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Prabin Karkee

DLIS, University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal, India, prabinkarkee10@gmail.com

Sudha Sinha

St. Michael's HS School, Darjeeling, sudhasinhadarj@gmail.com

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Mapping the publication pattern of IASLIC Bulletin (2013-2017): A bibliometric assessment

Prabin Karkee

*Assistant Professor, DLIS,
University of Gour Banga, Malda,
West Bengal, India 732103
Email: prabinkarkee10@gmail.com*

Sudha Sinha

*Librarian, St. Michaels' HS School,
North Point, Darjeeling,
West Bengal, India 734104
Email: sudhasinhadarj@gmail.com*

Abstract

Objective: To determine the bibliometric study of IASLIC Bulletin –an official organ or a leading library science journal published by Indian Association of Special Libraries & Information Centres.

Methods: For the purpose of this study, IASLIC Bulletin has been selected as the source journal. The 20 issues of the 5 volumes, i.e., Vol. 58-62 (2013-2017) of this journal have been selected. All the papers from five volumes have been scanned and analyzed with the help of spreadsheet. The total 97 articles were published during the period 2013 – 2017. The study covers the year-wise, institutions-wise, state-wise distribution of contributions, authorship pattern, citation analysis, length of the contributions etc. Citation analysis of 1369 citations includes finding out number of citations per volume, types of publications cited and preparing ranked list of cited journals in the contributions of this journal.

Results: The study shows that maximum number of articles published in the year 2014 and research papers form the majority of contributions. Most of the contributions were contributed by joint authors and state-wise distribution shows that most of the contributions were contributed from West Bengal. The study reveals that journals are the most cited publication amongst the library and information scientists. Annals of Library and Information Studies are the most cited journal in the contributions of IASLIC bulletin.

Conclusions: Results from the present study provides impetus in bibliometric study of library and information science journal. The findings of the study may be helpful to students,

researchers, librarians and information scientists for understanding the trend of research and selecting the library and information science journal for subscription in the libraries.

Keywords: IASLIC Bulletin, Authorship Pattern, Scientometric, Bibliometric, Citation Analysis, Library and Information Science

Introduction

A periodical literature is one of the primary sources of information for communicating the latest research findings and publishing the articles containing the recent development in any field of knowledge. A library has to procure periodicals literature in both offline and online format to cater the information need of the clientele it serves. So, due to the rising cost of the periodicals and meagre library budgets, the selection of any particular journal for a library should be done more carefully. Library authorities are forced to reduce the number of journal subscriptions. In such situation scientometric and bibliometric analysis helps the libraries in framing the subscription policies of periodicals in the Library.

Scientometrics which overlaps with bibliometrics to a considerable extent (Thanuskodi, 2010), is a quantitative study of various aspects of literature on a topic and is used to identify the pattern of publication, the growth of literature in a subject area, how much literature is contributed by various languages, how the literature on some subjects are scattered and study of authorship in publications, measuring the impact of publications, and secondary journal coverage to gain insight into the dynamics of growth of knowledge in the areas under consideration. The study seeks to forecast of past, present and future publishing trends, adaption of an accurate weeding and stacking policy, prediction of productivity of publishers, individual authors, organization, country or that of entire disciplines among others etc. The study also helps in selection of books and periodicals, features of subject literatures, evaluation of collections and bibliographies, and historical and sociological studies (Sengupta, 1992; Osareh, 1996).

IASLIC Bulletin

Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers (IASLIC) a non-profit organization was established in the year 1955 at Kolkata to shore up the development of special libraries in India. IASLIC Bulletin - an official organ of the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers is a well known journal in the field of Library and Information Science published from India. It was first published in 1956. The journal is

committed to the advancement and dissemination of the fundamental and applied knowledge of Library and Information Science in an accessible form to professional colleagues who have a common interest in the field in this country and abroad. This is a peer-reviewed quarterly publication. The journal publishes research papers, book reviews, short communications, proceedings and papers. IASLIC Bulletin is abstracted /indexed in: Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA); INSPEC; Indian Library Science Abstracts (ILSA); Guide to Indian Periodical Literature.

Literature Review

Many studies have been carried out earlier by different authors analysing the contributions in different journals as a part of the study of bibliometric in various fields. Library and information science journals are not in exception. Mondal and Raychaudhury (2018), Halder and Chandra (2009), Singh (2015), Singh and Mishra (2013), Parameshwar S (2016), Chandra (2014), Mishra and Mohanta (1990), Das and Tripathi (2007), conducted the bibliometric study of IASLIC Bulletin of different periods. Verma, Tamrakar & Sharma (2007), Paliwal (2015), Maity and Teli (2015), Pandita (2013), Chaurasia (2008), Prieto-Gutiérrez and Segado-Boj (2019), Garg and Bebi (2014), Khan (2015), Jena, Swain and Sahoo (2012), Parameshwar and Reddy Kolle (2016), Jayaraman, Krishnaswamy and Subramanian (2012) have studied the scientrometric aspect of Annals of Library and Information Studies. Similarly several studies have been carried out by many authors of various Library and Information Science journals published from across the sphere.

Objectives of the Study

The present study has been undertaken with the objective of analysing the following aspects:

- To study year-wise distribution of contributions;
- To determine the category-wise classification of contributions;
- To study the authorship pattern of contributions;
- To identify geographical distribution of contributions;
- To study the length of contributions;
- To study the most prolific contribution of papers;
- To find out the number of citations per volume in the journal;
- To study the types of publications cited in the contributions of the journal; and
- To prepare ranked list from journals cited in the contributions of the journal.

Methodology

For the purpose of this study, IASLIC Bulletin has been selected as the source journal. In the present paper, the 20 issues of the 5 volumes, i.e., Vol. 58-62 (2013-2017) of this journal have been selected for the study. During the year 2016 two issues that is issue no. 2 & 3 appeared in the same issue. All the cited and citing articles from five volumes were scanned and analyzed with the help of spreadsheet.

Data Analysis & Interpretation

A total number of 97 articles published during the period 2013-2017 have been recorded for the present study.

Table-1 Year-wise distribution of publications

Year	Vol. No.	No. of Issue	No. of Contributions	% of Contributions
2013	58	1-4	18	11.12
2014	59	1-4	23	14.19
2015	60	1-4	18	11.12
2016	61	1-4	16	9.87
2017	62	1-4	22	13.59
Total		20	97	100%

During the study period 2013 – 2017, 97 articles were published in IASLIC Bulletin. The above table-1 shows that the maximum numbers of articles 23 (14.19%) were published in 59 volumes appeared in the year 2014. Followed by 22(13.59%) articles in 2017, 18(11.12%) articles come out in the year 2013 and 2015. The minimum numbers of articles 16(9.87%) were published in the year 2016 because the two issues 2 & 3 of volume 61 appeared in the same issue.

Table-2 Types of Contributions

Year	Vol. No.	Issue No	Research Paper	Concept Paper	Book Review	Letter to Editor	Publication Policy	Short Comm	Obituary	Total
		1	5	0	1	1	1	4	1	13

2013	58	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
		3	4	0	1	0	0	4	0	9
		4	4	0	1	0	0	3	0	8
2014	59	1	6	0	1	0	1	3	0	11
		2	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	8
		3	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
		4	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	7
2015	60	1	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	6
		2	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
		3	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
		4	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	8
2016	61	1	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	7
		2 & 3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
		4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
2017	62	1	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	7
		2	6	0	1	0	0	1	0	8
		3	5	0	0	0	0	3	0	8
		4	6	0	2	0	0	3	0	11
Total			93 (64.13%)	4 (2.75%)	9 (6.20%)	1 (0.68%)	5 (3.44%)	32 (22.06%)	1 (0.68%)	145

Table 2 shows that the types of contributions in IASLIC Bulletin during the study period 2013 to 2017. The study reveals that the maximum number of contributions are research paper 93 (64.13%) followed by concept paper 4 (2.75%), book review 9 (6.20%), letter to editor 1 (0.68%), publication policy 5 (3.44%), short communication 32 (22.06%) and obituary 1 (0.68%). The short communications includes IASLIC ‘Research in Progress’ – (RIP) service, guidelines to the reviewer of books, appeal to authors, and intimation of IASLIC All India Conference etc.

Table-3 Year wise Authorship distribution of publications

Authorship	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	No. of Contributions	% of Contributions	Total Authors
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Single Author	8	13	4	4	6	35	36.08%	35
2 Authors	9	10	12	9	12	52	53.61%	104
3 Authors	1	0	2	3	4	10	10.31%	30
Total Contributions	18	23	18	16	22	97	100%	0
Total Authors	29	33	34	31	42	0	0	169

Table 3 reveals the authorship pattern of the articles published during the period of study 2013 - 2017. The joint authorship is found prominent. Among them 52 (53.61%) articles were authored by two authors and 10 (10.31%) articles by three authors jointly. The percentage of single authored articles was 35 (36.08%). This indicates the increasing collaboration on authorship pattern.

Table-4 Ranking of Authors

Rank	Name of the author	Contributions
1	Pijushkanti Panigrahi	4
1	Krishnapada Majumder	4
2	Aditya Tripathi	3
2	Durgasankar Rath	3
2	Puspanjali Jena	3
3	Subal Chandra Biswas	2
3	Sanjay Kumar Singh	2
3	Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay	2
3	Prijith Jacob Thomas	2
3	Harish Babu	2
3	A Thirumagal	2
3	T K Gireesh Kumar	2
3	Sangita Gupta	2

Ranking of authors has great importance in scientometric study. Table 4 presents the rank list of authors who have contributed two or more articles/research papers in the different

issues of IASLIC Bulletin during the period of study. The ceiling of two contributions has been taken into account with a view to avoid a long list. The authors having same number of contributions have been given the same rank. Pijushkanti Panigrahi and Krishnapada Majumder contributed four papers having occupied the top rank. Similarly three authors contributed three papers with second rank and eight authors in third rank with two publications each.

Table-5 Institution-wise distribution of publications

Institution	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	No. of Contributions	% of Contributions
Academic/Research Institutes	13	12	13	7	9	54	35.07%
Teaching Faculty	11	9	14	15	11	60	38.97%
Students / Research Scholars	4	6	3	6	4	23	14.94%
Special Library	0	1	1	0	1	3	1.95%
Government Departments	1	4	0	3	0	8	5.19%
Information / Documentation Centres	0	0	2	0	0	2	1.29%
Miscellaneous	0	1	1	0	2	4	2.59%
Total	29	33	34	31	27	154	100

Table 5 gives institution-wise distribution of contributions of this journal. Out of 154 contributions, the highest number, i.e., 60 (38.97%) has been contributed by faculty members of different LIS Schools. This is followed by 54 (35.07%) by academic/research institutes, 23 (14.94%) by students/research scholars, 8 (5.19%) by government departments, 3 (1.95%) by special library, 4 (2.59%) by miscellaneous sources and lowest number, i.e., 2 (1.29%) has been contributed by information/ documentation centres.

Table-6 Geographical distribution of publications

Places	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	No. of	% of
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						Articles	Articles
Indian	19	23	21	15	22	100	99.01%
Foreign	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.99%
Total	19	23	21	16	22	101	100.00

The table 6 showed that most of the contributions are from India with 100 (99.01%) and only one paper 1 (0.99%) from foreign sources especially from Ethiopia. This indicates that the journal and its coverage are confined to the Indian sub continent only.

Table-7 Geographical distribution of publications (India-state-wise)

State	No. of Contributions	% of Contributions
West Bengal	35	35.36%
Odisha	7	7.07%
Assam	7	7.07%
Uttar Pradesh	7	7.07%
Karnataka	6	6.06%
Tamilnadu	5	5.05%
New Delhi	5	5.05%
Maharashtra	4	4.04%
Gujarat	3	3.03%
Andhra Pradesh	3	3.03%
Kerala	3	3.03%
Jammu & Kashmir	3	3.03%
Mizoram	2	2.02%
Chhattisgarh	2	2.02%
Himachal Pradesh	1	1.01%
Meghalaya	1	1.01%
Manipur	1	1.01%
Haryana	1	1.01%
Bihar	1	1.01%
Nagaland	1	1.01%
Chandigarh	1	1.01%

Total	99	100
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Table 7 furnishes the state-wise distribution of contributions in the five volumes of the journal. Out of 99 contributions, the highest number, i.e., 35 (35.36%) has been contributed by authors from West Bengal. This is followed by 7 (7.07%) contributions from Odisha, Assam and Uttar Pradesh, 6 (6.06%) from Karnataka, 5 (5.05%) from Tamilnadu and New Delhi, 4 (4.04%) from Maharashtra, 3 (3.03%) from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, 2 (2.02%) from Mizoram and Chhattisgarh and lowest number i.e., 1 (1.01%) has been contributed by authors from Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Haryana, Bihar, Nagaland and Chandigarh each.

Table-8 Length of Contributions

Year	Vol. No.	Issue No.	Length of contributions (No. of pages)					Total
			1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	>20	
2013	58	1	2	2	0	1	0	5
		2	0	1	4	0	0	5
		3	0	0	2	2	0	4
		4	0	0	3	0	1	4
2014	59	1	1	3	2	0	0	6
		2	0	4	2	0	0	6
		3	0	1	3	1	0	5
		4	1	3	2	0	0	6
2015	60	1	0	0	3	1	0	4
		2	0	2	1	2	0	5
		3	1	1	2	0	1	5
		4	0	1	1	2	0	4
2016	61	1	0	4	2	0	0	6
		2 & 3	0	1	3	1	0	5
		4	0	1	3	1	0	5
2017	62	1	0	3	1	1	0	5
		2	0	4	1	1	0	6
		3	0	2	2	1	0	5
		4	0	5	1	0	0	6
Total			5 (5.15%)	38 (39.17%)	38 (39.17%)	14 (14.43%)	2 (2.06%)	97

Table 8 indicates the details about the page length of the contributions. Out of 97 contributions, 5 contributions (5.15%) have page length of 1-5 pages. This is followed by 38 contributions (39.17%) with 6-10 pages, 38 contributions (39.17%) with 11-15 pages, 14 contributions (14.43%) with 16-20 pages. There are only two contributions that have page length more than 20 pages i.e., (2.06%).

Table-9 Distributions of citations

Year	Vol. No.	Types of citations/references							
		JR	S/CP	BK	WS	RP	D/TH	Total	%
2013	58	97	37	27	67	12	2	242	17.68%
2014	59	125	22	70	34	3	0	254	18.56%
2015	60	138	44	43	94	3	8	330	24.10%
2016	61	113	26	39	43	17	4	242	17.68%
2017	62	156	18	17	96	7	7	301	21.98%
Total		629 (45.94%)	147 (10.73%)	196 (14.31%)	334 (24.39%)	42 (3.06%)	21 (1.53%)	1369	100%

Notes: JR: Journals, S/CP: Seminar/workshop/conference proceedings, BK: Books, WS: websites, RP: reports, D/TH: dissertations/theses

Table 9 indicates that the 5 volumes have 1369 citations appended to the 97 contributions. Out of 1369 citations, vol. 60 has the highest number i.e., 330 (24.10%). This is followed by vol. 62 has 301 (21.9%), vol. 59 has 254 (18.56%) and vol. 58 & 61 has the lowest number of citations i.e. 242 (17.68%) each.

Table-10 Distributions of citations

Year	Vol. No.	Issue No.	Types of citations/references						
			JR	S/CP	BK	WS	RP	D/TH	Total
2013	58	1	22	14	6	26	3	1	72
		2	27	1	0	13	2	0	43
		3	40	4	8	18	4	1	75
		4	8	18	13	10	3	0	52
		1	28	4	13	7	0	0	52

2014	59	2	28	1	25	5	2	0	61
		3	42	7	19	3	0	0	71
		4	27	10	13	19	1	0	70
2015	60	1	40	21	15	1	1	3	81
		2	35	3	1	9	0	2	50
		3	36	14	25	34	0	1	110
		4	27	6	2	50	2	2	89
2016	61	1	13	11	12	3	8	1	48
		2 & 3	65	4	15	10	5	0	99
		4	35	11	12	30	4	3	95
2017	62	1	29	2	4	25	3	0	63
		2	57	6	6	26	3	0	98
		3	35	3	4	18	0	1	61
		4	35	7	3	27	1	6	79
Total			629 (45.94%)	147 (10.73%)	196 (14.31%)	334 (24.39%)	42 (3.06%)	21 (1.53%)	1369
Notes: JR: Journals, S/CP: Seminar/workshop/conference proceedings, BK: Books, WS: websites, RP: reports, D/TH: dissertations/theses									

Table 10 reveals the distribution of citations. Cited materials were grouped into six (6) categories: journals, seminar/workshop/conference proceedings, books, websites, reports, dissertations/theses. Journals and websites are the most cited sources. Out of 1369 citations 629 (45.94%) are journals, 147 (10.73%) are seminar/workshop/conference proceedings, 196 (14.31%) are books, 334 (24.39%) are websites, 42 (3.06%) are reports and 21 (1.53%) are dissertations/theses.

Table-11 Ranked list of cited journals

Rank	Name of Journal	No. of Citations	% age	Cumulative	% age
1	Annals of Library and Information Studies	41	8.19%	41	8.19%
2	DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology	24	4.79%	65	12.97%

2	Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)	24	4.79%	89	17.76%
3	IASLIC Bulletin	22	4.39%	111	22.15%
4	SRELS Journal of Information Management	18	3.59%	129	25.74%
5	Journal of Documentation	13	2.59%	142	28.34%
6	Library Management	11	2.19%	153	30.53%
7	College & Research Libraries	9	1.79%	162	32.33%
7	ILA Bulletin	9	1.79%	171	34.13%
8	Journal of Academic Librarianship	7	1.39%	178	35.52%
8	Library Hi Tech	7	1.39%	185	36.92%
8	Library Trends	7	1.39%	192	38.32%
8	Scieintometrics	7	1.39%	199	39.72%
8	University News	7	1.39%	206	41.11%
9	DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology	6	1.19%	212	42.31%
9	International Journal of Digital Library Services	6	1.19%	218	43.51%
9	Malaysian Journal of Library & Information Science	6	1.19%	224	44.71%
9	Performance Measurement and Metrics	6	1.19%	230	45.90%
9	The international Information & Library Review	6	1.19%	236	47.10%
10	Current Science	5	0.99%	241	48.10%
10	D-Lib Magazine	5	0.99%	246	49.10%
10	Herald of Library Science	5	0.99%	251	50.09%
10	Library Herald	5	0.99%	256	51.09%
10	The Electronic Library	5	0.99%	261	52.09%
10	Journal of Library & Information Science	5	0.99%	266	53.09%
10	Journal of Information Science	5	0.99%	271	54.09%
11	Library Quarterly	4	0.79%	275	54.89%
11	Information Processing and Management	4	0.79%	279	55.68%
11	Library & Information Science Research	4	0.79%	283	56.48%
11	Information Technology and Libraries	4	0.79%	287	57.28%
11	Library Review	4	0.79%	291	58.08%
12	Collaborative Librarianship	3	0.59%	294	58.68%

12	Computers in Libraries	3	0.59%	297	59.28%
12	IFLA Journal	3	0.59%	300	59.88%
12	International Journal of Academic Library and Information Science	3	0.59%	303	60.47%
12	International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology	3	0.59%	306	61.07%
12	Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science	3	0.59%	309	61.67%
12	Journal of American Society for Information Science and Technology	3	0.59%	312	62.27%
12	Journal of Intellectual Property Rights	3	0.59%	315	62.87%
12	Journal of Library Administration	3	0.59%	318	63.47%
12	Librarian	3	0.59%	321	64.07%
12	Library & Archival Security	3	0.59%	324	64.67%
12	OCLC Systems & Services	3	0.59%	327	65.26%
12	PEARL- A Journal of Library and Information Science	3	0.59%	330	65.86%
12	Program	3	0.59%	333	66.46%
12	Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews	3	0.59%	336	67.06%
12	The Journal of Information and Knowledge Management System	3	0.59%	339	67.66%
13	18 Titles with 2 citations each	36	7.18%	375	74.85%
14	126 Titles with 1 citations each	126	25.14%	501	100
Total		501	100		

Ranked list of journals helps the researcher in selecting the best journal in their field of study. Libraries also benefitted by selecting the ranked journals for acquisition which could have maximum utility for their users. There are 47 titles of journals in Table 11 arranged according to their ranks. It can be seen from the ranked list that Annals of Library and Information Studies occupied first rank with 41 citations (8.19%), second rank occupied by DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology and Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal) with 24 citations (4.79%), third rank occupied by IASLIC Bulletin with 22 citations (4.39%). This is followed by SRELS Journal of Information Management fourth

rank with 18 citations (3.59%), and Journal of Documentation fifth rank with 18 citations (2.59%).

Conclusion

The present study is confined to IASLIC Bulletin, one of the leading Library and Information Science journal in India published by Indian Association of Special Libraries & Information Centres, Kolkata since 1956. The journal has published 97 articles during the period of study. The analysis shows that maximum numbers of articles 23 (14.19%) were published in vol. 59 appeared in the year 2014. The maximum numbers of contributions are research paper 93 (64.13%) and have been contributed by faculty members of different LIS Schools 60 (38.97%). The majority of the articles in the journal are two-authored and majority of the contributions are from West Bengal, the place of publication of IASLIC Bulletin. The maximum numbers of contributions have the length of 6-15 pages with (39.17%). With regard to the citations, out of 1369 citations vol. 60 has the highest number i.e., 330 (24.10%). The majority of the authors preferred journals as the source of information providing the highest number of citations 629 (45.94%). Study of citations showed that Annals of Library and Information Studies received the highest number of citations and ranked top, followed by DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology, Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal) and IASLIC Bulletin. The IASLIC Bulletin is notably a scholarly journal that stipulates or induces fruitful research for the LIS domain.

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