

**BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY: LIBRARY AND INFORMATION
SCIENCE THESES AVAILABLE IN THE
SRI LANKA NATIONAL LIBRARY**

A.K.U.N.Kodithuwakku
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Abstract

Bibliometric studies are not very familiar among Sri Lankan research students and it is not a research trend in the global arena. The importance of conducting bibliometric research is arising in the field of Library and Information Science which paves way for other disciplines to conduct such activities for the development.

This study was carried out at the National Library and Documentation Services Board to analyze bibliometric features of the postgraduate theses of Library and Information Science. The study examined the bibliographies of 44 theses submitted to local and foreign universities for several degree programmes. This study analyzed the bibliometric features such as the number of pages, completion years, the number of citations, and their distribution by types of sources and years. The data received by examining the bibliographies were entered to the Statistical Package for Social Sciences and were analyzed by descriptive analysis and cross-tabulation.

Journals received more citations than books and recently completed theses and dissertations contained more citations to electronic publications. College & Research Libraries tops the journal citations. Single authorship was the norm in cited resources. Coupled with in-library use data, findings of the present study can be used to identify the core journal titles in librarianship as well as to evaluate the existing library collections to decide which journal titles to keep, discard, or relegate to off-site storage areas. The national library which acts as a public service provider through knowledge storing and sharing is faced with challenges and at the same time with opportunities. The complex information environment which centered more on digitization and networking urges the library to review its traditional functions to face the countless emerging situations.

Several useful recommendations to improve the collection development policy of the National Library were presented at the end. This study will be a guide for the library authorities to improve the library services by increasing quality and user satisfaction through the collection building. The results of the study revealed that the foreign journals based on Library and Information Science must be provided to them by the library. The National Library should look upon to acquire more theses as the Library and Information Science theses amount is not adequate to conduct a further research. This study will contribute to build up the collection development policy of the National Library and Documentation Services Board.

Keywords: Bibliometric Study, Postgraduate Theses, Citation Analysis, Collection Development Policy, Sri Lanka National Library

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