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Madhukar Bapu Togam

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj University Panvel, ILS Law College Pune, madhukar.togam@ilslaw.in

Deelip Mestri

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj University Panvel, librarian@csmu.ac.in

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Togam, Madhukar Bapu and Mestri, Deelip, "A bibliometric study on 'Law Librarianship'" (2021). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 6801.

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A bibliometric study on ‘Law Librarianship’

Mr. Madhukar Togam
Ph. D. Research Scholar
Department of Library and Information Science
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj University
Panvel, Navi Mumbai, India
Librarian
ILS Law College Pune, India
madhukar180136@csmu.ac.in,
madhukar.togam@ilslaw.in

&

Dr. Deelip Mestri
Research Supervisor
Department of Library and Information Science
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj University
Panvel, Navi Mumbai, India
librarian@csmu.ac.in

Abstract:

The aim of this study is to analyse the scholarly literature published pertinent to ‘Law Librarianship. SCOPUS database was utilized to collect all literature under the term of ‘Law Librarianship. ‘Publish or Perish 8.1’ software used to incorporate and obtained data however, VOSviewer Software and Microsoft Excel used for visualization and analysis of data. The growth of publications, author wise citation analysis, Source wise citations, Co-authorship network analysis were presented using standard bibliometric analysis. Based on the search results, total 56 papers found. It was observed that the publication of literature on ‘Law Librarianship’ have been started from 1975 onwards and data used for analysis from 1975 to 2021. Thus, researcher has used the same data for further analysis. It was found that total citations were 181, Average citation per year was 3.93, Average citation per paper was 3.23, h-index 7, g-index 11. Average rate of publication of article 1.21. Study helps to law librarians to recognizing the year wise growth of articles, distribution of articles per journals, type of publications and top rank core journals.

Keywords: Law Librarianship, Growth of Publication, Author-wise citation Analysis, Source-wise citations Analysis, Co-authorship network analysis, Top-Ranking Journals, SCOPUS database.

Paper Type: Research Paper

Introduction:

Legal education is essentially a multi-disciplined, multipurpose education which can develop the human resources and idealism needed to strengthen the legal system. A lawyer, a product of such education would be able to contribute to national development and social change in a much more constructive manner. (Mahajan, 1974). Legal education primarily aims at imparting practical layering skills to the budding lawyers. These practical skills traditionally were limited to judiciary, litigation, and teaching. However, in recent times the scope of these practical skills has grown to such an extent, that there is a requirement of a lawyer in every sector of life. Law

governs every aspect of life of every individual. Hence today lawyers are seen as litigating lawyers, IT lawyers, Intellectual Property Lawyers, Family Law Lawyers, Corporate Lawyers, Finance Lawyers, and International Lawyers etc. For enhancement of research in the academic law colleges, Library and Information Science Professionals (LIS) or Law libraries have a great obligation to provide appropriate information to researchers,

Thus, Law Librarians have to use new tools and techniques in the electronic environment for managing electronic resources for providing right information to the right person at the right time.

What is law librarianship?

Law librarianship is a specialized field in the practice of librarianship. Librarians with this focus work and practice in law libraries belonging to academic institutions, government departments and agencies such as the Attorney General's office, Courthouses, law firms and legislative or special libraries. (Dina, 2015)

The Specialized competencies are skills required for different areas of specialization and have been divided into:

1. Library Management,
2. Reference, Research and Client Services
3. Information Technology
4. Collection Care and Management
5. Teaching. (Dina, 2015)

Considering importance of law library management and changing structure of legal system and the working of judicial fraternity. It is essential to understand the latest updates on law librarianship. thus, thought to carry out a study on bibliometrics analysis of literature on law librarianship.

Bibliometrics is a set of mathematical and statistical methods used to analyze and measure the quantity and quality of books, articles, and other forms of publications. There are three types of bibliometric indicators: *quantity indicators*, which measure the productivity of a particular researcher; *quality indicators*, which measure the quality (or "performance") of a researcher's output; and *structural indicators*, which measure connections between publications, authors, and areas of research. Bibliometric indicators are especially important for researchers and organizations, as these measurements are often used in funding decisions, appointments, and promotions of researchers. (Durieux & Gevenois, 2010)

Review of Literature:

The term of 'Bibliometrics' first coined by A. Pitchard in 1969, then started the research related to bibliometrics before that it was not popular among research community. In this paper few relevant studies have been covered. Researcher assess the Digital Literacy research output during the period of 1992-2011. The web of science database used to retrieve records and analyzed using the Histcite Software application. digital literacy research publication was analyzed and interpreted. The performance of the most productivity countries, authors, journals, language wise, Institution-wise, keyword wise and citation reference was analyzed. (Alagu & Thanuskodi, 2019).

Study presented a quantitative analysis of the Criminal Law Literature published from 2010 to 2019. Web of Science database was used as a source for extracting the data of published

documents during the period 2010-2019. Research productivity of each country, annual publications, annual citations, highly cited articles, highly cited law journals, most productive institutions in the field of criminal law, and most prolific authors. Research articles, conference proceeding papers, book reviews and editorials are different type of documents included in this study for analysis. Study revealed that 2017 was the most productive years in term of publications in the field of Criminal Law. The study found that the USA is the most productive country. The findings further showed that four universities situated in USA are in the list of top ten most productive universities in the field of Criminal Law.(Mr et al., n.d., pp. 2010–2019)

Researcher examines the research output of academic librarians in India. The data was exported from Google Scholar using Publish or Perish (POP) software. The study reviewed 36 Google Scholar profiles of academic librarians. A total 683 publications found during 1978-2018. Out of 683 publications, more than half of the 458 publications had no citations. The study also found that the growth of publications was not stable. Furthermore, study indicated that, majority publications published in the form of journals articles and conference papers.(Parabhoi, 2019)

A bibliometric analysis of library and information science literature pertaining to academic law librarianship from 1997 to 2011. The number of scholarly articles per year increased over the time frame of this study as well as the average number of authors per article. The results of this study identified three core journals that published most of the articles on this topic: Law Library Journal, Legal Information Management, and Legal Reference Services Quarterly. (Parks, 2015)

Study analysed 2428 papers indexed by Indian citation Index during 2004-2015 indicate that the pattern of growth of Indian library and information science literature has been highly inconsistent with highest number of papers published in 2010. Academic institutions contributed about 86% of papers. Prolific institutions contributed about 44% of the output, with Mysore University topping the list closely followed by University of Delhi. However, highest impact as reflected by citation per paper was made by CSIR-NISTADS and CSIR-NISCAIR. B.M. Gupta of CSIR-NISTADS topped the list, but highest CPP was for K.C.Garg of the same institute. SRELS Journal of Information Management published the highest number of papers and the area of bibliometrics and scientometrics was the area of priority of LIS professionals in India. (Garg & Sharma, 2017, pp. 2004–2015)

Study aims was to analyze the growth of Library and Information Science (LIS) research articles in India. It covers a total of 385 article indexed by Scopus database during the period of 2004-2013. Authors have tried to analyze the annual growth of LIS research publications in India and to identify the authorship pattern, authors' productivity and degree of collaboration. Lotka's inverse square law has been applied to identify the productivity of authors and Bradford's law has been applied to identify the scattering of core journals.(Barik & Jena, 2014)

Researcher tried to attempt to know the citation pattern of research scholars of English by using bibliometrics techniques. (Mishra et al., 2014) The study was based on the Bibliometric analysis of digital libraries available in the Emerald databases from April 1991 to march 2009. The bibliographical details of each issue of the journal articles were downloaded from the Emerald database and recorded on a spread sheet with pre-designed columns. Electronic Library stands first rank among the published literature on digital library. Study helps the librarian recognizing the core journals. (Chandrashekarai et al., 2010)

Study was focuses on the management of e-resources in academic libraries in the United Kingdom, with an emphasis on practical and applied resources. The bibliography has been compiled for the benefit of electronic resources (e-resources) librarians who are new in post. The references provided give the new e-resources librarian a basic grounding in the main issues, and introduce the key concepts of electronic resources management (ERM). (Jennings, 2006)

Study presented the quantitative analysis of 251 items contributed by 64 Pakistani LIS professionals culled from LISA-PLUS. Volume of contribution, sources where published, periodic distribution, type of publications and topical coverage were dealt with in the analysis. Journal literature which represents 90.4 per cent of the citations was published in 43 periodicals, most of which were from the United States. However, more than half of the journal literature comes from one national journal. A wide range of topics were covered, but critical areas such as information needs, user education and collection evaluation receive very little attention. (Anwar & Saeed, 1999)

A statistical analysis of the papers on various aspects of library and information science (LIS) emanated from Bangladesh during 1966-1997. The analysis was based on a list of papers compiled to show the growth and size of the LIS literature in Bangladesh, patterns of their distribution by subjects within the field of librarianship, characteristics of the contributing periodicals, language of publication, authorship patterns, and geographic distribution of the periodicals. The results of the study showed that, during 1966-1997, a total of 308 articles, authored by 116 library professionals were published in various periodicals with the highest number (256, 83.11%) in Bangladesh, followed by India (21, 6.82%). All these papers were published in some 37 periodicals originating from 14 countries. About 92% of the articles were credited to the single authorship; only 25 articles were co-authored..(Khan et al., 1998)

After browsing literature available, it was found that there is no latest study conducted on bibliometrics aspect of law librarianship literature pertinent to Scopus data before, Therefore, Researcher thought to carry out bibliometrics analysis of scholarly output related to 'Law Librarianship. The study will help to all researchers, academicians, teachers and librarians to know the top rank Indian authors and journals/sources which are publishing literature on law librarianship.

Need and important of the study:

There has been minimal literature available on bibliometrics study on law librarianship. One study carried on bibliometrics analysis of library and information science literature pertaining to academic law librarianship from 1997 to 2011. (Parks, 2015) But afterward there was no latest study found in the literature specific to law librarianship. Moreover, study on Criminal law literature, English Literature, Pakistani LIS Professionals etc. were found. Looking into significance of law libraries and impact of (ICT) Information and Communication Technology on every aspect of law as well as increasing growth of publication on law librarianship. It was essential to know the contemporary development and status of literature on law librarianship. Therefore, study was conducted on bibliometrics analysis of literature on law librarianship.

Objective of the study:

1. To study the co-authorship network analysis.
2. To study the author wise citations.
3. To study the source/publication wise distribution of citations.

4. To find out the year wise growth of articles.
5. To find out the number of documents per journals.
6. To find out the types of publications published on Law Librarianship.

Scope and Limitation of the study:

Bibliometrics, Informatics, Scientometrics and up to some extent Citation analysis has been used by the library science professionals to fulfil the similar research objectives. The present study is limited to Bibliometrics study on literature related to ‘Law Librarianship’ published in worldwide and indexed in Scopus database. “Scopus is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature: scientific journals, books and conference proceedings. Delivering a comprehensive overview of the world's research output in the fields of science, technology, medicine, social sciences, and arts and humanities, Scopus features smart tools to track, analyse and visualise research. As research becomes increasingly global, interdisciplinary and collaborative, you can make sure that critical research from around the world is not missed when you choose Scopus”.(Scopus | The Largest Database of Peer-Reviewed Literature | Elsevier, n.d.)

Research Methodology:

The bibliographic data of literature on Law Librarianship extracted using ‘Publish or perish’ software. All the required bibliographic data such as name of author(s), Titles, Source of documents, Year of publication, publisher etc. collected and analyzed using *VOSviewer Software* and *Microsoft Spreadsheet* in order to obtain results in respect of the stated objective.

Data Analysis and Interpretations:

Co-authorship analysis:

Network analysis is widely used for bibliometrics and scientometrics studies, co-authors study is one of the important studies. Table No. 1 depicted the co-authorship analysis and number of documents for per author, researcher has selected number of documents of an author should be up to 2, then out of 50 authors only 5 authors meet the threshold.

Sr. No.	Authors	Documents
1	Callister, P.	2
2	Dalten, S.	2
3	Garavaglia, B. H.	2
4	Wheeler, R.	2
5	Winterton, J.	2

Table No. 1 Number of documents for per author

The co-authorship network graph has been built using VOSviewer software with the density visualization as shown in the figure 1.

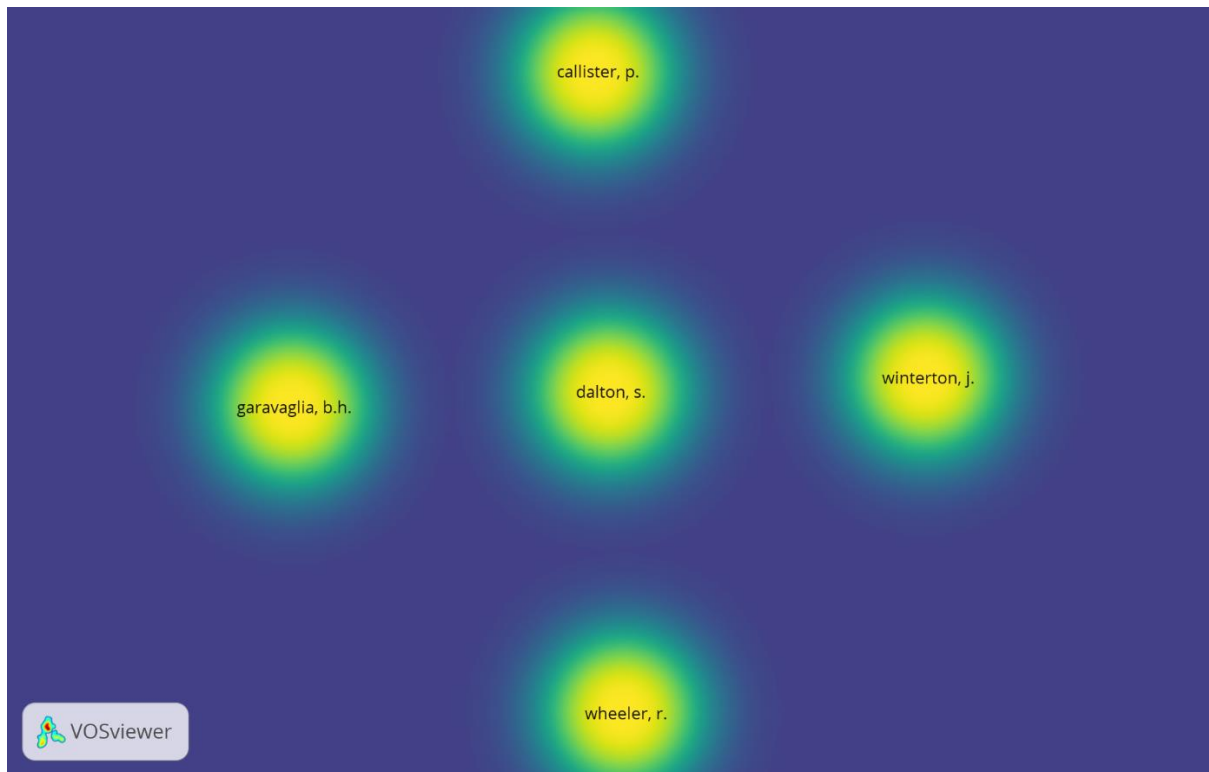


Figure 1. Co-authorship network map

Author-wise citations:

Table No. 2. gives the detail about author wise citation. Below figure shows that A Schorr (34) is the top author in terms of receiving higher citations and followed by P. Callister (31), A. Thurston (12), S.H. Lewis (10), M. Protti (09), S. Lerdal (08), G. Chicco (7), Y.J. Chandler (07), M. Mosley (6) and K.M. Todd, M. Rumsey and R. Oakley is (05) respectively.

Author	Citations per author
A. Schorr	34
P. Callister	31
A. Thurston	12
S.H. Lewis	10
M. Protti	9
S. Lerdal	8
G. Chicco	7
Y.J. Chandler	7
M. Mosley	6
K.M. Todd	5
M. Rumsey	5
R. Oakley	5
B. Tice	4
S. Barkan	4
J. Jeffries	3
L. Goldsmith	3
M.A. Leary	3
R. Berring	3
S. Trosow	3
A. Zhang	2
B.H. Garavaglia	2
C.Y. Tran	2
D. Sears	2
J. Lester	2
K. Noel	2
F. Houdek	1
J. Winterton	1
L.M. Acosta	1
R. Danner	1
R. Mersky	1
S. Cukadar	1
W.O. Anyim	1

Table No. 2 Author-wise citations

Journal/Source wise distribution of citations – per year:

Table No. 3 shows that Journal/Source wise distribution of citations per year. Data shows that Law Library Journal is the top citation Journal (6.18) followed by Science and Technology Libraries (2), Legal Reference Services Quarterly (1.37), Journal of the American Society for Information Science (0.74).

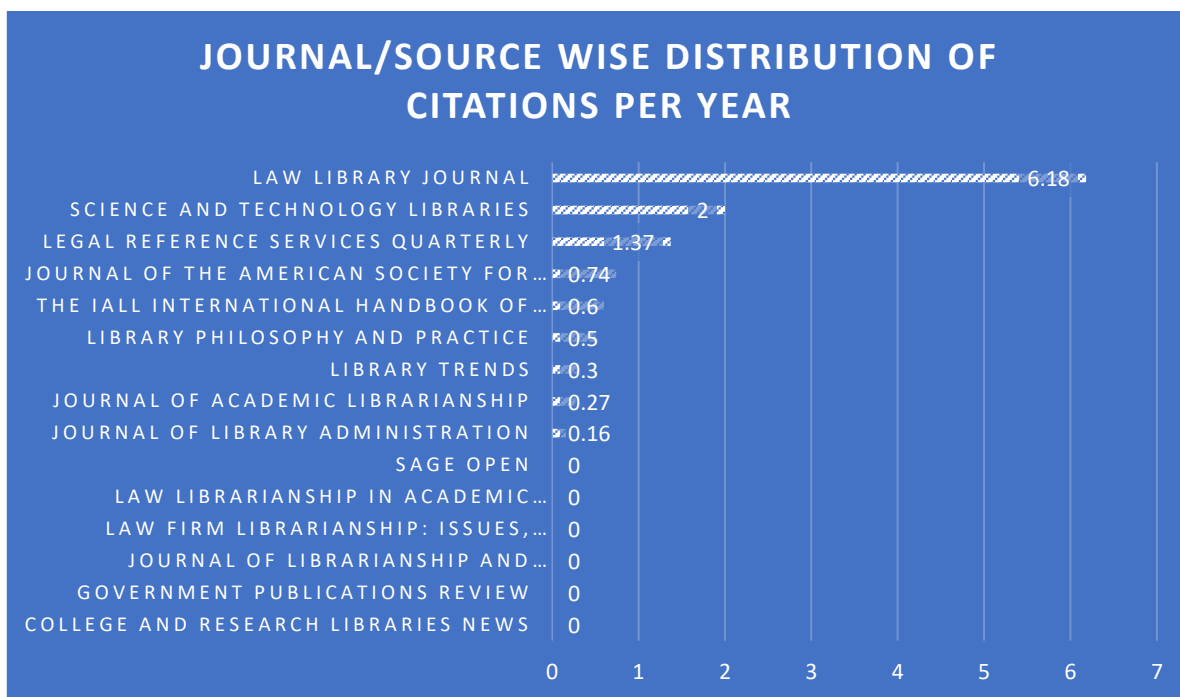


Figure No. 2 Journal/Source wise distribution of citations per year

Sr.No.	Sources / Law Journals	Cites per year
1	Law Library Journal	6.18
2	Science and Technology Libraries	2
3	Legal Reference Services Quarterly	1.37
4	Journal of the American Society for Information Science	0.74
5	The IALL International Handbook of Legal Information Management	0.6
6	Library Philosophy and Practice	0.5
7	Library Trends	0.3
8	Journal of Academic Librarianship	0.27
9	Journal of Library Administration	0.16
10	College and Research Libraries News	0
11	Government Publications Review	0
12	Journal of Librarianship and Information Science	0
13	Law Firm Librarianship: Issues, Practice, and Directions	0
14	Law Librarianship in Academic Libraries: Best Practices	0
15	SAGE Open	0

Table No. 3 Journal/Source wise distribution of citations per year

Year-wise growth of documents:

Figure No. 3 Shows, the year wise growth of articles published in the field of Law Librarianship. Average rate of publishing article per year is 1.21 from the year 1975 to 2021. The year wise growth of publication up to 3 – 4 up to year 2015. Then highest number of articles published (10) in the year 2016.

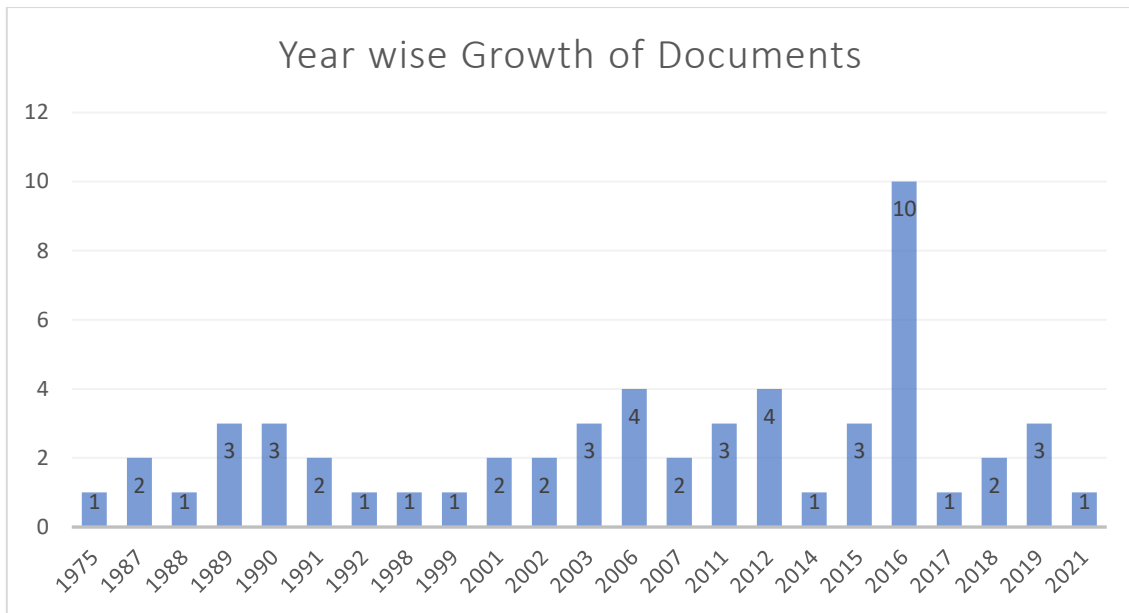


Figure No. 3. Year wise growth of documents in the field of Law Librarianship.

Number of documents per Journals:

Journal Title	Number of Article in Journal
Law Library Journal	25
The IALL International Handbook of Legal Information Management	12
Legal Reference Services Quarterly	7
College and Research Libraries News	1
Government Publications Review	1
Journal of Academic Librarianship	1
Journal of Librarianship and Information Science	1
Journal of Library Administration	1
Journal of the American Society for Information Science	1
Law Firm Librarianship: Issues, Practice, and Directions	1
Law Librarianship in Academic Libraries: Best Practices	1
Library Philosophy and Practice	1
Library Trends	1
SAGE Open	1
Science and Technology Libraries	1
Total documents	56

Table No. 4 Number of articles per Journals

Table No. 4 and Figure No. 5 depicted that the distribution of article/ scattering of documents in the Journals. The data shows that Law Library Journal has published 25 articles during the year (1975 - 2021). Followed by The IALL International Handbook of Legal Information Management (12), Legal Reference Services Quarterly (7). Then it is observed that the rest of journals published only (1) one article each.

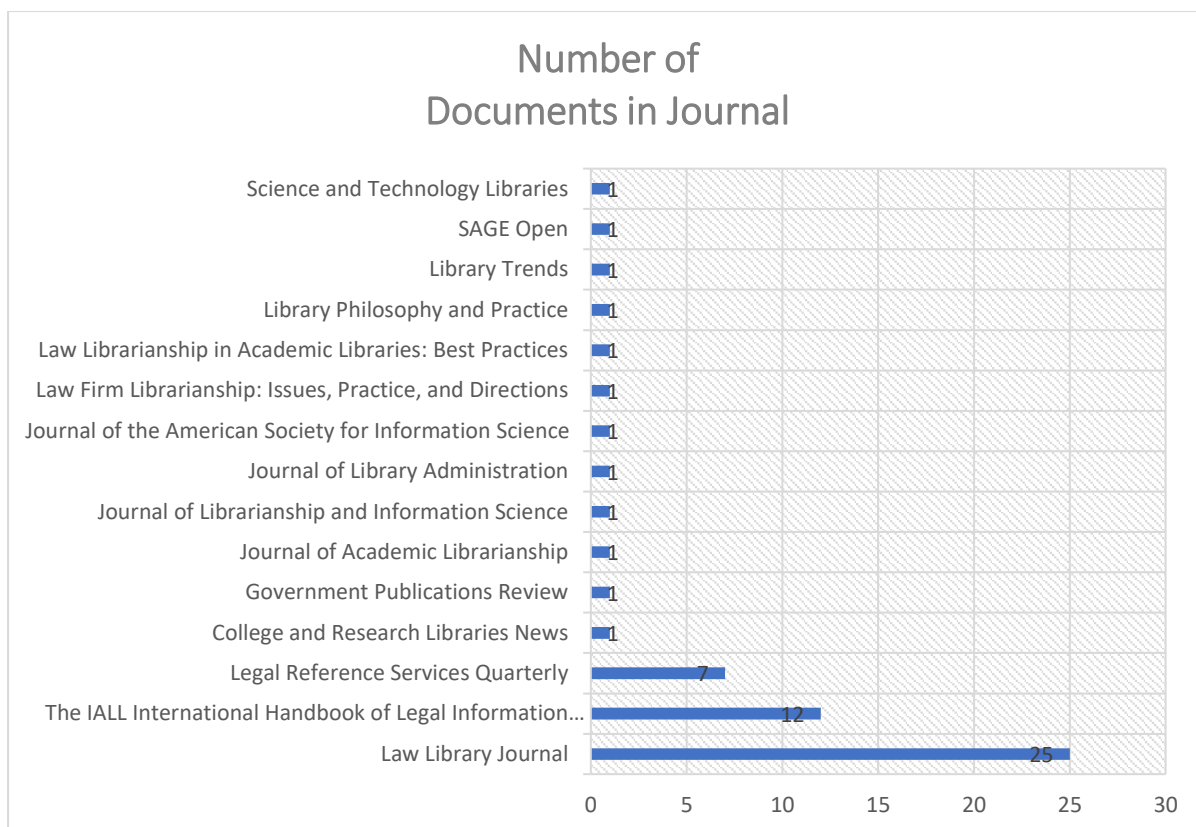


Figure No. 4 Number of Articles in Journals.

Type of Publications:

Table No. 4 reveal that the types of documents published on law librarianship. Data shows that highest number of publications on law librarianship are in articles format (25), Reviews (14), Book Chapter (12), Books (2), Erratum (2), Conference Paper and Editorial is (1) respectively. Therefore, study found that the articles and book chapters are the more numbers in the literature of law librarianship.

Type of Documents	Number of Items
Article	24
Review	14
Book Chapter	12
Book	2
Erratum	2
Conference Paper	1
Editorial	1
Grand Total	56

Table No. 5 Types of documents

Finding of the study:

1. Study found that only five authors meet the threshold with 2 documents out of 50. Callister, P. (2), Dalten, S. (2), Garavaglia, B. H. (2), Wheeler, R. (2), Winterton, J. (2).
2. Results shown that in terms of receiving higher citation A Schorr (34) is the top author followed by P. Callister (31), A. Thurston (12), S.H. Lewis (10), M. Protti (09), S. Lerdal (08), G. Chicco (7), Y.J. Chandler (07), M. Mosley (6) and K.M. Todd, M. Rumsey and R. Oakley is (05) respectively.
3. Law Library Journal is the top citation Journal (6.18) followed by Science and Technology Libraries (2), Legal Reference Services Quarterly (1.37), Journal of the American Society for Information Science (0.74).
4. Average rate of publishing article per year is 1.21 during the year 1975 to 2021. The year wise growth of publication up to 3 – 4 up to year 2015. Then highest number of articles published (10) in the year 2016. Study reveals that 2016 was the most productive year in terms of publication in the field of law librarianship.
5. Study found that Law Library Journal has published 25 articles during the year (1975 - 2021). Followed by The IALL International Handbook of Legal Information Management (12), Legal Reference Services Quarterly (7). Then it is observed that the rest of journals published only (1) one article each.
6. Research tried to reveal the types of documents published in literature on law librarianship. Study found that majority of publication published in the form of Journal Articles (25), then, Reviews (14), Book Chapter (12), Books (2), Erratum (2), Conference Paper and Editorial is (1) respectively.

Conclusion:

Study helps the libraries in selection and acquisition of documents in the field of law librarianship. It reveals the top-ranking journals and authors. The study concludes that there is a smaller number of literatures has been produced by law librarians during the year spam 46. It is necessary to produced more literature and research on this topic as importance of law and challenges before Library and Information Professionals (LIS) is increasing day by day due to invention of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). “The academic law library exists to meet the research and teaching needs of students and faculty and in some instances members of the public; but the primary patrons are students and faculty. This means that the services provided will accommodate the needs of this clientele. The collection will be developed and built to facilitate and enhance teaching and research of faculty and students”.(Dina, 2015) Therefore, the present study will help to all researchers, academicians, teachers and law librarians to know the top rank authors and journals/sources which are publishing literature on law librarianship. Addition to that, study reveal that growth of publication, author wise citation analysis, types of publications etc.

Appendix

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