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LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE RESEARCH IN INDIA

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Abstract

Paper clearly projects with relevant statistical tables the output of doctoral research in India. Attempt is made to depict quantity of research output in the form doctoral theses, state wise, university-wise, topic-wise and supervisor-wise. Also indicated are the areas of research activity in LIS with ranking of universities and states which have contributed comparatively more to field of LIS research in India.

Index Terms: Key word1, Key word2, Key word3, Key word4, Key word5 etc.

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1. INTRODUCTION

During the recent past, quite a number of research activities have been carried out in the universities and research institutions in various parts of the world. In India, due to the establishment of University Grants Commission, AICTE and other similar bodies and their active support, many students are caring out M. Phil. and Ph.D. degrees. During pre-independence, there were only few doctorate degree holders, but after independence the research output increased drastically in every field. In India about 125 universities and research institutions are offering Ph. D. programmes in Library and Information Science. Considering the available data, attempt is made to analyse research productivity of the various universities in India.

LIS Education in India

The Library and Information Science (LIS) education in India may be said to have taken place with the introduction of a training course in 1911, in the erstwhile State of Baroda. The real beginning of systematic education in LIS can be traced to the initiatives of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan during the period 1926-1931 at the Madras University Library in association with Madras Library Association. The summer school leading to certificate in library science, which Madras University continued under the

stewardship of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan till 1937. Later, Andhra University, Banaras Hindu University, Bombay University, Calcutta University and Delhi University introduced Post -Graduate Diploma Courses in Library Science in the year 1935, 1941, 1944, 1946 and 1948 respectively. Apart from these universities, DRTC in Bangalore and NISCAIR in New Delhi started the library science education programmes. During 1947, altogether 27 universities were offering diploma courses in Library Science. In 1957, for the first time in the country, Aligarh Muslim University started B.L.Sc Course. The courses were offered at different levels such as Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor"s, P.G. Diploma, Master"s and research degree programmes i.e. M Phil and Ph. D under different modes (on regular/on campus or distance/off campus or some times both) and schemes (annual or semester). The growth of universities during post-independent India ensured improvement in the quality of education. It is due to the importance of libraries in various institutions, research centres and government departments, the demand for librarians also increased. This actually gave boost to Library Science Education in India.

Research in Library and Information Science
 The research in LIS in the past was considered primarily to provide a theoretical foundation to professional practice. The roots of research in LIS profession appears to be not very deep. Research in library science during

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the Twentieth Century in the ares of LIS can be traced to the Library School of the University of Chicago, in mid-1920s. The visionary efforts of the Chicago School bore abundant fruit and offered leadership to the world in library science research (Shera 1976, 145). The pace of library research is picking up everywhere today due to social pressure, as well as, inspiration. In justifying the Ph.D. programme in our profession, it has been urged that "if librarianship aspires to become a profession, it should depend upon research to develop its knowledge base and its theoretical framework" (Wilkinson 1983, 39)

The credit for the formal institution of the doctoral degree programme in library science in India goes undeniably to Dr. S.R. Ranganathan (1892–1972). In 1951, he started providing Library science education at the University of Delhi, surmounting many difficulties and facing personal ridicule. The University of Delhi awarded the first de jure degree in library science in 1957 to D.B. Krishan Rao who worked on „faceted classification for agriculture". Doctoral research remained in the wilderness when Ranganathan shook the Delhi soil off his feet in 1955. In the 1960s and 1970s some doctorates on library-related topics were earned by library professionals under the guidance and supervision of faculties belonging to the disciplines such as sociology, history, law, economics, management, and the like. The mantle of reviving and furthering doctoral research facilities was assumed by J. S. Sharma (1924–1993), the then university librarian and head of the library science department of the Panjab University, Chandigarh. Under his guidance, the second de jure Ph.D. in library science was awarded in 1977 after a gap of full two decades. Thereafter, there was no looking back. Many universities followed with mostly individual efforts and enthusiasm. Doctoral research got a fillip in the 1980s and gradual improvement in facilities paved ways for India to maintain its Third World leadership in library research and library literature. Ph.D. programmes thereafter, mushroomed even despite the lack of facilities or adherence to standards (Satija. M.P. 1999).

Objectives of the study The objectives of the study are as follows: To know the growth of the research productivity(doctoral theses) in India.
• To identify the most predominant subject areas in the field of LIS research
• To find out the top five ranking of research guides

Methodology
 The data for the present study have been collected from two authoritative sources. The first one is the data published in the University News: a weekly from the Association of Indian Universities and second one is from the Vidyanidhi Indian Theses Database (http://www.vidyanidhi.org/). Apart from these sources the data provided in the articles written by Professor V.G. Talawar, Professor M.P. Satija and the chronological list of doctoral degrees awarded in Indian universities during 1985-2005 published in the journal Pearl, Vol.1(3), July-Sept, 2007 have also been referred to obtain pertinent data.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

There are as many as 802 doctoral degrees awarded so far in the library and information science domain. The authors have made an attempt to consolidate all the doctoral degrees awarded by various universities in India. The data were analysed and presented under 6 heads viz. chronological growth, decade-wise growth, state-wise, university-wise, subject-wise distribution and top five ranking of research guides.
Table 1: Chronological growth of Ph. D. theses in LIS

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Sl. No.	Year	Number of Ph. D. theses	Percentage
1	1957	1	0.13
2	1963	1	0.13
3	1966	1	0.13
4	1972	2	0.25
5	1973	1	0.13
6	1977	4	0.5
7	1978	3	0.37
8	1979	2	0.25
9	1980	4	0.5
10	1981	4	0.5
11	1982	3	0.37
12	1983	11	1.37
13	1984	13	1.62
14	1985	21	2.62
15	1986	18	2.24
16	1987	12	1.5
17	1988	9	1.12
18	1989	22	2.74
19	1990	18	2.24
20	1991	32	3.99
21	1992	51	6.36
22	1993	38	4.74
23	1994	36	4.49
24	1995	38	4.74
25	1996	36	4.49
26	1997	21	2.62
27	1998	22	2.74
28	1999	33	4.11
29	2000	30	3.74
30	2001	20	2.49
31	2002	33	4.11

The above table depicts the number of doctoral degrees awarded in the field of LIS starting from the year 1957 up to the present year 2008. It is clear from the table that research activity was quite rare till 1982 and all of a sudden, the research productivity increased from the year 1983. This was due to the need and emphasis on recruiting qualified faculty and librarians mainly in the universities and technological institutions. It was also true that University Grants Commission started giving preference to the candidates who have done research in LIS. The present situation is that on an average 35 doctoral theses are being awarded Ph.D. degrees every year. During the period 1983 to 2001 an average of 25 theses were awarded doctoral degrees. From this it is clear that there is sudden increase of research output in

LIS starting from the year 1983 and steadily increased again since the year 1991

Table 2: Decade-wise growth of Ph D. theses in LIS

Sl. No.	Decades	Number of Ph. D. theses	Percentage
1	2000-2008	345	43.02
2	1990-1999	325	40.52
3	1980-1989	117	14.59
4	1970-1979	12	1.50
5	1960-1969	2	0.25
6	1950-1959	1	0.12
Total		**802**	**100.00**

The table 2 depicts the decade-wise distribution of Ph.D. theses in India. As we can see from the table, there are quite a number of Ph.D.s produced after the year 1980. Further, it is evident from the table that 43 percent of the research output was made during the period 2000 to 2008. Yet another 40.52 percent of the research output was made during the previous decade i.e. 1990 to1999. From this it is evident that more than 83 percent of the Ph. D. degrees were awarded during the past 19 years. It is worth mentioning here at this juncture that 16.46 percent of the research output came during the period 1957-1989, almost 32 years. However, it can be concluded from this data that a great majority of quality research output can be seen during the last two decades.

Conclusion

 The study has emphasized the perspective of the research activities in library and information science in Indian universities. So far, 802 Ph.D. theses were produced in the LIS subject. Good number of Ph.D. theses were produced in the field of bibliometrics/scientrometrics/Informatrics, library management, university libraries, indexing system, information seeking behaviour, and library and information services. National Knowledge Commission(NKC) report on the Working Group of libraries published in March 2007 revealed : "India has a long tradition of libraries and has contributed to the development of basic concepts in the discipline such as fundamental principles of library services and knowledge organization tools, R&D activates in LIS today are extremely limited. This is utmost concern for the growth of library and information science profession

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in India". National Knowledge Commission has recommended user studies, organization of community information and development of appropriate standards, standardization of Indian names, vocabulary control, development of open source software, development of digital libraries both in English and Indian languages, cross language information retrieval and subjects that have high potential of doing research in LIS. To any research productivity the contributions of the researcher and their guide(s) is highly significant. It is the time worth remembering Dr. S.R. Ranganathan and many other professionals who have contributed much to the development of the profession,as well as, knowledge and skill.

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