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Golden Research Thoughts

GRT**M.PHIL. RESEARCH IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION
SCIENCE IN MAHARASHTRA UNIVERSITIES**

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ABSTRACT

Paper clearly present with relevant statistical tables the output of M.Phil. Research in Maharashtra. Attempt is made to university-wise, subject-wise, Gender wise distribution of guides, Gender wise distribution of Researchers, Language Wise distribution of M.Phil. dissertations in Maharashtra Universities. Also indicated are the Conclusion suggestions & favored subject areas by LIS researchers in Maharashtra.

KEYWORDS :Research in LIS, M.Phil, Dissertations, LIS Education in Maharashtra, Library Science Education.

1. INTRODUCTION

Research is an intellectual activity of gathering information needed to answer a question and thereby helping to solve a problem. It offers a pleasure of solving a puzzle, satisfaction of discovering something new and contributing to the wealth of human knowledge. Conducting research in any field of knowledge is very important because it greatly contributes to the growth of intellectual capital, which in turn contributes to the prosperity of the nation. Generally, the research is conducted to validate existing notions; discover new concepts and ideas or to formulate new theories based on facts. It enables to understand the current trends and changes in demand and to augment the knowledge base. The universities are the centers of higher learning and serve as training ground for research scholars by providing basic research methodology in specialized fields. The success of their research depends upon the training they acquire in universities. Being the centers of research, universities are considered as vital aspect for the scientific progress of a nation.¹³

2. THE BEGINNING OF RESEARCH IN LIS

The roots of research in library science are not very deep. Research in library science started only in the 20th century ushered in by the Library School of the University of Chicago in mid 1920s. The visionary efforts of the pioneers of Chicago School bore abundant fruit and provided leadership to the world in library science research. Today the pace of library research is picking up everywhere due to social pressure as well as inspiration. In justifying the Ph.D./M.Phil. programmes in library science, it has been urged that "if librarianship aspires to become a profession it's should depend upon research to develop its knowledge base and its theoretical framework.

3. RESEARCH IN INDIAN UNIVERSITIES: AN OVERVIEW

Indian universities play a major role in creation and dissemination of knowledge by providing opportunities for research scholars to conduct research studies and to bring out doctoral dissertations as a unique genre of information resource. It is observed that every year, a significant number of doctoral dissertations are being produced by these universities in India. Ugc.ac.in (www.ugc.ac.in), a leading statistical data provider on growth of Higher Education System in India, annual reports that "As on March 2012", there are 574 universities promoting higher education in India". of 574, 397 are state, 44 are central and 129 are deemed universities. These universities offer postgraduate courses and doctoral research programs in various subject disciplines. They also undertake research projects of national importance sponsored by government and other agencies. The doctoral researches are represented through the doctoral dissertations submitted to universities for the award of doctoral degree (Ph.D.). A study of such doctoral dissertations indicates the direction of research in India

4. MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (M.PHIL.)

This is a research programme offered by university departments after completion of MLISc. The University of Delhi started this programme in 1978. At present there are 29 universities offering this programme. The basic requirement for admission is similar in all the universities but the duration of the course may vary.

5. LIBRARY SCIENCE EDUCATION

At present about 256 institutions, mostly University colleges and Polytechnics, have library and Information Science education courses of these, the B.Lib.I.Sc & M.Lib.I.Sc course is being offered by 76 Universities, 29 Universities offer the M.Phil., Today 43 Universities have Ph.D. research facilities, (www.targestudy.com) one University recently awarded a D.Litt, that it claimed to be the first such degree in library and Information Science all over the world. It may not be an adieu comparison that up to 1986 only 38 Universities had master programmes.

6. LIS EDUCATION IN MAHARASHTRA UNIVERSITIES

The subject LIS is relatively a younger one compared to those like chemistry, Physics, Literature, and Philosophy. In Maharashtra it is taught as short-term certificate level to postgraduate research degree level. The Universities offering LIS in Maharashtra are;

1. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU), Aurangabad.
2. North Maharashtra Vidhyapeeth, Pune
3. Pune University, Pune.
4. Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagapur University, Nagpur.

5. Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati.
6. Shivaji University, Kholapur.
7. SNDT Women's University, Mumbai.
8. Swami Ram, Teerth Marathada University (SRTMU), Nanded.
9. Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune.
10. University of Mumbai.
11. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), Nashik.

YCMOU are distance learning Open University. Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune conducts courses in vernacular medium. Bharti Vidyapeeth is a deemed university covered by Maharashtra University Act.

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present research primarily aims to study the research output in Library and Information Science through M.Phil. Dissertations in Maharashtra Universities. The study was carried out with the following objectives.

1. To Analyze the LIS Research at M.Phil. level by using various parameters
 - + University wise distribution of M.Phil. Dissertations
 - + Subject wise breakup of M.Phil dissertations
 - + Favored. Subject Areas by LIS Researchers
 - + Gender wise distribution of Guides
 - + Gender wise distribution of Researchers
 - + Language wise productivity

8. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The present work was undertaken to study the Dissertations submitted by M.Phil. students in Library & Information Science in Maharashtra Universities during 2006-2011. There are five Universities including open and deemed University in Maharashtra, having M.Phil. programme. The Present study focus on the M.Phil. Dissertations in the Maharashtra Universities. The study included traditional universities, open universities and deemed universities.

9. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The data Analysis of the study are presented in following headings. Universities of Maharashtra have produced Four hundred and fifty six (456) dissertations at the M.Phil. programme during five years from 2006-2011.

9.1 University wise Distribution of M.Phil dissertations

Research at M.Phil. in library and information science are available in 5 universities in Maharashtra. Following tables is showing university-wise M.Phil. dissertations in Maharashtra universities.

Table No: 9.1
University Wise Distribution of M Phil Dissertations

Sr. No.	Name of University	No of Dissertations	Percentage %
1	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Maratwada University (BAMU), Aurangabad	37	8.11
2	Shivaji University (SU), Kolhapur	2	0.44
3	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth Deemed University (TMVD), Pune	62	13.60
4	Pune University (PU), Pune	01	0.22
5	Yashwantrao Chavhan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), Nashik	354	77.63
Total		456	100.00

Table No. 9.1 focuses on university wise distribution of M.Phil. dissertations during 5 years from 2006-2011. It has been found that the highest number of M.Phil. dissertation have produced by YCMOU University i.e. 354 (77.63 %) followed by TMVD university 62 (13.60 %); BAMU University 37 (8.11 %) and lowest M.Phil. dissertation output is by Shivaji University 2 (0.44 %) and Pune University 1 (0.22 %) during 5 year.

9.2 Subject-wise Breakup of M.Phil Dissertations

Though the general understanding is that an M.Phil. dissertation should have a library topic as its theme, in practice it is observed that a great number of research projects/dissertations/literature surveys relate to topic outside library science but using Library Science techniques have been taken. The table 9.2 reveals this.

Table No. 9.2
Subject-wise Breakup of M.Phil Dissertations

Sr. No.	Subject	Number of Dissertations	Percentage
1	Agriculture	4	0.87
2	Archeology	2	0.44
3	Biography	1	0.22
4	Botany	1	0.22
5	Commerce	1	0.22
6	Education	14	3.07
7	Engineering	1	0.22
8	Fine Arts	3	0.66

9	General Bibliography	1	0.22
10	Geography	2	0.44
11	History	1	0.22
12	Language	2	0.44
13	Library and Information Science	407	89.25
14	Literature	8	1.75
15	Management	1	0.22
16	Physics	1	0.22
17	Religion	1	0.22
18	Research Methodology	1	0.22
19	Social Science	3	0.66
20	Sociology	1	0.22
Total		456	100

Table No. 9.2 makes it clear that out of the total 456 M.Phil. dissertations, 407 are purely on Library and Information Science, and the rest relate to other disciplines but using the various techniques & methods of LIS. The total number of dissertations 456 taken as equal to 100 Library and Information Science dissertations numbering 407 contribute about 89.25 per cent, and all the other subject make up the remaining portion, i.e., 49 dissertations having 10.74 per cent. After library and information science, education dominates the work area with an absolute number of 14 dissertations (3.07 %), to be followed by Literature 8 (1.75 %) and Agriculture 4 (0.87 %). If these three subject areas can be taken as allied subjects of library and information science, then the other subjects which dominate are; 3 (0.66 %); Fine Art 3 (0.66 %); Social Science 3 (0.66 %); Archeology, Geography and Language this are 2 (0.44 %); Biography, Botany, Commerce, Engineering, Generalia Bibliography, History, Management, Physics, Religion, Research Methodology, Sociology this are 1 (0.22 %). Natural science subjects do not seem to have much attraction for M.Phil. dissertations.

9.3 Favored Subjects Areas by LIS Researchers

Table No. 8.3 makes it clear that there are 407 dissertations which have library and information science as their theme. It should be interesting to know which facets of library and information science are more popular as far as dissertations are concerned. The favored subject's areas by LIS Researchers are shown in table No 8.3

Table No. 9.3
Favored Subjects Areas by LIS Researchers

Sr.No	Subject	No of Dissertations	Percentage %	
1	Academic Libraries		61	14.99%
	College Libraries	38		
	Research Libraries	3		
	School Libraries	12		
	University Libraries	8		
2	Bibliographic/Literature Studies		65	15.97%
	Bibliography	2		
	Bibliometric Study	8		
	Book	4		
	Citation Analysis	22		
	Content Analysis	13		
	Literature	2		
	Periodical	10		
Scientometric study	4			
3	Indexing/Classification		4	0.98%
	Classification	2		
	Indexing	2		
4	Information		41	10.07 %
	Information	2		
	Information Literacy	12		
	Information need	11		
	Information Resources	5		
	Information Seeking Behaviors	7		
Information Services	4			

5	Information Technology		67	16.46 %
	Database	3		
	Digital Library	3		
	Information Technology	42		
	IT-Application	2		
	Library Automation	5		
	Library Networking	5		
	Library Software	6		
Virtual Library	1			
6	Growth & Development		15	3.69 %
7	Library		60	14.74 %
	Private Libraries	2		
	Public Libraries	33		
	Special Libraries	25		
8	Library Management /Administration		57	14%
	Library Finance	10		
	Library Management	21		
	Organisation	4		
	Outsourcing	2		
	Personnel Management	8		
	Preservation and Conservation	6		
	Six Sigma	1		
	SOWT Analysis	5		
9	Library Profession/Librarianship		20	4.91 %
	Library Education	3		
	Library Profession	9		
	Research in Library	1		
10	Library Services		17	4.18 %
	Library Services	16		
	Reference Services	1		
Total			407	100.00

Table No. 9.3 shows the distribution of library science subject areas. Above table makes it clear that there are 407 dissertations which have library and information science as a main theme. It should be interesting to know which facets of library and information science are more popular as far as project reports are concerned. The break up is presented in Table No 5.4 Within the discipline of library

and information science, the area 'Information' seems to find maximum favors with the M.Phil. student for their dissertations. Here 'Information Technology in Library Science' is taken to be a broad spectrum including within it studies relating to dissemination of Information Technology, Database, Digital Libraries, IT-Application, Library Automation, Library Networking, Library Software, Virtual Libraries. This area counts for 16.46 per cent with 67 out of a total 407 dissertations. This may be due to the rising importance of information technology and its various dimensions in the present day society. Close on heels to this are studies relating to Bibliographic/Literature Studies, which have 15.97 percent with 65 dissertations. Studies relating to other areas worth mentioning are Academic libraries with 61 dissertations (14.99%); and Library with 60 dissertations (14.74 %). As far as the library Management is concern the maximum i.e. 57 dissertations (14%); Information with 41 dissertations (10.07 %); and Library Profession with 20 dissertations (4.91 %); and Library Services with 17 dissertations (4.18 %); and Collection and Development with 15 dissertations (3.69 %); and Indexing & Classification with 4 dissertations (0.98%).

Table No. 9.4
Gender Wise Distribution of Guides

Gender	Guides	Percentage %
Male	80	78.43
Female	22	21.57
Total	102	100.00

Table No. 9.4 shows gender wise distribution of Guides. There are total 102 number of guides out of which 80 (78.43 %) are male and 22 (22.57 %) are female guides. As the profession have maximum number of male teachers.

Table No. 9.5
Gender Wise Distribution of Researchers

Gender	Researchers	Percentage %
Male	279	61.18
Female	177	38.82
Total	456	100.00

Table No. 9.5 shows gender wise distribution of Researchers. There are total 456 numbers of Researchers out of which 279 (61.18 %) are male Researchers and 177 (38.82) are female Researchers. It shows male Researchers do more Research in the Library and Information Science at M.Phil. course.

Table No. 9.6
Language wise Productivity

Sr. No	Language	Total dissertation	Percentage
1	English	125	27.41
2	Marathi	330	72.37
3	Hindi	1	0.22
Total		456	100.00

The above Table No. 9.6 shows that total M.Phil. dissertations are 456 in three languages. Out of 456, maximum number of 330 (72.37%) dissertations has been awarded in Marathi Language followed by English Language i.e. 125 (27.41%). The reason might be due to regional focus. Only 1 (0.22%) dissertation has been awarded in Hindi language by Yeshwantrao Chavhan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik.

10. CONCLUSION

The Study has emphasized the perspective of the research activities in Library and Information Science in Maharashtra Universities. So far, 456 M.Phil dissertations theses were produced in the LIS subject. Research and development are the index of prosperity of the nation. The LIS research in India is gaining the attention of researchers. The project work at M.Phil. levels have been undertaken on the IT based topics and traditional subject have been given scant treatment. This may be attributed to advanced curricula and high impact of IT with well equipped computer lab, infrastructure facilities, funds and other factors. This is appropriate time that research be directed towards newer subjects associated with IT based services, virtual library and Institutional Repository concepts. The grey area in LIS Research is identified i.e. Classification, indexing, Abstracting and Library Management. For this purpose the department has to be equipped with lab facilities. Along with this, the faculty has to be fully trained in the latest areas in the field of LIS so as to meet and fulfill the changing multidimensional and interdisciplinary research need. In this connection, it is suggested that the departments of LIS should make necessary efforts to fully exploit various financial provisions laid down by UGC and other funding agencies, so as to build the necessary infrastructural facilities. Further, it is stressed the department should lend consultancy services to sustain their infrastructural facilities.

11. SUGGESTIONS

When all is said and done, the research activity in library and information science in Maharashtra is not at very high ebb. It is slowly, but steadily, picking up the threads, and gaining in steadily from point. The increasing interest and aptitude for research deserve encouragement, direction, financial assistance, and coordination. It requires a concentrated Endeavour on the part of the faculty, working librarian, and library schools. A few suggestions are given below to accelerate the speed of research in library and information science in our country.

- An annual list of completed research at the M.Phil. and MLISc levels should be issued. Similarly, a register or database of current research in library and information science in India should also be established. This work may be allotted to one or two library and information science teaching departments.
- According students view, time is limited to select the topics of project work. So sufficient time should be provided to the student for selecting the topic.
- Formal lecture of guidance is provided to them by teachers having good research experience.
- Duplication in selection of topic can be avoided to certain extent by creation and maintaining database of dissertations submitted in LIS Schools. There should be national database of LIS Research projects work.
- E-books, database, E-References sources online journals of reputed publishers and other indexing and abstracting databases in LIS should made available to LIS Schools.
- Immediately there is a need to prepare bibliographical database of MLISc & M.Phil. Dissertations for easy access to future LIS researchers to avoid duplication of topics at National level.

12. Areas for Further Study

Some Research areas in the field of LIS research are identified hereunder:

- LIS Research in Indian Universities: An Analysis of M.Phil. Dissertations
- LIS Research: Comparative study at National and International level.

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