

CURRENT TRENDS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE RESEARCH IN INDIA 2008-2013: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Research programmes at the Ph.D. level in Library and Information Science carried out in the universities of India during the six years (2008-2013) have been analyzed to find out the current trends and areas of research, growth pattern and productivity of universities along with broad and narrow subject areas in the discipline. The present study helps the LIS research community to make them aware of the current scenario and direction of research in this era of information and communication technology. To know the current trends in research in library and information science discipline, the special feature i.e. "Theses of the Month" of 'University News-A weekly journal of higher education' is consulted, in which theses submitted and accepted by the Indian Universities is listed regularly. Quite a good results and findings are come out based on data analysis.

Keywords: Research; Research in LIS; Research trends-India; Doctoral dissertations; Bibliometrics; Citation analysis.

1. INTRODUCTION

Generally research means to search a new thing; innovation or theory or prove to the previously done work. Balasubramanian (2011) define the research in his work, a systematic search for an answer to a question or a solution to a problem is called research. It is purposive investigation. It is an organized enquiry. It aims to get explanations to unexplained phenomenon. Research is often defined as scientific thinking. It is man's unending search for truth, which has brought him to the stage of using scientific thinking as a main source of evidence.

Research comprises "creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications." It is used to establish or confirm facts, reaffirm the results of previous work, solve new or existing problems, support theorems, or develop new theories. A research project may also be an expansion

on past work in the field. To test the validity of instruments, procedures, or experiments, research may replicate elements of prior projects, or the project as a whole. There are several forms of research: scientific, humanities, artistic, economic, social, business, marketing, practitioner research, etc. (Wikipedia, 2014).

Research is undertaken within most professions. More than a set of skills, research is a way of thinking: examining critically the various aspects of your day-to-day professional work; understanding and formulating guiding principles that govern a particular procedure; and developing and testing new theories for the enhancement of your practice. It is a habit of questioning what you do, and a systematic examination of the observed information to find answers, with a view to instituting appropriate changes for a more effective professional service.

Research is a means of continuously developing a discipline. It endows a discipline with the ability to utilize the knowledge generated in other disciplines. It makes use of scientific methods. In other words, research means systematic investigations to establish facts and reach new conclusions. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the father of library science in India, laid the foundation of research in India with his pioneering efforts. He introduced formal education in library and information science discipline in universities. To strengthen research in library and information science in India, among other things, it is also necessary to know about the areas of research currently being focused on and also identifying emerging areas of research. There are many ways to identifying core research areas of library and information science. Several studies have been carried out on the research productivity in library and information science. Bibliometric study of research output is the most commonly used research method in India. Most of these studies used bibliometric techniques such as citation analysis to analysis library and information science research. (Mittal, 2011).

Current research trends of doctoral research programs in library and information science and related topic in Indian universities have been analyzed from the year 2008 to 2013 to find out the growth pattern, productivity of the universities, types of works, research areas, and zonal status etc.

The Present study is confined to *University News: A Weekly Journal of Higher Education*, one of the leading journal on higher education in India, being published by Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi on weekly basis, each volume having fifty two issues.

In order to understand the latest trend and pattern of publication distribution in the field of Library and Information Science in India, it was conceived to undertake the bibliometric study on one of the leading and consistent journals on higher education in India and accordingly *University News: A weekly journal of higher education* was chosen for the purpose and the present study remains confined for the period 2008-2013. Apart from assessing research output of the journal during the last six years the aim was also to analyze the authorship pattern, publication pattern, geographical distribution of authors, and reference analysis. During the period of analysis the journal has covered

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most of the professional areas and aspects of LIS, with a good number of issues dedicated to topics like, Measurement of Indian Science and Technology, Library Consortia, Library and Information Education in India, Intellectual Property Rights, Open Access, Information Literacy, Online Exhibitions, Knowledge Sharing, e-Learning, Social Science Gateways. Publishing theses of the month in almost each issue of the journal has been the regular feature of the journal. (Mahapatra and Sahoo, 2004).

2. UNIVERSITY NEWS- A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION: A PROFILE

‘University News’- a weekly news journal brought out by the Association, contains a mammoth of information about higher education in general and Indian higher education in particular. It is the only Indian journal referred internationally for authentic information about Indian higher education. The regular features of the Journal are the Articles that delineate current, national and global thinking; Campus News; Doctoral Theses accepted by Indian Universities; Advertisements for Openings in Universities, Institutions, Colleges and Research Institutions; Admission Notifications; and Calendar of Events. It is also a valuable source of information on developments in the field of higher education, youth affairs, sports and culture and is very popular among Indian universities and academia for its regularity and the richness of its contents. Time to time, the special numbers (issues) of the Journal are brought out on different vital issues to collect, disseminate and document the views of the experts. A widely circulated medium of communication among Indian universities, colleges, and other institutions of higher learning and research, it is indeed an indispensable reading for all those connected with higher education. (aiuweb, 2014).

3. WHAT IS RESEARCH?

Research has been defined in a number of different ways.

A broad definition of research is given by Martyn Shuttleworth - "In the broadest sense of the word, the definition of research includes any gathering of data, information and facts for the advancement of knowledge."

Another definition of research is given by Creswell who states that - "Research is a process of steps used to collect and analyze information to increase our understanding of a topic or issue". It consists of three steps: Pose a question, collect data to answer the question, and present an answer to the question.

The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines research in more detail as "a studious inquiry or examination; especially : investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws".

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the father of Indian Librarianship, defines “Research” represents a critical and exhaustive investigation to discover new facts, to interpret them in the light of known ideas, theories and laws, to revive the current laws and theories in the light of the newly discovered facts to apply the conclusions to practical purpose.

Research is a careful critical study or examination in seeking facts or principles; intelligent & diligent investigation in order to ascertain something. In India, individual research started in 1930s with Dr. S.R. Ranganathan who was actively involved in various areas of librarianship viz. classification, cataloguing, documentation, library administration, etc.

4. LIS EDUCATION:

The Library and Information Science (LIS) education in India may be said to have taken place with the introduction of a training course in 1911, in the erstwhile State of Baroda. The real beginning of systematic education in LIS can be traced to the initiatives of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan during the period 1926-1931 at the Madras University Library in association with Madras Library Association. The summer school leading to certificate in library science, which Madras University continued under the stewardship of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan till 1937. Later, Andhra University, Banaras Hindu University, Bombay University, Calcutta University and Delhi University introduced Post -Graduate Diploma Courses in Library Science in the year 1935, 1941, 1944, 1946 and 1948 respectively. Apart from these universities, DRTC in Bangalore and NISCAIR in New Delhi started the library science education programmes. During 1947, altogether 27 universities were offering diploma courses in Library Science. In 1957, for the first time in the country, Aligarh Muslim University started B.L.Sc Course. The courses were offered at different levels such as Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor’s, P.G. Diploma, Master’s and research degree programmes i.e. M Phil and Ph. D under different modes (on regular/on campus or distance/off campus or sometimes both) and schemes (annual or semester). The growth of universities during post-independent India ensured improvement in the quality of education. It is due to the importance of libraries in various institutions, research centres and government departments, the demand for librarians also increased. This actually gave boost to Library Science Education in India (Chandrashekara, 2009).

LIS education in India though started as early as in 1911 & was gradually recognized as a full-fledged discipline. Separate departments were set up in the universities offering courses leading to bachelors & master degrees. This eventually set the stage for formal research activities in the subject. At present, formal research in LIS is conducted at 6 levels, viz. Diploma, BLISc, MLISc, M.Phil, PhD. & D.Litt.

5. TRENDS IN LIS RESEARCH:

The research in LIS in the past was considered primarily to provide a theoretical foundation to professional practice. The roots of research in LIS profession appears to be not very deep. In the field of Library Science research, US made the premier attempt. The study entitled ‘A Guide to Sources of 17th century English History in Selected Reports of

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the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts' by Eleanor. S. Upton was awarded PhD by the Chicago University in 1930. It is considered as the 1st doctoral degree in Library Science. During 1950s universities namely, Illinois, Michigan, Columbia, Western Reserve, California & Rutgers produced 129 PhD dissertations.

Library science research in UK was started during 1930s. The 1st doctoral thesis accepted by the London School of Economics was on a core Library Science subject in 1935. The title of the thesis was 'The Public library Service under English Local Government'.

6. LIBRARY SCIENCE RESEARCH IN INDIA:

The credit for the formal institution of the doctoral degree programme in library science in India goes undeniably to Dr. S.R. Ranganathan (1892–1972). Library Science research in India was initiated by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan in 1931, with the formulation of Five Laws of Library science. He even graded them as Normative Principles, Fundamental Laws, Canons, Principles & Postulates. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan cut new grounds & blazed new trails in Library Science initially by solo- research. Ranganathan's era is characterized by a period of intellectual contribution to the theory of Library Science, particularly library classification.

The 1st PhD in Library Science was awarded to Dr. D.B. Krishna Rao for his study on 'Facet analysis and depth classification of agriculture under the guidance of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan & S. Dasgupta in 1957'. Dr. J.S. Sharma, was the 1st Indian & one of the 1st few to earn doctorate from USA. He was awarded PhD by Michigan University for his thesis 'Mahatma Gandhi: A Descriptive Bibliography'.

The 2nd PhD in LIS in India was awarded in 1977 to Dr. Pandey S.K. Sharma for his thesis 'Expansion and Modification of Dewey Decimal Classification (18th Ed.) for classifying Indological books with special reference to Indian Philosophy, and Indian religion by Punjab university'.

7. CURRENT TRENDS:

According to National Knowledge Commission (NKC) report (March 2007), "India has a long tradition of libraries & has contributed to the development of basic concepts in the discipline such as fundamental principles of library services & knowledge organization tools, R & D activities in LIS today are extremely limited. This is utmost concern for the growth of LIS profession in India".

The new maladies that have recently inflicted the LIS research are:

- Ghost writing
- Outsourcing of data processing
- Data cooking

- Rampant plagiarism
- Cloud libraries
- Mobile applications
- Expert system
- Web interface
- Paper less library
- Library education in digital or web era etc.

8. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The study aims at the following objectives:

- To know the current trends in LIS research in India.
- To know about the areas of research in LIS.
- To know about which university given maximum output in LIS research from 2008-2013.
- To know about the research supervisors who mostly supervised the PhD. research.
- To know about the zonal area, which produce the most output in LIS research in India.
- To know the subject wise distribution of research works in LIS.
- To determine the diversity and trends of research in LIS field.

9. METHODOLOGY:

The main source of data collection is “University News: A weekly journal of higher education” of “six years, i.e., 2008 to 2013 (All issues included). Data taken from the “Theses of the Month” feature of the said journal which periodically lists out the doctoral theses accepted and awarded by different universities in India.

These doctoral dissertations have been listed out and analysis has been made. The year wise distribution of categories during the study period has also been made. The theses were grouped according to subject categories. Distribution has also been made for universities awarding the number of theses. Region wise and across libraries distribution has also been made to identify the growth pattern of research work.

10. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS:

The study covers research works in LIS at the Ph.D level only accepted for doctoral degree by Indian Universities. The study does not consider the research works in LIS registered in universities. The period of coverage is from 2008 to 2013, a period of six years. It has considered only those titles of doctoral theses appeared in the 'University News' published by Association of Indian Universities (AIU). Theses, which are repeated in the two issues, are excluded from the study.

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11. DATA ANALYSIS:

After collecting the data, data analysis is done in tabulation form. “University News: A weekly journal of higher education” of six years, i.e., 2008 to 2013 (All issues included).

Table 1: Research Output from High Performing Universities

Sr. No.	University Name	Research Output	Ranking
1.	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad	21	1 st
2.	Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar	14	2 nd
3.	Karnatak University, Dharwad	14	2 nd
4.	Andhra University, Visakhapatnam	11	3 rd
5.	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad	11	3 rd
6.	University of Calcutta, Kolkata	11	3 rd
7.	Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan	9	4 th
8.	Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta	9	4 th
9.	Sambalpur University, Jyoti Vihar, Sambalpur	9	4 th
10.	Manipur University, Imphal	8	5 th
11.	University of Kashmir, Srinagar	8	5 th
12.	Mizoram University, Aizawl	7	6 th
13.	University of Burdwan, Burdwan	7	6 th
14.	University of Delhi, Delhi	7	6 th
15.	Vikram University, Ujjain	7	6 th
16.	Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal	6	7 th

During the total period of six years (2008-2013) of LIS research covered under this study, 232 PhDs have been awarded by 51 universities. It is revealed from the above table no. 1 that out of these 51 universities only 16 universities have awarded a good number of PhDs and given here the top 1st-7th rank to these universities. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad is the leading university with awarding of 21 PhDs followed by Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar and Karnatak University, Dharwad jointly on 2nd rank with awarding of 14 PhDs each. Three universities, i.e. Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad and University of Calcutta, Kolkata are jointly on 3rd position among the universities with awarding of 11 each PhDs. Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan, Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta and Sambalpur University, Jyoti

Vihar, Sambalpur has been awarded 9 each PhDs and thus sharing jointly 4th rank. With 8 each PhDs awarded, 5th rank is given to Manipur University, Imphal and University of Kashmir, Srinagar jointly. Four universities, i.e Mizoram University, Aizawl, University of Burdwan, Burdwan, University of Delhi, Delhi and Vikram University, Ujjain is on 6th rank due to awarding of 7 PhDs each. Whereas Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal is on 7th rank with awarding of 6 PhDs during the span of study (2008-2013).

Table 2: Subject Wise Research Output

Sr. No.	Categories of Subject Areas	Research Output
1	Status surveys	30
2	Information needs and seeking behaviour (User studies)	27
3	Bibliometric/Citation analysis/Scientometric studies	23
4	ICT and Library automation	20
5	Information sources and services (Use)	17
6	Library professionals/staff	15
7	Academic libraries	13
8	Collection development	9
9	Public libraries	8
10	LIS Education	8
11	Resources sharing	7
12	Finance/ Financial management	4
13	Information literacy	3
14	Curriculum design	2
15	Library legislation	2
16	Special libraries	1
17	Marketing of LIS services and products	1
18	Cataloguing	1
19	Classification	1
20	Others/Miscellaneous	40
	Total	232

Table 2 reveals that status surveys (30 PhDs), Information needs and seeking behaviour (User studies) (27 PhDs), Bibliometric/Citation analysis/Scientometric studies (23 PhDs) and ICT & Library automation (20 PhDs) are the main thrust areas of research during the span of study, i.e. 2008-2013. 17 PhDs are awarded in the thrust area of use of information sources and services followed by 15 PhDs on library professional/staffs study, while 13 PhDs have been awarded in the area of study on academic libraries. Similarly 9 PhDs on collection development policy, 8 each on public libraries and library education, 7 on resource sharing, 4 on financial management and 3 on information literacy. However, 40 PhDs work was on miscellaneous areas of LIS concerned and not mentioned in above discussed thrust areas.

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Table 3: Zone (India) Wise Research Output.

Sr. No.	Zone	Research Output
1.	North	69
2.	East	54
3.	West	60
4.	South	49
	Total	232

Table 3 highlights the total research output from particular zone of India (divided in four zones) during 2008-2013. It is found that maximum PhDs have been awarded by the universities situated in the north zone, i.e. 69, followed by west zone (60 PhDs), east zone (54 PhDs) and south zone (49 PhDs) respectively.

Table 4: Year Wise Research Output.

Sr. No.	Year	Research Output
1.	2008	34
2.	2009	44
3.	2010	54
4.	2011	44
5.	2012	31
6.	2013	25
	Total	232

Table 4 revealed year wise total research output from the different universities which have the LIS departments and offering the LIS research degree programmes during 2008-2013. It has been found from the analysis of data that in 2010 highest numbers of PhDs were awarded, i.e. 54 as compare to other years. An equal number of PhDs, i.e. 44 were awarded in the year 2009 and 2011 followed by 34 PhDs in 2008, 31 PhDs in 2012 and 25 PhDs in 2013 respectively.

Table 5: State Wise Research Output.

Sr. No.	State	Research Output
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19
2.	Assam	2
3.	Chandigarh	2
4.	Chhattisgarh	7
5.	Gujarat	25
6.	Haryana	1
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	8

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8.	Karnataka	26
9.	Kerala	2
10.	Madhya Pradesh	40
11.	Maharashtra	29
12.	Manipur	8
13.	Meghalaya	5
14.	Mizoram	7
15.	New Delhi	9
16.	Odisha	11
17.	Punjab	3
18.	Tamil Nadu	3
19.	Uttar Pradesh	6
20.	Uttarakhand	1
21.	West Bengal	18
	Total	232

Table 5 highlights the state wise maximum research output during the period 2008-2013. It is shown in the above table that Madhya Pradesh is the leading state in regards to conducting and awarding highest number of research degrees, i.e. 40 PhDs during the span of six years of the current study. Very next to Madhya Pradesh is Maharashtra state in which 29 PhDs were awarded followed by Karnataka 26 PhDs, Gujarat 25 PhDs, Andhra Pradesh 19 PhDs, West Bengal 18 PhDs and Odisha 11 PhDs respectively. Apart from these states, some of the states were awarded PhD degrees upto 10, i.e. New Delhi 9, Jammu & Kashmir and Manipur each 8, Chattisgarh and Manipur 7 each, Uttar Pradesh 6 and Meghalaya 5 PhDs awarded respectively. A little bit research output from other states is also come out, i.e. between one to four PhDs.

Table 6: Library Wise Research Output.

Sr. No.	Type of Libraries	Research Output
1.	Academic Library	97
2.	Public Library	12
3.	Special Library	43
4.	Other types	80
	Total	232

Table 6 shows the total research output on different aspects of different type of libraries. It is revealed from the above table that maximum research work, i.e. 97 PhDs was done on different areas of research which are representing academic libraries while 43 PhDs was awarded on special libraries and 12 PhDs was awarded on public libraries during the span covering for study. Eighty PhDs has been awarded covering different aspects representing different types of libraries. It shows that academic libraries are the major concern for the research scholars in all over the India as compare to public and special libraries.

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Table 7: Guideship Pattern of Research Works

Sr. No.	Guideship	No. of Research Works
1.	Single	217
2	Joint	10
3.	Not Mentioned	5
	Total	232

Table 7 reveals that how much research work has been supervised by the single guide and two guides. It is revealed from the above table that maximum number of PhDs has been supervised by single guide and only 10 PhDs was supervised by two guides. Interestingly, one thing is noticed during data collection, that there is no name of guide mentioned in 5 PhDs listing in the journal. Single guide is preferred by most of the research scholars for their research work. Only those research scholars were adopted joint supervisors who are relatively coming in the concerned university from far areas.

Table 8: Distribution of Research Supervisor Contributing Research Works

Sr. No.	No. of Guides	No. of Research Works	Total
1.	65	1	65
2.	22	2	44
3.	8	3	24
4.	8	4	32
5.	1	5	5
6.	4	6	24
7.	3	7	21
8.	1	8	8
9.	1	9	9
	Total		232

How much research work (PhDs) has been supervised by each and individual guides (research supervisor) is highlighted in the above table no. 8. It is found that two research supervisors (each one) supervised 8 and 9 PhDs. Three supervisors guided 7 each research scholars followed by 4 supervisors supervised 6 each and one supervisor supervised 5 PhDs during the span of study, i.e. 2008-2013. Eight supervisors supervised four each research scholars and similar number of supervisors supervised three each PhDs research scholars. Whereas 22 supervisors supervised each two PhD scholars and 65 supervised single PhD research scholars.

Table 9: Top Five Ranking of Guides

Sr. No.	Ranking of Guides	Name of the Guide	Number of PhD. Guided
1.	1 st	Dr. A.A. Vaishnav	9
2.	2 nd	Dr. Shivdanbhai M. Charan	8
3.	3 rd	Prof. Biplab Chakraborty	7
4.	3 rd	Prof. K.C. Sahoo	7
5.	4 th	Dr. B.P. Shrivastava	6
6.	4 th	Dr. C.R. Karisiddappa	6
7.	4 th	Dr. M.K. Prajapati	6
8.	4 th	Prof. S.M. Shafi	6
9.	5 th	Dr. B.S. Biradar	5

According to this study, total 232 PhDs have been awarded under the guidance of 103 single supervisors and 10 joint supervisors. Table 9 provides the listing of 9 top ranking supervisors who account for guiding total 60 (25.86 %) out of total 232 PhDs. Among these 9 supervisors, Dr. A.A. Vaishnav and Dr. Shivdanbhai M. Charan has been supervised highest number of scholars as single supervisors, i.e. 9 and 8 respectively. Prof. Biplab Chakraborty and Prof. K.C. Sahoo are jointly on 3rd rank supervised 7 each research scholars. Four supervisors are on 4th ranking who have been supervised 6 each research scholars, while Dr. B.S. Biradar is on 5th rank with guided 5 PhDs.

However, out of 232 PhDs, 10 PhDs have been awarded under joint supervision and no one included in the above list of 9 high performing supervisors.

12. MAJOR FINDINGS:

Some of the major findings are come out as follows:

- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar and Karnatak University, Dharwad are the leading universities with regards to awarding of PhDs among other universities in which research degree courses are offered in Library and Information Science.
- It is interesting to find that during the span of study, the research interest among LIS professionals is mainly on current emerging areas, such as status surveys, user studies, bibliometric/scientometric/citation studies, ICT application and library automation and less stress on traditional areas of research in library and information science.
- It is found from the study that maximum PhDs have been awarded by the universities situated in the north zone, i.e. 69, followed by west zone (60 PhDs), east zone (54 PhDs) and south zone (49 PhDs) respectively.
- It is found that in 2010 highest numbers of PhDs, i.e. 54 has been awarded as compare to other years covered in the study.

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- The highest number of PhDs, i.e. 40 has been awarded by the universities situated in Madhya Pradesh during the span of study (2008-2013) as compare to other states.
- A total 97 PhDs has been awarded on different aspects which are representing academic libraries followed by special libraries and public libraries.
- It is also found from the study that maximum number of PhDs (217 out of 232 PhDs) has been supervised by single guide and only 10 PhDs was supervised by two supervisors.
- Only two supervisors supervised 8 and 9 PhDs respectively, while Majority of research supervisors, i.e. 65 supervised single PhD research scholars.
- Dr. A.A. Vaishnav and Dr. Shivdanbhai M. Charan are the leading supervisors who have been supervised 9 and 8 research scholars as single supervisors.

13. CONCLUSION

Research in library and information science (LIS) briefly means the collection & analysis of original data on a problem of librarianship, done within the libraries, library schools according to scientific & scholarly standards. Research in this connection broadly includes investigations, studies, surveys, academic work at the doctoral level & research by practicing librarians & information professionals, etc.

The present study on current research trends in library and information science in India during the period 2008-2013 reveals that 232 PhDs have been awarded by 51 universities situated in different states of India. It showed that number of PhDs during six years of study (2008-2013) has increased (39 PhDs/ Year) as compared to earlier years. Possibly, it may be because of PhD is the highest and reputed qualification in the profession and off course University Grants Commission (UGC) have also laid down the condition of PhD as an essential qualification for higher positions.

But, there is a need to standardization of higher education in LIS and particularly research degree programs in LIS departments of the universities in India, so that qualitative work would be come out rather than quantity of research work. It would help to the younger generation to attract in higher education in the field of LIS and motivate them to do something new for the benefit of the profession and professionals.

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Assistant Librarian, University of Jammu, India ABSTRACT This paper traces the histories of the development of LIS schools established in various Universities and institutions before and after independence in India and also traces the scenario of the current trends of research in Library and information science discipline. Library schools must bear the heavier responsibility to deliver high quality education to LIS professionals in India. Library Schools in North India also attracting more and more students but on the other side they moved so far away from teaching LIS education in a form requ Therefore, researchers in Library and Information Science in India should pay more attention to the topics which are under-researched. Further, it was found that there were some unique sub-fields to Indian Library and Information Science research, such as open access; online exhibition; virtual libraries; multimedia libraries; open source software; library automation; and library management system. With the passage of time topics evolve over time, new topics emerge, and old ones become obsolete. The current study aims to understand the trends in Library and Information Science (LIS) research during 2004-2015 by studying the published literature in Indian LIS journals. The research sample consists of 3713 journal articles published in 14 Indian LIS journals. Library and Information research has always been the ultimate vision of academicians and intellectuals as it directly or indirectly influences research in other fields whether scientific, technical, social or otherwise. The current study is conceived to assess the quantitative aspect of research output scenario of BRIC nations for the period of last seventeen years i.e. 1996-2012 in the discipline of Library and Information Science (LIS). Satija, M.P. (1999) Doctoral Research in Library and Information Science in India: Some Observations and Comments. *Libri*, 49, 236-242. [24]. Satija, M.P. (1998) Forty Years of Doctoral Research in Classification and Indexing in India, 1957-1997. *Library Herald*, 36, 80-87. [25].