

BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF ANNALS OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (2004-2013)

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ABSTRACT

The present study reports the results of the bibliometric analysis of Annals of Library and Information Studies (ALIS) for the period from 2004 to 2013. The data collection was done by downloading the contents from the website of the journal. The analysis covers mainly the number of articles, authorship pattern, geographical distribution of contributions, types and forms of documents cited, length of the contributions etc. The study shows a trend of growth in the number of contributions every year. Out of the total number of 323 contributions, 120 (37.15%) are contributed by single authors while the remaining 203 (62.85%) are join authors' contributions. The study further finds that most of the contributions are from India (87.31%).

KEYWORDS: Bibliometrics; Library and Information Science; Citation analysis; Content analysis; Authorship pattern; Geographical distribution.

INTRODUCTION

Bibliometrics^{1,2}

The term bibliometrics was first used by Alan Pritchard in 1969 to denote a new discipline where quantitative methods were employed to probe scientific communication process by measuring and analyzing various aspects of written documents. Bibliometrics (sometimes called Scientometrics) is the application of quantitative analysis and statistics to publications such as journal articles and their accompanying citation counts. Quantitative evaluation of publication and citation data is now used in almost all nations around the globe with a sizeable science enterprise. Bibliometrics is used in research performance evaluation, especially in university and government labs, and also by policymakers, research directors and administrators, information specialists and librarians, and researchers themselves. Bibliometrics is a set of methods used to study or measure texts and information. Citation analysis and content analysis are commonly used bibliometric methods. While these methods are most often used in the field of library and information science, bibliometrics has wide applications in other areas as well. Especially for scientists, journal rankings are essential, since one of the basic ways for them to illustrate their achievements to their academic institution and funding agencies is through the assessment of the journals in which they publish their work.

¹ Pritchard, A. (1969). Statistical bibliography or bibliometrics. *Journal of Documentation*, 25(4), pp. 338-349.

² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bibliometrics/>

Annals of Library and Information Studies³

Annals of Library and Information Studies (ALIS), earlier published as Annals of Library Science and Documentation, is a well known quarterly journal in the field of Library and Information Studies published by National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR), an institute, serving the society using modern Information Technology (IT) infrastructure in a more effective manner and taking up new ventures in the field of science communication, dissemination and Science and Technology (S&T) information management systems and services. Broadly the core activity of NISCAIR is to collect/store, publish and disseminate S&T information through a mix of traditional and modern means, benefiting different segments of society. ALIS publishes original papers, survey reports, reviews, short communications, and letters pertaining to library science, information science and computer applications in these fields. ALIS Archives beginning from Vol. 1, Issue 1 (1954) were launched on the occasion of the Seminar on Indian LIS Journals: Problems and Prospects, held at CSIR-NISCAIR, New Delhi on 23rd April 2014.

OBJECTIVES

The present study has been undertaken with the following objectives:

- To classify the number of contributions published during the period of study;
- To find out the year-wise distribution of contributions;
- To study the authorship pattern;
- To classify geographical distribution of contributions;
- To classify the number and forms of documents cited; and
- To study length of articles.

METHODOLOGY

Bibliometric analysis of ten volumes (*from Volume No. 51 to 60*) from the year 2004 to 2013 covering forty issues containing 323 contributions, was performed. All the bibliographic details were noted and recorded in tabular form for the purpose of in-depth analysis. Based on the analysis of the recorded data, findings have been presented.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The present study is confined to the data collected from forty (40) issues of the ten (10) volumes of the ALIS journal from the year 2004 to 2013 while the journal is continuously being published since the year 1954. Therefore, the results may vary if the studies of different blocks of the years of publication of the journal are performed. The present study may not be fully representative in all the results but it gives a trend about what is happening in its publication.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

All the bibliographic details related to volumes, issues, authors, contributions, title, year of publication, pagination etc. were recorded for the purpose of performing bibliometric analysis as detailed below.

³ <http://www.niscair.res.in/>

Table 1: Year wise Distribution of Contributions

Year	Vol. No.	No. of Issues	No. of Contributions	Percentage
2004	51	4	22	6.81
2005	52	4	24	7.43
2006	53	4	29	8.98
2007	54	4	28	8.67
2008	55	4	37	11.46
2009	56	4	34	10.53
2010	57	4	43	13.31
2011	58	4	40	12.38
2012	59	4	28	8.67
2013	60	4	38	11.76
Total			323	100.00

From the above, it was found that a total of 323 contributions (*articles, research papers etc.*) have been published in the ten volumes of ALIS during the period of study i.e. from the year 2004 to 2013. On an average the journal has published 32 research papers per year. The table shows that the maximum number of contributions/research papers (43) were published in the year 2010 while the minimum (22) in the year 2004.

Table 2: Issue wise Distribution of Contributions

Issue	Volume Number										Total
	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	
March	6	6	7	5	10	7	9	11	6	9	76
June	6	6	6	9	10	8	9	10	6	9	79
September	6	6	8	6	9	9	14	10	9	9	86
December	4	6	8	8	8	10	11	9	7	11	82
Total	22	24	29	28	37	34	43	40	28	38	323

The above table reveals that the maximum number of contributions/research papers (14) have been published in the September issue of Volume No. 57 followed by 11 in December issue of Volume No. 57 and March issue of Volume No. 58 respectively, while the third place is occupied by the March and June issues of Volume No. 55, December issue of Volume No. 56, June and September issues of Volume No. 58, with 10 contributions each. The lowest position is occupied by the December issue of Volume No. 51 publishing only 4 contributions.

Table 3: Types of Contributions

Year	Vol. No.	Type of Contribution			
		Editorial	Research Papers	Book Review	Short Communication etc.
2004	51	--	21	1	--
2005	52	--	23	1	--
2006	53	--	26	3	--
2007	54	--	26	1	1
2008	55	--	35	2	--

2009	56	--	34	--	--
2010	57	1	40	1	1
2011	58	--	36	--	4
2012	59	1	27	--	--
2013	60	--	35	1	2
Total	2	(0.62%)	303	(93.81%)	10
				(3.09%)	8
					(2.48%)

On an analysis of the above table, it was found that out of the total contributions of 323, research papers attained the top position of publications totaling 303 (93.81%) followed by book reviews 10 (3.09%), short communications etc. 8 (2.48%) and editorials totaling only 2 (0.62%). It appears that ALIS gives maximum importance to the original research papers for the purpose of publishing.

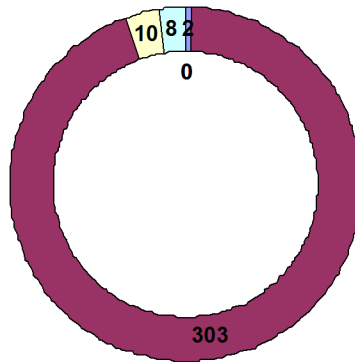
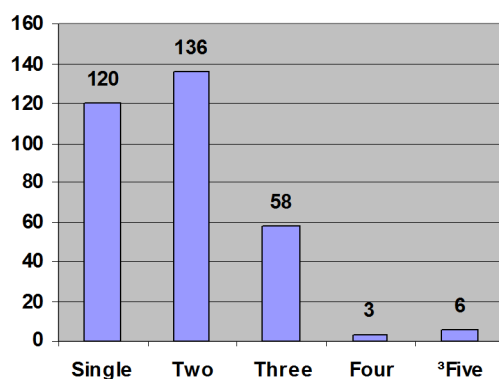


Table 4: Authorship Pattern

Year	Vol. No.	Issue	Number of Authors Contributed					Total
			Single	Two	Three	Four	Five	
2004	51	March	3	1	2	--	--	6
		June	2	2	1	--	1 ⁽⁷⁾	6
		September	1	4	1	--	--	6
		December	1	2	1	--	--	4
2005	52	March	4	1	1	--	--	6
		June	3	3	--	--	--	6
		September	2	1	3	--	--	6
		December	1	3	1	--	1 ⁽⁵⁾	6
2006	53	March	3	3	1	--	--	7
		June	1	3	2	--	--	6
		September	3	4	1	--	--	8
		December	2	4	1	--	1 ⁽⁵⁾	8
2007	54	March	3	2	--	--	--	5
		June	4	2	3	--	--	9
		September	2	2	2	--	--	6
		December	3	4	1	--	--	8

2008	55	March	1	5	3	1	--	10
		June	3	6	1	--	--	10
		September	6	2	1	--	--	9
		December	5	2	1	--	--	8
2009	56	March	3	2	2	--	--	7
		June	--	7	1	--	--	8
		September	2	5	2	--	--	9
		December	1	6	3	--	--	10
2010	57	March	4	2	2	1	--	9
		June	3	4	2	--	--	9
		September	9	3	1	1	--	14
		December	2	9	--	--	--	11
2011	58	March	4	4	3	--	--	11
		June	3	5	1	--	1 ⁽⁶⁾	10
		September	5	4	1	--	--	10
		December	6	1	2	--	--	9
2012	59	March	4	1	1	--	--	6
		June	1	3	2	--	--	6
		September	3	5	1	--	--	9
		December	4	1	2	--	--	7
2013	60	March	3	3	2	--	1 ⁽⁶⁾	9
		June	2	7	--	--	--	9
		September	5	2	1	--	1 ⁽⁵⁾	9
		December	3	6	2	--	--	11
Total			120 (37.15 %)	136 (42.1 0%)	58 (17.96 %)	3 (0.93 %)	6 (1.86 %)	323

The data recorded in the above table reveals that joint authored publications are leading in frequency of occurrence in the ALIS with a total of 203 (62.85%) while the frequency of occurrence of publications having single author during the period of study totals 120 (37.15%).



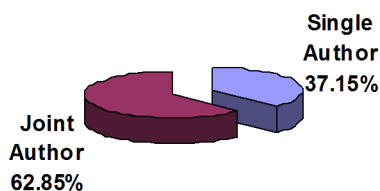


Table 5: Geographical Distribution of Contributions

Year	Vol. No.	Issue	Indian	Foreign
2004	51	March	6	--
		June	6	--
		September	6	--
		December	4	--
2005	52	March	6	--
		June	6	--
		September	6	--
		December	6	--
2006	53	March	7	--
		June	6	--
		September	8	--
		December	8	--
2007	54	March	5	--
		June	9	--
		September	6	--
		December	8	--
2008	55	March	10	--
		June	10	--
		September	9	--
		December	7	1
2009	56	March	7	--
		June	6	2
		September	9	--
		December	10	--
2010	57	March	8	1
		June	8	2
		September	8	6
		December	11	--
2011	58	March	10	1
		June	6	4
		September	7	3
		December	6	3
2012	59	March	4	2
		June	2	4

		September	9	--
		December	5	2
2013	60	March	5	3
		June	9	--
		September	8	1
		December	5	6
Total			282 (87.31 %)	41 (12.69%)

Table 5 above shows that the maximum number of contributions during the period of study are from India with a total of 282 (87.31%) while the remaining 41 (12.69%) are foreign. The maximum foreign contributions (6) are found to be in the September issue of the year 2010.

Table 6: Geographical Distribution of Contributions (Country wise)

Country	No. of Contributions	%age
India	282	87.31
Nigeria	15	4.64
Bangladesh	6	1.85
Sri Lanka	4	1.24
Botswana	2	0.62
Belgium	2	0.62
Hungary	1	0.31
Hawaii	1	0.31
Netherlands	2	0.62
Philadelphia	1	0.31
Stanford	1	0.31
Iran	1	0.31
Uganda	1	0.31
Malaysia	1	0.31
Tanzania	1	0.31
Fiji	1	0.31
Brazil	1	0.31
Total	323	100.00

On an analysis of the Table 6 above, it was found that out of the total contributions (323) during the period of study, India acquired the top position with 282 contributions (87.31%) followed by Nigeria with only 15 (4.64%) contributions and Bangladesh with 6 (1.85%) contributions only. It appears that the coverage of ALIS is not very broad and its scope is confined to the Indian continent only.

Table 7: Geographical Distribution of Contributions (India-State wise)

State	No. of Contributions	%age
New Delhi	74	26.24
Karnataka	40	14.18
West Bengal	29	10.28
Uttar Pradesh	20	7.09
Kerala	19	6.74
Maharashtra	18	6.38
Tamil Nadu	14	4.96
Madhya Pradesh	10	3.55
Rajasthan	7	2.48
Orissa	6	2.13
Punjab	5	1.78
Haryana	5	1.78
Manipur	5	1.78
Andhra Pradesh	5	1.78
Himachal Pradesh	5	1.78
Jammu & Kashmir	5	1.78
Assam	3	1.06
Gujarat	3	1.06
Jharkhand	3	1.06
Uttranchal	2	0.71
Chhatisgarh	1	0.35
Mizoram	1	0.35
Sikkim	1	0.35
Pondicherry	1	0.35
Total	282	100.00

Table 7 above represents the state wise geographical distribution of Indian contributions in the ten volumes of the period of study. It shows that out of the total of 282 contributions from India, the highest number 74 (26.24%) are from New Delhi followed by 40 (14.18%) from Karnataka while West Bengal acquired third place with 29 contributions (10.28%).

Table 8: Distribution of Citations

Year	Vol. No.	Types of Citations/References						Total
		JR	S/CP	BK	WS	RP	D/T H	
2004	51	75	10	38	24	13	3	163
2005	52	163	26	121	8	12	--	330
2006	53	235	33	81	20	11	9	389
2007	54	216	39	71	26	13	6	371
2008	55	320	33	102	118	11	2	586
2009	56	485	24	70	49	30	16	674
2010	57	530	74	225	154	10	14	1007
2011	58	488	39	151	124	22	13	837
2012	59	234	41	63	94	11	20	463

2013	60	554	34	153	78	10	13	842
Total		3300 (58.2 8%)	353 (6.23 %)	1075 (18.9 9%)	695 (12.2 8%)	143 (2.53 %)	96 (1.69 %)	5662

JR-Journals; S/CP-Seminar/Workshop/Conference Proceedings; BK-Books; WS-Websites; RP-Reports; D/TH-Dissertations/Theses

Another major area of bibliometric research involves the study and use of various methods of citation analysis in order to establish relationships between authors and/or their work. The above table shows that the majority of authors preferred journals as their prime source of information. Out of the total number of citations of 5662 spread over forty issues of the ten volumes of ALIS during the period of study having a total number of 323 contributions, 3300 (58.28%) citations were from journals followed by 1075 (18.99%) citations from books and the third place was acquired by websites with 695 (12.28%) citations. Table 8 above, further reveals that the maximum number of citations were received in the year 2010 totaling 1007 (17.78%) out of 5662 while the least citations were recorded in the year 2004 totaling 163 (2.88%).

Table 9: Length of Contributions

Year	Vol. No.	Issue	Length of Contributions (No. of Pages)					Total
			1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	>20	
2004	51	March	2	2	2	--	--	6
		June	1	5	--	--	--	6
		September	3	3	--	--	--	6
		December	1	2	1	--	--	4
2005	52	March	1	5	--	--	--	6
		June	3	3	--	--	--	6
		September	3	3	--	--	--	6
		December	3	2	1	--	--	6
2006	53	March	3	2	2	--	--	7
		June	3	2	1	--	--	6
		September	2	5	1	--	--	8
		December	3	3	2	--	--	8
2007	54	March	2	2	1	--	--	5
		June	5	4	--	--	--	9
		September	1	4	1	--	--	6
		December	3	5	--	--	--	8
2008	55	March	2	8	--	--	--	10
		June	3	5	2	--	--	10
		September	--	5	4	--	--	9
		December	1	5	1	1	--	8
2009	56	March	--	6	1	--	--	7
		June	--	5	3	--	--	8
		September	--	8	1	--	--	9
		December	1	8	--	1	--	10
2010	57	March	2	5	2	--	--	9
		June	2	3	3	1	--	9
		September	5	4	3	1	1	14
		December	1	8	1	1	--	11

2011	58	March	1	10	--	--	--	11
		June	--	6	4	--	--	10
		September	1	5	4	--	--	10
		December	2	5	2	--	--	9
2012	59	March	--	3	3	--	--	6
		June	--	4	1	1	--	6
		September	2	5	2	--	--	9
		December	2	4	--	--	1	7
2013	60	March	4	5	--	--	--	9
		June	1	7	1	--	--	9
		September	--	9	--	--	--	9
		December	1	8	2	--	--	11
Total			70 (21.67 %)	193 (59.7 5%)	52 (16.10 %)	6 (1.86 %)	2 (0.62 %)	323

The data recorded in Table 9 reveals that the majority of the contributions 193 (59.75%) were having the length of 6-10 pages while 70 contributions (21.67%) were found to have a length of 1-5 pages and on the third place 52 (16.10%) contributions were having a length of 11-15 pages. Contributions having a length of 16-20 pages were only 6 (1.86%) and only 2 (0.62%) were found to have a length of more than 20 pages.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The present study observes the publication of 323 contributions in the ALIS journal during the period of study. The study shows a trend of growth in contributions published during the year 2004 to 2013 with an average number of contributions 32 per volume of the journal. The maximum number of contributions/research papers (43) were found to be published in the year 2010 while the minimum (22) in the year 2004. The study reveals that ALIS gives maximum importance to the original research papers for the purpose of publishing, which attained top position of publications with a total of 303 (93.81%). The maximum number of contributions during the period of study are from joint authors with a total of 203 (62.85%). Most of the contributions are from India with a total of 282 (87.31%). New Delhi and Karnataka were found to be the biggest domestic contributors during the period of study with 74 (26.24%) and 40 (14.18%) contributions respectively. It appears that the coverage of ALIS is not very broad and its scope is confined to the Indian continent only. Majority of authors preferred journals as their prime source of information providing highest number of citations totaling 3300 (58.28%) while books attained second position with 1075 (18.99%) citations. The study further reveals that the maximum number of citations were received in the year 2010 totaling 1007 (17.78%) out of 5662 while the least citations were recorded in the year 2004 totaling 163 (2.88%). Annals of Library and Information Studies (ALIS) has free online access through Internet and is the highly preferred journal for communication by the Library and Information Science professionals. The journal has great potential of attaining new heights of popularity and impact all over the world in the field of Library and Information Science provided it starts publishing high quality papers contributed by foreign authors too.

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