

Journal of Social Sciences: A Bibliometric Study

S. Thanuskodi

*Library & Information Science Wing, Directorate of Distance Education,
Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar 608 002, Tamil Nadu, India
E-mail: thanuskodi_s@yahoo.com*

KEYWORDS Bibliometrics. Journal of Social Sciences (JSS). Anthropology. Environmental Studies. Political Science. Demography

ABSTRACT This study aims at analysing the research output performance of social scientists on social science subjects. The analysis cover mainly the number of articles, authorship pattern, subject wise distribution of articles, average number of references per articles, forms of documents cited, year wise distribution of cited journals etc.

INTRODUCTION

The term "Bibliometrics" was first coined by Pritchard in 1969, and its usage and practice can be traced back to the second decade of this country. A pioneer example of a bibliometric study was a 'statistical analysis of the literature' of comparative anatomy from 1543 to 1860 by counting the number of titles, both books and journal articles, and grouping them by countries of origin within periods.

In 1923 the second study was conducted by Hulme, entitled "statistical Analysis of the history of Science". His analysis was based on the original entries in the seventeen sections of the "English International Catalogue of Scientific Literature".

The third study was the pioneering work of Gross and Gross reported in 1927. They used the method of counting and analyzing the citations appended to articles in the Journal of the American Chemical Society, and produced a list of journals of 'importance in chemical education'. The fourth and prominent work was of Broadford in 1934 on the distribution and in Lubrication research. This research found the backbone of the theoretical foundation of the 'Bibliometrics' study, known as the "Broadford's Law of Scattering."

Bibliometric is just one of many sciences whose name ends with "metrics". Many scientists used the term under different names, but the concepts were more or less supplementary and complementary to each other with some broader and narrower extension of human ideas. One name that was used quite early but very scarcely was statistical analysis of the literature by Cole

and Eales in 1917, while Hulme used the term 'statistical Bibliography' in 1923.

In 1948, the great Library Scientist, S.R. Ranganathan, coined the term "Librametry", which historically appeared first and perhaps seemed proper to streamline the services of librarianship. The term 'Bibliometrics' is just analogous to Ranganathan's Librametrics', the Russian concept of 'Scientometrics', FID's 'Informetrics' and to some other well established sub-disciplines like 'Econometrics', 'Psychometrics', 'Sociometrics', 'Biometrics', 'Technometrics', 'Chemometrics', 'Climetrics', where mathematical and statistical calculus have been systematically applied to study and solve problems in their respective fields. Now-a-days, the term 'Scientometrics' is used for the application of quantitative methods to the history of science and obviously overlaps with bibliometrics to a considerable extent.

Bibliometrics is a type of research method used in Library and information sciences. It is an emerging area of research in the LIS field. The quantitative analysis and statistics to describe patterns of publication within a given field of body of literature are utilized. Researchers use bibliometric methods of evaluation to determine the influence of a single author or to describe the relationship between two or more authors or works. Bibliometric studies can be used to study regional patterns of research, the extent of co-operation between research groups and national research profiles. The main derivatives of bibliometrics are: publication counts, citation counts, co-citation analysis, co-word analysis, scientific 'mapping' and citations in patents. The word 'bibliometric' has been derived from the Latin and

Greek words 'biblio' and 'metrics' which refer to the application of mathematics to the study of bibliography

Periodicals are the primary source of information and an important media for communication. They play a major role for communicating the latest research findings and publishing the articles containing the current development in any field of knowledge. They are forceful reflectors of emerging new trends in any discipline. Information is one of the most important resources for a nation and forms the integral base for the economic, cultural and scientific development of the country as a whole and periodicals are the main carriers of nascent thought and information.

Need for the Study

In the recent years, there has been an explosive growth in human knowledge. In fact, the nature and tempo of growth has been such as too far outstrip the achievements of the past centuries. As social science itself grown in extension and intention and the number of social scientists increases. So obviously does the volume of literature generated by the social science community. The growth of literature itself has caused a fairly widespread alarm and the term that describes explosion also known as information explosion. The periodicals are the indicators of literature growth in any filed of knowledge. They emerge as the main channel for transmitting knowledge. Due to the escalating cost of the periodicals and lack of adequate library budgets the selection any particular journal for a library should be done more carefully. Therefore, the library authorities are forced to reduce the number of journal subscriptions. Bibliometric analysis has many applications in the Library and Information science field in identifying the research trends in the subject core journals, etc. and thereby framing new subscription policy for tomorrow. These studies will be helpful for librarians to plan a better collection development.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study were:

- To distribute the number of papers published
- Study of references
- To study the authorship pattern
- To study the length of articles
- To study the subject coverage of articles.

Journal of Social Sciences (ISSN 0971-8923)

The Journal of Social Sciences (JSS), a peer-reviewed scientific and research international journal is designed to publish reports of original research, theoretical articles and brief communications in social sciences. Raising issues across disciplinary boundaries and facilitating exchange of views, this journal intends to serve as a forum of social scientists, especially those who share common interests in the understanding of various problems related to contemporary society. It also publishes reviews of books and other publications relevant to social sciences. The journal seeks scholarly manuscripts that address one or the other aspects of the discipline of social sciences. The areas covered include, but not limited to, Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, Economics, History, Environmental Studies, Business Administration, Home Science, Public Health, Political Science, Demography, Cultural Studies, Ethnography and Sociolinguistics, along with their interfaces. The journal publishes basic, applied, and methodologically oriented research from all these areas (Full text available online: www.krepublishers.com, paper may be submitted at e-mail: kre@airtelmail.in)

METHODOLOGY

The issues of the Journal of Social Sciences (JSS) from the year 2003 to 2007 have been taken into consideration for this study.

ANALYSIS

The total number of 273 contributions during the period 2003-2007 has been recorded for the present study. Table 1 shows the details of the articles in the issues form the year 2003-2007. The number of articles published in 2007 was the maximum 76 articles. The minimum number of articles were published in 2004 only 26 articles. The journal publishes on an average of 55 articles per year.

Table 2 shows that majority of the contributions appeared under economics 41 (15.01%). The next position is taken by Business Administration 38 (13.91%). This is followed by Public Health 37 (13.56%) and Environmental studies with 35 (12.82%).

Table 3 reveals the authorship pattern of the articles published during the period of study. Maximum number of articles were contributed by

Table 1: Year wise distribution of articles in JSS

Year	Total No. of articles	Percentage
2003	38	13.91
2004	26	9.53
2005	72	26.38
2006	61	22.35
2007	76	27.83
Total	273	100.00

Table 2: Subject wise distribution of articles

Subjects	Total No. of articles	Percentage
Sociology	28	10.25
Environmental Studies	35	12.82
Home Science	26	9.53
Public Health	37	13.56
Political Science	29	10.63
Demography	13	4.77
Business Administration	38	13.91
Anthropology	7	2.56
Economics	41	15.01
History	19	6.96
Total	273	100.00

two authors with 121 articles (44.33%). This is followed by three authors were contributed 83 articles (30.40%), 58 (21.25%) articles have been

Table 3: Authorship pattern

Year	No. of authors				Total
	1	2	3	4	
2003	8	19	11	-	38
2004	5	13	8	-	26
2005	17	31	22	2	72
2006	13	26	18	4	61
2007	15	32	24	5	76
Total	58	121	83	11	273
Percentage	21.25	44.33	30.40	4.02	100

Table 4: Year wise authorship pattern

Authorship	Year					Total	Percentage
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		
Single	8	5	17	13	15	58	21.25
Joint	30	21	55	48	61	215	78.75
Total	38	26	72	61	76	273	100.00

Table 5: Length of articles

Pages	Year					Total	Percentage
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		
1-5	4	7	3	5	9	28	10.25
6-10	19	3	36	21	30	109	39.93
11 and more	15	16	33	35	37	136	49.82
Total	38	26	72	61	76	273	100.00

contributed by single author and four authors with 11 articles (4.02%) of the total articles.

Table 4 showed that out of 273 articles single authors contributed 58 (21.25%) while the rest 215 (78.75%) articles were contributed by joint authors.

Table 5 reveals that the majority of articles 136 (49.82%) have the length of 11 and more pages followed by 109 (39.93%) articles with 6-10 pages and the remaining 28 (10.25%) articles have the length of 1-5 pages.

Table 6 showed that most of the contributions are from foreign sources with 78.39% and the rest 21.61% only from India.

Table 7 shows the details of references included in the articles published from 2003 to 2007. The number of papers with 5 to 10 references were 53.84% followed by 25.28% papers having 11 and more references and the remaining 20.88% papers with 1-5 references.

Distribution of various forms of cited documents are given in the table 8. They include journals, books, reference books, dissertations, seminar / conference proceedings etc. Table 8 showed that majority of the contributors preferred journals as the source of information which occupied the top position with the highest number of citations 1216 (55.98%) of the total 2172 citations. The second highest position is occupied by

Table 6: Geographical distribution of articles

Area	No. of articles	Percentage
India	59	21.61
Foreign	214	78.39
Total	273	100.00

Table 7: Articles and references

No. of reference	Year					Total	Percentage
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		
1-5	7	5	17	7	19	57	20.88
5-10	15	20	34	41	37	147	53.84
11 and more	14	1	21	13	20	69	25.28
Total	38	26	72	61	76	273	100.00

Table 8: Forms of documents cited

Forms of document	Total No. of citations	Percentage
Journals	1216	55.98
Books	458	21.08
Reference Books	192	8.84
Seminar / Conference	87	4.00
Dissertations	68	3.14
Others	151	6.96
Total	2172	100.00

books with 458 (21.08%) citations. It is followed by reference books with 192 (8.84%) and others with 151 (6.96%) citations.

CONCLUSION

The journal have only a short history of nearly 12 years. In this short period the journal has tried to keep up its main aim of raising issues across disciplinary boundaries and facilitating exchange of views, this journal intends to serve as a forum of social scientists, especially those who share common interests in the understanding of various problems related to contemporary

society. The present study reveals that the highest number of articles have appeared in the area of economics. The journal has published 273 articles during the period of study. The maximum number of contributors are two authors with 44.33%. Similarly most of the contributions are from foreign 78.39% while Indian contribution is less. Majority of articles 136 (49.82%) have the length of 11 and more pages. The study revealed that majority of articles (55.98 %) contain references which include journals.

REFERENCES

- Bradford SC 1934. Sources of Information on specific subjects. *Engineering*, 137: 85-86.
- Cole FJ, Eales NB 1917. The History of comparative Anatomy part 1.A statistical analysis of Literature science. *Science Progress*, 11: 578-596.
- Gross PLK, Gross FM 1927. College Libraries and Chemical Education. *Science*, 66: 386-389.
- Hulme EW 1923. *Statistical Bibliography in Relation to the Growth of Modern Civilization*. London: Grafton.
- Pritchard A 1969. Statistical bibliography: An interim bibliography. *Journal of Documentation* 24(4): 69.
- Ranganathan SR 1969. Library and its Scope. *DRTC Annual Seminar*, 702: 285-301.