

A glance to Iranian Librarianship blogs: a survey using webometrics method

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Abstract:

By the end of mid 1990 and the early of twentieth century, web 1.0 has pulled users to information; in contrast, using new structures, the creation of web 2.0 started pushing information to users. It was taken place by marriage of content and technology. Electronic encyclopedias such as wiki, photo sharing such as flickr, social networks, blogs and so forth can be called as their babies. Blog or weblog is one of web 2.0 attractive components which let information societies demonstrate and exchange thoughts and information easily in a flash. Library Weblogs can be created by librarians, library science faculties and students in any of related issues which enable the librarianship society to access updated information as a duck soup. Some may wonder if blogging in the library is a responsible thing to do however, blogging does offer an alternative and superior way to communicate with the patrons. Since 2002, when weblog has been introduced to Iranian librarianship for the first time, it has been well matured amongst Iranian librarianship and flourished in 2005 and 2006, entirely. The current research is about activities of Iranian librarianship weblogs and study them using webometrics methods. Altavista search engine has been used for this research within April 2006. The results demonstrate that only 28 weblogs are active out of 46 Iranian librarianship blogs which are updating day in and day out. This study also indicates that there are only three cooperated weblogs and almost all of them use Iranian hosts, mostly Blogfa. There is only one weblog which is hosted by Blogsky. The language assessment of the survey shows 25 Farsi weblogs, two English weblog and only one bilingual (English and Farsi) among those 28 active blogs. The survey ranks aforementioned weblogs using total links², self-link³, inlinks⁴ and web impact factor⁵ (WIF). Writing in Farsi, limiting to Iran library science society, informing local information focused on Iran librarianship and general library sciences issues; The Iranian librarians' weblogs could neither find extended links so do exchanged Links and the link exchanging is mostly limited to library weblogs in Farsi.

Key words: Weblogs, Librarianship, Iranian Librarianship Weblogs, Iranian Bloggers, Webometrics

Introduction

Nowadays, the users of web environment can share their own data by means of modern facilities offered by World Wide Web. Overcoming to the highest peaks of professional degrees, as an Information professional, Librarian have to update their knowledge and notice of the newest researches and results in Library science .On the other hand, they have to inform their library users from the new accessible issues .At the present time, a new kind of internet

communication has been created amongst librarians, libraries and users which makes the information evaluation, selection, dissemination and usage much easier. That is weblog! Actually, It is one of web 2.0 (a new web generation) facilities. Users inquire information in web 1.0; in contrast, in web 2.0 information asks about users, being directly in their access. Libraries have found the value of web 2.0, its abilities and weblogs as an easy device for updating and communicating, swiftly. Librarian have accompanied in web developing and publishing informative articles via weblogs. Weblogs can lead either to a network of unbounded libraries or increased information portals.

Some librarians may write about their own experiences on library science, sharing their information in this way. They can introduce anonymous informative websites which users refer them scarcely. The most successful weblogs are those offer the most recent accurate information in their special field. Reference librarians' weblogs have altered to the most popular weblogs among the results of search engines and in reference place; they are reminded as a new source of information and collections of ideas and comments.

Iranian librarians have discovered weblog aptitudes. Their weblogs are used in updating the related knowledge amongst Iran library society; meanwhile, offering the proper services to users. Generally, Iran has 700 thousands weblogs at the moment and actually not all of them are active, now. The number of those active ones are 400 thousands which updates day in and day out. 520 thousands are hosted by Persianblog, 55 thousands by Blogfa, 20 thousands by mihanblog and the rest 7 thousands by Parsiblog and others. Having 525 thousands users, Persianblog stands at the 13th place in the world. The above numbers reveal that using weblogs has been settled among Iranian users and so do Iranian librarians as the agent of information services.

Research aims

This paper wants to ranks and compares Iranian library weblogs from different point of views such as being more active, various links to them, web impact factors (WIF) and weblog hosts they use.

Research questions

The current paper wants to answer to the questions below:

1. What is Iranian library weblogs ranking according to total links, self-links, in-links and WIF?
2. In general, how many Iranian weblogs are dedicated to library science and how many are active?
3. Which Iranian library weblog has the most and least links in web?
4. How many Iranian library weblogs are in Farsi and English?
5. What are those websites which host the majority of Iranian library weblogs?

6. How many Iranian library weblogs has single blogger, how many are running in a cooperate manner?

Research Method

46 Iranian library weblogs been found by searching amongst weblog hosts such as Mihanblog, Persianblog, Blogfa .The mentioned weblogs created our research society. According to assess the total links, self-links, in-links and weblog size; the famous search engine Altavista has been applied and the extraction of mentioned links has been done by the mid of April 2006 and took a few couple of weeks. Acquiring total links of each weblog, the formula below has been applied:

link: www.website.ir OR link:website.ir

Attaining amount of self-links; the formula was shaped like this:

(link:www.website.ir OR link:website.ir) AND (host:www.webiste.ir OR host:website.ir)

Finding out quantity of weblogs pure links which are in-links, the related formula is:

(link:www.website.ir OR link:website.ir) NOT (host:www.webiste.ir OR host:website.ir)

Ranking weblogs, the acquired statistics have been entered in a table. Estimating web impact factors of each weblog, the formula mentioned below has been used. Then the acquired total links was divided in amount derived from the formula below. Regarding to revised WIF, should the in-links divided in the amount off which comes from the formula below. This makes the WIF.

domain:www.website.ir OR domain:website.ir

Literature review

Rousseau studied on in-links, out-links and websites distribution patterns. He used the old version of Altavista and worked on 343 downloaded websites which had been founded via searching about infometrics or bibliometrics or scientometrics. His studies showed that the Lutka distribution has been applied .The estimate of in-links were 30 percent.

Thomas & Willet investigated library and information sciences colleges in Britannia and discovered no special correlation between in-links and research descriptions of those websites.

The term WIF has introduced by Ingeversen for national domains and individual weblogs along with journal impact factor (JIF) which has been created by ISI for scientific journals

in ISI databases. He stated WIF can be acquired from the division of out-links of website in the number of its pages.

Harter & Ford studied on electronic scientific journals which were not related with any special academic fields. Links been compared with ISI standards and no correlation was found amongst links and ISI impact factors.

Oppenheim & Smith mentioned the increasing amount of library and information science students' tension, citing to internet resources.

Chu investigated the link structure of twelve websites of ALA library schools and announced that Webometrics offers a special method of evaluating which is a far cry from bibliometrics. He believed the Webometrics researches must have accomplished meticulously since both the resource (data based on web) and the collecting tool (web Search engines) have apparent flaws.

Osareh studied on library and information schools (LIS) websites using cluster and multidimensional .She used "the entire web"¹ and analyzed in-links and co-links. The results demonstrated two national and five International clusters.

Smith in an article entitled "Citations and links as a factor of usefulness of online library and information journals" worked on ten free online journals in library and information science and found those with the most links by Altavista.

Kousha in his study named "Comparing Iranian newspapers websites using WIF" studied on 19 websites by means of WIF. Analyzes displayed that in spite of no correlation between associated and non-associated elements of newspapers, there is a significant correlation between outer impact factors and other associated elements.

Norouzi used AltaVista to estimate links of Iranian universities. His study showed that they have a few links. Increasing the links rate, he believed the designers have to notice to beautification, proper information and English version of universities websites.

Research Results

Referring to the first table, 46 weblogs has been found in this survey, Two of which have no related posts on library and information science so have been omitted from the survey. Meanwhile, one² of them has no post.

According to the table, 29 blogs are hosted by Blogfa, 8 by Persianblog, 3 by Blogspot, 2 by Mihanblog and only one in Blogsky and one is hosted by a website named semaho. It shows Iranian librarian are interested in Blogfa more.

Language assessment shows 39 weblogs in Farsi, 3 in English and 2 bilingual ones.

Moreover, out of 44 weblogs there are only 3 weblogs³ manage cooperatively.

¹ Name of a search engine

² City Librarians

³ Iranian librarians bloggers, Knowledge management glossary and Shiraz Library science association

Table 1.Results in general

Title	Host	Language	Author(s)
Blue Lirarian (http://buchergal.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Bookworm (http://bookworm.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
City Librarian (http://lis.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Digital libraries (http://www.libdig.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Digital Library (http://www.ranganatan.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Fa-En	1
E-LIS (http://www.eprints.persianblog.com/)	Persianblog	Farsi	1
Ehsan Mohammadi (http://www.virtulib.blogspot.com/)	Bloodspot	English	1
From This View point (http://booklove.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Future Librarian (http://www.asnafi.persianblog.com/)	Persianblog	Farsi	1
Information Databases (http://librarian.semaho.com/)	Semaho	Farsi	1
Invisible Web Gateway (http://invisibleweblog.blogspot.com/)	Blogspot	English	1
Iranian Librarian (http://librarianship.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Iranian Librarian Bloggers (http://librarian.mihanblog.com/)	Mihanblog	Fa-En	10
Karaneh (http://niknam.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Ketabdarane Bedone Marz (http://hssn.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Khaje-Nasir College Library (http://kntuml.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Khozestan Library science Association (http://ilisak.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Knowledge Management (http://knowledgemanagement.persianblog.com/)	Persianblog	Farsi	1
KnowledgeManagement Glossary (http://kmterms.mihanblog.com/)	Mihanblog	Farsi	10
Librarian (http://alijohn.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Librarians daied in... (http://ettelarasn.persianblog.com/)	Persianblog	Farsi	1
Librarianship (http://a-ashkani.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Librarianship Articles (http://farzollah.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Librarianship Weblog (http://www.liblog.blogfa.com/) by Tahereh Karami.	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Library and Information Science (http://isbd.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Library and Information Science Knowledge (http://akmazy.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Library and Librarianship (http://www.sajedilib.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Libray and Information Science (http://www.zohrehn.blogspot.com/)	Blogsky	Farsi	1
Library and Information Science Miscellaneous (http://lismis.blogspot.com/)	Blogspot	English	1
Library and Information Sciences Theories (http://theorylib.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Library Sciences Virtual University (http://pnuketabdary.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Medical Library science in Ahvaz (http://ketabdarha.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1

Medical Library Science Center (http://www.hasansiamian.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
New Book (http://ketabeno.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Persian Golf Librarian (http://khosraviar.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Persian Librarian (http://www.nouruzi.persianblog.com/)	persianblog	Farsi	1
Qom Library science Association (http://qomlib.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Reasearch Librarians (http://www.libro.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Shiraz Library science Association (http://ilisaf.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	5
Tanze Ketabdari (http://negah3.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Thesis Abstracts. Ahvaz university library science (http://payannameh.persianblog.com/)	persianblog	Farsi	
Two library science Students (http://www.cofibook.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	2
University of Tehran, Department of Library and Information Science (http://www.utdlis.persianblog.com/)	persianblog	Farsi	1
Webology (http://webology.persianblog.com/)	persianblog	Farsi	1
Young Librarian from qom (http://kag.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Young librarians(kaj) (http://kaj-ucna.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1

Finding active weblogs, the updated weblogs from the end of March 2006 have been studied. The second table shows these active weblogs separately.

Table 2. Active Iranian library weblogs

Title	Host	Language	Author(s)
Bookworm (http://bookworm.blogfa.com/)	Blogfa	Farsi	1
Ehsan Mohammadi (http://www.virtulib.blogspot.com/)	blogspot	English	1
From This View point (http://booklove.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Future Librarian (http://www.asnafi.persianblog.com/)	persianblog	Farsi	1
Invisible Web Gateway (http://invisibleweblog.blogspot.com/)	blogspot	English	1
Iranian Librarian Bloggers (http://librarian.mihanblog.com/)	mihanblog	Fa-En	10
Karaneh (http://niknam.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Ketabdarane Bedone Marz (http://hssn.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Khozestan Library science Association (http://ilisak.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Knowledge Management (http://knowledgemanagement.persianblog.com/)	persianblog	Farsi	1
Knowledge Management Glossary (http://kmterms.mihanblog.com/)	mihanblog	Farsi	10
Librarian (http://alijohn.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Librarianship Articles (http://farzollah.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Librarianship Weblog (http://www.liblog.blogfa.com/) by Tahereh Karami.	blogfa	Farsi	1
Library and Information Science Knowledge (http://akmazy.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Libray and Information Science (http://www.zohrehn.blogspot.com/)	blogspot	Farsi	1
Library and Information Sciences Theories (http://theorylib.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Library Sciences Virtual University (http://pnuketabdary.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1

Medical Library science in Ahvaz (http://ketabdarha.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Medical Library Science Center (http://www.hasansiamian.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Persian Golf Librarian (http://khosraviar.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Persian Librarian (http://www.nouruzi.persianblog.com/)	persianblog	Farsi	1
Qom Library science Association (http://gomlib.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Reasearch Librarians (http://www.libro.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Shiraz Library science Association (http://ilisaf.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	5
Tanze Ketabdari (http://negah3.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Young Librarian from qom (http://kag.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Young librarians(kaj) (http://kaj-ucna.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Bookworm (http://bookworm.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Ehsan Mohammadi (http://www.virtulib.blogspot.com/)	blogspot	English	1
From This View point (http://booklove.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Future Librarian (http://www.asnafi.persianblog.com/)	persianblog	Farsi	1
Invisible Web Gateway (http://invisibleweblog.blogspot.com/)	blogspot	English	1
Iranian Librarian Bloggers (http://librarian.mihanblog.com/)	mihanblog	Fa-En	10
Karaneh (http://niknam.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Ketabdarane Bedone Marz (http://hssn.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Khozestan Library science Association (http://ilisak.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Knowledge Management (http://knowledgemanagement.persianblog.com/)	persianblog	Farsi	1
Knowledge Management Glossary (http://kmterms.mihanblog.com/)	mihanblog	Farsi	10
Librarian (http://alijohn.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Librarianship Articles (http://farzollah.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Librarianship Weblog (http://www.liblog.blogfa.com/) by Tahereh Karami.	blogfa	Farsi	1
Library and Information Science Knowledge (http://akmazy.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1
Libray and Information Science (http://www.zohrehn.blogspot.com/)	blogspot	Farsi	1
Library and Information Sciences Theories (http://theorylib.blogfa.com/)	blogfa	Farsi	1

The aforementioned table shows 28 active weblogs of which 20 hosts by Blogfa, 3 by Persianblog, 2 by Mihanblog, 2 in Blogspot and one in Blogsky so it indicates almost all of them use Iranian hosts.

From 28 active weblogs, 25 are in Farsi, 2 in English and one⁴ is in both Farsi and English.

Iranian librarian bloggers, Knowledge management glossary and Shiraz Library science association are three weblogs managing cooperatively.

Ranking of weblogs according to total links, In-links and self-links are shown by the third table. With 5400 total links "The future Librarian" stands first. Besides, Iranian Librarian bloggers (5090) and Library and Information Science (4670) are the other premiers in this point. In contrast, three weblogs stands at the bottom of the list by having the least total links. Qom library science association (68), Khozestan library science

⁴ Iranian Librarian bloggers

association (75) and Library and Information science theories (335) are those with less total links.

In addition, the future librarian (4740), Librarianship weblog (3390), Knowledge management (3380) is the foremost blogs referring to their in-links.

Table 3. Ranking of active Iranian library weblogs according to their links

Address	Self Links	In-Links	Total links
Future Librarian (http://www.asnafi.persianblog.com/)	0	4740	5400
Iranian Librarian Bloggers (http://librarian.mihanblog.com/)	2	1310	5090
Libray and Information Science (http://www.zohrehn.blogspot.com/)	45	73	4670
Invisible Web Gateway (http://invisibleweblog.blogspot.com/)	0	25	4390
Librarianship Weblog (http://www.liblog.blogfa.com/) by Tahereh Karami	0	3390	4070
Tanze Ketabdari (http://negah3.blogfa.com/)	0	68	3500
Knowledge Management (http://knowledgemanagement.persianblog.com/)	0	3380	3410
Knowledge Management Glossary (http://kmterms.mihanblog.com/)	8	12	3400
Bookworm (http://bookworm.blogfa.com/)	1	154	3270
Karaneh (http://niknam.blogfa.com/)	0	3	3220
Reasearch Librarians (http://www.libro.blogfa.com/)	0	2930	3250
Librarian (http://alijohn.blogfa.com/)	0	1	2960
From This View point (http://booklove.blogfa.com/)	0	0	2900
Ketabdarane Bedone Marz (http://hssn.blogfa.com/)	0	3	2640
Shiraz Library science Association (http://ilisaf.blogfa.com/)	0	18	2640
Librarianship Articles (http://farzollah.blogfa.com/)	0	10	2620
Young Librarian from qom (http://kag.blogfa.com/)	0	0	2620
Young librarians(kaj) (http://kaj-ucna.blogfa.com/)	0	1	2600
Ehsan Mohammadi (http://www.virtulib.blogspot.com/)	0	2530	2610
Library and Information Science Knowledge (http://akmazy.blogfa.com/)	0	2	2520
Persian Librarian (http://www.nouruzi.persianblog.com/)	3	2880	2430
Medical Library Science Center (http://www.hasansiamian.blogfa.com/)	3	2150	2290
Medical Library science in Ahvaz (http://ketabdarha.blogfa.com/)	6	2	2170
Library Sciences Virtual University (http://pnuketabday.blogfa.com/)	0	0	2160
Persian Golf Librarian (http://khosraviar.blogfa.com/)	0	1	2130
Library and Information Sciences Theories (http://theorylib.blogfa.com/)	0	0	335
Khuzestan Library science Association (http://ilisak.blogfa.com/)	0	0	75
Qom Library science Association (http://qomlib.blogfa.com/)	0	1	68

The forth table ranks active weblogs according to web impact factor.

Table 4. weblogs according to WIF

Address	WIF	Revised WIF
Future Librarian (http://www.asnafi.persianblog.com/)	216	189/6
Iranian Librarian Bloggers (http://librarian.mihanblog.com/)	2/02	0/52
Libray and Information Science (http://www.zohrehn.blogspot.com/)	20/39	0/318
Invisible Web Gateway (http://invisibleweblog.blogspot.com/)	107/07	0/6
Librarianship Weblog (http://www.liblog.blogfa.com/) by Tahereh Karami.	29/28	24/38
Tanze Ketabdari (http://negah3.blogfa.com/)	79/54	1/54
Knowledge Management (http://knowledgemanagement.persianblog.com/)	10/089	0/035
Knowledge Management Glossary (http://kmterms.mihanblog.com/)	179/47	177/89
Bookworm (http://bookworm.blogfa.com/)	22/39	1/05
Karaneh (http://niknam.blogfa.com/)	89/44	0/083
Reasearch Librarians (http://www.libro.blogfa.com/)	18/57	16/74
Librarian (http://alijohn.blogfa.com/)	75/89	0/025
From This View point (http://booklove.blogfa.com/)	263/63	0
Ketabdarane Bedone Marz (http://hssn.blogfa.com/)	114/78	0/13
Shiraz Library science Association (http://ilisaf.blogfa.com/)	110	0/75
Librarianship Articles (http://farzollah.blogfa.com/)	174/66	0/66
Young Librarian from qom (http://kag.blogfa.com/)	2620	0
Young librarians(kaj) (http://kaj-ucna.blogfa.com/)	325	0/125
Ehsan Mohammadi (http://www.virtulib.blogspot.com/)	84/19	81/61
Library and Information Science Knowledge (http://akmazy.blogfa.com/)	74/11	0/058
Persian Librarian (http://www.nouruzi.persianblog.com/)	97/2	115/2
Medical Library Science Center (http://www.hasansiamian.blogfa.com/)	88/07	82/69
Medical Library science in Ahvaz (http://ketabdarha.blogfa.com/)	77/5	0/0714
Library Sciences Virtual University (http://pnuketabdari.blogfa.com/)	0	0
Persian Golf Librarian (http://khosraviar.blogfa.com/)	0	0
Library and Information Sciences Theories (http://theorylib.blogfa.com/)	335	0
Khozestan Library science Association (http://ilisak.blogfa.com/)	6/81	0
Qom Library science Association (http://qomlib.blogfa.com/)	22/66	0/33

The table above shows that WIF indicates on the three first weblogs which are "young librarian from Qom", "From this view point" and "The future librarian"; however, the revised WIF points out that "The future librarians", "Knowledge management and Library" and "Iranian librarian" are the real premier.

Discussion and final results

To put this survey into perspective, there are 44 Iranian weblogs which manage directly in library and information science out of which only 28 weblogs are posting regularly. There are 25 Farsi, 2 English and one bilingual weblogs. "The invisible web" and "Virtual Library" are those English one, although "Iranian librarian" has a few post in English, too.

This study indicates that Iranian librarians are interested in Iranian hosts more and the Blogfa is the most popular since it has more facilities and load faster.

There are only 3 weblogs, managed cooperatively, "Iranian librarian bloggers" and "Knowledge management glossary" managed by 10 bloggers and "Shiraz librarian

association" run by 5 bloggers. These cooperated weblogs live more than others due to the fact that various bloggers post with different point of views which make them lively.

According to total links, "The future librarian", "Iranian Librarian bloggers" and "Library and Information Science" place first; though, "Qom library science association", "Khozestan library science association" and "Library and Information science theories" stand last. In-link studies demonstrate three foremost weblogs which are "The future librarian", "Librarianship weblog" and "Knowledge management".

Applying WIF formula, "The future librarians", "Knowledge management and Library" and "Iranian librarian" are the premier.

On the whole, it can be discovered that weblogs have entered to library world as a media and library service retrieval tool and leads to creating scientific resources. Besides, Librarian can aware their users from the most recent services at a drop of a hat. Using weblog as a medium, Iranian Librarian bloggers are bringing up to the world library and information society.

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