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Research Productivity of Pakistani Authors in the Online Journal of Library Philosophy and Practice: A Bibliometric Appraisal from 2008-2020

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Abstract

This study evaluated the research contributions of Pakistani authors in the online journal of Library Philosophy and Practice from 2008 to 2020. The articles were reviewed to probe the most cited papers, authorship pattern, subjects, and gender-wise distribution of papers, to find the most prolific authors, geographical and institution-wise distribution of publications. The data for the study was collected from the website of the journals. A total of 178 research articles were identified, which were reviewed under the specified research objectives. Data was analyzed with the help of MS Excel and Publish or Perish was also used to calculate the citations of papers. It was found that 2020 was the most productive year with 64 publications. The paper of M. N. Ansari and B. A. Zuberi was the most cited paper with 105 citations. Two personal authors contributed 81 research articles while male authors produced 122 and female wrote 56 articles to the journals. Dr. Rubina Bhatti was the most prolific author with 34 papers, Punjab was the most productive province with 106 papers and the Islamia University of Bahawalpur was the most productive institution with 42 publications.

Keywords: Research Productivity, Library Philosophy and Practice, Bibliometric Analysis, Pakistani Authors, Pakistan

1. Introduction

Bibliometric is a type of research tool used in various subjects and disciplines by the researcher. It is used for various purposes, such as evaluating various scientific sources, assessing the scientific output, selecting journals for libraries, and predicting future Nobel Prize-winners (Hugar, Bachlapur & Anandhalli, 2012). In library and information studies, Bibliometrics is a research tool designed to examine literature to recognize trends of publication, authorship, and secondary journal coverage, to provide an insight into knowledge growth in that area (Glazel, 2003; Thanuskodi, 2010; Das, 2013). It is a quantitative approach commonly used in the library and information science (Pareek, 2013). Wang (2018) describes bibliometrics as an instrument for identifying trends in research. Gudodagi (2014) said that bibliometric is the

practice of finding the author's collaboration, analyzing citations, impact factors, coverage of journals, etc. Pritchard first coined the term "bibliometrics" in 1969, saying it is "the application of mathematical and statistical methods to books and other communication media" (Salam & Kirtania, 2019).

Library Philosophy and Practice (LPP) is a peer-reviewed e-journal owned and published by the University Library of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA. It is indexed by Library and Information Science Technological Abstracts (LISTA), Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Scopus, Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA), and many other indexing and abstracting databases. The key contributors to LPP are library professionals, researchers, teachers, students, and others who want to gain awareness and understanding of the various fields of library and information science.

2. Literature Review

Anwar and Zhiwei (2020) analyzed Nigerian and Pakistani authors' research productivity in Library Philosophy and Practice from 2008 to 2013. The study revealed that Nigerians contributed 226 articles, while Pakistani authors contributed 67 articles to the journal. Most of the papers were written by single authors and Dr. Rubina Bhatti & Dike Agah were the most prolific authors. Kumar, Singh, Ranjan and Rai (2020) assessed the publications trend in Library Philosophy and Practice from 1998 to 2019. A total of 2455 publications were retrieved with the help of Scopus. The most productive year was 2019, with 38.82% publications. Thanuskodi was the most prolific author with 32 articles, and the University of Ibadan had contributed 97 publications to the journal.

Kannan and Thanuskodi (2019) examined the research productivity in Library Philosophy and Practice from 1998 to 2018. A total of 1402 articles were retrieved from LPP. The most productive year was 2011, with 195 (13.91%) articles. The highest number of articles of 550 (39.23%) were from Nigeria and single authors wrote 591 (42.16%) papers. Dr. Rubina Bhatti was a prolific author with 19 documents. The University of Ibadan is the most productive institution with 79 publications. Anwar (2018) analyzed 86 publications contributed by Pakistani authors to Library Philosophy and Practice from 2008 to 2017. It was found that 2017 was the most productive year with 10 publications, while Dr. Rubina Bhatti was the most prolific author with 27 papers. The two-authorship pattern was dominant with 43 articles, and the Islamia University Bahawalpur was the most productive institution with 40 papers.

Kumar, Yadav and Singh (2018) reviewed the publication pattern of Library Philosophy and Practice from 2008 to 2017. A total number of 1478 papers were retrieved from the website of LPP. The results show that 197 (13.33%) papers were published in 2011 and two authors pattern was dominant with 574 (41.13%) articles. Saini and Verma (2018) assessed Indian and Pakistani authors' contribution to Library Philosophy and Practice during 2008-2017. The results reveal that Indians contributed 346 articles, while Pakistani authors contributed 86 articles. The contribution of the two authors was dominant with 181 (41.8%) papers. Thanuskodi, S. and Dr. Rubina Bhatti were the most prolific authors from India and Pakistan, respectively, while Delhi and Bahawalpur were the most productive cities.

Sa and Barik (2016) examined the contributions of Indian authors to Library Philosophy and Practice from 2001 to 2015. The authors found that 200 papers were contributed to the journal while 2011 was the most productive year with 44 (22.0%) publications. Thanuskodi was the most prolific author with nine papers, while Tamilnadu was the most productive state with 43 (21.5%) publications. Swain (2011) reported that 266 articles were published in Library Philosophy and Practice from 2004 to 2009, with 82 papers in 2009. The single author pattern was dominant with 157 (59.02%) papers, and Akobundu Dike Agah was the most contributed author having seven papers.

3. Objectives of the Study

The study was conducted to achieve the following objectives.

1. To determine the year-wise distribution of papers
2. To probe the most cited papers and authorship pattern of the publications
3. To detect the subject and gender-wise distribution of papers
4. To identify the length of articles and the total number of references of the publications
5. To find the most prolific authors and designation wise contribution of articles
6. To examine the geographical and institution-wise distribution of authors

4. Methodology of the Study

The Bibliometric method was applied to assess the research productivity of Pakistani authors in the Online Journal of "Library Philosophy and Practice" from 2008 to 2020. The data for the study was obtained from the website of the journal. During December 2020 and January 2021, various search terms were entered in the advanced search option of the journal's website, which resulted in 178 articles. All 178 articles were downloaded and then reviewed with the

stated research objectives. The data was analyzed with the help of MS Excel 2016 and a scientific calculator. Moreover, Publish or Perish was also used to detect the citations of papers.

5. Analysis of Data and Results of the Study

The data was analyzed on different parameters as per the objectives of the study and the results are presented in the form of tables, which are interpreted and discussed in the following sections.

5.1 The Year-wise Distribution of Publications

Table 1 shows that 178 articles were contributed by Pakistani authors to LPP from 2008 - 2020. The highest number of 64(35.95%) articles were contributed in 2020, as the most productive year, followed by 2013 with 21(11.79%) publications and 2012 with 17(9.55%) articles. The data demonstrate that Pakistan authors contributed 14(7.86%) articles to LPP in 2019 and 13(7.30%) articles each in 2010 & 2011.

Table 1

Year-wise Distribution of Publications

Sr. No	Year	No. of Publication	Percentage (%)
1	2008	2	1.12
3	2009	6	3.37
4	2010	13	7.30
5	2011	13	7.30
6	2012	17	9.55
7	2013	21	11.79
8	2014	12	6.74
9	2015	2	1.12
10	2017	8	4.99
11	2018	6	3.37
12	2019	14	7.86
13	2020	64	35.95
	Total	178	100

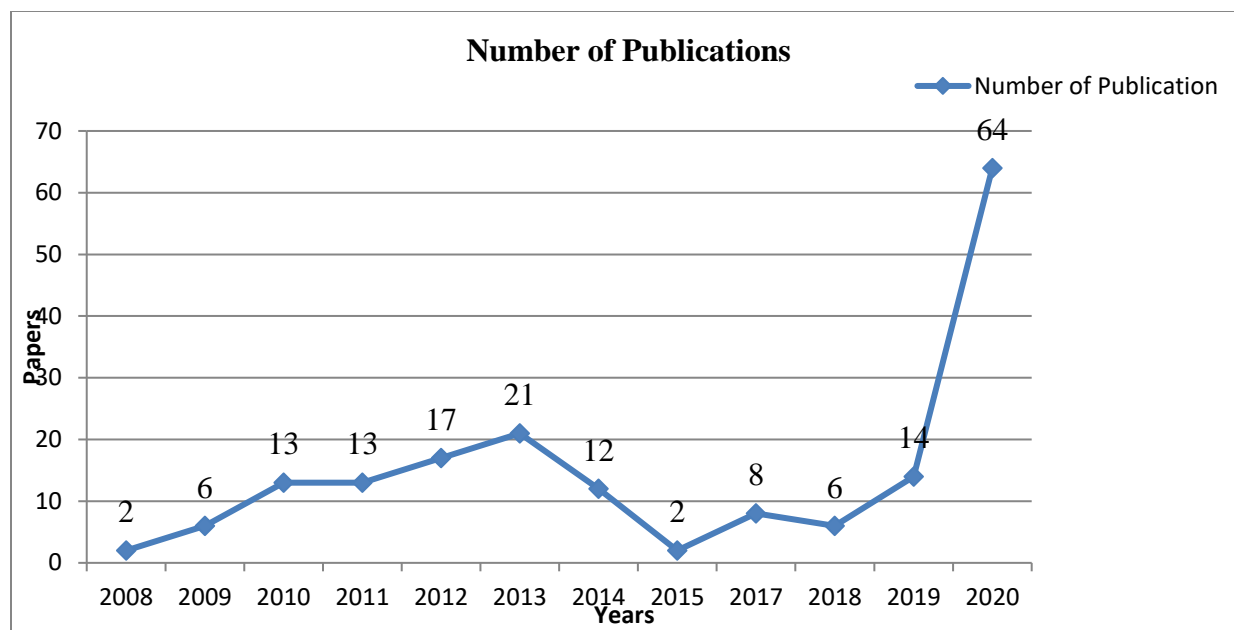


Figure 1 Number of Publications

5.2 The Gender-wise Distribution of Publications

The gender-wise contribution of publication is shown in Table 2. A total of 363 authors contributed 178 articles to the journal, out of which the contribution of the male author is 68.75% while the contribution of female authors is 31.25%. As per individual counts, the male authors contributed 122(68.53%) articles while female authors produced 56(31.47%) articles.

Table 2

Gender-wise Distribution

Sr. No	Gender	Total Authors Including Duplicate Counts	Percentage	Individual Authors	Percentage
1	Male	248	68.31	122	68.53
2	Female	115	31.69	56	31.47
	Total	363	100	170	100

Results from previous research also indicate that male authors published more papers. The study of Haq and Al Fouzan (2019) also found that 71.14% of the male were the principal authors. Ahmad and Warraich (2013) analyzed the trends of LIS literature and found that male authors conducted 67 % of the total articles. Similarly, Shadab (2009) performed a review of "Pakistan Library and Information Science Journal" describing 81% contributions was of male authors'.

5.3 The Most Cited Papers of Pakistani Authors

The ten (10) most cited papers written by Pakistani authors are illustrated in Table 3. The paper “Use of electronic resources among academics at the University of Karachi,” written by M. N. Ansari & B. A. Zuberi (2010), was ranked 1st with 105 citations. The paper authored by M. Tahir and K. Mahmood (2009) name “Information needs and information-seeking behavior of arts and humanities teachers: A survey of the University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan,” ranked 2nd with 84 citations. The 3rd most cited paper is “Information needs and information-seeking behavior of faculty members at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur,” written by Dr. Rubina Bhatti (2008) with 70 citations.

Table 3

The Most Cited Papers

Sr. No.	Authors	Title of Article	Year	No. of Citations Received
1	MN Ansari, BA Zuberi	‘Use of electronic resources among academics at the University of Karachi’	2010	105
2	M Tahir, K Mahmood	‘Information needs and information-seeking behavior of arts and humanities teachers: A survey of the University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan’	2008	84
3	R Bhatti	‘Information needs and information-seeking behaviour of faculty members at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur’	2009	70
4	SA Khan, F Shafique	‘Information needs and information-seeking behavior: A survey of college faculty at Bahawalpur’	2011	59
5	GM Rafique	‘Information literacy skills of faculty members: A study of the University of Lahore, Pakistan’	2014	48
6	R Bhatti	‘An evaluation of user-education programs in the university libraries of Pakistan’	2010	43
7	F Shafique	‘Use of Web 2.0 and its implications for libraries: perceptions of information professionals in Pakistan’	2011	42
8	MM Naseer, K Mahmood	‘LIS research in Pakistan: an analysis of Pakistan Library and Information Science Journal 1998-2007’	2009	37
9	SU Rehman, F Shafique, K Mahmood	‘A survey of user perception and satisfaction with reference services in university libraries of Punjab’	2011	36
10	A Khan, S Ahmed	‘Job satisfaction among librarians in the universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan: A survey’	2013	33

5.4 The Authorship Pattern of Publications

Table 4 demonstrates that two personal authors wrote the highest number of 81 research articles. The three personal authors contributed 51 articles, while single personal authors wrote 35 articles. The contribution of four and five authors was 10 and 1 article, respectively. The pattern of the two personal authors was thus dominant in the publications. Some previous studies also sport the results that most of the articles written by two authors.

Hussain and Saddiqa (2020) research also reported that two personal authors wrote 171 (58.96%) articles. The Raja and Morgan (2015) study also found 161 (60.76%) papers produced by two authors.

Table 4

Authorship Pattern

Sr. No	Year	Single	Two	Three	Four	Five
1	2008	-	1	1	-	-
2	2009	1	5	-	-	-
3	2010	7	5	1	-	-
4	2011	1	7	4	1	-
5	2012	3	9	5	-	-
6	2013	6	9	5	1	-
7	2014	6	2	3	1	-
8	2015	1	1	-	-	-
9	2017	2	4	1	-	-
10	2018	3	1	1	1	-
11	2019	1	7	4	2	-
12	2020	4	30	27	4	1
	Total	35	81	51	10	1
	%age	19.662	45.505	28.651	5.617	0.561

5.5 Subject-Wise Distribution of Papers

The subjects of the papers were analyzed, and the results are presented in Table 5. The results reflect that out of 178 articles, 18 articles were contributed by authors on 'Bibliometrics Analysis,' followed by 10 research articles written on 'Internet Usage,' 7 publications were related each to 'Web based Services' and 'Information Seeking Behavior.' 6 articles were related to 'Reading Habits,' followed by 5 papers each on 'Job Satisfaction' and 'Impact of ICT.'

Table 5

Subject-Wise Distribution of Papers

Sr. No	Title	Frequency
1	Bibliometric Analysis	20
2	Internet Usage	10
3	Web Based Services	07
4	Information Seeking Behavior	07
5	Reading Habits	06
6	Job Satisfaction	05
7	Impact of ICT	05
8	LIS Curriculum	05
9	Digital Library	04
10	User Satisfaction	03
11	Information Literacy	03
12	Use of Social Media	02
13	Academic Library	02

5.6 The Length of Papers

All the papers submitted by Pakistani writers were reviewed to determine their length. The paper length of these 178 papers is illustrated in Table 6. Statistical analysis shows that 77(43.25%) articles were written with 11-15 pages, followed by 40(22.47%) papers with 5-10 pages. The length of 31 articles contributed by Pakistani writers to the journal was up to 20 pages long. The length of 17(9.55%) articles were up to 25 pages, and 8(4.94%) articles were written ranging from 26 to 30 pages. Three (1.68%) articles have been found in the journal (LPP) with more than 31 pages.

The findings of Anwar (2019) research also show that most papers (64) were published in 11-15 pages in length.

Table 6

Paper Length of Publication

Sr. No	Paper Length	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	5-10	40	22.47
2	11-15	77	43.25
3	16-20	31	17.41
4	21-25	17	9.55
5	26-30	8	4.94
6	>31	3	1.68
	Total	178	100

5.7 The most Prolific Authors

From 2008 to 2020, 363 Pakistani authors contributed 178 articles to Library Philosophy and Practice. The data in Table 7 indicate that Dr. Rubina Bhatti is the most prolific author, contributing 34(19.10%) research papers, followed by Dr. Khalid Mehmood with 21(12.35%) publications, the 2nd most prolific author, and Dr. Farzana Shafique ranked 3rd with 12(7.05%) research articles. Dr. Haroon Idrees contributed 10(5.88%) research publications, while Shakeel Ahmed Khan and Salman bin Naem each contributed 9 articles to the journal.

Table 7

Most Prolific Authors

Sr. No	Author	No. of Publications	Percentage (%)
1	Dr. Rubina Bhatti	34	19.10
2	Dr. Khalid Mehmood	21	12.35
3	Dr. Farzana Shafique	12	7.05
4	Dr. Haroon Idrees	10	5.88
5	Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Khan and Dr. Salman bin Naem	9	5.29
6	Dr. Amjid Khan and Anwar Muhammad	8 Each	4.70
7	Dr. Shafiq Ur Rahman	7	4.11
8	Ghulam Murtaza	6	3.52
9	Arif Khan, Munira Nasreen and Atta ur Rehman	5 Each	2.94
10	6 Authors	4 Each	2.35
11	8 Authors	3 Each	1.76
12	11 Authors	02 Each	1.17

5.8 Designation wise Distribution of Articles

Table 8 shows the designation wise contribution of papers to the journal. Out of 170 research papers, the Assistant Professors wrote the largest number of 77(43.25%) papers as the most contributors in those thirteen years, followed by Library Professionals as the second most contributors, producing 66(37.07%) research papers. The lecturers wrote 16(8.98%) articles, while MPhil & Ph.D. scholars contributed 09 & 08 articles to the journal, respectively. Just 01 research paper was written by the Assistant Manager.

Table 8

Designation wise Distribution of Articles Based on the Designation of First Author

Sr. No	Designation	No. of Publications	Percentage (%)
1	Assist. Professors	77	43.25
2	Librarians	66	37.07
3	Lecturers	16	8.98
4	M.Phil Scholars	09	5.05
5	Ph. D Scholars	09	5.05
6	Assist. Manager	01	0.56
	Total	178	100

5.9 The Geographical Distribution of Authors

The data was analyzed to determine the publications' geographical distribution based on the first author's affiliated address. Pakistani authors contributed 178 articles to LPP in the studied years (2008-2020). The data shows that 106(59.55%) research papers were contributed from the province of Punjab, as occupied first position, followed by Federal Capital Islamabad with 27(15.16%) articles, the provinces of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa each contributed 17(10.67%) articles to the journal. The least number of research articles were contributed from the province of Baluchistan with 7(3.932%) articles

Table 9

Geographical Distribution of Publications Based on First Author's Affiliated Address

Province	City	No. of Publications
Punjab 106 (59.550%)	Bahawalpur	42
	Lahore	53
	Multan	02
	Sargodha	07
	Sialkot	01
	Rawalpindi	01
Federal Capital 27 (15.168%)	Islamabad	27
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 19 (10.67%)	Peshawar	12
	Karak	07
Sindh 19 (10.67%)	Karachi	16
	Jamshoro	2
Baluchistan 07 (3.932%)	Quetta	07

5.10 The Institution-wise Distribution of Authors

The institutional wise distribution of publications is given in Table 10. The results found that the Islamia University of Bahawalpur contributed the highest number of 42(23.59%) articles, ranked the first position, followed by the University of Punjab, ranked second position with 29(16.30%) research articles. The third most contributed institution was the University of Karachi by contributing 10(5.17%) research articles and the National University of Science & Technology (NUST), Islamabad, contributed 8 articles. The University of Baluchistan, the University of Sargodha, and Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak each contributed 7 research articles to the journal, followed by the University of Peshawar with 5(2.80%) articles. The Minhaj University Lahore and International Islamic University Islamabad contributed 4(2.24%) and 3(1.68%) publications, respectively.

Table 10

Institution-wise Contribution

Sr. No	Name of Institution	No. of Publications	Percentage (%)
1	The Islamia University of Bahawalpur	42	23.59
2	The University of Punjab	29	16.30
3	The University of Karachi	10	5.17
4	NUST, Islamabad	08	4.49
5	The University of Baluchistan	07	3.93
6	The University of Sargodha	07	3.93
7	Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak	07	3.93
8	The University of Peshawar	05	2.80
9	The Minhaj University, Lahore	04	2.24
10	The International Islamic University, Islamabad	03	1.68

5.11 The Number of References

Table 11 shows the year wise and total references cited by authors in writing 178 articles from 2008 to 2020. The authors cited a total of 4,811 sources in writing 178 articles. The maximum number of 2094(43.52%) references were cited in writing 64 articles in 2020, followed by 536(11.14%) sources were cited in 2013. The data reveals that authors cited 416 (8.64%) sources in 2019 in writing 14 articles, 399(8.29%) sources were cited in 2012. The data also revealed that 279(6.022%) references were cited in 2017 and 244(5.79%) references in 2014. The minimum number of 31(0.64%) references were found in the articles of 2008 because

only two articles were contributed from Pakistan, followed by 62(1.338%) references in 2015, 132(2.74%) in 2009, and 219(4.55%) references in 2010.

Table 11

Number of References of the Publications

Sr. No	Year	Number of Articles	No. of References	Percentage (%)
1	2008	2	31	0.64
2	2009	6	132	2.74
3	2010	13	219	4.55
4	2011	13	240	4.98
5	2012	17	399	8.29
6	2013	21	536	11.14
7	2014	12	244	5.79
8	2015	2	62	1.338
9	2017	8	279	6.022
10	2018	6	159	3.30
11	2019	14	416	8.64
12	2020	64	2094	43.52
	Total	178	4,811	100

6. Major Findings of the Study

- 1) The study found that 178 articles were contributed by Pakistani authors to Library Philosophy and Practice from 2008 -2020. 2020 was the most productive year with a total of 64 publications, followed by 2013 with 21 and 2012 with 17 articles.
- 2) The study revealed that the paper, 'Use of electronic resources among academics at the University of Karachi' written by M. N. Ansari & B. A. Zuberi (2010) was the most cited paper with 105 citations, followed by 'Information needs and information-seeking behavior of arts and humanities teachers: A survey of the University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan' authored by M Tahir & K Mehmood (2008) was the second most cited paper with 84 citations.
- 3) It was identified that two personal authors pattern was dominant contributed 81 research articles, 51 articles were written by three personal authors, while single personal authors produced 35 publications.
- 4) The male authors contributed 122(68.53%) articles while female authors produced 56(31.47%) articles.

- 5) Out of 178 articles, 18 articles were contributed by authors on 'Bibliometrics Analysis', 10 articles written on 'Internet Usage', 7 publications were related each to 'Web based Services' and 'Information Seeking Behavior'
- 6) Statistical analysis proves that 77(43.25%) articles were written with 11-15 pages, followed by 40(22.47%) papers with 5-10 pages. The length of 31 articles was up to 20 pages, and 17(9.55%) articles were up to 25 pages.
- 7) It was disclosed that 77(43.25%) articles were written by Assistant Professors, followed by Library Professionals with 66(37.07%) publications and Lecturers contributed 16(8.98%) articles.
- 8) The study revealed that the province of Punjab was the most productive region with 106 articles. The Islamabad ranked the second position with 27 publications, and Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ranked third each contributed 19 publications to the journal.
- 9) The Islamia University of Bahawalpur contributed the highest number of 42(23.59%) articles, ranked the first position, the University of Punjab ranked the second position with 29(16.30%) research articles, and the University of Karachi occupied the third position with 10(5.17%) research articles.
- 10) Dr. Rubina Bhatti was the most prolific author with 34 publications, Dr. Khalid Mehmood contributed 21 articles, Dr. Farzana Shafique 12 papers and Dr. Haroon Idrees produced 10 articles.
- 11) In writing 178 articles, the authors cited a total of 4,811 sources. The maximum number of 2094(43.52%) sources were cited in writing 64 articles in 2020

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