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Bibliometric study of the M.Phil. Dissertations in Library & Information Science awarded under the University of Calcutta during the period from 2004 to 2016

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is to attempt a bibliometric analysis of M.Phil. Dissertations awarded from Department of Library & Information Science, University of Calcutta. Total 136 M.Phil. dissertations were awarded covering the period from 2004 to 2016. These selected dissertations considered for the present study have been analyzed based on session wise distribution of dissertations and citations, guidance pattern and subject. The study shows the positive growth of dissertations in a number of areas and the most preferred research areas done on the topics are Community Information Services, Information Communication Technology and Bibliometrics.

Keywords: Bibliometric, M.Phil. Dissertations, Citation, Library & Information Science, University of Calcutta.

Introduction: Library and information Science departments of several Universities in India have been carrying out research activities on various areas including interdisciplinary research. Research (Ph.D degree) in Library and Information Science in India was first introduced by Dr. S.R.Ranganathan, the father of library science with his pioneer efforts in University of Delhi in the year 1948 (Kumar, 1998). Presently in India there are many courses in library and information science from certificate to Ph.D. programme. Research output of any subject is generally focused from seminar or conference proceeding, journal article, M.Phil. dissertation and Ph.D. thesis. Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in Library and Information Science is also the research degree programme which is offered after post-graduation and any interested candidate can complete it before entering to his or her Doctor of Philosophy. M.Phil.in LIS can develop

basic research skill of a library and information science professional or student. So in Indian context M.Phil. in LIS course has a broad perspective to develop the research skill in library and information science discipline. In India a number of Universities offer M.Phil. course in library and information science. University of Calcutta introduced M.Phil. course in library and information science in the year 2003 and it was the first department to offer this course in eastern part of India. As the aim of such course is concentrated on research in library and information science, the questions naturally arise what kind of researches was conducted by the department? How these researches have been fulfilled in Ph.D. Programme? What are the new areas have been identified by these research works? How the Department and its teachers are satisfying the need of the scholars in M.Phil. level? From these perspectives the authors have tried to analyze the M.Phil. research outputs from the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta using the bibliometrics techniques. As we know that bibliometric study includes study of literature growth of specific subjects, literature contributed by various individual or collaborative researchers, groups, institutions or countries with the help of mathematical and statistical tools (Pritchard, 1969). So, from that point the M.Phil. dissertations under the University of Calcutta have been covered in this study.

Department Profile: Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta was established in year 1945 with diploma course in librarianship. In the year 1959 the department became independent faculty for Post-Graduate Studies in Library Science is the name titled 'Department of Library Science'. From the 1969-70 sessions the 'Diploma' was replaced by Post Graduate degree of Bachelor of library Science (B. Lib. Sc.) and in 1998 the Department has been renamed as the Department of Library & Information Science and the course is being called as Bachelor of Library & Information Science (BLIS). Presently the department is under the Faculty council of Post-Graduate studies in Education, Journalism and Library & Information Science and also offers M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes. But the remarkable achievements of the department are to introduce M.Phil course as well as to promote library and information science in undergraduate level for the sake of establishing library and information science as an independent subject. Keeping in mind with these major objectives this department introduced M.Phil. course in 2003, five year MLIS integrated course in 2010 and later BA/ BSc Honours course in Library and Information studies in 2017. From the academic session (2018/2019) the BA/ BSc Honours course i.e. Library and Information studies was allowed to impart under

several colleges affiliated to University of Calcutta. Besides that, the department has successfully been publishing a departmental journal named “Calcutta University Journal of Information Studies (CUJIS)” since 1998 and because of its high quality publications the journal of the department has been indexed in University Grants Commissions master Journal list.

Objectives: the objectives of this study are as follows:

- To trace out the session wise distribution of the dissertations and their citations,
- To examine the guidance type and most prolific supervision, and
- To analyze the trusted subject areas of the research.

Review of Related Literatures: Previously a number of studies had been carried out by the researchers in different areas of library and information science as we find from the research output in Indian perspective. Studies like Varalakshmi, 1994; Chatterjee, Rath, & Poddar, 1995; Lahiri, 1996; Mahapatra, 2000; Patra & Chand, 2006; Kumbar, & Raju, 2008; Chandrashekara & Ramasesh, 2009; Mittal, 2011; Thavamani, Pushparaj & Selvamani, 2012; Tiwari, 2013; Maharana & Das, 2014; Pandey, 2014; Garg & Sharma, 2017; Vijayakumar & Kolle, 2017 have shown the overall library and information science research growth in India. These studies have focused the key areas like literature growth, citation analysis, subjects, and most productive institutes. A Large number of studies (Sardana & Kumar, 1977; Satija, 1998 & 1999; Verma & Shailaja, 1998; Mahapatra & Sahoo, 2004; Rajyalakshmi, 2004; Sujatha, 2007; Mestri, 2008; Garg, Tamrakar & Tamrakar, 2009; Madasamy & Alwarammal, 2009; Shivalingaiah, Sheshadri. & Manjunatha, 2009; Dhiman, 2011; Rana, 2011; Ghatol, 2014; Singh & Babbar, 2014; Singh, 2015; Pandita & Singh, 2017) were conducted on the growth of library and information science doctoral dissertation in Universities of India. Researchers have analyzed the dissertations based on their year wise growth, departmental productivity, research area and language etc. All these previous studies were well documented and provide a complete picture of library and information science research in different aspects. From the review of related literature it is observed that the research growth of library and information science has increased widely after 2000. Based on these aspects, the present study has tried to focus the bibliometric analysis of M.Phil. dissertations awarded from Department of Library & Information Science, University of Calcutta. This is also observed that no study was done previously on the given area chosen for the study.

Methodology:

Scope & Coverage: the study covers 136 dissertations submitted and awarded from Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta during the session 2003-2004 to 2014 – 2016.

Methods Used: For the present study data have been collected from departmental M.Phil.repository. Bibliometric areas such as year, name of the guide, subject, and number of citation and pages of each dissertation have been accessed directly to collect necessary data. The collected raw data have been stored and managed in MS-Excel followed by interpretation and analysis for fulfilling the objectives of the study.

Data Analysis & Findings

Table 1: Session wise distribution of dissertations

Session	No of Dissertations	Cumulative	Percentage (%)
2003-2004	6		4.41
2004-2005	8	6	5.88
2005-2006	11	14	8.09
2006-2007	11	25	8.09
2007-2008	7	36	5.15
2008-2009	11	43	8.09
2009-2011	12	54	8.82
2010-2012	16	66	11.76
2011-2013	12	82	8.82
2012 - 2014	11	94	8.09
2013 - 2015	14	105	10.29
2014 - 2016	17	119	12.50
Total	136	136	100

Table 1 shows the Session wise distribution of dissertations submitted and awarded from Department of Library And Information Science, University Of Calcutta. Total 136 dissertations

were awarded during 2003 to 2016, which indicates the large number of departmental research output. In case of individual session, 2014/16 was recorded highest number of submitted dissertation followed by 2010/12 and 2013/15 respectively.

Table 2: Session wise distribution of Citations

Session	No of dissertations	Total Citation	Percentage (%)	Citation per dissertations
2003-2004	6	352	5.08	58.67
2004-2005	8	348	5.02	43.50
2005-2006	11	525	7.57	47.73
2006-2007	11	465	6.71	42.27
2007-2008	7	225	3.24	32.14
2008-2009	11	549	7.92	49.91
2009-2011	12	718	10.35	59.83
2010-2012	16	718	10.35	44.88
2011-2013	12	518	7.47	43.17
2012 - 2014	11	628	9.06	57.09
2013 - 2015	14	869	12.53	62.07
2014 - 2016	17	1020	14.71	60.00
Total	136	6935	100.00	50.99

Table 2 shows the distribution of Session wise citations of the dissertations. Total 6935 references have been cited by the scholars in these 136 dissertations during the session with 51 average citations per dissertation.

Table 3: Distribution of Dissertations supervised by the teachers during the period from 2004 to 2016

No of Dissertations	Name of the Supervisor	Percentage
27	Prof. Biplab Chakrabarti	19.85
15	Prof. Arabinda Maity	11.03
13	Dr. Parikshit Mondal	9.56
12	Prof. Dibyendu Paul	8.82
12	Mr. Subir Kumar Sen	8.82
11	Prof. Swapna Banerjee	8.09
7	Dr. Pubalika Bhattacharya Maitra	5.15
7	Prof. Pijushkanti Panigrahi	5.15
6	Dr. Sabuj Kumar Chaudhuri	4.41
5	Dr. Soumitra Sarkar	3.68
4	Dr. Susmita Chakraborty	2.94
3	Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty	2.21
3	Prof. Ratna Bandopadhyay	2.21
3	Prof. Arjun Dasgupta	2.21
2	Dr. Bratati Niyogi, Dr. Md. Kalimuddin (one each)	1.47
6	Joint guided dissertations	4.41
136	Total	100

Table 3 shows the distribution of most prolific supervisors. Out of 136 dissertations 88 (64%) dissertations had been supervised by six faculties of library science department. In case of individual guide, Professor Biplab Chakrabarti had supervised highest number of dissertations, followed by Professor Arabinda Maity.

Table 4: Type of the guidance

Type of Guidance	No of dissertations	Percentage
Single	130	4.41
Joint	06	95.59
Total	136	100

Table 4 shows the distribution of guidance type. Maximum of the dissertations were submitted under single guidance.

Table 5: Distribution of dissertations according to the contribution of pages

Session	No of dissertations	Pages	Page per dissertation
2003-2004	6	736	122.67
2004-2005	8	1007	125.88
2005-2006	11	1643	149.36
2006-2007	11	1513	137.55
2007-2008	7	695	99.29
2008-2009	11	1540	140
2009-2011	12	1490	124.17
2010-2012	16	1854	115.88
2011-2013	12	1482	123.5
2012 - 2014	11	1160	105.45
2013 - 2015	14	1561	111.5
2014 - 2016	17	1738	102.24
Total	136	16419	120.73

Table 5 shows the session wise distribution of pages of the awarded dissertations. Total 16419 pages have contributed by the research scholars for these 136 dissertations. From the table 5 it is found that a positive growth had been occurred from the contributed pages. Individual session

2010-2012 had been contributing the highest number of pages and 2005-2006 session was recorded as highest number of Page per dissertation

Table 6: Distribution of research areas

Research area	No of dissertations	Percentage (%)	Rank
Community Information Services	14	10.29	1
Information Communication Technology	14	10.29	2
Bibliometrics	10	7.35	3
Information Need	8	5.88	4
Information Sources and Services	8	5.88	4
Public Library	7	5.15	5
Knowledge Management	6	4.41	6
Users study	6	4.41	6
College library	5	3.68	7
Library automation	5	3.68	7
Information Use pattern	5	3.68	7

Table 6 describes the distribution of most trusted areas of research. From the table it is found that a variety of research areas have been covered by the M.Phil.scholars, which shows the dynamic attitude of the department. Community Information Services, Information Communication Technology (ICT) and bibliometrics are found as focus research areas. The other research areas are Information need, information sources and services, public library respectively.

Conclusions: Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta has completed its 73 years of successful journey in the year 2018. During these long years the department has provided latest and updated content and research contribution in the field of library and information science. With the advent of subject field the research of the DLIS in M.Phil level is not a meager one and it is seen that 136 students had been awarded since research degree during these years. From the study it is found that the growth rate of both dissertations and their citations is positive. The preferred research areas show that the scholars have worked in many areas of library and information science which focuses the dynamic dimensions of the

subject and the Department has been enriched with these works on the areas like Community Information Services, Information Communication Technology and bibliometrics as the key research zone. The steadily growth of the research activities and the substantial output from those works will show the path finding role for the inclusive development of subject field of Library and Information Science which is considered as futuristic one in the changing world.

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