Research Paper Social Sciences

Productivity and Characteristics of Journals Published in India with Special Reference to Humanities and Social Sciences: A Research Proposal

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ABSTRACT

This paper is written based on the research proposal and it discusses the productivity and characteristics of journals published in India with special reference to Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS). The study covers the HSS Journals published since 2001 - 2015. The most popular citation tool has been selected to carry out scientometric analysis. The study investigates the quality of Indian journals published in HSS field. This study enhances the visibility of HSS at the global level. Very importantly, it identifies the pattern of research publication growth during last fifteen years.

KEYWORDS Scientific Productivity; Scientometric Analysis; Humanities and Social Sciences Journals

1. Introduction

Journals play a pivotal role in the scholarly communication and furthering research and development of the country. Research publications in the journals are the indicators of the new knowledge and ideas in the subject disciplines. Research publications reveal the current and persisting problems which required adequate solutions. In a basic sense, a scientific publication is a recorded material in printed or electronic format which contains the data on the research activities.

Broadly, a citation is a reference to a published or unpublished source. More precisely, a citation is an abbreviated alphanumeric expression embedded in the body of an intellectual work that denotes an entry in the bibliographic references section of the work for the purpose of acknowledging the relevance of the works of others to the topic of discussion at the spot where the citation appears. Generally the combination of both the in-body citation and the bibliographic entry constitutes what is commonly thought of as a citation (Wikipedia, 2014).

Scientometrics is the study of measuring and analyzing science, technology and innovation. Major research issues include the measurement of impact, reference sets of articles to investigate the impact of journals and institutes, understanding of scientific citations, mapping scientific fields and the production of indicators for use in policy and management contexts (Wikipedia, 2014)

The 20th century may be described as the century of the development of metric sciences (Kumar, 2009). In this century itself there have been the developments of librametrics, bibliometrics, scientometrics, technometrics, biometrics, sociometrics, econometrics, cybermetrics or webometrics and lastly informatics [Sen 2004; Ming, 2000]. The term "bibliometrics" was first used by Pritchard [1969] to replace the name "statistical bibliography" for the growing field of quantitative analysis of bibliographies. For some years, however, both "bibliometry" and "bibliometrics" were in vogue. Borgman and Furner (2002) have reviewed the relationship of scholarly communication and bibliometrics. Bibliometrics is study of relationship of numbers and patterns in bibliographic data and use. Bibliographic studies include relationships among number of papers, growth of literature and patterns of library and database usage. Russians' independently used the term "Scientometrics" [Nalimov 1966] in late sixties. For quantitative aspects of studies in "science of science". Microsoft Encarta [2006] defines bibliometrics and scientometric studies as information scientists analyse many and various phenomena that affect any aspect of information. They are interested in determining such things as: the life cycle and utility of literature on a given subject (bibliometrics); patterns of authorship; and the impact of reading on groups and societies (social epistemology). The 20th century may be described as the century of the development of metric sciences (Kumar, 2009).

Scientometrics are widely used to measure the scientific productivity of the country, organizations and also at the individual level. Sceintometric databases are flexible tools used to study, analyze, evaluate the research output and they helps in conducting comparative study of research growth at international level. Scientometric databases are making great impact on furthering research and development of the countries. Institutions across the world are greatly benefitting from the scietometric databases and institutions visibility to the out side world is increasing time to time. Policy makers across the world are making use of these databases in their decision making in varieties of way.

The research work which we have undertaken will be more beneficial in furthering research output in the areas humanities and social science in the country. It definitely gives more visibility to the published work in the area of HSS.

2. Review of Literature

Review of literature is an account of the studies carried out in the areas of scientometrics. The views and opinions on the subject expressed by numerous scholars is covered here.

The Investigator studied the review of literature on referred Library and Information Science Abstract (LISA) and other relevant sources were consulted for the thorough review. Few of the recent studies to quote here are: (Jeevan V K J, 2002; Hicks Diana, 2004; Gupta B M, 2005; Kademani B S, 2007; Davarpanth M R, 2008; Bagalkoti V T, 2010; Braun T, 2010; Kaur Har, 2010; Komperda, 2010; Gupta B,M 2011; Karapagam R, 2011; Krishnamorthy, 2012; Gupta B M, 2013; Aswathy, 2014; Fei-cheng Ma, 2014; Ravichandra Rao K, 2014; Levit Jonathan M, 2015).

The study by Jeevan V K J (2002) suggests that methodology for studying the quantitative profile of a research university

with a view to obtaining ideas about the performance and impact of research produced in each department and a comparison of the impact of research in various departments.

Hicks Diana (2004) opined that in social science there are four distinct literatures: international journal articles, books, national and non-scholarly publications. International journal articles are SSCI indexed and are the currency of evaluation around the world. This is not wrong; using journal articles to communicate research results to an international audience is an important part of scholarly work. However, there is more to scholarly work in social science and the humanities. Books also can have a very high impact. National literature represents knowledge developed in a local context. Non-scholarly literature represents knowledge reaching out to application. To add to the problems, each literature is more transdisciplinary than comparable scientific literature.

Gupta, B. M. and Dhawan, S. M. (2005) analyzes the status of computer science research in India in term of publication output, its areas of strength and weakness, and the leading institutions and individual scholars involved in computer science research in the country.

Kademani, B S (2007) The study analyses the broad features of Indian S&T by focusing on its publication growth characteristics, language, format and media of communication, research quality, institutional productivity, patterns of research collaboration, and broad and narrow subject areas of interests of Indian institutions and scientists. A broad comparison of India's research output with select countries, particularly with China, has also been made.

Davarpanath, M R, Aslekia, S (2008) has conducted a scientometric study on international LIS journals productivity and characteristics from 2000-2004. The result show that during the period, a total 894 contributions published in 56 LIS journals indexed SSCL during the years of 2000-2004 were analyzed. A total of 1361 authors had contributed publications during the five years. The average number of authors per paper is 1.52. All the studied papers were published in English. The sum of research out put of the authors from USA and UK reaches 70% of the total productivity, most papers received few citations. Each article received on an average 1.6 citations and the LIS researchers cite mostly latest article. About 48% of citing authors had tendency of self citation. The productive authors, their contribution and authorship position are listed to indicate there productivity and degree of involvement in their research publications.

This study by Gupta, B. M. (2009) compares the status of social science research in India, China and Brazil using various indicators. It particularly focuses on the analyses of annual average publication rate vis-a-vis global publication share; similarity in research profile of different countries; research priorities of countries as measured in terms of national publications output by sub-fields; relative share of international collaborative papers in the national output; distribution of research output by geographical regions within each country; and characteristics of high productivity institutions and highly cited papers computed on select measures.

Kumar Anil (2009) analyses the growth and development of bibliometric and scientometric research in physics and engineering field as per INSPEC database (1999-2008). During 1999-2008 a total of 1677 papers were published in the field. The average number of publications published per year was 167.7 the highest number of papers 296 was published in 2006.

This study from Bagalkoti, V. T. (2010) highlighted the quantitatively the contributions made by the Karnatak University Science faculty during 2001-2010 (March) as reflected in SCOPUS database. The study reveals that Chemistry department had the maximum output in terms of research publications, and Mathematics department produced least contributions to the research output. A compression of publication output in relation to the other departments of Karnatak University may help in understanding the contribution of the faculty members.

Braun, T. (2010) has attempted to survey the influence of Eugene Garfield on the journal Scientometrics. His contributions has editor, author, citing, cited and co-cited author, as well as eponymized scholar are considered. In all measures, he turns to be a ubiquitous and imperative personality of the history of the journal - and, of course, also the research field it covers.

The study examines by Kaur, Har (2010) India's performance based on its publication output in dental sciences during 1999-2008, based on several parameters, including the country annual average growth rate, global publication share & rank among 25 most productive countries of the world, national publication output and impact in terms of average citations per paper, international collaboration output and share and contribution of major collaborative partners, contribution and impact of select top 25 Indian institutions and select top 25 most productive authors, patterns of communication in national and international journals and characteristics of its 45 high cited papers. The study uses 10 years (1999-2008) publications data in dental sciences of India and other countries drawn from Scopus International multidisciplinary bibliographical database.

Karapagam R (2011) study the Scopus international multidisciplinary bibliographical database has been used to identify the Indian contributions on the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology. The study measures the performance based on several parameters, country annual growth rate, authorship pattern, collaborative index, collaborative coefficient, modified collaborative coefficient, subject profile, etc.

The study by Gupta, B M (2012) analyses the dementia research output from India during 2002-11 on different parameters including the growth, global publications share, citation impact, share of international collaborative papers, contribution of major collaborative partner countries, contribution of various subject fields and by type of dementia, productivity and impact of most productive institutions and authors and patterns of research communication in most productive journals. SCOPUS Citation Database has been used to retrieve the data for 10 years (2002-11) by searching different relevant keywords in its combined title, abstract and keywords fields.

Hadagali and Krishna Morthy (2012) in their comparative study, identifies the scientific productivity of Robotics research as reflected in Scopus databases for the period from 1960 to 2011. A study compare a total of 1,10,474 records were received and were tabulated in terms of growth, authors, document type, subject, sources, institutions affiliation, country affiliation and language wise distribution of publications.

This study by Gupta, B. M.(2013) analyzed the research output of Bangladesh in S&T during 2001-10 on several parameters including its growth and country publications share in the world's research output, country publications share in various subjects in the national and global context, pattern of research communication in core domestic and international journals, geographical distribution of publications, share of international collaborative publications at the national-level as well as across subjects and characteristics of high productivity institutions, authors, and cited papers. The Scopus Citation Database has been used to retrieve the publication data for 10 years. It concludes that Bangladesh needs to increase its output and bring about improvement in the quality of its research efforts further.

The study by Aswathy and Gopikuttan (2014), evaluates the publication productivity of faculty members of Universities

in Kerala with special reference to journal articles. Teachers' participation in collaborative research has been taken into account and publication and productivity pattern have been calculated. It is clear from the study that multi authorship is prevalent among teachers in universities.

Fei-Cheng Ma (2014) has analysed the some characteristics such as publication language, publication trend, publication contributors and knowledge basement for interdisciplinary works.

Ravichandra Rao, K. (2014) Explain that relations among impact factors, references, citations and authors are studied based on the data collected in the field of field mechanics. The multiple

regression analysis indicates that in the regression equation Tc= a = +b*x1 + c*x2 + c*x3, there is a statistically significant relation among the four variables; TC is the total number of citations received by an article; x1 is the impact factor of the journal in which the article has been published; x2 is the number of references in the article and x3 is the number of authors in that article. The distribution of citations follows closely a lognormal distribution and the distribution of authors follows a Poisson distribution. It has also been observed that the strength of the relations between references and citations, and impact factors and citations are very weak.

Levit Jonathan, M (2015) study investigates the average citation level of articles with one to four authors published in 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004 and 2007 in 19 social science disciplines. The results suggest that whilst having at least two authors gives a substantial citation impact advantage in all social science disciplines, additional authors are beneficial in some disciplines but not in others.

The above studies are more significant for furthering of research in the field in terms of current scientific measurement, geographical distribution, quantitative and qualitative measures, citation impact, contributions, literature growth, productivity and characteristics, pattern of author, degree of collaboration of research publication, growth of publication.

3. Objectives:

- To find out the highly productive Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) journals published in India
- To analyze the authorship pattern in HSS journals
- To study the degree of collaboration in research publications
- To examine the geographical distribution of research publications
- To identify the pattern of research publication growth during last fifteen years and behind

4. Data and Methodology

Humanities and Social Science Citation Index (Scopus database) will be used to obtain citation data of journals published in India. Alternatively, data may be obtained from Web of Science, Indian Citation Index etc.

The twenty third edition of Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC), is used to shortlist the journal titles from HSS. The total list of HSS journals are compiling from the "Indian periodical directory 2013" and also cross checking the journals from the subscribers list such as premier institutions in India like Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Management (IIMs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Indian Institute of Social Science Research (IISCR), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), and also in the University libraries of India. To ensure the journals affiliation, publisher websites are being verified.

5. Scope and Limitations

Scope of the present study is limited to the Humanities and Social Science Journals published in India and which are indexed in the citation databases.

6. Need for the Study

The outcome of the research will give more insight in to the quality of Journals published in the HSS field. Study enhances the visibility of Indian HSS Journals at global level. Researchers will get more clues on the reputation of Journals in their area of research. At large this study helps in the further development of HSS research in the country. Research scholar believed that no research work has been done on the area of scientometric analysis of HSS journals published in India in recent days.

7. Conclusion

This study enhances the visibility of HSS Journals published in India at global level. Future researchers gets more idea on the reputation of Journals in their area of research. The current research work could be more beneficial in furthering research output in the area of humanities and social science in the country. It definitely gives more visibility to the published work in the area of HSS. At large this study helps in the further development of HSS research in the country.

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