Conference Metrics: A Bibliometric Analysis of Library and Information Science Conferences & Seminars Held In Tamilnadu: Jan.2011 – Marh 2014

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Abstract

The present metric study aims at presenting a bibliometric analysis of 22 conferences / seminars held in Tamilnadu during the period Jan.2011 – March 2014. The findings reveal that :The maximum number of Conferences /Seminars was conducted in the year 2012 and 2013 and minimum in the year 2011. Conferences are more popular than the seminars.Conferences/ Seminars of one day duration are popular. Most of the conferences / seminars are conducted in the month of February / March. Both 2012 and 2013 had witnessed seven conferences/seminars each. Bishop Heber college conducted 4 C/S followed by Annamalai University with 3 seminars. Both Periyar University and Alagappa University have conducted two seminars each.

Keywords

Conferences, Seminars, Themes, Venues, Organizers, Sponsors, Duration, solo organization, collaborative organization

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INTRODUCTION

The researchers – either full time scholars, part-time scholars, working professionals, retired professionals or students – have been in search of suitable medium to publish their research work. Journals, books, online journals, e-books, edited volumes, online publishing through websites and blogs etc are all the ways and means of publishing one's research results. But when the researchers feel to have a common meeting point to deliberate, discuss and share their ideas and research productivity, conferences and seminars have become handy to them. Of late, Conferences and Seminars in the field of Library and Information Science are brought to forefront to let the LIS Community to reveal, share, collaborate and improve their knowledge and Skills.

Munching on the potentialities of Conferences and Seminars as the sharp tools in the arena of LIS and the frequency of such C/S being hosted in Tamilnadu by various Universities, Colleges and other institutions in the recent past, the researcher felt the existence of a wider gap in field of quantitative studies on the research productivity of LIS professionals as depicted in these C&S. Who conducts these C/S, for how many days they are organised, what about the availability of volume; ISBN Number; articles; abstracts; keywords and references, what kind of authorship pattern was followed, whether photos and resumes of authors and editors are available, what about the author and subject indexes etc were the thoughts that kindled the researcher to conduct a bibliometric study on the research productivity of LIS professionals as depicted in 22 conferences & seminars held in Tamilnadu in the recent past.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Isiakpona (2012) carried out a bliometric analysis of the Library and Information Science Research Electronic Journal between 2004 and 2010 and found that a total of 61 articles were published in the 7-year period with 12 articles as the highest number in 2008. Most of the articles were within the general subject area of Library and Information Science and were written by a single author. The degree of collaboration was 0.279. Majority of the publications were contributed by authors in universities. Rathu, Naidu and Gawde (2012) examined a bibliometric analysis of the Information Research: an International Electronic Journal (IRIEJ), including the study of form of documents, authorship pattern, ranking of

authors, year wise distribution of references and articles, ranking of cited journals, cited publishers and research contributors of IRIEJ.

Swain and Panda (2012) presented the findings of a bibliometric study of Journal of Intellectual Property Rights. A total of 332 articles carrying 1,541 journal citations during the period of 2002-2010 were analyzed. 471 authors contributed articles. There is an absolute domination of solo contributions. About one third of the total publications received citations. The average number of citations against all published articles was found to be 0.66 per article. Self-citations among authors constituted 22.01% of the total cited scholarly papers. Rattan and Gupta(2012) presented the findings of a "Bibliometric Analysis" of Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science from 2007-2011. Out of 100 articles, single authors contributed 27 (27%) articles while the rest 73 (73%) articles were contributed by joint authors. Most of the contributors were from Malaysia. About 62.54% of citations were from periodicals. *Bansal(*2013) presented the findings of a bibliometric analysis of the *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology* (*DJLIT*) over two different periods (2001-2006) and (2007-2012). 391 papers were published during the period of study (2001-2012). The maximum number of articles (65) was published in 2012. The maximum number of contributions was joint collaborations with 61.4 %. Most of the contributions (88 %) were from India. Majority of the authors preferred journals as the source of information providing the highest number of citations. The maximum number of articles (65 %) has the length of 6-10 pages Doraswamy and Janakiramaiah (2013) carried out a bibliometric study of all the conference papers published in National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN) from 2001 to 2008. 300 conference papers are published in the NACLIN proceedings during the eight years. Highest number (54) of articles were published in 2007. The conference volumes contained 3001 references for the study period of which 1709 are p-citations and 1292 are e-citations. Each conference volume published approx. 38 papers and each paper had an average of 5.7 preferences and 4.3 e-references. Among the p-citations, journals accounted for 40.08%, books 33.88%, and seminar/conference proceedings 17.44%. Among the e-citations, the .org websites were the most useful source of information. Contributions by single author and small teams comprising two or three authors accounted for about 82.67 percent of the authors. More than fifty percent of the papers contributed from New Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. The weekly higher education journal "University News" got first rank for being cited more number of times.

Pandita (2013) did a bibliometric study of Annals of Library and Information Studies (ALIS) during the last decade and revealed that 310 articles were published during the period 2002-2012. India is the major contributor. On average 7.04 articles have been published in each issue of each volume. After analysing 5307 references, on average 17.11 references have been assigned to each article. Researchers from 16 different countries across the world have contributed research articles. 65.81 % articles contributed to the journal during the period of study are based on co-authorship pattern. Panda, Maharana and Chhatar(2013) analyzed publication and citation patterns in the Journal of Information Literacy (JIL) from 2007-2012 and shared that the number of research articles 68 (51.9%) was highest among other types of publications such as book reviews 36 (27.49), conference papers 27 (20.61%), etc. A majority of contributions 94 (71.75%) emanating from UK. Almost all the papers 124 (94.65%) were from academic institutions. Almost equal number of faculty members and professionals contributed to JIL. Prithvi Raj and Sampath Kumar (2013) compared the characteristics of URLs cited in Indian LIS conference proceedings papers. A total of 15,745 references appended to 1,700 articles published in three Indian LIS conference proceedings published during 2001-2010 were selected. From these references, a total of 5698 URLs were extracted and were further classified according to their top level domains, file formats and path depths for further analysis. The results showed that the percentage of articles with at least one URL increased from 39.10% in 2001 to 91.67% in 2010. There was a constant and continuous increase in the number of articles with URLs over the years during 2001-2010. Of the 1,700 articles published in conference proceedings, there were 1,011 (59.47%) articles with URLs. Padma and Ramasamy (2013) presented a bibliometric study of "journal of information literacy" 2007-2012 with the findings that total number of contributions was 153 publications including 76 Type I Publications and 77 Type II Publications. Vol.1 had the maximum of 16, Type I Publications. Vol.6 has got maximum number of publications with 32. Book Reviews constitute more than 50 % of the total Type II Publications with

41 in toto. Single authors constitute 48.68 % and multiple authors. The 2008 saw maximum number of 10 articles by single authors and 2007 saw maximum articles by the multiple authors with 11 in numbers. Degree of collaboration was the highest in 2007 with 0.68. A total of 461 references were cited in the year 2012. 20 articles had cited 10-20 and 21-30 references. A total of 67 % of articles were written by LIS Professionals. The United Kingdom is the lead contributor with 63.30 % of articles. There are 28 articles with the page length of 11-15. There is an inter-institutional research to the extent of 23.07%.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are,

1. To list year-wise distribution of Conferences / Seminars
2. To enlist duration-wise and Days-wise distribution of Conferences and Seminars.
3. To list and rank the organizers of C&S.
4. To group the C&S based on themes and type of host and
5. To identify solo Vs collaborative organization of C&S along with the sponsors, if any.

METHODOLOGY

a) Research Type : The study undertaken by the researcher belongs to a quantitative study. Ii is a bibliometric study of research productivity of authors as reflected in the articles included in the Conferences and Seminar volumes.

there are 39 articles out of 76 contributed by the

b) Sample Size : 13 Conferences and 09 seminars held in Tamilnadu have formed the samples of study.

c) Method of data collection

MS Excel worksheets were used for collecting data required for the study.
The researchers have gone through each and every conference/Seminar volume individually.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table1 : Year wise Seminars and Conferences

S.No	Year	No of Seminars	No of Conference	Total
1	2011	2	0	2
2	2012	3	4	7
3	2013	1	6	7
4	2014	3	3	6
	TOTAL	9	13	22

The above table shows that the maximum number of Conferences /Seminars was conducted in the year 2012 and 2013 and minimum in the year 2011. It is quite interesting to note that year 2011 saw two seminars in a span of three months and the year 2014 saw 3 conferences and 3 seminars again in a span of three months. It is also clear that conferences are more popular than the seminars.

Table 2 : Conference/ Seminar Themes

S.No	Year	Name of the Conference/Seminar	Place	Theme	Date(s)
1	2011	Best practices in Library and information centres	Trichy	Best practices in Library and information centres	Feb.26
2	2011	Redefining the role of Libraries in the Digital era	Chithambaram	Role of Libraries in Digital era	March 11-12
3	2012	Innovative Library services in Digital Era	Pollachi	Innovative library services	Jan. 19-21
4	2012	100 Years of library & Information science education in India	Trichy	Library Science education	Feb.18
5	2012	Scientometrics&Informetrics	Chidambaram	Scientometrics&Informetrics	March 9-10
6	2012	Digital Library era	Tirunelveli	Digital Libraries	March 16h
7	2012	Open Sources Integrated library system	Chennai	Open Source S/W	June 8-9
8	2012	Electronic resources management for academic excellence	Salem	ERM (Electronic Resources Management)	Oct.15

9	2012	E- Infrastructures in Libraries	Coimbatore	E- Infrastructures	Dec.21
10	2013	Application and relevance of E-resources in Academic libraries	Karaikudi	E- Resources	Feb.8
11	2013	Developing skills for Knowledge resource centres management	Trichy	Skills for LIS Professionals	Feb.22-23
12	2013	Innovative Librarianship	Tirunelveli	Innovative Librarianship	March 28
13	2013	Recent trends in Library & Information Science	Chennai	Recent trends in Library Science	April 12-13
14	2013	Digital Resource initiatives in libraries	Karur	Digital Resources	Oct.12
15	2013	Open access , Open E- resources and institutional repositories	Madurai	Open access&Open E-resources	Oct.26
16	2013	Information management	Tiruchengode	Information management	Dec.7
17	2014	Contemporary developments in Information and communication technology	Madurai	Information and communication technology	Jan.23-24
18	2014	Information services for the disadvantaged : opportunities and challenges	Trichy	Information services for the disadvantaged	Feb. 14- 15
19	2014	Research trends and new paradigms in library and information science	Coimbatore	Research trends in LIS	Feb.21-22
20	2014	Electronic information management and Dissemination in digital era : Opportunities and challenges	Salem	Electronic Information management	March 17-18
21	2014	Knowledge management in electronic environment: opportunities and challenges	Karaikudi	Knowledge management	March 21-22
22	2014	Application of Quantitative and Qualitative indicators for effective information management in academic libraries	Chidambaram	Quantitative and qualitative indicators for information management	March 28-29

Table 1.2 depicts the list of 13 conferences and 09 seminars conducted during the study period. It also discloses details like year of the C/S, the host city, the themes of the C/S and the month and dates of the C/S. It is observed that most of the conferences / seminars are conducted in the month of February / March. The C/S have taken place in prominent cities in Tamilnadu, being the rural places ignored as venues.

Table 3 : Year-wise duration of Conference / Seminar

S.No	Year	Days Vs C& S					
		One Day		Two Days		Three Days	
		S	C	S	C	S	C
1	2011	1	0	1	0	0	0
2	2012	2	3	1	0	0	1
3	2013	1	4	0	2	0	0
4	2014	0	0	3	3	0	0
	TOTAL	4	7	5	5	0	1

It is depicted in Table 3 that 2012 had seen five C/S with one day duration, 2014 had witnessed six C/N with two days duration and the only conference of three days duration was held in 2012.

Organizers of the conferences and seminars

Table 4 and 5 indicate what types of organizations or institutions conducted the library and information science conferences and seminars. Universities, colleges and other Institution organized C/S. Bishop

Heber college conducted 4 C/S followed by Annamalai University with 3 seminars. Both Periyar University and Alagappa University have conducted two seminars each. Other 11 institutions have conducted one C/S during the period under study.

Table 4: Organizers of the Conference / Seminar

S.No	Name of the Institution	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total S / C		Rank S + C	
						S	**C**		
1	Bishop Heber college	S -1	C -1	C -1	C -1	1	3	4	I
2	Annamalai University	S -1	S -1	0	S -1	3	0	3	II
3	Dr.Mahalingam college of Engn. &Tech.	0	C -1	0	0	0	1	1	1V
4	ManonmaniamSundaranar University	0	S -1	0	0	1	0	1	1V
5	B.S.AbdulRahman University	0	C -1	0	0	0	1	1	1V
6	Periyar University	0	S -1	0	S -1	2	0	2	III
7	SardarVallabhai Patel International schoolof Textiles & Management	0	C -1	0	0	0	1	1	1V
8	Alagappa University	0	0	S -1	S -1	2	0	2	III
9	Sri Sarada college for Women	0	0	C -1	0	0	1	1	1V
10	Hindustan University	0	0	C -1	0	0	1	1	1V
11	V.S.B. Engineering College	0	0	C-1	0	0	1	1	1V
12	Vivekananda College	0	0	C -1	0	0	1	1	1V
13	Vivekanandha Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women	0	0	C -1	0	0	1	1	1V
14	Madurai KamarajUniversity	0	0	0	C -1	0	1	1	1V
15	Bharathiyar University	0	0	0	C -1	0	1	1	1V
	TOTAL	S -2 C -0	S -3 C -4	S -1 C -6	S -3 C -3	9	13	22	

Table 5 : Ranking of Organizers

S.No	Name of the Institution	Total C / S Conducted	Rank
01	Bishop Heber college	04	I
02	Annamalai University	03	II
03	Periyar University	02	III
04	Alagappa University	02	III

Table 6: Grouping of Conferences / Seminars

Sl. No	Theme	No. of C/S	%
01	Best Practices	06	27.27
02	Digital Libraries	04	18.18
03	E-Resources	07	31.82
04	LIS Education	03	13.64
06	Quantitative Studies	02	9.091
	Total	22	100

It is inferred from the above table that 6 and 7 conferences / Seminars were conducted on the broader theme 'Best practices in librarianship and E-Resources management respectively. Four conferences/Seminars were held on digital library services. Three and Two conferences/Seminars were conducted on the themes 'LIS Education'' and "Quantitative Studies" respectively. Thus, the organizers of the C/S wanted to spread the best practices of various libraries among the participants.

Table 7: Types of Host Vs Conference/Seminar

S.No	Year	No. Of Conferences / Seminars conducted by			
		Universities	**Research institutions**	**Colleges / Eng. Colleges**	**Total**
1	2011	1	0	1	2
2	2012	4	0	3	7
3	2013	2	0	5	7
4	2014	5	0	1	6
	TOTAL	12	**0**	**10**	**22**
%		**54.55**	**0**	**45.45**	**100**

It is happy to note that out of 22 conferences/ seminars conducted from Jan. 2011 to March 2014, twelve C/S (54.55 %) were organized by various

universities of Tamilnadu and the remaining ten C/S (45.45 %) were organized by various Engineering and Arts & Science colleges situated in Tamilnadu.

Table 8: Solo Vs Collaborative Organisation

S.No	Year	Conferences		Seminar		Total
		Solo	Collaboration	Solo	Collaboration	
1	2011	0	0	01	01	02
2	2012	01	03	03	0	07
3	2013	02	04	01	0	07
4	2014	02	01	03	0	06
	TOTAL	05	08	08	01	22
	Percentage	38.46	61.54	88.89	11.11	
	Overall %	Solo	59.09	Collaboration	40.91	

It can be understood from the above table that out of 13 conferences held between Jan. 2011 and March 2014, 5 conferences (38.46 %) were conducted/organised by a single institution and the remaining 8 Conferences were held in collaboration with various professional bodies like IALA, SALIS, AALIS etc. Out of 9 seminars held during the period, 08 seminars (88.89%) were conducted by individual institutions and just one seminar was organized with the collaboration of a professional body in LIS sector. Thus degree of collaboration in the conduct of C/S is 0.69. (Degree of collaboration = Number of C/S organized jointly / Number of C/S organized individually + Number of C/S organized jointly).

Table 9: Sponsor-wise distribution of C/S

S.No	Year	UGC Sponsored C/S		Non-UGC SponsoredC/S	
		No.	%	No.	%
1	2011	01	50 %	01	5
2	2012	0	0	07	35
3	2013	0	0	07	35
4	2014	01	50 %	05	25
	TOTAL	02	100	20	100
	Overall %	9.09		90.91	

Table 9 displays the sponsor-wise distribution. It is clear that out of 22 C/S held during the study period, only 02 C/S (9.09 %) were sponsored by UGC and the remaining 20 C/S (90.01%) were organised by the individual institution either alone or in collaboration with LIS professional bodies on their own finance arrangements. Out of the two UGC sponsored C/S, one was held in 2011 and the other was held in 2014 and both were organised by DOLIS, Annamalai University.

SUGGESTIONS WITH A SLANT TO CONCLUSION

1. The conferences/ seminars may be organized for two days duration rather than one day duration.
2. Research institutions which are specialized in various library services and forefront in introducing new LIS technologies should come forward to organize conferences, seminars and workshops.
3. More C/S may be organized on ‘practical issues ‘that are being faced by the working professionals in their day to day working environment.
4. LIS professional association should extend their helping hands in organizing such C/S in a befitting manner.

5. Institutions organizing the conferences/ seminars should get enough funding from the sponsoring bodies so that the C/S may be conducted with least registration charges to be taken from the participants.
6. The C/S should be organized throughout the year; not just in the months of Jan-March every year. This creates two big problems for the participants: a) They may not get leave / OD to attend all the C/S; b) They may not be able to produce creative and deserving papers for all such C/S simultaneously.
7. A state level body may be constituted in every state to take decisions on the schedules of various c/s to be organized in a calendar period. This kind of schedule can be taken up even by LIS associations.

The aforesaid suggestions will help the professionals in the field of library and information science to design a full proof methodology to undergo meaningful deliberations in their field of interests throughout the year. The LIS conferences and seminars should be conducted with proper planning and well-scheduled sessions so as to reach the penultimate aim of fruitful sharing of knowledge, skills and innovative best practices among the LIS professionals.

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