

A bibliometric analysis of the Journal of Academic Librarianship for the period of 2012-2016

Dr. C. Ganganna

Lecturer in Library Science
PSC & KVSC Govt. Degree College
Nandyal, Kurnool Dist.

Abstract - *The purpose of this paper is to present a detailed analysis of The Journal of Academic Librarianship, literature that has been published in international journals from 2012 to 2016, determining the intellectual structure of both fields and their maturity as academic fields of study. Using a quantitative methodology for literature study, named bibliometric analysis, relevant papers were obtained from online website of Journal of Academic Librarianship,. An initial number of 512 records were identified and, after applying various filters, a total of 477 papers identified for study. In all with an average 95.4% articles were published each year, two authorship is leading authorship trend but also three authored articles have shown good number of contribution.*

Keywords: Bibliometrics, Authorship Pattern, Academic Librarianship, Library Literature

Introduction

Bibliometrics is a relatively new branch of information science and has now become a standard tool of science policy and research management in the last decades. Pritchard explained the term bibliometrics as “the application of mathematical and statistical methods to books and other media of communication” (Pritchard,1969). Bibliometric studies are used to identify the pattern of publications, authorship, citations and journal coverage with the hope to give an insight in to the dynamics of the field under consideration (Warraich, 2011). This study utilizes quantitative analysis and statistics to describe year wise distribution of articles, patterns of authors, average length of article, average number of citations per article and so on. So, since the last 50 years, globally it is being recognized as the thrust area of research in the field of Library and Information Science. In the year 1969, Allan Pritchard first described the term bibliometrics as the application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other media.

Source of the Journal

The Journal of Academic Librarianship, an international and refereed journal, published by Elsevier, publishes articles that focus on problems and issues germane to college and university libraries. JAL provides a forum for authors to present research findings and, where applicable, their practical applications and significance; analyze policies, practices, issues, and trends; speculate about the future of academic librarianship; present analytical bibliographic essays and philosophical treatises. JAL also provides special features in each issue which include book reviews on subjects of interest to academic librarians, information on academic library technology issues, research in international librarianship, digests of special reports, and a guide to sources and analysis of library metrics. CiteScore: 1.99; Impact Factor: 1.287; 5-Year Impact Factor: 1.395; Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP): 2.041; SCImago Journal Rank (SJR): 1.086 Source: <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/the-journal-of-academic-librarianship/>

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Shijith Kumar and Nanjunda Swamy (2016) The purpose of the present study was to bibliometric analysis of contents of the Journal of All India Institute of Speech and Hearing published from 1970 to 2015 to determine the types and quantities of information contents published, authorship characteristics, research domains of the scientific articles and to investigate changes, if any, in the publication pattern of the journal over the years. The bibliographic data on all the published volumes were collected manually from the print issues of the journal and the data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. It is found that the domain of speech along with its closely allied field language is accountable for the major share of scientific articles in the journal whereas hearing-related articles are comparatively less represented. The study noticed a trend towards intra-institutional, two-author and three author collaboration. The journal achieved significant progress over the years. However, steps need to be taken to make the journal online, increase global visibility and to attract scientific contributions from across the world. **Velmurugan Velmurugan (2013)** study aims to explore the publication of papers in Annals of Library and Information Studies. The Scientometric analysis has been conducted with 203 contributions published in the journal for a period of selected six years i.e. 2007 – 2012. It was observed from the study that the highest number of contributions i.e., 43 (21.19%) were published in the year 2010. Most of the contributions are found by double authored i.e., 88 (43.35 %.). The degree of collaboration (i.e. 131 out of 203) was high in terms of authorship pattern was 0.64. **Sivasekaran & Ragavan (2014)** revealed in their study ‘Journal of Astrophysics and Astronomy: A Bibliometric Study’ that majority of contribution were emanating from India as well as were single authored and maximum number of author were affiliated with academic institutions. **Arik (2013)** in his study ‘A Bibliometric Analysis of a National Journal: The Case of the Turkish Journal of Psychology’ found that the articles, published in the journal are mostly (84.65%) in Turkish. Articles are mostly single authored. Mostly authors were from Turkey followed by USA and Canada. **Panda & others (2013)** found in their analysis on the Journal of Information Literacy: An Open Access Journal, (2007-2012) that research articles (51.9%) are highest among other types of publications, majority of contribution (71.75%) is come from UK and almost all the papers (94.65%) are from academic institutions.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

- To make an analysis of articles published in Journal of Academic Librarianship;
- To examine the authorship pattern;
- To find the average length of papers

Methodology

The bibliographic records for the analysis are limited to the articles of Journal of Academic Librarianship published during 2012-2016. Information regarding citation is collected from online website published by Elsevier. These are recorded, tabulated and analysed considering the number of articles published in a year, authorship patten, length of the published papers, and subject keyword.

Results and Discussion

Year wise distribution of papers

Table-1 shows the distribution of research articles published in Journal of Academic Librarianship during 2012-2016. The total of 477 research articles was published with an average of 95.4 articles per year. Out of 477 articles, the highest number of research articles were published in the year 2014 with 118 research articles followed by 110 articles in 2015; 97 articles in 2016; 93 articles in 2013; 59 articles and the lowest number of articles were published in the year 2012. The average number of papers per year is 95.4 during the study period.

Table-1 Year wise distribution of papers

S.No.	Year	No of articles	%
1	2012	59	12.37
2	2013	93	19.50
3	2014	118	24.74
4	2015	110	23.06
5	2016	97	20.34
	Total	477	100

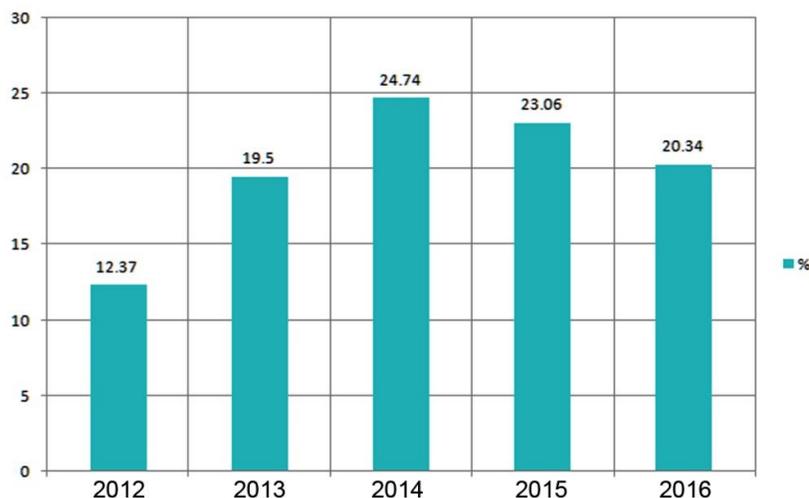


Fig.1 Year wise distribution of papers

Year and Issue-wise Distribution of papers

Table-2 indicates the issue no-wise distribution of research articles published in Journal of Academic Librarianship during 2012–2016. The total of 477 research articles was published within the 5 years, highest articles in issue no.6 in 2014, followed by 27 articles in issue no.6, in 2013; 24 articles in issues no5 in 2015; 23 articles in issue no.4 in 2016; 18 articles in issue no.3 in 2015 and 15 articles in issue no.2 in 2013 and 2014 and 17 article in issue no.1 in 2013 and 2015.

Table-2: Year and Issue-wise Distribution of papers

Year	Volume No	Issue No.						Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
2012	38	11	8	10	8	9	13	59
2013	39	17	15	14	9	11	27	93
2014	40	14	15	15	15	17	42	118
2015	41	17	12	18	18	24	21	110
2016	42	15	11	12	23	17	19	97
Total		11	8	10	8	9	13	477

Authorship Pattern

It is observed from the Table-3, out of 477 papers, the highest number of papers was published by two authors and it accounts for 152 with 31.87% followed by three authored articles account for 122 with 25.58%.; 88 (18.45%) of articles were published by four authors. 52(10.90%) of articles were published by single authors. 38(7.97%) of articles were published by five authors. Only 25(5.42%) of articles were published by more than five authors. But the trend of the author pattern in the journal shows that the team size was two to three.

Table-3: Authorship Pattern

S.No.	Authors	No. of Articles	%
1	Single Author	52	10.90
2	Two Author	152	31.87
3	Three Author	122	25.58
4	Four Author	88	18.45
5	Five Author	38	7.97
6	Six Author	25	5.24
Total		477	100

Length of Articles

Table -4 reveals that the majority of papers 67(14.05%) have the length 7 pages followed by 66(13.84%) with the length 6 pages; 61(12.79%) with 8 pages; 53(11.11%) papers with the length of 3 pages; 48 (10.06%) papers with the length of 9 pages; 40 (8.39%) papers with the length of 2 pages; 25(5.24%) papers with the length of 10 pages; 27(5.66%) papers with the length of pages; 10 (2.10%) papers with the length of 13 pages; 4 (0.84%) papers with the length of 14 & 15 pages; 3 (0.63%) papers with the length of 18 pages; 3 (0.42%) papers with the length of 17 pages; and 1(0.21%) paper with the length of 19,22 and 29 pages; the highest length of the paper 22 pages. The majority of the papers 67(14.05%) has page length of 7 pages.

Table-4: Year-wise distribution of Pages

S.No.	No. of Pages	No. of Articles	%
1	2	40	8.39
2	3	53	11.11
3	4	15	3.14
4	5	36	7.55
5	6	66	13.84
6	7	67	14.05
7	8	61	12.79
8	9	48	10.06
9	10	25	5.24
10	11	27	5.66
11	12	13	2.73
12	13	10	2.10
13	14	4	0.84
14	15	4	0.84
15	17	2	0.42
16	18	3	0.63
17	19	1	0.21
18	22	1	0.21
19	29	1	0.21
Total		477	100

Findings

The analysis revealed the following conclusions.

- The maximum number of papers published in 2014 and minimum in 2012.
- The highest number of research papers contributed by two authors during the study period.
- The average pages per paper are 11.8.

Conclusion

The publishing trend totally depends on the productivity of contributors, pattern of contributions and the quality of information. The analysis explores that the majority of papers by three authors. The average pages is 11.8 and it is the ideal for research papers. The study revealed that the journal seems to be popular among the international research community with around 95.4% of papers per year. A significant note of the study is that the majority of the articles are contributed by co-author. A notable attribute of this study is that, this journal really stipulates / induces fruitful research for the researcher. Today, we see that research is done in almost all the branches of librarianship, especially in Information technology.

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