THE MALAYSIAN JOURNAL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE 2007-2012: A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY

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INTRODUCTION :

Bibliometrics is an emerging thrust area of research from different branches of human knowledge. Bibliometrics has become a standard tool of science policy and research management in the last decades. All significant compilations of science indicators heavily rely on publication and citation statistics and other, more sophisticated bibliometric techniques. Bibliometrics is a quantitative evaluation of publication patterns of all macro and micro communication along with their authorship by mathematical and statistical calculation.[Sengupta,1985] Bibliometrics can be applied to any subject area and to most of the problems concerned with written communication. It helps to monitor growth of literature and patterns of research. The term "bibliometrics" was coined by Pritchard in 1969.

In 1948, Ranganathan, a great library scientist, coined the term "librametry", which historically appeared first and was intended to streamline the services of librarianship. Bibliometrics is

ABSTRACT

Purpose: The study aims at presenting a bibliometric analysis of the contributions found in the 'Malaysian Journal of Library and information science' during the years 2007-2012. Various bibliometric measures like volume-wise distribution of articles, authorship-pattern, degree of collaboration, reference pattern, range of references, length of papers, the rank list of prolific authors, the ranked list of geographical affiliation of the authors, the subject categories etc are used under this study to fulfil the objectives.

Methodology: Necessary data was collected from the MJLIS website by downloading all the issues published from 2007-2012. The data collected was tabulated and analysed using percentage method with the help of MS Excel 2007 Version.

Findings: The study reveals that : Year 2011 has the most number of articles i.e. 28 (23.73 %) and the year 2007 has the least number of articles i.e. 14 (11.86 %). Volume 15 Number 1, Volume 16 Numbers 1 and 2 have contributed 10 articles, the maximum for a number. The least number of articles i.e. 5 was published in Volume 14 Number 1. 27.5 %. of the articles were single authored, 42.5% of the articles were two authored and 22% of them were three authored. The overall degree of collaboration for the period 2007-2012 is 0.725. 44 (36.67 %) articles were in the page range of 16-20 followed by 43 articles within the page range of 11-15. 45% (54) of the articles used 21-40 references and 37.5% of the articles used upto 20 references. 26 articles (21.67 %) were published in the subject statistical studies followed by 14 user studies (11.86 %) and 11 scientometric studies (9.322 %). University of Malaysia tops with 28 articles constituting 23.33 % of articles published, followed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and Islamic Azad University with 6 articles each (5.0 %). Zainab A N has emerged as the most prolific author with 14 articles (11.86 %) followed by Abrizah A with 8 articles (6.78 %) as the second prolific author. There are 82 (34.75 %) authors from Malaysia followed by 34 authors from India with 14.4 %.

Future implications: The study can be further extended to compare two or three journals in the field of library science with MJLIS. A study of scientometric portrait of the most prolific library scientists can be undertaken.

KEYWORDS :*Bibliometrics, Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science Authorship pattern, degree of collaboration, prolific authors, top scoring subjects*

SHORT PROFILE

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analogous to Ranganathan's librametrics, the Russian concept of scientometrics, infometrics, and subdisciplines like econometrics, psychometrics, sociometrics, biometrics, technometrics, chemometrics, and climetrics, where mathematics and statistics are applied to study and solve problems in their respective fields. Scientometrics is now used for the application of quantitative methods to the history of science and overlaps with bibliometrics to a considerable extent. (Hussain and Fatima, (2011)

Bibliometric study provides careful evaluation of periodical literature by providing a complete picture of the core publications of any specific subject (Davarpanah & Aslekia, 2008). Bibliometric study is, therefore, being consistently adopted by the LIS researchers to assess and evaluate the scientific output of the published literature on any specific subject domain for a definite period through the application of bibliometric and citation indicators. Moreover,

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bibliometric studies have been immensely useful for librarians in selection and weeding policies. It serves as a useful tool to the academic community in identifying most popular authors and potential publications. Furthermore, it helps in determining the highly cited journals, ranking of prolific authors, authors productive pattern, the journal impact factor, and other significant details of any specific literature under study. (Swain Panda, 2012).

2. MALAYSIAN JOURNAL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

The Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science (MJLIS) (ISSN 1394-6234) is currently being published beginning 2009 three times a year in April, August and December by the Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, University of Malaya. The journal publishes original research articles in the field of library and information science (LIS) as well related domains that encapsulate information and knowledge. It also encourages contribution about professional policies, practices, principles and progress in the LIS fields. The journal aims to provide a forum for communications amongst LIS professionals especially within the Asia Pacific region, to introduce new concepts, methodologies, systems and technology. Between 1996 and 2008 the journal was published both in print and electronic. From 2009 onwards only the electronic version has been made available. The electronic version is available at, http://ejum.fsktm.um.edu.my. The journal is being indexed and abstracted by Social Science Citation Index (SSCI), SCOPUS, LISA (Library and Information Science Abstracts), Library Literature, LISTA and Journal of Academic librarianship. Based on JCR 2012 the Impact Factor is 0.423, Ranked 55/84, Quartile 3.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This article attempts to address the following issues:
• How many articles has MJLIS JIL published during the years 2007-2012?
• How many articles are by single authors; by multiple authors?
• How many co-authors have collaboratively written articles?
• How many references are made in the articles?
• What about the institutional and geographical distribution of authorship?
• Who are the prolific authors and what are the prolific institutions?
• What are the broad subject areas under which the articles were published?
• What about the degree of collaboration?
• What about the length of the articles (in terms of pages)?

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

Characteristics and trends of authorship in library and information science (LIS) journals have been examined by researchers including Cline (1982), Metz (1989), Terry (1996), Nisonger (1996), Al-Ghamdi, Al-Harbi, Beacom, et al. (1998), Lipetz (1999), He and Spink (2002), Young (2006), and Fennewald (2007), among others.

Asha and Anil (2010) under took a bibliometric study of 4798 citations appended to 400 articles in five volumes (2003-2007) of the Indian Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics and found that the most cited documents are articles from research journals and the foreign authors have contributed more than Indian authors.

Thanuskodi S (2010) did a bibliometric analysis of the 'Journal of Library philosophy and practice from 2005-2009' revealed that the highest number of articles had appeared in the area of computer application in LIS. Thanuskodi S (2010) conducted a bibliometric study of the Journal of Social Sciences(JSS) for the period 2003-2007 and disclosed that the maximum number of contributors are two authors and the majority of articles have the length of 11 and more pages.

Tsay (2011) undertook a study to explore the journal bibliometric characteristics of the Journal of Information Science (JIS) and the subject relationship with other disciplines by citation analysis. The citation data were drawn from references of each article of JIS during 1998 and 2008. The results of this study revealed that journal articles are the most cited document, followed by books and book chapters, electronic resources, and conference proceedings, respectively.

Thanuskodi (2011) presented a bibliometric analysis of the journal titled Library Herald" for the period between 2006 to 2010. 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. All the studies point towards the merits and weakness of the journal which will be helpful for its further development. The result showed that out of 138 articles single author contributed 72 (52.17%) articles while the rest 66 (47.83%) articles were contributed by joint authors and most of the contributions are from India with 89.85 %.

Warraich and Ahmad (2011) had revealed in their study that a total of 111 publications from 11 issues of Pakistan Journal of Library and Information Science (PJLIS) were published during 1995 to 2010. Attempt has been made to study all 11 issues of this journal on the basis of different parameters, viz., author productivity, extent of authors' collaboration, authors' institutional affiliation, authors' geographic affiliation, type of

publication, language of papers, number of citations used per article, length of papers, and year-wise distribution of papers.

Manoj Kumar and Moorthy AL (2011) covered various parameters like growth pattern, content coverage, authorship patterns of DESIDOC Journal of Library and information technology during 2001-2010.

Swain (2011) in his scientometric analysis of Library Philosophy and Practice from 2004 to 2009 found that the degree of collaboration in LPP ranged from 0.222 to 0.52 and the highest numbers of contributors hailed from Nigeria, followed by USA, India, and Iran.

Akthar Hussain and Nishat Fattima(2011) in their bibliometric analysis of the Chinese Librarianship: an International Electronic Journal for the period of 2006-2010 demonstrated and elaborated on the various aspects of the Journal, such as its distribution of article by year, authorship patterns, distribution of contributions by institution, subject distributions, citation patterns, length of article, rank of cited authors, and geographical distributions of authors.

Swain and Panda (2012): This paper presents the findings of a bibliometric study of Journal of Intellectual Property Rights. A total of 332 articles carrying 1,541 journal citations during the period of 2002-2010 were analyzed. 471 authors contributed articles during the nine years. About one third of the total publications received citations, more than half of the cited articles carried just 1 citation, one fourth got 2 citations, and the rest received citations between 3 to 9 times. The average number of citations against all published articles was found to be 0.66 per article.

Jena, Swain and Sahu (2012) in their bibliometric study of The Electronic Library from 2003 to 2009 revealed some interesting bibliometric traits of this journal.

Jena, Swain and Sahoo (2012) found in their study – a bibliometric study of Annals of Library & Information Studies (2002-2010) – that the average citations per article is 16; The average number of pages per article is 8; It is found that the journal citations are predominant (57.4%of the total citations) followed by books (16.5%) and web resources (11.6 %); Two authored papers are found to be the highest followed by single-authored and then three-authored papers. The degree of collaboration is 0.676; In regards to country productivity, India topped the list. The half life period of document citations is 11 years.

Ramasamy K (2012) reported a bibliometric analysis of ' D-Lib Journal' (2008-2011) and the study reveals that total number of contributions were 117. The least number of articles in a year i.e. 26 appeared in the year 2008. The subjects - metadata and Information management and Information retrieval - have got 15 articles each. . Single authors contributed 38 papers and double authors have contributed 35 articles. 2011 has more articles from a single author and the year 2011 has more articles written by double authors. There is a domination of multiple-authors over the single authors. 38.48 % of the articles used 10-20 references and 34.18 % of authors cited 0-9 references.

Tamilselvi (2012) covered various parameters like year-wise distribution of contributions, authorship pattern, country-wise distribution, subject-wise distribution, institution-wise distribution, references published, distribution of citations and sources of citations of the Journal Librarianship and Information Science during 2007-2011.

Roy and Basak (2013) examined the articles published in Journal of Documentation for authorship pattern, degree of collaboration, geographical distribution of papers and citation analysis. The studies carried out for this paper found that majority of papers are multi- authored. The degree of collaboration is found to be 0.51. The geographical distribution reveals that the contribution by United Kingdom is the highest. The average citations per paper are 43.

5. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS
Scope

This study covers the issues published between 2007 and 2012. (Vol.12 to Vol.17).

Data collection and Analysis

The database of this study comprises 120 journal articles published in the Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science since its inaugural issue from 2007 to 2012. For each article, names of authors, number of authorship, number of references author's institutional affiliation and country, type of article, subject of article and length (pages) of article were noted down. All the necessary information were compiled, recorded, tabulated and analysed for making observations as indicated in the objectives of the study.

Data Analysis and interpretation
5.1 Volume-wise distribution of articles

Table 1 shows the volume-wise distribution of articles in MJLIS from 2007-2012. 120 articles were published in toto. Year 2011 has the most number of articles i.e. 28 (23.73 %) and the year 2007 has the least number of articles i.e. 14 (11.86 %). It is understood that when the number of issues have increased from 2 to 3, quite naturally the number of articles published therein also have correspondingly increased.

Table 1: Volume-wise distribution of articles

Year	Volume	No.of issues	No. of articles	Cumulative Total	%	Cumulative %
2007	12	02	14	14	11.67	11.67
2008	13	02	16	30	13.33	25
2009	14	02	18	48	15	40
2010	15	03	24	72	20	60
2011	16	03	28	100	23.33	83.33
2012	17	03	20	120	16.67	100
			120		100	

5.2 Number-wise distribution of articles

Table 2 shows the number-wise distribution of articles published in MJLIS.Volume 15 Number 1, Volume 16 Numbers 1 and 2 have contributed 10 articles, the maximum for a number. The least number of articles i.e. 5 was published in Volume 14 Number 1. While first nine numbers accommodated 51.7 % of the articles, the remaining 9 numbers could take 48.3 % of the articles.

Table 2: Number-wise distribution of articles

Year	Volume	Number	No. of articles	Cumulative Total	%	Cumulative %
2007	12	01	7	7	5.83	5.83
		02	7	14	5.83	11.7
2008	13	01	8	22	6.67	18.3
		02	8	30	6.67	25
2009	14	01	5	35	4.17	29.2
		02	7	42	5.83	35
		03	6	48	5	40
2010	15	01	7	55	5.83	45.8
		02	7	62	5.83	51.7
		03	10	72	8.33	60
2011	16	01	10	82	8.33	68.3
		02	10	92	8.33	76.7
		03	8	100	6.67	83.3
2012	17	01	6	106	5	88.3
		02	7	113	5.83	94.2
		03	7	120	5.83	100

5.3. Authorship Pattern

Table 3 depicts the authorship pattern of articles published in MJLIS from 2007-2012. 27.5 % of the articles were single authored, 42.5% of the articles were two authored and 22% of them were three authored. Only 7.5 % of the articles were by four authors and 4.17 % of the articles were by more than 4 authors. Thus two author style works well with MJLIS followed by single author style.

Table 3: Authorship Pattern

Year	Volume	Single Authored articles	Two authors' articles	Three authors' articles	Four authors' articles	>4 Authors' articles	Total
2007	12	05	07	01	0	01	14
2008	13	06	09	01	0	0	16
2009	14	09	04	01	03	01	18
2010	15	04	14	05	01	0	24
2011	16	03	14	06	03	02	28
2012	17	06	03	08	02	01	20
Total		33	51	22	09	05	120
%		27.5	42.5	18.33	7.5	4.17	100

5.4 Single Author Vs Multi-authorship productivity

Table 4 makes it clear that there are 87 articles (72.5%) which are multi authored. Year 2011 saw 89.29 % of multi-authored articles wherein year 2004 has seen only 50 % of the multi-authored articles. So, there is a clear domination of multi-author productivity in the contribution of articles in MJLIS during the period under study.

Table 4:Single Author and Multi-authorship productivity

Year	Volume	Single Authorship	Percentage	Multi Authorship	Percentage	Total
2007	12	05	35.71	09	64.29	14
2008	13	06	37.5	10	62.5	16
2009	14	09	50.0	09	50.0	18
2010	15	04	16.67	20	83.33	24
2011	16	03	10.71	25	89.29	28
2012	17	06	30	14	70	20
Total & Percentage		33	27.5	87	72.5	120

5.5. Degree of collaboration

Table 5 shows the degree of collaboration of authors in MJLIS. It was calculated using Subramanian's formula: $C=Nm/Nm+Ns$, where C=degree of collaboration, Nm=number of multi-authored works, and Ns=number of single-authored works. It is found that the degree of collaboration in MJLIS ranged from 0.5 to 0.89 during the publication phase under study. The overall degree of **collaboration for the period 2007-2012 is 0.725.**

Table 5: Degree of Collaboration

Year	Degree of collaboration	
2007	9/14=	0.643
2008	10/16=	0.625
2009	9/18=	0.5
2010	20/24=	0.833
2011	25/28=	0.893
2012	14/20=	0.7
Overall (2007-2012)	87/120=	0.725

5.6. Length of articles

Table 6 shows that 44 (36.67 %) articles were in the page range of 16-20 followed by 43 articles within the page range of 11-15. Only 13 (10.83 %) articles had 5-10 pages. While 2007 had most number of 5-10 pages articles, 2008 had most number of 11-15 pages articles and 16-20 pages articles & 2009 had the most number of >20 pages articles in terms of percentage of articles published.

Table 6: Length of Articles

Year / No. of Pages	5-10 pages	%	11-15 Pages		16 -20 Pages		>20 Pages		Total
2007	02	14.29	05	35.71	03	21.43	04	28.57	14
2008	01	6.25	08	50.0	07	43.75	0	0	16
2009	01	5.56	05	27.8	06	33.3	06	33.3	18
2010	02	8.33	07	29.2	08	33.3	07	29.2	24
2011	03	10.7	12	42.9	12	42.9	01	3.57	28
2012	04	20	06	30	08	40	02	10	20
Total	13		43		44		20		120
%	10.83 (100/120*13)		35.83		36.67		16.67		100

5.7. Reference Pattern

Table 7 depicts that 45% (54) of the articles used 21-40 references and 37.5% of the articles used upto 20 references. While 10.83 % of the articles used 41-60 references, 3.33 % of the articles used 61-80 and >80 references. Year 2007 saw the more usage of <20 references, 2011 saw the most usage of 21-40 references and 2012 saw the most usage of 41-60 references. Only 4 articles used more than 80 references.

Table 7: References

Year / No. of references	0-20	%	21-40	%	41-60	%	61-80	%	>80	%	Total
2007	08	57.14	04	28.57	02	14.29	0	0	0	0	14
2008	07	43.75	08	50.0	01	6.25	0	0	0	0	16
2009	08	44.44	07	38.89	0	0	01	5.55	02	11.11	18
2010	09	37.5	09	37.5	03	12.5	01	4.16	02	8.33	24
2011	07	25.0	17	60.71	03	10.71	01	3.57	0	0	28
2012	06	30	09	45	04	20	01	5	0	0	20
Total	45		54		13		04		04		120
%	37.5		45.0		10.83		3.333		3.333		100

* 100/120*45 = 37.5   * 100/14*8=57.14

5.8. Average number of reference per article

It is clear from the Table 8 that a total of 3454 references were used in 120 articles in MJLIS during 2007-2012. The maximum number of 826 references (23.9 %) was used by the authors in 2010 in 24 articles. Average number of references per article is 34.4, the highest, in the year 2010 and the least is 20.4 in the year 2007. The overall average reference usage per article is 28.8 for MJLIS for its 120 articles in 6 years period.

Table 8: Average number of references per article

Year	Number of Articles	No. of References	Cumulative references	Percentage	Cumulative %	Average reference per article (ref./articles)
2007	14	285	285	8.25	8.25	20.4
2008	16	358	643	10.4	18.6	22.4
2009	18	552	1195	16.0	34.6	30.7
2010	24	826	2021	23.9	58.5	34.4
2011	28	822	2843	12.8	82.3	29.4
2012	20	611	3454	17.7	100	30.6
Total	120	**3454**		100		28.8

5.9 Subject Category

Table 7 shows the subject-wise classification of articles published in MJLIS from 2007-2012.

26 articles (21.67 %) were published in the subject statistical studies followed by 14 user studies (11.86 %) and 11 scientometric studies (9.322 %). While Information technology and citation studies have contributed 9 articles (7.627%) each, academic libraries and university libraries have got 8 articles each (6.78 %). It is believed that more articles will be published in the current subjects like institutional repository, knowledge management and webometrics will be published in the issues to come.

Table 9: Top subjects

Subject	No. of articles	Percentage	Cumulative	Cumulative Percentage
Statistical studies	26	21.67	26	21.67
User studies	14	11.67	40	33.33
Scientometric	11	9.167	51	42.5
Information Technology	9	7.5	60	50
Citation Studies	9	7.5	69	57.5
Academic libraries	8	6.667	77	64.17
University Library	8	6.667	85	70.83
Digital libraries and e-learning	6	5	91	75.83
LIS Education	5	4.167	96	80
Miscellaneous	5	4.167	101	84.17
Institutional repository	5	4.167	106	88.33
Job satisfaction	3	2.5	109	90.83
School library	3	2.5	112	93.33
Information Literacy	2	1.667	114	95
Knowledge Management	2	1.667	116	96.67
Public Library	2	1.667	118	98.33
Webometrics	2	1.667	120	100
	120	100		

5.10 Top contributing institutions

The table 10 depicts the fact on the articles received from the top affiliation institutions of the authors. University of Malaysia tops with 28 articles constituting 23.33 % of articles published, followed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and Islamic Azad University with 6 articles each (5.0 %). The authors from just 7 institutions have contributed 45.76 % (54 articles) of total articles published in the journal during the study period.

Table 10: Ranked list of institutional affiliation of the authors

Affiliation institution	No. of articles	Percentage (out of 120)
University of Malaya / Malaysia	28	23.33
Bhabha Atomic Research centre	6	5.0
Islamic Azad University	6	5.0
National Chengchi University	4	3.333
University of Ibadan	4	3.333
Universiti Technologi MARA	3	2.5
University of Dhaka	3	2.5
Total	54	45.0

5.11 The prolific authors

It is clear from table 10 that Zainab A N has emerged as the most prolific author with 14 articles (11.86 %) followed by Abrizah A with 8 articles (6.78 %) as the second prolific author. Abdul Karim N H has contributed 5 articles and there are 7 authors who have contributed 4 articles (3.39 %) each. Thus, just 10 authors have contributed 55 articles out of 118 articles taking the lion's share of taken 46.61 %.

Table 11: Ranked list of prolific authors

Author	No. of articles	Percentage (out of 120)
Zainab A N	14	11.7
Abrizah A	8	6.67
Abdul Karim N H	5	4.17
Han I P	4	3.33
Isfandyari-Niggaddam A	4	3.33
Kademan B S	4	3.33
Kassim N A	4	3.33
Noorthidawati A	4	3.33
Sanni S A	4	3.33
Vijaikumar	4	3.33
	55	45.8

5.12 Geographical distribution of authorship Pattern

Table 10 depicts the geographical affiliation of the authors in terms of countries. There are 82 (34.75 %) authors from Malaysia followed by 34 authors from India with 14.4 %. Iran is in the third place with 25 authors (10.6 %). There are 7 countries with an article each and there are two countries with 9 articles, 7 articles, 5 articles, 3 articles and 2 articles each.

Table :12 Geographical affiliation of the authors

Country	Continent	No. of authors	Percentage	Cumulative	Cumulative %
Malaysia	Asia	82	34.7	82	34.75
India	Asia	34	14.4	116	49.15
Iran	Asia	25	10.6	141	59.75
Taiwan	Asia	16	6.78	157	66.53
Thailand	Asia	13	5.51	170	72.03
China	Asia	9	3.81	179	75.85
Nigeria	Africa	9	3.81	188	79.66
Belgium	Eruope	7	2.97	195	82.63
Singapore	Asia	7	2.97	202	85.59
Bangladesh	Asia	6	2.54	208	88.14
Pakistan	Asia	5	2.12	213	90.25
UK	Europe	5	2.12	218	92.37
Indonesia	Asia	3	1.27	221	93.64
Kuwait	Asia	3	1.27	224	94.92
Jordan	Asia	2	0.85	226	95.76
South Korea	Asia	2	0.85	228	96.61
Botswana	Africa	1	0.42	229	97.03
Kenya	Africa	1	0.42	230	97.46
Spain	Europe	1	0.42	231	97.88
Sri Lanka	Asia	1	0.42	232	98.31
Sudan	Africa	1	0.42	233	98.73
Turkey	Europe	1	0.42	234	99.15
USA	North America	1	0.42	235	99.58
Yemen	Asia	1	0.42	236	100
Total		236	100		

5.13 Continent-wise affiliation of authors

Table 11 shows that there are 209 authors from Asian continent constituting 88.56 % in the study period. While Europe has 14 authors to her credit (5.93 %), Africa follows with 12 authors (5.08 %). There is a transparent fact of Asian domination in the total article contributions in MJLIS. .

Table 13: Continent-wise authorship pattern

Continent	No. of Authors	Percentage
Asia	209	88.56
Europe	14	5.932
Africa	12	5.085
North America	1	0.424
Total	236	100

CONCLUSION

Bibliomeric studies are sure to provide a set of guiding canons to help us infer various interesting information about the journal and its publication properties. Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science provides a platform to the LIS professionals to bring out their creative ideas and innovative library practices to the outside world. The periodicity of the journal may be increased to pave way for more articles to pour into LIS literature in the future.

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