

## Patterns of LIS Literature Produced by Pakistani Authors, 2007-2012

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*ABSTRACT: This study analyzes the literature produced by faculty and students from library and information science schools in Punjab, Pakistan from 2007-2012 to explore the trends in research. A broad bibliometric analysis has been conducted to identify the areas of LIS research published during the period under study. It also discusses the impact of formal LIS research programs on research productivity in Punjab, Pakistan.*

### I. Introduction

Professional development of a discipline can be measured through the research output produced by the students, researchers, and teachers of that discipline. The availability of knowledge in a specific field provides the opportunity to conduct research.

Currently, there are eleven LIS schools offering the post-graduate level education in Pakistan. The first textbook of LIS in Pakistan was written by Asa Don Dickinson in 1916, called Punjab Library Primer. And the first LIS journal in Pakistan *Modern Librarian* was “started by Punjab Library Association in November 1930” (Mahmood, 1998). Due to the independence of Pakistan from the British colonial rule, this LIS education and research journey was suspended.

Till 1990s, the dearth and non-availability of local LIS literature was the major barrier in LIS research. But now, the scenario is different to some extent due to a number of competent and professionally motivated colleagues, who are producing literature on the different aspects of librarianship, libraries, and information-related areas.

### II. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the current study are as follows:

- To analyze the growth of LIS literature (journal articles and MPhil and PhD theses produced in Punjab) by year

- To find the authorship pattern of journal articles produced in Punjab during the period of 2007-2012
- To measure the impact of formal research programs on research output
- To determine the current trends and areas of interest of LIS researcher

### **III. Research Methodology**

An attempt was made to collect all the journal articles and theses produced by the faculty and the students of different LIS schools in Punjab, Pakistan. A total of four LIS schools were contacted via email, telephone, and personal conversations. However, only three LIS schools responded. They are the University of the Punjab (PU), Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), and University of Sargodha (UOS). Articles and MPhil & PhD theses produced by the faculty and the students of these four LIS schools were collected. These articles and theses were scrutinized for the author's gender, author's institutional affiliation, and the subject covered. Publications and output from each school were also analyzed.

As this study covers only the journal articles and theses produced in Punjab during the period of 2007 to 2012 by Pakistani researchers and students, foreign authors who have written articles about Pakistani librarianship are not included.

### **IV. Literature Review**

From 1947 to 2000, eight universities have been offering LIS programs on different levels. Library schools faced severe dearth of PhD faculty. Senior positions such as professors and associate professors stayed vacant except in some LIS Schools. It seriously affected LIS research output in Pakistan. A few LIS schools and professional associations took initiatives to start LIS journals and magazines in Pakistan in this period but unable to continue because of various problems.

Presently, only two regular LIS journals, recognized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), are published: 1) *Pakistan Journal of Library & Information Science* (PJLIS) published by the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of the Punjab (PU), which is the only double blind peer-reviewed, open access annual publication, and 2) *Pakistan Library & Information Science Journal* (former *Pakistan Library Bulletin*), which started publishing in 1968 and is the oldest quarterly publication. The name of the second journal has been changed but without any significant change in the content and policy. Since it is still not peer-reviewed, the standard of articles' quality varies significantly. Hence, researchers have limited publishing options in Pakistan. Library literature reveals few research-based articles by Pakistanis in local and international journals from 1980s to early 2000s.

Recently, a few bibliometric studies have been conducted to analyze the local publication patterns in LIS. This type of studies is used to categorize or identify publication patterns, citations, journal coverage, and authorship patterns in order to get some insight of this field. The following is a brief review of these studies.

Warraich and Ahmad (2011) conducted a bibliometric study of 11 issues of *Pakistan Journal of Library & Information Science* (PJLIS), containing 111 published articles during the period of 1995-2010. PJLIS is the major channel of publishing and disseminating Pakistanis LIS research nationally and internationally. The authorship pattern depicts that the majority of the papers were single authored (89%) and that most of the authors (72%) are natives of Pakistan. Contributions from authors of 12 countries were also made in this journal. Almost half of the authors (49%) were from PU faculty and post-graduate students. Most of the articles (70%) were written in English and the majority of them were empirical studies. 51 papers (46%) had up-to 20 references. On the other hand, 44 articles (40%) were without any references. In fact, those papers were opinion-based or descriptive essays on different aspects of librarianship.

Khan and Samdani (1997) examined the literature published in *Pakistan Library & Information Science Journal* (PLISJ). They presented a subject review of the articles and an analysis of citations. They observed that academic libraries/librarianship, bibliography and bibliographical control, and computer technology were the favorite areas of research.

Naseer and Mahmood (2009) did a bibliographic study of 236 articles in 30 issues of *Pakistan Library & Information Science Journal* (PLISJ) from 1998-2007. They found that the LIS profession, education, and lately, information technology were the favorite areas of research in PLISJ. Most authors of the journal were Pakistanis. A significant number of articles (89%) were contributed by single authors. In other words, the collaboration among contributors was low. Their findings also showed that the majority of articles (61%) were descriptive articles. Along with this, the number of empirical research-based articles has also increased. The language of most of the articles was English (66%).

Tiew, Abrizah, and Kaur (2002) analyzed the authorship pattern of a Malaysian journal, *Sekitar Perpustakaan*. They discovered that single authors have contributed most of the articles (79%) and that the contribution by female authors has also increased. Besides, the co-authorship pattern has increased during the recent years in this Malaysian journal.

A recent study conducted by Khurshid in 2013 is worth mentioning. He highlighted the fact that in the early years, the contribution of Pakistani authors to foreign LIS journals was in the single digit, averaging less than one article per year. For instance, there were only 13 articles published from 1947 to 1970. However, more than 200 articles were published between 2006 and 2011, mostly by the Master's, MPhil, or PhD students and faculty of the LIS Department at the University of the Punjab. These younger authors have played an important role in the growth of LIS literature in recent years. He noted the effect of formal LIS research program on research productivity and explained that out of 219 articles published in the period of 2006-2011, contribution from new authors is remarkably high, about 60 percent. With these scholars and researchers around, the prospects of the contribution from Pakistani authors to the global library literature both in quantity and quality are very bright.

## **V. Data Analysis**

The analysis of the data collected disclosed some fascinating trends of LIS research in Punjab, Pakistan. Almost 170 articles were published during the period (2007-2012) under study. The

majority of these articles were published in international journals, which shows the quality of research been conducted in Pakistan.

This study compares the research productivity from four LIS schools in Punjab, Pakistan. The findings are displayed and discussed in the following section.

*Table 1. Growth of LIS Journal Articles by Year*

Year	No of items	Percentage
2007	11	6.4%
2008	23	13.4%
2009	30	19.2%
2010	36	20.9%
2011	34	19.2%
2012	36	20.9%
Total	170	100%

Table 1 shows that the number of articles published by the LIS schools in Punjab during the period of 2007-2012 were 170. The number of articles published in 2010 and 2012 were the highest as compare to other years.

*Table 2. Growth of LIS Theses in Two Universities by Year*

Year	MPhil PU	MPhil IUB	PhD PU
2007	-	-	-
2008	3	-	-
2009	2	1	-
2010	2	-	-
2011	10	11	3
2012	6	-	2
Total	23	12	5

Table 2 shows the number of MPhil theses produced by University of the Punjab and Islamia University of Bahawalpur in the period of 2007-2012. It shows the growth of theses in both the universities. It also depicts the growth of PhD theses in PU.

### 1. Research Collaboration and Authorship Patterns

Naseer and Mahmood (2009) found that 87% of articles published were by single authors. Warraich and Ahmad's study (2011) also revealed that 89% of papers were written by single author. This trend has been observed in Malaysia, too. Tiew, Abrizah, and Kaur (2002) analyzed the authorship pattern in an LIS journal published from Malaysia and reported that single authors contributed 79% of articles. Tiew (2006) and Buttlar (1999) also reported this trend of working independently.

However, the present study shows a different authorship pattern. Table 3 shows a growing trend of joint publications during the period of 2007-2012 among Pakistani authors. This study is not about a single journal and presents the increasing trend of co-authorship, especially after the introduction of formal LIS research programs in Pakistani universities. It shows that the majority (54%) of articles has been contributed by two authors. However, these were mostly based on MPhil or PhD research theses or research assignments. Supervisors and supervisees published thesis-based papers in Pakistani national and international journals.

There is a growing trend to work jointly for new projects too. Table 3 shows that only 30% of articles have been written by single authors. The start of formal research programs in Pakistani universities has played an important role in changing the authorship pattern.

Table 3. Authorship Pattern

Number of authors	Total	Percentage
Single	51	30
Two	91	54
Three or more	28	16

Table 3 shows that the majority of articles have been written by two authors. Now senior and new researchers do look forward to work in co-authorship. PU professors have produced papers in international journals in collaboration with renowned international LIS professors. Tiew et al. (2002) also found a growing trend of publishing joint papers in *Malaysian Journal of Library & Information Science* in recent years.

### 2. Articles Published in Pakistani Journals and International Journals

Earlier studies were about Pakistani journals, which disclosed the single authorship pattern. The current study is about all the articles published during the last six years both in Pakistani journals and international journals. Table 4 shows that, out of 170 articles, 55 (32%) got published in Pakistani journals and 115 (68%) in international journals. One of the reasons of this trend is the limited number of publishing outlets available in Pakistan. The authors prefer to submit their

articles to international journals, because the articles published in foreign quality journals earn a higher value than the local publications in terms of promotion and rewards to the authors. The visibility of Pakistani research in the international arena has grown tremendously as compared to the period from 1980s to 2000.

*Table 4. Articles Published in Pakistani Journals and International Journals*

Published	Total number	Average
National	56	33%
International	116	67%
Total	172	100%

Table 4 shows that most of these articles (67%) were published in international journals, which demonstrates the quality of Pakistani research.

### *3. Gender of the Author*

Table 5 shows that male authors are dominant but the number of females is also encouraging. In other words, the number of female authors is increasing in the last decade. Out of 39 contributors, 23 (59%) were male and 16 (41%) female. It indicates that female authors are coming forward and have participated in research and publishing activities of library and information science in Pakistan.

*Table 5. Gender of the Authors*

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	23	59%
Female	16	41%
Total	39	100

In perspective, Khan and Samdani (1997) revealed that contribution of female authors had considerably increased from 9% to 32%. Naseer and Mahmood (2009) observed that the majority (61%) of authors contributing in the LIS literature were male in Pakistan whereas 39% were female authors. They also noted that male and female had collaborated in 9 articles. Alemna (1996) studied *The African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science* (AJLAIS) in the period of 1990-1995 and found an increase in number of female contributors. Tiew examined the Malaysian journal *Sekitar Perpustakaan* and disclosed that the contribution of female authors in publishing research papers had increased more than that of male authors. Buttlar's (1999) study has also come to the same conclusion.

#### 4. Impact of Research Programs on Research Output Trends

The current study has revealed that in the period of 2007-2012, there is an increase in research output by faculty members and post-graduate students of the three LIS schools (i.e., PU, IUB, and UOS) that offer research programs. The data indicates that there is a direct relationship between the growth of research education programs in Pakistani universities and the research output in Pakistani journals and international journals. Table 6 shows that University of the Punjab is number one with 82 articles published in Pakistani journals and international journals in this period, followed by Islamia University of Bahawalpur with 25, and University of Sargodha 16. The data also shows that the number of articles published each year is increasing.

*Table 6. Research Produced by LIS Researchers in Pakistani Universities by Year*

Years	PU	IUB	UOS	Misc.	Total
2007	8	1	-	2	11
2008	12	2	-	9	23
2009	16	2	5	7	30
2010	16	7	5	8	36
2011	15	7	3	9	34
2012	15	6	3	12	36
Total	82	25	16	47	170

Table 6 compares the research output of the universities under study. It shows that all these institutions are actively engaged in research. The remaining 47 articles were published by librarians and teachers of other LIS schools that do not have research programs. Khurshid (2013) commented that it was very disappointing not to see the names of faculty and students as authors from LIS departments of other universities in international library literature. It is worth mentioning that many MPhil and PhD graduates of PU have joined other universities as faculty members. It has contributed to the increased research productivity of those universities.

#### 5. Areas of Research

Table 7 shows the areas of reach interest of authors. Faculty members and professional colleagues are producing literature on various facets of librarianship, libraries, and information-related areas. LIS education is the topmost addressed subject, followed by the information and communication technology. The findings of the current study corroborate that of a study conducted by Mahmood (1996). The traditional kind of LIS education topics, such as organization of information and professional organizations, are the least studied areas. Pakistan Library Association has remained dormant for about two decades from 1989 to 2009. Yet, this issue was rarely addressed by researchers.

Table 7. Topics of Published Research in 2007-2012

Subjects	Frequency
Library education	54
Information computer technology	42
Libraries and information centers	13
Collection development	11
Library services	10
Professional development	10
Cataloging, classification	7
Professional associations and organizations	6
Others	11

Table 7 shows that “Library education” is the most important area with researchers, followed by “Information and computer technology”. In perspective, Mahmood (1996) analyzed articles by Pakistani authors in foreign journals and found that “library education” is the most popular subject. Khurshid (2013) observed that the most common areas in LIS journal literature are “library education” and “library automation/library software”. Khan and Samdani (1997) discovered that the favorite areas of Pakistani authors from 1968-1997 were “librarianship”, “bibliographical control”, “academic libraries”, “bibliography”, and “information and computer technology”. According to Alemna (1996), “image of librarians”, “information technology”, and “rural libraries” were major areas of interest among African LIS professionals as revealed articles published in *The African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science* (AJLAIS) in the period of 1990-1995. On the other hand, Ocholla and Ocholla (2007) investigated LIS literature published in South Africa in the period of 1993-2006 and found that “information retrieval”, “library management”, and “information services” were predominant areas of research.

## VI. Conclusion

Research work in three universities in Punjab, Pakistan from 2007-2012 has been compared. It is concluded that LIS faculty and students in Punjab now prefer to work in collaboration. Female researchers are more actively participating in the production of LIS research. Quality research has been produced by LIS researchers in Pakistan as more articles have been published in quality international journals than in Pakistani journals. Formal LIS research education programs in Pakistan have a positive impact on young researchers. It is gratifying to see that all these institutions are actively participating in the research process.



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