

# **SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION IN EVIDENCE BASED LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PRACTICE FROM 2011-2015: A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY**

By

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## **Abstract**

*Purpose:* The study intends to explore the blueprints of scholarly communication of the evidence based library and information practice from 2011-2015 and determine to exposure the quality of contributions of this journal towards library and information science literature.

*Design/methodology/approach:* Five volumes of evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) published during the period 2011-2015 collected from EBLIP website that comprised 20 issues and total number of 451 articles carrying 4,695 citations, have been taken for the analysis. The study analyzes year wise distribution, types of contribution, authorship pattern, ranking of authors, types of citations, chronological distribution of citations, geographical distribution of contributors and length of articles etc.

*Findings:* The majority of articles published in evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) fall under the category of research papers, followed by review articles, evidence summaries, conference papers, using evidence in practice and so on. Concerning on the bibliographical distribution of citations, it is found that the majority of citations occurred from journals, followed by web resources and books. The study further reveals that the 1-5 pages articles 307(68.07%) dominated the length of articles and the scattering of contributors is limited to within twelve countries.

*Originality/value:* The paper is significant and helpful to those who are paying attention in bibliometrics study and it provides a comprehensive study of scholarly communication of evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) from 2011-2015 for understanding essential publishing trends of this journal during the above mentioned period.

*Keywords:* Bibliometrics, Citation analysis, Journals, Library studies

*Paper type:* Research paper

**Introduction**

Bibliometrics is a promising area of research in the field of library and information science (LIS) and has practical applications in measuring the coverage and quality of books, journals, and articles. It helps in preparing need-based collection building policy and provides authentic data to library professionals to take well thought-out decisions in the process of documents' selection. The current study is a bibliometrics analysis of a leading peer reviewed journal "Evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP)" which is published quarterly with four issues per year and containing the original research and commentary on the topic of evidence based library and information practice, as well as reviews of previously published research (evidence summaries) on a wide number of topics of the authors. It is hosted by the University of Alberta Learning Services, and supported by an international team of editorial advisors. The purpose of the journal is to provide a forum for librarians and other information professionals to discover research that may contribute to decision making in professional practice. The Evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) had successfully brought so far twelve volumes and thirteen volumes is going to be completed end of the 2017. In this study, the articles published during the period 2011-2015 have been analyzed.

**Review of related literature**

Some of the pertinent studies on bibliometrics and citation analysis conducted by the scholars of library and information science all over the world are worthy of examination. In this respect, Roy & Basak (2013) examined the articles published in Journal of Documentation for authorship pattern, degree of collaboration, geographical distribution of papers and citation analysis. It is found that majority of papers were multi- authored. The degree of collaboration found to be 0.51. The geographical distribution reveals that the United Kingdom was the highest contributors. The average citation per paper was 43. Bala et al. (2012) expressed that in University News, the core journal in India pertaining to the issues and trends of higher education, the highest number of contributions had been made by single authors. Kumar & Moorthy (2011) exposed different facets like content coverage, authorship pattern, and subject-wise distribution of articles published in DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology from 2001 to 2010. Thanuskodi (2011) revealed that the majority of authors preferred journals as the source of information, providing the highest number of citations and the maximum number of contributions had a length of five to eight pages. Hussain & Fatima (2011) conducted a study on bibliometric analysis of the Chinese Librarianship. It shows authorship patterns, distribution of contributions by institution, subject

distributions, citation patterns, length of article, rank of cited authors, and geographical distribution of authors of the journal from 2006 to 2010. Swain (2011) observe the bibliometric analysis of Library Philosophy and Practice, which revealed that journal articles were the most frequently cited materials followed by books and web resources. Serenko et al. (2010) conducted a bibliometric analysis of a body of literature contained in 11 major knowledge management and intellectual capital peer-reviewed journals and revealed the institutional and individual productivity, co-operation patterns, publication frequency, and other related parameters. Zainab et al. (2009) revealed in the bibliometric study of Malaysian Journal of Computer Science reported their findings regarding the article productivity, authorship collaboration, and journal impact factor of MJCS. Shokeen & Kaushik (2004) in their study of Indian Journal of Plant Physiology publicized that journal articles are predominant with more than two thirds of total citations.

### **Objectives**

The study intends to comprehend the patterns of publication of evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) published during the years 2011-2015 with the following objectives in the scope of this study:

- To examine the year wise of distribution of articles published in evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) during the period of the study;
- To study the distribution of types of contribution;
- To find out authorship patterns;
- To observe authors' most bibliographic forms of documents that have been cited in the publication of EBLIP;
- To identify geographical distribution of authors;
- To find out the length of papers published in the EBLIP.

### **Methodology**

Five volumes of evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) published during the years 2011-2015 collected from its website, a total number of 451 articles carrying 4,695 citations have been taken up for the analysis. The study analyzes various bibliographical forms such as types of articles, authorship patterns, geographical distribution of contributors, chronological distribution of citations, and length of articles etc. For the stated purpose, citations appended at the end of each articles published during the above mentioned period were taken from its website as a PDF form. The citations were

sequentially transferred into a word file and a copy of this file was printed out. The major bibliographical forms of documents that included books, journals, web resources, seminar/conference proceedings, reports and theses/dissertations were marked with the symbols “JR”, “BK”, “S/CP”, “RP”, “D/TH” and “WS” respectively. Entries under each category was totaled and presented for interpretation. Further, the geographical distribution of contributors was decided basing upon the address of the authors’ affiliation. Furthermore, the entries were arranged and carefully examined to produce the most valid output for readers’ understanding and appreciation.

### *Results and analysis*

After analyzing the collected data, the author has presented the observations results under various headings. The detailed analysis of Evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) during the period 2011-2015 are given below:

#### *Year wise contribution of articles*

Table I shows that maximum number of contributions 97(21.51 per cent) were published in the year 2011, 2013 & 2015 followed by 83(18.40 per cent) publications in the year 2012 whereas minimum 77(17.07 per cent) number were published in the year 2014. Table II provides more specific details about distribution of contributions.

Table I: Year wise contribution of articles

Year	Vol. No.	No. of Issues	Contribution	%
2011	6	4	97	21.51
2012	7	4	83	18.40
2013	8	4	97	21.51
2014	9	4	77	17.07
2015	10	4	97	21.51
Total		20	451	100.00

Table-II: Distribution of contributions

Issue	Volume No.					Total
	6	7	8	9	10	
1	22	23	23	16	18	102
2	22	18	35	16	25	116
3	22	19	14	21	20	96
4	31	23	25	24	34	137
Total	97	83	97	77	97	451

*Types of contributions*

It is clear from the tables III that the types of contributions published in the evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) are categorized into several types given below. Out of these all types, evidence summary 192(42.57 per cent) followed by articles 66(14.63 per cent), features 53(11.75 per cent) news announcements 49(10.86 per cent) and editorial 41(9.09 per cent), followed by EBL-101 16(3.35 per cent), commentary 13(2.88 per cent), using evidence in practice 7(1.55 per cent), classic and review articles six each 6(1.33 per cent) and research in practice 2(0.44 per cent).

Table III: Types of contributions

Types of Article	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	%
Article	14	14	14	8	16	66	14.63
Classic	2	1	1	2	-	6	1.33
Commentary	1	2	5	4	1	13	2.88
EBL-101	4	3	4	4	1	16	3.55
Editorial	9	8	8	8	8	41	9.09
Evidence Summary	47	35	33	36	41	192	42.57
Feature	6	6	23	-	18	53	11.75
News Announcements	10	12	7	12	8	49	10.86
Research in Practice	-	-	-	-	2	2	0.44

Review Article	-	2	2	1	1	6	1.33
Using Evidence in Practice	4	-	-	2	1	7	1.55
Total	97	83	97	77	97	451	100.00

### *Authorship patterns*

It is clear from the table IV that, single authors 265(58.76 per cent) have made major contribution to the evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) during the stated periods, followed by three authors 69(15.30 per cent), four authors 52(11.53 per cent) and two authors 42(9.31 per cent). However, the contribution of more than five authors 23(5.10 percent) is relatively minimum. This analysis indicates that sole contribution is more predominant than the cooperative authors.

Table IV: Authorship pattern (year-wise)

Year	Volume No.	Issue No.	No. of authors contributed					Total
			Single	Two	Three	Four	>Five	
2011	6	4	75	7	10	5	-	97
2012	7	4	44	3	17	10	9	83
2013	8	4	53	16	18	9	1	97
2014	9	4	50	13	3	5	6	77
2015	10	4	43	3	21	23	7	97
Total			265 (58.76%)	42 (9.31%)	69 (15.30%)	52 (11.53%)	23 (5.10%)	451 (100.00%)

### *Prolific Authors*

Table V presents rank list of prolific authors who have contributed five or more articles in the different issues of evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) during the period of this study. Only up to five contributions have been taken in this table to stay away from long list. The authors having same

amount of contributions have been considered in the same rank. The ranking of authors have significance in bibliometrics study. It is clear from the table V that Virginia Wilson tops the ranking list of authors by contributing maximum 22 articles followed by Alison Brettle contributed 12 articles and four authors Cari Merkley, Diana K. Wakimoto, Giovanna Badia and Laura Newton Miller 10 articles each.

Table-V: Ranking of Prolific Authors

Name of the Author	Contributions	Rank
Virginia Wilson	22	1
Alison Brettle	12	2
Cari Merkley	10	3
Diana K. Wakimoto	10	3
Giovanna Badia	10	3
Laura Newton Miller	10	3
Denise Koufogiannakis	9	4
Eamon C. Tewell	7	5
Lisa Shen	7	5
Annie M. Hughes	6	6
Dominique Daniel	6	6
Heather Coats	6	6
Jason Martin	6	6
Robin E. Miller	6	6
Carol D. Howe	5	7
Michelle Dalton	5	7
Lorie Kloda	5	7

### *Length of articles*

Table VI reveals that the average length of articles published in the evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP). It revealed that 1-5 pages articles were 307(68.07%) followed by 11-15 pages articles 60(13.30%), 16-20 pages articles 44(9.76%), 6-10 pages articles 24(5.32%) and more than

20 pages articles 16(3.55%). The findings clearly show that 1-5 pages articles 307(68.07%) dominated the length of articles in the evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP).

Table VI: Length of articles

Year	Volume No.	Issue No.	Length of contributions (No. of pages)					Total
			1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	≥20	
2011	6	4	65	7	9	5	-	86
2012	7	4	45	3	8	8	4	68
2013	8	4	51	8	17	9	1	86
2014	9	4	48	3	5	2	4	62
2015	10	4	98	3	21	20	7	149
Total			307 (68.07%)	24 (5.32%)	60 (13.30%)	44 (9.76%)	16 (3.55%)	451 (100.00%)

#### *Geographical distribution of contributors (country-wise)*

Table VII reveals that the geographical distribution of contributors (country-wise). It is found that there are 451 contributions made by the authors from 12 different countries. Out of the total 451 contributors, USA contributed the highest number of articles 180(39.91 per cent) of total contributions. Canada has received second highest position in contributing 133(29.49 per cent) articles. However, UK contributed 61(13.53 per cent) followed by Australia 30(6.65 per cent), Ireland contributed each 29(6.43 per cent). Only seven countries namely Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sweden, California, Estonia and Israel have a record of individual contributions ranging from 1-5 articles. Furthermore, it reveals that only five top ranked countries have contributed altogether more than (96 per cent). It is also indicates that 96 percent of contributions are made by top five countries and the remaining 4 percent of contributions are made from 7 countries. The overall analysis indicates that the evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) has set policy for considerations of the quality articles.



Table VII: Geographical distribution of contributors (Country-wise)

Country	No. of Contributions	%
USA	180	39.91
Canada	133	29.49
UK	61	13.53
Australia	30	6.65
Ireland	29	6.43
Netherland	5	1.11
New Zealand	4	0.89
Nigeria	3	0.67
Sweden	3	0.67
California	1	0.22
Estonia	1	0.22
Israel	1	0.22
Total	451	100.00

*Bibliographical distribution of citations*

One of the important aspects of bibliometrics study is to evaluate the bibliographical distribution of citations. In this study, the major bibliographical forms taken into consideration such as journals, books, websites, seminar/conference proceedings, reports, theses/dissertations. Tables VIII and IX reveals that the bibliographical forms wise distribution of citations and the year wise distribution of citations respectively. It is clear from the study that a majority of citations are taken from journals (51.82 per cent) followed by, websites (29.37 per cent), books (13.82 per cent), reports (2.51 per cent), seminar/conference proceedings (2.15 per cent) and theses (0.32 per cent). As a result, it is clear that journal citations have

played a key role in writing of scholarly piece of writings in the evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP).

Table VIII: Distribution of citations

Year	Volume No.	Issue No	Types of citations/references						Total
			JR	BK	S/CP	RP	D/TH	WS	
2011	6	1	69	10	12	5	-	12	108
		2	60	6	2	2	-	22	92
		3	71	20	-	-	1	6	98
		4	205	52	11	17	1	55	341
2012	7	1	107	57	3	16	-	60	243
		2	65	5	1	2	-	22	95
		3	157	55	6	9	1	34	262
		4	167	54	4	3	-	50	278
2013	8	1	186	70	9	8	1	42	316
		2	188	28	13	17	2	89	337
		3	113	25	1	4	-	24	167
		4	170	39	6	4	2	62	283
2014	9	1	83	18	3	1	3	45	153
		2	42	3	1	7	-	26	79
		3	113	29	6	3	-	118	269
		4	62	5	2	1	-	62	132
2015	10	1	94	15	1	2	1	103	216
		2	125	66	13	3	2	151	360
		3	123	27	3	8	-	141	302
		4	233	65	4	6	1	255	564
Total			2433 (51.82%)	649 (13.82%)	101 (2.15%)	118 (2.51%)	15 (0.32%)	1379 (29.37%)	4695 (100.00%)

Table IX: Distribution of citations

Year	Volume No.	Types of citations/references							%
		JR	BK	S/CP	RP	D/TH	WS	Total	
2011	6	405	88	25	24	2	95	639	13.61
2012	7	496	171	14	30	1	166	878	18.70
2013	8	657	162	29	33	5	217	1103	23.49
2014	9	300	55	12	12	3	251	633	13.48
2015	10	575	173	21	19	4	650	1442	30.71
Total		2433 (51.82%)	649 (13.82%)	101 (2.15%)	118 (2.51%)	15 (0.32%)	1379 (29.37%)	4695	100.00

### Summary of findings

The summary and major findings of the study are presented below:

- It shows that maximum number of contributions 97(21.51 per cent) were published in the year 2011, 2013 & 2015 followed by 83(18.40 per cent) publications in the year 2012 whereas minimum 77(17.07 per cent) number were published in the year 2014.
- This analysis indicates that 265(58.76 per cent) sole contribution is more predominant than the co-authors contribution.
- It is clear from the table V that Virginia Wilson tops the ranking list of prolific authors by contributing maximum 22 articles followed by Alison Brett contributed 12 articles and four authors Cari Merkley, Diana K. Wakimoto, Giovanna Badia and Laura Newton Miller 10 articles each. Further, it is clear that only up to five contributions have been taken in this table to stay

away from long list. The authors having same amount of contributions have been considered in the same rank.

- The findings clearly show that 1-5 pages articles 307(68.07%) dominated the length of articles in the evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP).
- It reveals that 96 percent of contributions are made by top five countries and the remaining 4 percent of contributions are made from 7 countries.
- It is clear from the study that a majority of citations are taken from journals (51.82 per cent) followed by, websites (29.37 per cent), books (13.82 per cent), reports (2.51 per cent), seminar/conference proceedings (2.15 per cent) and theses (0.32 per cent). As a result, it is clear that journal citations have played a key role in writing of scholarly piece of writings in the evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP).

### **Suggestions for future research**

Due to scarcity of time and certain necessary situations, the authors could not make the exhaustive study which could have provided some more interesting results. Therefore, the authors feel that this research may provide useful scaffolding to the following area of research in future: The Evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) may be re-visited after a couple of years for a different time slot and the scope of the study could be extended to incorporate authors' productivity pattern, degree of authors' collaboration and Journal Impact Factor based on citations of Evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) articles received by Google Scholar which can further be compared with the corresponding impact factor of Thomson Reuters (ISI) for a given year. A comparative study may be conducted between two single journals of relatively similar standard with reference to the metrics used in this study.

### **Conclusion**

The evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) is a reputed international referred journal in the field of library and information science exclusively devoted to the use, application and development of various aspects of information communication technologies in the electronic environment. Analysis of five volumes of the journal shows that it publishes high quality articles leading with research papers, case studies, and general reviews contributed by the advanced researchers which in turn, help research scholars and library professionals to refresh their knowledge from findings on ongoing trends on application and use of digital libraries, automation, networking, and assorted topics from around different parts of the

world. In this direction, evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) is striving hard to constantly improve the quality of its publication over last few years. Moreover, as evident from the study, evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP) has set due consideration for the quality of production of articles with respect to the technological developments of both developed and developing countries with useful information and descriptions of specific applications around the globe in conformity accordance with its the editorial policy of the journal.

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