

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE RESEARCH IN INDIA

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Paper clearly projects with relevant statistical tables the output of doctoral research in India. Attempt is made to depict quantity of research output in the form doctoral theses, state wise, university-wise, topic-wise and supervisor-wise. Also indicated are the areas of research activity in LIS with ranking of universities and states which have contributed comparatively more to field of LIS research in India.

Introduction

During the recent past, quite a number of research activities have been carried out in the universities and research institutions in various parts of the world. In India, due to the establishment of University Grants Commission, AICTE and other similar bodies and their active support, many students are caring out M. Phil. and Ph.D. degrees. During pre-independence, there were only few doctorate degree holders, but after independence the research output increased drastically in every field. In India about 125 universities and research institutions are offering Ph. D. programmes in Library and Information Science. Considering the available data, attempt is made to analyse research productivity of the various universities in India.

LIS Education in India

The Library and Information Science (LIS) education in India may be said to have taken place with the introduction of a training course in 1911, in the erstwhile State of Baroda. The real beginning of systematic education in LIS can be traced to the initiatives of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan during the period 1926-1931 at the Madras University Library in association with Madras Library Association. The summer school leading to certificate in library science, which Madras University continued under the stewardship of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan till 1937. Later, Andhra University, Banaras Hindu University, Bombay University, Calcutta University and Delhi University introduced Post -Graduate Diploma Courses in Library Science in the year 1935, 1941, 1944, 1946 and 1948 respectively. Apart from these universities, DRTC in Bangalore and NISCAIR in New Delhi started the library science education programmes. During 1947, altogether 27 universities were offering diploma courses in Library Science. In 1957, for the first time in the country, Aligarh Muslim University started [B.L.Sc](#) Course. The courses were offered at different levels such as Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor's, P.G. Diploma, Master's and research degree programmes i.e. M Phil and Ph. D under different modes (on regular/on campus or distance/off campus or some times both) and schemes (annual or semester). The growth of universities during post-independent India ensured

improvement in the quality of education. It is due to the importance of libraries in various institutions, research centres and government departments, the demand for librarians also increased. This actually gave boost to Library Science Education in India.

Research in Library and Information Science

The research in LIS in the past was considered primarily to provide a theoretical foundation to professional practice. The roots of research in LIS profession appears to be not very deep. Research in library science during the Twentieth Century in the area of LIS can be traced to the Library School of the University of Chicago, in mid-1920s. The visionary efforts of the Chicago School bore abundant fruit and offered leadership to the world in library science research (Shera 1976, 145). The pace of library research is picking up everywhere today due to social pressure, as well as, inspiration. In justifying the Ph.D. programme in our profession, it has been urged that “if librarianship aspires to become a profession, it should depend upon research to develop its knowledge base and its theoretical framework” (Wilkinson 1983, 39).

The credit for the formal institution of the doctoral degree programme in library science in India goes undeniably to Dr. S.R. Ranganathan (1892–1972). In 1951, he started providing Library science education at the University of Delhi, surmounting many difficulties and facing personal ridicule. The University of Delhi awarded the first *de jure* degree in library science in 1957 to D.B. Krishan Rao who worked on ‘faceted classification for agriculture’. Doctoral research remained in the wilderness when Ranganathan shook the Delhi soil off his feet in 1955. In the 1960s and 1970s some doctorates on library-related topics were earned by library professionals under the guidance and supervision of faculties belonging to the disciplines such as sociology, history, law, economics, management, and the like. The mantle of reviving and furthering doctoral research facilities was assumed by J. S. Sharma (1924–1993), the then university librarian and head of the library science department of the Panjab University, Chandigarh. Under his guidance, the second *de jure* Ph.D. in library science was awarded in 1977 after a gap of full two decades. Thereafter, there was no looking back. Many universities followed with mostly individual efforts and enthusiasm. Doctoral research got a fillip in the 1980s and gradual improvement in facilities paved ways for India to maintain its Third World leadership in library research and library literature. Ph.D. programmes thereafter, mushroomed even despite the lack of facilities or adherence to standards (Satija. M.P. 1999).

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To know the growth of the research productivity (doctoral theses) in India.
- To identify the most predominant subject areas in the field of LIS research.

To find out the top five ranking of research guides.

Methodology

The data for the present study have been collected from two authoritative sources. The first one is the data published in the University News: a weekly from the Association of Indian Universities and second one is from the Vidyanidhi Indian Theses Database (<http://www.vidyanidhi.org/>). Apart from these sources the data provided in the articles written by Professor V.G. Talawar, Professor M.P. Satija and the

chronological list of doctoral degrees awarded in Indian universities during 1985-2005 published in the journal Pearl, Vol.1(3), July-Sept, 2007 have also been referred to obtain pertinent data.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

There are as many as 802 doctoral degrees awarded so far in the library and information science domain. The authors have made an attempt to consolidate all the doctoral degrees awarded by various universities in India. The data were analysed and presented under 6 heads viz. chronological growth, decade-wise growth, state-wise, university-wise, subject-wise distribution and top five ranking of research guides.

Table 1: Chronological growth of Ph. D. theses in LIS

Sl. No.	Year	Number of Ph. D. theses	Percentage
1	1957	1	0.13
2	1963	1	0.13
3	1966	1	0.13
4	1972	2	0.25
5	1973	1	0.13
6	1977	4	0.5
7	1978	3	0.37
8	1979	2	0.25
9	1980	4	0.5
10	1981	4	0.5
11	1982	3	0.37
12	1983	11	1.37
13	1984	13	1.62
14	1985	21	2.62
15	1986	18	2.24
16	1987	12	1.5
17	1988	9	1.12
18	1989	22	2.74
19	1990	18	2.24
20	1991	32	3.99
21	1992	51	6.36
22	1993	38	4.74
23	1994	36	4.49
24	1995	38	4.74
25	1996	36	4.49
26	1997	21	2.62
27	1998	22	2.74
28	1999	33	4.11
29	2000	30	3.74
30	2001	20	2.49
31	2002	33	4.11

32	2003	49	6.11
33	2004	46	5.74
34	2005	52	6.48
35	2006	30	3.74
36	2007	46	5.74
37	2008	39	4.86
Total		802	100.00

The above table depicts the number of doctoral degrees awarded in the field of LIS starting from the year 1957 up to the present year 2008. It is clear from the table that research activity was quite rare till 1982 and all of a sudden, the research productivity increased from the year 1983. This was due to the need and emphasis on recruiting qualified faculty and librarians mainly in the universities and technological institutions. It was also true that University Grants Commission started giving preference to the candidates who have done research in LIS. The present situation is that on an average 35 doctoral theses are being awarded Ph.D. degrees every year. During the period 1983 to 2001 an average of 25 theses were awarded doctoral degrees. From this it is clear that there is sudden increase of research output in LIS starting from the year 1983 and steadily increased again since the year 1991.

Table 2: Decade-wise growth of Ph D. theses in LIS

Sl. No.	Decades	Number of Ph. D. theses	Percentage
1	2000-2008	345	43.02
2	1990-1999	325	40.52
3	1980-1989	117	14.59
4	1970-1979	12	1.50
5	1960-1969	2	0.25
6	1950-1959	1	0.12
Total		802	100.00

The table 2 depicts the decade-wise distribution of Ph.D. theses in India. As we can see from the table, there are quite a number of Ph.D.s produced after the year 1980. Further, it is evident from the table that 43 percent of the research output was made during the period 2000 to 2008. Yet another 40.52 percent of the research output was made during the previous decade i.e. 1990 to 1999. From this it is evident that more than 83 percent of the Ph. D. degrees were awarded during the past 19 years. It is worth mentioning here at this juncture that 16.46 percent of the research output came during the period 1957-1989, almost 32 years. However, it can be concluded from this data that a great majority of quality research output can be seen during the last two decades.

Table 3: State-wise distributions of Ph. D. theses

Sl. No.	Rank	State	Number of Ph. D. s	Percentage
	1	Karnataka	169	21.07
	2	Andhra Pradesh	96	11.97
	3	Madhya Pradesh	80	9.98
	4	Maharashtra	58	7.23
	5	West Bengal	56	6.98
	6	Punjab	45	5.61
	7	Orissa	43	5.36
	8	Uttar Pradesh	42	5.24
	9	Rajasthan	41	5.11
	10	Tamil Nadu	31	3.87
Other States			141	17.58
Total			802	100.00

The table 3 shows state-wise distribution of research output in LIS. It is clearly evident from the table that the state of Karnataka which is situated in southern region of India has contributed 159 doctoral research work, representing 19.83 percent of the overall output of research in India. Next to Karnataka, the state of Andhra Pradesh showed an output of 96 theses, representing 11.97 percent. In the third place, there is the State of Madhya Pradesh with 80 theses, representing 9.98 percent. Among 28 states and 7 union territories of India, the contribution of the four states of South India is worth highlighting. However, it can be concluded that the two states alone i. e. Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have contributed to the extent of 31.80%. Moreover, it is worth mentioning here that 17 theses have been produced from the union territories of India alone which account for 19.3%. This is more significant, worth taking into considering as regards the overall contribution to the research productivity.

Table 4: University-wise distribution of Ph. D. theses

Sl. No.	Rank	Name of the universities	Number of Ph. D. Theses	Percentage
	1	Karnatak University	80	9.97
	2	Andhra University	48	5.99
	3	Jiwaji University	41	5.11
	4	University of Mysore	36	4.49
	5	Punjab University	30	3.74
	5	University of Rajasthan	30	3.74
	6	University of Madras	22	2.74
	6	Utkal University	22	2.74
	7	University of Delhi	21	2.62
	7	Gulbarga University	21	2.62
	8	Osmania University	20	2.49
	9	Vikram University	18	2.24
	9	Banaras Hindu University	18	2.24
	10	Bangalore University	17	2.12
	11	Nagapur University	16	2

11	University of Burdwan	16	2
12	North-Eastern Hill University	15	1.87
12	Jadavpur University	15	1.87
13	Nagpur University	13	1.62
14	University of Pune	12	1.5
14	Sambhalpur University	12	1.5
14	University of Kerala	12	1.5
15	Gauhati University	11	1.37
15	Sri Venkateshwara University	11	1.37
Other Universities		245	30.55
Total		802	100.00

Table 4. depicts the university-wise research output in the form of Ph.D theses. Among the top 24 Indian universities, considering the number of doctoral degrees, Karnataka University stands first with 80 Ph.D theses, representing 9.97 percent of the total out put. Next to Karnataka University, Andra University with 48 theses occupies the second place, representing 5.99 percent. However, the four top universities in Karnataka i.e. University of Mysore, Bangalore University, Gulbarga University and Karnatak University have contributed 154 Ph.D. theses, representing 19.20 percent in the over-all out put of research. Here, it is worth mentioning that though the number of universities and posts of librarians are at large in North Indian States, the research productivity in LIS is comparatively low.

Table 5: Top ten ranking of subject distribution of Ph.D. theses

Sl. No.	Rank	Subject Heading	Number of Ph.D. Theses	Percentage N=802
1.	1	Bibliometrics/ Scientometrics/ Informetrics	85	10.60
2.	2	Library management	68	8.48
3.	3	University libraries	47	5.86
4.	4	Information systems	31	3.86
5.	4	Information seeking behavior	31	3.86
6.	5	Library and Information Services	30	3.74
7.	6	Information technology	25	3.12
8.	6	Information use/user studies	25	3.12
9.	6	Resource sharing and networking	25	3.12
10.	7	Library profession	24	2.99
11.	7	Public libraries	26	3.24
12.	8	College libraries	22	2.74
13.	9	Reference/ Information sources	20	2.49
14.	10	Special libraries	17	2.12
15.	10	LIS education	17	2.12

Table 5 indicates that maximum research was carried out in the area of bibliometrics /scientometrics/informetrics. 85 theses representing 10.60 percent were awarded doctoral degrees in this area alone. Next to bibliometrics is that area of library management with a total of 68 theses representing 8.48 percent. This clearly shows that research is being carried out in these two fields extensively and research on current topics like application of IT, library automation have started since the past decade.

Therefore, the statistical table depicts more theses on the topics such as university libraries, information seeking behaviour and library services. Current topics, such as, web resources, library 2.0 and library automation though more important now-a-days, research in these areas have started during the last decade and the output is expected in the near future.

Table 6: Top five ranking of guides

Sl. No.	Ranking of guides	Name of the guide	Number of PhD's guided
1	1	C. R. Karisiddappa	33
2	2	S. L. Sangam	21
3	3	S. R. Gunjal	17
4	3	P.S.G. Kumar	17
5	3	B. Ramesh Babu	17
6	4	M. R. Kumbar	15
7	5	V.G. Talawar	13
8	5	Manorama Srinath	13

Table 6 projects the guide-wise output of doctoral theses. Prof. C.R. Karisiddappa has successfully guided for 31 doctoral degrees. Prof. S.L. Sangam is in the second place with 21 doctoral theses. Considering the guides from Karnataka University, there are 84 theses. Prof. V.G. Talawar from University of Mysore has guided and supervised 15 doctoral theses. It is worth nothing here that among the top eight guides faculty guides are from the state of Karnataka. Prof. P.S.G. Kumar from Madhya Pradesh and Prof. Ramesh Babu from Madras University are the two from other states. This clearly indicates that research guides from Karnataka state are more involved in carrying out research programmes with their research scholars and hence the output is also considerably more.

Conclusion

The study has emphasized the perspective of the research activities in library and information science in Indian universities. So far, 802 Ph.D. theses were produced in the LIS subject. Good number of Ph.D. theses were produced in the field of bibliometrics/scientometrics/Informatics, library management, university libraries, indexing system, information seeking behaviour, and library and information services. National Knowledge Commission(NKC) report on the Working Group of libraries published in March 2007 revealed : “India has a long tradition of libraries and has contributed to the development of basic concepts in the discipline such as fundamental principles of library services and knowledge organization tools, R&D activities in LIS today are extremely limited. This is utmost concern for the growth of library and information science profession in India”. National Knowledge Commission has recommended user studies, organization of community information and development of appropriate standards, standardization of Indian names, vocabulary control, development of open source software, development of digital libraries both in English and Indian languages, cross language information retrieval and subjects that have high potential of doing research in LIS. To any research productivity the contributions of the researcher and their guide(s) is highly significant. It is the time worth remembering Dr. S.R. Ranganathan and many other professionals who have contributed much to the development of the profession, as well as, knowledge and skill.

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