Table-4

Availability of cited journals in Kuvempu University Library

Total No of Journals	Cited Journals available in Kuvempu University Library	Percent
173	12	6.94

Table-4 shows that about 6.94% of the cited journals are available in Kuvempu University Library.

Table-5

Availability of cited journal articles in the Kuvempu University Library.

Total No of Journal Articles	Cited Journal Articles available in Kuvempu University library	Percent
1011	412	40.75

Table 5 shows that though the library subscribes to only

Table 2 shows the distribution of citations among different elementary forms such as periodicals, books, reports, etc. It can be observed from Table 2 that 1788(57.81%) pertained to books followed by periodicals, accounting for 1011(32.69%) citations*. Next to books and periodicals figure conference literature with 78 (2.52%) citations. Remaining 6.98% of citations go to encyclopaedias, reports, government publications, etc.

second ranking of journal citations may be due to the scarcity of LIS journals in the Library (Ed.)

ournals in library and information science field at present,
75% of cited journal articles are available in the library.

Table -6

Frequency distribution of periodicals

Frequency	Total No of Periodicals	Percent
	87	50.28
2	36	20.81
3	12	6.94
4	11	6.36
5-25	19	10.98
26-45	4	2.31
46-65	5	2.89
66-85	2	1.16

Table-6 shows the frequency distribution of 173 cited periodicals. More than fifty percent (50.28%) periodicals were cited only once and 20.81% periodicals 2 times. While 1.16% periodicals were cited several times.

Table-7

Ranked list of Journals

S. No.	Rank	Name of the Journal	No of	Cumulative	Percent	
2	2					
3	3					
4	4					
5	5					
6	6					
7	7					
			51	432	5.04	42.72
8	8		40	472	3.96	46.68
9	9		39	511	3.85	50.53
10	10		33	544	3.26	53.79
11	11		30	574	2.97	56.76
12	12		17	591	1.68	58.44
13	13		16	607	1.58	60.02
14	13					
			16	623	1.58	61.60
15	15					
			14	637	.38	62.98
16	16					
			13	650	1.28	64.26
17	16					
			13	663	1.28	65.54
18	18		13	676	1.28	66.82
19	19					
			12	688	1.19	68.01
20	20		11	699	1.09	69.10
21	21		10	709	0.99	70.09
22	22					
			9	718	0.89	70.98
23	22		9	727	0.89	71.87
24	24					
			8	735	0.79	72.66
25	24					
			8	743	0.79	73.45
26	26					
			7	750	0.69	74.14
27	27		6	756	0.59	74.73
28	27		6	762	0.59	75.32
29	29		5	767	0.49	75.81
30	29		5	772	0.49	76.30
31-41	31		4 each	816	0.39 each	80.59
42-53	42	-----	3 each	852	0.3 each	84.19
54-94	54	-----	2 each	931	0.2 each	92.09
95-173	95	-----	1 each	1011	0.1 each	99.99

Of the journals, 104 are in the field of library & information science. The remaining 69 journals are from other fields like education, engineering, etc. The ranked list shows prominence of Indian journals. Of the first ten journals almost all are from India.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Listed are some of the findings of this study.

- 1 The average number of citations per dissertation is 38.66.
- 2 The formwise distribution pattern of citations shows that books topped the list with 57.8% citations followed by periodicals with 32.7% citations.

- 3 The number of dissertations on college libraries are found to be maximum (42.5%).
- 4 Of the journals cited by the researchers 6.94% were available in the Kuvempu University library. However, of the journal articles cited, 40.75% were available in the same library.

The results of this study would be of great value in the development of LIS journal collection. Such analysis will be helpful to concerned users and contributors to satisfy their information needs and requirements.

REFERENCE

- 1 Kademani, B.S. and others: Scientometric portrait of Noble Laureate Dr. C.V. Raman. *Indian Journal of Information Library and Society* 1994, 37(4), 215-49..