

Citation analysis of awarded doctoral theses by Department of Library and Information Science, Assam University, India.

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Abstract

Bibliographies are lists of past literature that influenced an author in his present academic or research works. The study involves 10 (ten) doctoral theses with 2408 citations appended awarded during the period of 2016 to 2017 by the Department of Library and Information Science of Assam University (AU). A decadal period of 2010-2019 is the most productive one with 937 (38.91%) citations contributed. The average decadal growth rate is 150.92%. One-authorship is the most prevalent nature of authorship with 1128 (46.84%) citations. Over half of the total citations are received by articles from cited Journals with 1308 (54.32. %) citations, followed by literature type of Book and Book Chapters with 414 (17.19%) citations. Almost half of all the citations originated or produced out of India with 1196 (49.67%) citations. English is the predominant medium of communicating research works.

Keywords: Citation analysis, Doctoral theses, Authorship.

Introduction

Bibliographies are lists of past literature that influenced an author in his present academic or research works. The author acknowledges them by giving them a token of recognition called 'citations' at the end of his works-thesis or dissertation, in the form of 'references or bibliographies' (Peritz, 1992). One of the most important bibliometrics tools and techniques is citation analysis. The Ohio State University in its websites defined it “as a way of measuring the relative importance or impact of an author, an article or a publication by counting the number of times that author, article, or publication has been cited by other works” (“Ohio State University”, 2019). Assam University, India is a central university established in the year 1994 and the department of Library and Information Science was started in the year 2009 (“Assam University”, 2021).

Background Studies

A bibliometrics study conducted by Islam, Islam & Mondal (2018) had highlighted that the nature of authorship in the field of library science is mostly single-authorship. Two different works by Ramin et.al (2015) and Shahram et.al (2013) revealed that overwhelming literature in the field of library science is published in English-medium. Another study by Maharana, Nayak, and Sahu (2006) had shown that most of the literature cited by researchers in the field of library science is in a print medium. Citation analysis of the study by Banateppanvar, Biradar & Kannappanavar (2013), clearly revealed that literature from journals are referred the most for research works in the field of library science and followed by books and books chapters.

Objectives

- To analyse the Decadal-Distributions of Citations;
- To study the Citations-Share of Authorship Collaboration Patterns;
- To study the Resources –Wise Distributions of Citations;
- To analyse the Country-Wise Distributions of Citations;
- To determine the Language-Wise Distributions of Citations; and
- To distribute the Format-Wise Share of Citations.

Findings & Conclusion

- The period of 2010 to 2019 is the most productive era with 937 (38.91%) citations are received from published literatures; the second and third most productive decadal periods are 2000-2009 and 1990-1999 with contributions of 859 (35.67%) citations and 218 (9.05%) citations, respectively. From the decadal period of 1950 -1959 and below, the number of literatures cited is just one-digit each. And the average decadal growth rate is 150.92%.
- Almost half 1128 (46.84%) citations are published in the nature of one-authorship, with a wide margin followed by two-authorship collaboration with 673 (27.95%) citations. From authorship collaboration of three authors and above shares for each percentage is less than 10%.
- More than 1308 (54.32%) cited articles from Journals, followed by literature type of Book and Book Chapters with 414 citations (17.19%). Not far behind is the share of usage of websites as literature with 341 citations (14.16%). There are over a dozen types of cited literature.
- Almost half of all the cited literatures are produced or credited to India with 1196 (49.67%) citations; the next two productive countries are the UK of 515(21.39%) citations and the USA of 434 (18.02%) citations, respectively
- Almost all cited literature 2401 (99.71%) citations are published in English-language. And the remaining 1 % is shared amongst the other cited languages or dialects
- Print sources of literature make up 1498 (62.21%) citations and the rest are digital sources with 910 (37.79%) citations. Those references are attached with URL (Uniform Resource Locator) links; with websites' domains such as '.org', '.com', and DOI (Digital Object Identifier) are taken as digital sources.
- The department of library science in Assam University (AU) is quite young; however it is quite dynamic in its production of academic works as the above analysis of citation has indicated.

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