Growth and Development of Library and Information Science Literature

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Abstract

Development of library and information science literature is mapped on the literary outputs available through Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts (LISTA). The findings vividly indicate that the growth of literature in library and information science is on increase. Professionals and researchers all over the world have embraced the scholarly publication revolution from various disciplines, to which library and information science is no exception. The study provides a detailed description of library and information science literature published in various formats. In county-wise output, U.S.A. ranks first with 301 (37.76%) publications. It also gives a thorough insight of the growth and development of library literature in a chronological order. It is surprising to know that the decade of 1980s ranks first with 155 (19.44%) publications. Furthermore, to specify the growth and development of library and information science literature, coverage policy and source type are also traced out. Core publications rank first with a literary output of 485. Among the literary wealth, academic journals hold the first place harvesting 409 publications and forming 51.31% of the total publications.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The invention of printing in 1440 provided a tool for sharing and communicating thoughts with others in a form which led to the birth of periodicals (Sharma, 1999). Right from the time when the first scholarly publication appeared in 1665 (Journal des Scavans) (MacDonell, 1999) from Europe, the escalation of scholarly literature in a variety of formats is increasing with time. Various disciplines all over the world have witnessed a volcanic growth in their respective fields in terms of scholarly

publications like journals, magazines, conference papers, trade publications, and monographs. Nations all over the world have noticed an abrupt spurt in scholarly publications. Not only developed nations but the developing nations, too, from time to time and in a variety of forms have realized the need and importance of scholarly literature as they bring varied ideas from masterminds in their respective fields. Scholarly literature in the field of library and information science has been growing gradually as new facets are added to the subject progressively due to inter-disciplinary

approach and information tsunami. The field of library and information science is no longer confined to four walls of classification and cataloguing but has been broadened to embrace new concepts like automation, information retrieval, digitization, wikis, metadata, blogging, podcasts, open access, and other web related technologies. The present study aims to trace the growth and development of library literature so that the trend followed by scholarly literature in Library Science can be visualized

II. Literature Review
A number of studies have been conducted on the growth of library and information science literature. A study conducted by Bottle and Efthimiadis (1984) investigated the sampling issues of LISA (Library and Information Science Abstract), ISA (Information Science Abstract), RZI (Referativnyi Zhurnal Informatics Abstract), BS (Bulletin Signaletique) and CCA (Computer & Control Abstracts) for the year 1983. Journals (71%) are the dominant format. The study clearly indicates that literature coverage in the field of library and information science has increased dramatically. 1391 distinct journal titles were identified in the coverage of LISA, ISA, RZI and BS. Most of the literature originated

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from North America (38%) and Western Europe (34%). 1545 journals were identified from Ulrich's Guides. Ali (1985) provides an overall picture of growth of librarianship and information science literature (academic research and practitioner's literature) and various outlets available for reporting research findings, with special emphasis on United States and Great Britain. Another study by Sharma (1999) reveals that Asian countries have been very active in publishing books and journals in the field of library and information science. The study deals with the development of Asian library journals with an emphasis on South Asia. The study revealed that Japan was the first Asian country to publish a library journal in 1907, followed by India in 1912. In 1972 China became the newest and the youngest nation to enter the publishing of library journals.

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Objectives

 The study was initiated with the following objectives:
To trace the intensification of literature chronologically. The study attempts to delve deep to discover the growth of library literature published worldwide as per LISTA indexing and abstracting service in different communication channels. To map the geographic distribution of the literature. The study makes an effort• to identify the various world regions from where library and information science literature is being published. To outline the coverage policy and source type of the published literature.• Since the library and information science literature is being published in different formats, the present study will identify them

and also show the amount of literature being published through all these sources.
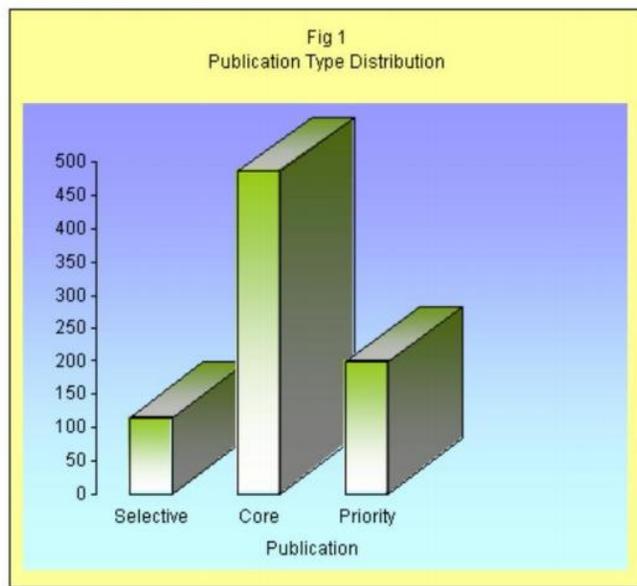
Methodology

LISTA (Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts), a world class bibliographic indexing and abstracting database that provides coverage on subjects such as librarianship, classification, cataloguing, bibliometrics, online information retrieval, information management and more, was selected for analyzing library and information science literature. LISTA indexes nearly 700 periodicals plus books, research reports and proceedings, which makes it an ideal source for study. The data was carefully analyzed and interpreted. The geographic output and the date of the first issue was extracted from Ulrichsweb (Online version of Ulrich's Periodical Directory
published by R.R. Bowker), one of the renowned source listing periodical publications all over the world. The necessary data pertaining to periodical publications was extracted by querying ISSNs in Ulrich's online periodical database. Besides, the chronology of the literature was divided into decades for an easier interpretation. The literature whose chronology was not traceable was put in to a separate category called "Not Traceable" (N.T.). Furthermore, the coverage policy and source type were also categorized separately so as to make the study more intensive in terms of development.

Findings

1.Publication Type Distribution

A total of 797 publications in LISTA reflect various forms of literary output in library and information science like monographs, journals, book reviews, conference proceedings, etc. Out of these, 114 (14.30%) were selective ones, 485 (60.85%) core publications, and the rest 198 (29.84%) based on priority (LISTA Database Coverage List). Fig 1 clearly indicates the type of publications for a clearer vision

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Source Type Distribution

The literary output in the field of LIS is published in a variety of formats like journals, magazines, conference proceedings, monographs, trade publications, and databases. Regardless of the publication medium, academic journals remain the key tool for scholarship, ranking the first with 409 titles, which accounts for 51.31% of the total. Academic journals show a high spurt in library literature. Magazines and conference papers rank the second and the third, with a total of 209 titles (26.22%) and 115 titles (14.42%) respectively. It clearly signifies that a large amount of library literature is published via academic journals, magazines, and conference papers while trade publications, books/monographs, and databases rank 4th, 5th and 6th with 52 titles (6.52%), 11 titles (1.38%) and 1 title (0.12%) respectively. Fig 2 is a visual presentation of the data related to source type distribution. One can clearly see that academic journals act as a prominent catalyst in rendering the literary output in formal publications and that the growth of academic journals has surpassed other forms and become the first choice of authors

Chronological Development

Library and information science literature grew right from the time when the first core trade publication "Bookseller" (abstracted now in LISTA) appeared in 1852. The first publication date of all the titles under study is taken from Ulrich's online Periodical Database. From 1852 to date, there is a tremendous increase in library literature in various forms. For the sake of convenience and clarity, the study is divided into decades from 1850's to 2000's. In 1850's, only one publication fell into the scope of library and information science literature. During 1850's and 1860's, the literary output phase was dormant and produced no publications. During 1870's, 4 (0.50%) publications came out; in 1890's, the number rose up to 5 (0.62%); and in 1900's, it went up to 7 (0.87%) publications. The first magazine "Author" appeared in 1890's. The first academic journal "New Library World" was also launched in the same decade. But with the passage of time, more and more publications emerged from the field. Table 1 demonstrates that the 1980's has the largest number of publications, i.e., 155 (19.44%). 1970's and 1960's rank 2nd and 3rd with a total of 124 (15.55%) and 68 (8.53%) publications respectively. Table 1 is supplemented by Fig 3 to better demonstrate the data. The first year of publication for 163 publications could not be ascertained from Ulrich's online periodical directory. Therefore, they were kept under the heading "Not Traceable".

Growth of Literature over Consecutive Decades It is evident from Table 2 (supplemented by Fig 4) that 1870's ranks first as there is an enormous increase of 400% of literature over its previous decade due to the fact that literature in the field was just starting to boom. The 2nd and 3rd ranks are occupied by 1890's (100%) and 1950's (85.50%) of literature over their previous decade.

Conclusion The growth of library and information science literature is at a good pace. Developed countries are contributing a large chunk of literature through various types of publications. Developing countries like India have also made laudable contributions to library and information science literature. The chronological study indicates that library and information science literature has been expanding its subject boundaries. Most noticeably is its extensive coverage of IT-related

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services since 1980. The maturity of the scientific aspect of the library science discipline has helped in increasing the literary output in the field of library and information science. Furthermore, the countries with a well established tradition in the field of LIS are showing an explosive growth in the LIS literature. Literature is making itself available in different forms. In the years to come, not only academic journals will be stealing the show but other forms like trade publications, monographs, and conference proceedings are also expected to reach the zenith in the field.

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