

A STUDY ON POST DOCTORAL RESEARCHES IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE IN INDIA

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Abstract: Library and Information Science (LIS) is a growing subject where various kinds of research work carried out on varied subjects. This paper tries to give a brief overview of the research work done in library and information science in India. For the purpose of gathering various information sources like Online Union Catalogue of Indian Universities (Indcat), Vidyanidhi and Sodhganga, are consulted. The results are shown in different tables considering different points of view. Suggestions are given at the end to improve the quality of LIS research in India.

Keywords: LIS Research, Research Trend.

Introduction

The development of subjects is not static. Development is found in almost every subject. In Library and Information Science (LIS) there is no such exception. Expansion and development of the subject depends on the course of study and research on the subject. Initially the course of the study started with the need of helping the library system. In 1911, Maharaja Siyaji Rao Gaikowad of Baroda State invited Mr. W.A.Borden to organize training programme. Later in 1915 A. D. Dickenson started training programme at Punjab University (Lahore). But the first systematic training programme started in India was at Madras University in 1931 under the leadership of Dr SR Ranganathan. Later on this course was upgraded as a full fledged one year postgraduate diploma course in 1937. The first Masters programme in library science was started by the University of Delhi in 1948. Provision for PhD in library and information science in India was made for the first time in 1948 by University of Delhiⁱ. With these achievements the study and teaching in LIS spread throughout the country. Slowly different universities of different states started LIS courses in their organisation. But from its inception the course of study is not considered as a core or basic subject rather it is considered as professional subject where more emphasis will be given on to the practical aspects. Afterwards with the progression of time and demand of the profession forced LIS education system to adopt research for the development of subject. Now-a-days LIS is considered as one of the fastest growing research subjects where various types of multidisciplinary research work will go on in different parts of the country.

Kumarⁱⁱ showed that the first PhD in Library Science was awarded by the Delhi University in 1957 to DB Krishna Rao for his thesis 'Facet Analysis and Depth Classification of Agriculture', Dr. S.R. Ranganathan was his guide. However, Mr Munindranath Basu is the first librarian to earn a doctorate for his thesis 'Museum Method and the Process of Cleaning and Preservation/Library Preservation' in 1950. He was awarded PhD by the Calcutta University. Dr IS Sharma was the first Indian and one of the first few to earn doctorate from USA. He was awarded PhD by Michigan University for his thesis 'Mahatma Gandhi: A Descriptive Bibliography'. The second PhD in Library and Information Science in India was awarded in 1977

almost after a lapse of 20 years. That was to Dr Pandey S.K. Sharma for his thesis 'Expansion and Modification of Dewey Decimal Classification (18) for Classifying Indological Books with special reference to Indian Philosophy and Indian Religion' by Punjab University. Dr I.S. Sharna was his guide. Now in different corners of the country several types of research work will go on.

Objectives of the Study

Research is a fact finding activity. To achieve the fact the researcher need to adopt scientific, logical and systemised method to achieve the ultimate conclusion. Research is very important area in library and information science as it is interrelated with the development of the subject. Following are the basic subject of the study:

- To know the number of doctoral theses in library and information science.
- To identify the types of doctoral theses in library and information science in India.
- To know the distribution of doctoral theses in different universities of India.
- To know the persons who have guided most doctoral theses.
- To identify the chronological development of library and information science researches in India.
- To identify the subject wise trend of library and information science research in India.
- To know the state wise distribution of doctoral theses in India.

Scope and Coverage

The data for the study has been mainly collected from online sources like Online Union Catalogue of Indian Universitiesⁱⁱⁱ (Indcat), Vidyanidhi Digital Library^{iv} (University of Mysore) and Sodhganga^v (INFLIBNET). The data retrieved from the online sources are put together on excel sheets to calculate the number of theses and other relevant areas. Total 991 records have been retrieved from the above mentioned online sources. There are few records which are incomplete are not considered for the study. The data collected from Indcat, Vidyanidhi and Sodhganga may not cover all theses of India. So, there is a chance for exclusion some of the theses in different universities in India. Due to lack of time, University News and Bibliography of Doctoral Dissertation are not consulted for the study.

Methodology

The data collected from different online sources are retrieved and then tabulated using spreadsheets considering different points of view. The information relating to different theses downloaded from the authorised online sources. Three sources are used here that is Indcat, Vidyanidhi and Sodhganga. IndCat^{vi} or Online Union Catalogue of Indian Universities is online library catalogues of books, theses and journals available in major university libraries in India. This union database contains bibliographic description, location and holdings information for books, journals and theses in all subject areas available in more than 145 university libraries across the country. Vidyanidhi^{vii} is an information infrastructure, a digital library, a portal of resources, tools and facilities for doctoral research in India. Vidyanidhi is India's premier Digital library initiative to facilitate the creation, archiving and accessing of doctoral theses. Vidyanidhi is envisioned to evolve as a national repository and a consortium for e-theses through participation and partnership with universities, academic institutions and other stake holders. The Shodhganga^{viii} is a digital repository set-up for submission of electronic version of theses and

dissertations by students / research scholars in universities in India for making them available in open access to the world-wide academic community.

Trend of Research in LIS in India:

The details discussion regarding the trend of research in Library and Information Science in India is made through the table 1, 2,3,4,5 and 6 respectively.

Table 1: University-wise Distribution of Doctoral Theses in Library and Information Science in India

Sl. No.	Name of the University	Number of Theses
1	Aligarh Muslim University	4
2	Andhra University	55
3	Annamalai University	29
4	Awadhesh Pratap Singh Vishwavidyalaya	2
5	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University	1
6	Banaras Hindu University	20
7	Bangalore University	22
8	Berhampur University	2
9	Bhavnagar University	4
10	Cochin University of Science and Technology	1
11	Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	24
12	Dr Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya	27
13	Gauhati University	27
14	Gujrat University	1
15	Gulbarga University	21
16	Guru Ghasidas University	18
17	Guru Nanak Dev University	11
18	Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University	10
19	Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University	1
20	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	1
21	Jadavpur University	16
22	Jamia Milia Islamia University	1
23	Jawaharlal Nehru University	1
24	Jiwaji University	37
25	Karnatak University	79
26	Kurukshetra University	7
27	Kuvempu University	11
28	Madurai Kamaraj University	2
29	Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda	3
30	Makhanlal Chaturvedi Rashtriya Patrakarita Vishwavidyalaya	6
31	Mangalore University	17
32	Manipur University	16

33	Mizoram University	15
34	Mohanlal Sukhadia University	2
35	North Eastern Hill University	15
36	North Gujarat University	3
37	Osmania University	25
38	Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University	8
39	Panjab University	43
40	Pt. Sundarlal Sharma Open University	1
41	Punjab Agricultural University	1
42	Punjabi University	7
43	Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University	38
44	Sambalpur University	25
45	Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University	9
46	Sardar Patel University	2
47	Saurashtra University	2
48	Shivaji University	2
49	Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University	9
50	Sri Krishnadevaraya University	3
51	Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalaya	2
52	Sri Venkateswara University	7
53	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University	3
54	Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University	2
55	University of Allahabad	1
56	University of Burdwan	21
57	University of Calcutta	17
58	University of Calicut	31
59	University of Delhi	51
60	University of Kashmir	8
61	University of Kerala	24
62	University of Lucknow	3
63	University of Madras	13
64	University of Mumbai	6
65	University of Mysore	18
66	University of Pune	31
67	University of Rajasthan	30
68	Utkal University	6
69	Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University	5
70	Vidyasagar University	6
71	Vikram University	19

Total	991
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Table No. 1 shows that there are 71 universities throughout the India producing 991 theses altogether. The table shows that Karnataka University has been produced maximum number of theses that is 79. Andhra University and University of Delhi is in the second and third positions respectively by producing 55 and 51 theses respectively. Many universities are providing lesser number of doctoral theses.

Table 2: State-wise Distribution of Doctoral Theses in Library and Information Science in India

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of Theses
1	Andhra Pradesh	92
2	Assam	27
3	Bihar	3
4	Chattisgarh	27
5	Gujrat	25
6	Haryana	7
7	Jammu & Kashmir	8
8	Karnataka	168
9	Kerala	56
10	Madhya Pradesh	100
11	Maharashtra	113
12	Manipur	16
13	Meghalaya	15
14	Mizoram	15
15	New Delhi	54
16	Orissa	33
17	Punjab	62
18	Rajasthan	37
19	Tamil Nadu	44
20	Uttar Pradesh	28
21	Uttarakhand	1
22	West Bengal	60
Total		991

Table No. 2 shows the state-wise distribution of doctoral theses in LIS in India. It is revealed from the table that 22 states have contributed in the LIS researches in India. The maximum number of theses produced in Karnataka state. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh occupy second and third place respectively regarding the contribution of doctoral theses. Uttarakhand, Bihar, Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir produced the lesser number of doctoral theses.

Table 3: Year-wise Distribution of Doctoral Theses in Library and Information Science in India

Sl. No.	Year	Number of Theses
1	1950	1

2	1956	1
3	1963	1
4	1966	1
5	1968	1
6	1971	1
7	1976	1
8	1977	3
9	1978	3
10	1979	2
11	1980	3
12	1981	2
13	1982	7
14	1983	11
15	1984	13
16	1985	13
17	1986	6
18	1987	6
19	1988	16
20	1989	9
21	1990	18
22	1991	25
23	1992	31
24	1993	35
25	1994	38
26	1995	42
27	1996	16
28	1997	31
29	1998	25
30	1999	39
31	2000	32
32	2001	26
33	2002	69
34	2003	52
35	2004	59
36	2005	55
37	2006	49
38	2007	66
39	2008	63
40	2009	47

41	2010	53
42	2011	15
43	NA	4
Total		991

Table No. 2 shows the year-wise distribution of theses in LIS. The table shows that the progress of the subject started from 1984. From 1990-2000 and 2001-2010 there are numerous theses have been come out. It is also revealed from the table that maximum number of theses that is 66 theses have been produced in the year 2007.

Table 4: Distribution of Doctoral Theses in Library and Information Science according to Supervisor

Sl. No.	Name of the Guide	Number of Theses
1	Kumar, P S G	29
2	Karisiddappa, C R	26
3	Sangam, S L	23
4	Gunjal, S R	15
5	Kumbar, M R	15
6	Shrivastava, B P	14
7	Chopra, H R	13
8	Panda, K C	13
9	Tripathi, S M	13
10	Bavakutty, M	11
11	Charan, Shivdanbhai	11
12	Devarajan, G	11
13	Gautam, J N	11
14	Rajyalakshmi, D	11
15	Barua, Pulin Behari	10
16	Buragohain, Alaka	10
17	Ramesh Babu, B	10
18	Singh, S N	9
19	Tiwari, Brajesh	9
20	Ijari, S R	8

Table No. 4 shows the distribution of theses according to supervisor. Above table lists first 20 guides who supervised most of the theses in library and information science in India. It is revealed from the study that there are 286 guides supervised 991 theses altogether. According to the table P S G Kumar supervised maximum number of theses that is 29. Besides this, 26 numbers of theses supervised by C. R. Karisiddappa and 23 numbers of theses supervised by S. L. Sangam.

Table 5: Distribution of Doctoral Theses in Library and Information Science in India According to Type of Supervision

Sl. No.	Types of Supervision	No. of Theses
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1	Single Supervisor	948
2	Joint Supervisor	43
	Total	991

Table No. 5 shows the distribution of doctoral theses in Library and Information Science in India according to type of supervision. The table shows that among 991 theses there are only 43 theses supervised jointly and rest that is 948 numbers of theses have guided by single supervisor.

Table 6: Subject-wise Distribution of Doctoral Theses in Library and Information Science in India

Sl. No.	Topic	Number of Theses
1	Academic Libraries	1
2	Agriculture	11
3	Agriculture University	8
4	Application of Computer	4
5	Archive	1
6	Bibliographic Control	4
7	Bibliographic Database	2
8	Bibliography	4
9	Bibliometrics	97
10	Biography	2
11	Career Development	1
12	Cataloguing	14
13	Classification	21
14	Collaborative Research	1
15	Collection Development	18
16	Collection Management	3
17	College Libraries	32
18	Communication	3
19	Community Information Services	8
20	Computer Application	4
21	Conflict Management	1
22	Consortium	4
23	Continuing Education	1
24	Cost Analysis	5
25	Database Management	6
26	Digital Library	4
27	Digital Preservation	3
28	Distance Education	2
29	Document Use	1
30	Documentation	2

31	Documentation	
32	E-Learning	1
33	Electronic Media	2
34	E-Resources	16
35	Expert System	2
36	Filmography	1
37	Financial Management	7
38	Geographic Library & Information Service	1
39	Government Initiative	1
40	Govt. Libraries	1
41	Govt. Publication	2
42	Grey Literature	3
43	Health Information System	1
44	Human Resource Management	35
45	ICT	7
46	IIT Library	2
47	Indexing	11
48	Indexing and Abstracting	1
49	Industrial Information	3
50	Information Centre	1
51	Information Consolidation	1
52	Information Literacy	4
53	Information Management	4
54	Information Need	9
55	Information Network	1
56	Information Retrieval	9
57	Information Seeking Behaviour	59
58	Information Services	5
59	Information System	32
60	Institutional Repository	3
61	Internet	10
62	IT	35
63	Job satisfaction	14
64	Knowledge Management	1
65	Legal Literature	1
66	Library Acquisition	3
67	Library Administration	11
68	Library Association	3
69	Library Automation	18

70	Library Building	2
71	Library Co operation	1
72	Library Economics	1
73	Library History	13
74	Library Legislation	7
75	Library Management	5
76	Library Networking	24
77	Library Security	1
78	Library Services	20
79	Library Software	6
80	Library System	3
81	Library Use	10
82	LIS Education	18
83	Literature	1
84	Literature Search	1
85	Literature Use	1
86	Management Information System	1
87	Manuscript study	3
88	Marketing	9
89	Media Libraries	2
90	Miscellaneous	4
91	National Information Centre	1
92	National Library	2
93	News Paper	4
94	Online Searching	2
95	Ontology	1
96	Open Access Publication	1
97	Open Source Software	1
98	Patent	3
99	Periodicals	3
100	Personalities	1
101	Preservation	3
102	Press	1
103	Psychology Studies	1
104	Public Libraries	42
105	Public Library Act	1
106	Public Library Movement	1
107	Quality Control	1
108	Reading Habits	6

109	Reference Service	2
110	Reference Sources	7
111	Research Methodology	1
112	Resource Sharing	9
113	Review	1
114	Role of Information	1
115	Role of UGC	3
116	Rural Development	1
117	Rural Library	1
118	S & T Journals	1
119	School Libraries	4
120	Scientometrics	14
121	Serial Control	1
122	Social Studies	1
123	Socio-Cultural Studies	1
124	Socio-economic Studies	4
125	Special Libraries	32
126	Standard and Specification	1
127	Stress Management	2
128	Television	1
129	Thesaurus	5
130	TQM	4
131	University Library	65
132	Use of Periodicals	2
133	User Education	3
134	User Studies	17
135	Vandalism	1
136	Web	1
137	Web Content management	1
138	Web Resource	2
139	Website Evaluation	4
140	Women Librarian	1
Total		991

Table No. 6 shows the subject wise distribution of theses. It is found from the table that 139 topics have been covered in the total 991 theses. It is revealed from the table that maximum work has been done in Bibliometrics i.e. 97 numbers. There are 59 numbers of theses is on Information Seeking Behaviour and 65 numbers of theses in different areas of University Library. It is also found regarding the increasing rate of Information and Communication Technology, Computer and Web related topics in recent times. Though these are lesser number in the table but the concentration is found on the last decades only.

Suggestions

To increase the value of doctoral research following suggestions are recommended:

- There is need to increase the number of doctoral theses in different universities of India.
- The speed of producing theses must be moving fast than before.
- All the faculties must involve in the research work.
- There should be more work on traditional subjects.
- Emphasis should be given on problems of the regular activities of the libraries.
- Authority should encourage the staff to do research work.
- There should be more concentration on interdisciplinary approach.

Conclusion

Growth of the subject depends much upon the continuous research and development work. The expansion of the branch of knowledge base of LIS needs rapid research work. The study shows that research field of LIS is very much alive in our country. Different new problems occur in different corner of the library and many new areas are introduced in the subject. The rapid work of LIS research in last two decades shows that our faculties are strong enough to guide different areas of research and scholars from different states took different issues or problems which ultimately expand the LIS domain. But there is growing need to do research in much faster speed than before. More research in LIS field make the subject more alive and initiatives should come from every end.

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