

Content Analysis of Doctoral Dissertations in Library and Information Science with special reference to Universities of North-East India

Roopendra Singh

(Research Scholar)

Bundelkhand University, Jhansi

&

Prof. Rochna Srivastava,

Bundelkhand University, Jhansi.

Abstract:

In this research paper, an attempt has been made to investigate the research trend in Doctoral research in Universities of North East India. Data taken for the study is from Shodhganga repository. Doctoral Dissertations of LIS uploaded from the launch of Shodhganga till March 31, 2017 has been considered for the present study. Only four universities from North-East India were found, who uploaded their doctoral dissertations over the Shodhganga in LIS. Data collected has been analyzed subject-wise, year-wise submission over Shodhganga, State-wise distribution, gender-wise distribution researcher as well as Supervisor etc. Majority of studies were conducted in User study (community information services/ information need/information seeking behavior etc.).

Keyword: Content analysis, LIS research, research trend.

Introduction:

Library and information science is not only limited to storage of books but also it applies the practice, research, management, and information technology etc.. Due to innovation and development, Library and Information science become a multidisciplinary subject. Library and Information science(LIS) research is now going in a new direction to achieve several goals and to satisfy the needs of users in the present era. Library and Information science adopted information technology to serve the services to users. LIS research includes the practices, investigation, academic work, at the doctoral level and staff level to solve the problems and to find the new methods, theories for the development of the subject. Research in any subject helps to discover new trends and advancement in the subject. LIS research era started with S.R. Ranganathan's efforts. Further many researchers conducted research in many areas of LIS. In the present time, researchers investigated the use of ICT, Bibliometrics, users studies, use of e-resources, open access, the internet etc.

Research at Doctoral level plays a very important role in the field and provide authentic information. According to UGC Notification 2009 (regarding submission of electronic version of theses by the researcher) to facilitate open access to Indian theses. INFLIBNET launched a repository to store and make available theses over the web namely "SHODHGANGA". Shodhganga is a repository where any researcher,

universities, and colleges can upload their theses in electronic form. D-space software was used to setting up and maintain Shodhganga.

Research in LIS is growing at a huge level today but to understand the nature of research. It is necessary to analyze and evaluate the LIS research. Content analysis may help to analyze and understand the nature of research.

Content analysis is a research method to analyze the text with a systematic and qualitative aspect. It's provide a method to evaluate the content, concept, theme, sentence, phrase, meaning and relationship etc.

“Content Analysis, a method which can be used qualitatively or quantitatively for systematically analyzing written, verbal or visual documentation goes back to the 1950's and the study of more communication” (White and Marsh 2006). Berelson (1952) defines, “Content analysis as, a research technique for the objectives, systematic and quantitative for the manifest content of the communication.” Content analysis has been defined as “a research technique for making a replicable and valid inference from data to their content” Krippendorff (1980). Content analysis is a technique to analyze the content of any text via a various aspect.

Chandrashekara M and Ramasesh, C.P. (2009) conducted a study, “Library and Information Science research in India.” The researchers analyzed 802 theses from different universities in respect of subject heading, ranking of the guide, university wise, chronologically, decade wise. This study reveals that most of the research was conduct on Bibliometrics/Scientometrics/Informetrics, Library management, University libraries and information seeking behavior. C. R. Karisiddappa guided a maximum number of theses i.e. 33.

Chatterjee, Abhijit & Maity, Arabinda (2015) also conduct a study on, “A study on Post-Doctoral researches in Library and Information Science in India.” This study gives an overview research of library and information science. The researcher collected data from INDCAT, Vidyanidhi, and Shodhganga. This study found that most of the research was conducted in Bibliometrics followed by University libraries and information seeking behavior.

Objectives:

The objective of the following study are as follows:

1. To know the most predominant research theme.
2. To find out the most productive and aware department of LIS in North East region in term of availability on Shodhganga.
3. To compare the total Doctoral Dissertations uploaded by North-East India universities on Shodhganga with total no. of LIS Doctoral Dissertations.

4. To find out state-wise distribution of LIS Doctoral Dissertations.
5. To find out year-wise submission of LIS Doctoral Dissertations over Shodhganga.
6. To ascertain chronological distribution of LIS Doctoral Dissertations in Universities of North East India.
7. To find out gender-wise distribution of researchers as well as supervisor along with designation of supervisor.
8. To find out distribution of Doctoral Dissertations according to type of Supervision.
9. To find out language-wise distribution of LIS Doctoral Dissertations.

Research methodology:

The researcher selected the Shodhganga repository for this study. The researcher downloaded doctoral dissertations from Shodhganga which were uploaded by various universities of North east region of India from the launch of Shodhganga till March 31, 2017. The researcher analyzed the data using different aspects of their content, like: gender of researcher as well as of guide, designation of guide, language of the theses, submission year, university wise distribution etc. and categorized doctoral dissertations in broad LIS areas.

Data Analysis:

The researcher analyzed and evaluated 78 doctoral dissertations in LIS field. All 78 theses were analyzed using various aspects like: year of submission, year of upload over the Shodhganga, designation of the guide, the gender of the guide, the gender of researcher, research theme, the language of theses etc.

Table: 1
University wise distribution of Doctoral Dissertations

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>University Name</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>All department thesis</i>	<i>Department Name</i>	<i>Library Science Thesis</i>	<i>Percentage compare with all department dissertations</i>
1	Guwahati University	Assam	North East	4285	Department of Library & Information Science [39]	32	0.75 %
2	Manipur University	Manipur	North East	926	Department of Library & Info. Science [23]	23	2.48 %

3	Mizoram University	Mizoram	North East	117	Department of Library and Information Science [8]	8	6.84 %
4	North-Eastern Hill University	Meghalaya	North East	1471	Central Library [0]	0	0.00 %
			North East		Department of Library & Information Sciences [17]	15	1.02 %

It is clear from the table that Guwahati University contributed 4285 doctoral dissertations in which only 32 doctoral dissertations were related to the LIS subjects (i.e.0.75%) followed by Manipur University contributing 926 doctoral dissertations, 2.48 % dissertations out of which only were of LIS subject. Mizoram University uploaded 117 dissertations out of which only 6.84% dissertations belonged to LIS subject. On the contrary, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) contributed 1471 dissertations having only 1.02% of LIS subject. It is also clear form the table that North-Eastern Hill University also created a head namely Central Library, but unfortunately no one Doctoral Dissertation was uploaded under this head.

Table: 2
State wise distribution of LIS Doctoral Dissertations

S.No.	State wise	No. of Doctoral Dissertations	Percentage
1	Assam	32	41.02 %
2	Manipur	23	29.48 %
3	Mizoram	8	10.25 %
4	Meghalaya	15	19.23 %
	Total	78	100%

As is evident from the above table, out of 78 Doctoral dissertations, Assam State contributed most of the theses(41.02%) followed by Manipur (29.48%), whereas, lowest contribution was of Mizoram state(10.25%).

Table: 3

Year wise submission of LIS Doctoral Dissertations over Shodhganga

S.No.	Year	Doctoral Dissertations	Percentage
1	2010	2	2.56 %
2	2013	2	2.56 %
3	2014	8	10.26 %
4	2015	36	46.15 %
5	2016	26	33.33 %
6	2017	4	5.13 %
Total		78	100%

After the launch of Shodhganga, most of the theses were uploaded in 2015 i.e. 46.15% followed by 33.33% theses uploaded in the year 2016. The lowest theses were uploaded in the year 2010 and 2013 (2.56%) each.

Table: 4

Year wise submission of LIS Doctoral Dissertations in the Universities of North-East India

S.No.	Year	No. of Doctoral Dissertations	Percentage
1	1989	1	1.28 %
2	1991	2	2.56%
3	1993	1	1.28%
4	1994	2	2.56%
5	1995	2	2.56%
6	1996	2	2.56%
7	1999	1	1.28%
8	2000	2	2.56%
9	2002	4	5.13%
10	2003	4	5.13%
11	2004	2	2.56%
12	2005	2	2.56%
13	2006	4	5.13%
14	2007	3	3.85%
15	2008	8	10.26%
16	2009	3	3.85%

17	2010	5	6.41%
18	2011	6	7.69%
19	2012	4	5.13%
20	2013	9	11.54%
21	2014	7	8.97%
22	2015	3	3.85%
23	2016	1	1.28%
Total		78	100%

It is evident from Table 4 that out of 78 doctoral dissertations most of the Doctoral degrees were awarded in the year 2011 i.e. 11.54% followed by 2008(10.26%) and 2014(8.97%). Lowest dissertations awarded were in 1989, 1993, 1999 and 2016 i.e. only 1.28% each.

Table: 5
Distribution of Gender of Researchers

S.No.	Gender	Number	Percentage
1	Male	52	66.67%
2	Female	26	33.33%
Total		78	100%

It is clear from the Table 5 that out of 78 Researchers, 66.67% researchers were male, whereas, female researchers were 33.33%.

Table: 6
Distribution of gender of Supervisors

S.No.	Gender	Number	Percentage
1	Male	60	74.07%
2	Female	21	25.93%
Total		81	100%

As is clear from Table 6 74.07% supervisors were male, whereas, only 25.93% supervisors were females.

Table : 7**Distribution of Doctoral Dissertations according to Designation of Supervisor**

S.No.	Designation	No. of supervisor	Percentage %
1	Assistant professor/Lecturer	10	12.35 %
2	Associate Professor/Reader	22	27.16 %
3	Professor	47	58.02 %
4	Librarian	2	2.47 %
Total		81	100%

It is clear from Table 7 that out 81 Supervisors, most of the supervisors were Professor (58.02%) followed by Associate Professor/Reader(27.16%). Only 12.35% supervisors were Assistant Professor and 2.47% were Librarians.

Table: 8**Distribution of Doctoral Dissertations according to Type of Supervision**

S.No.	Type of supervision	No. of thesis	Percentage %
1	Single	75	96.15 %
2	Joint Supervisor	3	3.85 %
Total		78	100%

As is mentioned in the above Table 8, out of 78 Doctoral Dissertations, majority of the Dissertations were supervised by single Supervisor i.e. 96.15%. On the contrary, only 3.85% dissertations were supervised jointly.

Table: 9**Language-wise Distribution of LIS Doctoral Dissertations**

S.No.	Language	No. of Doctoral Dissertations	Percentage %
1	English	78	100%
2	Any other	0	0%
Total		78	100%

As is evident from Table 9, all doctoral dissertations were in English language. Not a single researcher chose any regional language for their Doctoral Dissertation.

Table: 10

Research theme

S.No.	Research Theme	No. of Doctoral Dissertations	Percentage %
1	Academic Library	3	3.85 %
2	Bibliometric Studies	3	3.85 %
3	Cataloguing/ Online cataloguing	2	2.56 %
4	Collection Development	3	3.85 %
5	Community Information Services/User study/ Information use	9	11.54 %
6	Content Management	1	1.28 %
7	Digital resource Management	1	1.28 %
8	E-resources	4	5.13 %
9	Information Communication Technology	3	3.85 %
10	Information Literacy	1	1.28 %
11	Information Resources	1	1.28 %
12	Information Access	2	2.56 %
13	Information Retrieval	4	5.13 %
14	Information System	3	3.85 %
15	Library Administration and Management	4	5.13 %
16	Library Automation	3	3.85 %
17	Library Development	1	1.28 %
18	Library Finance	1	1.28 %
19	Library Networking	3	3.85 %
20	Library Profession	5	6.41 %
21	Library Preservation	2	2.56 %
22	Library and Information Science Education	4	5.13 %
23	Library Services	1	1.28 %
24	Manuscripts	2	2.56 %
25	Public Library	5	6.41 %
26	Repository	1	1.28 %
27	Special Library	5	6.41 %
28	Serial Control	1	1.28 %
	Total	78	100 %

It is evident from Table 10 that most of the research at Doctoral Level was conducted on User study (i.e. 11.54%) followed by the areas such as Library Profession (6.41 %), Public Library (6.41%) and Special Library (6.41%). The E-resource, Library administration, Library and information science Education, Information retrieval and Special Library were equally popular (i.e. 5.13%), among LIS researchers. Academic Library (3.85%), Bibliometrics study(3.85%),Collection development(3.85%),

Information communication technology(3.85%), Information system(3.85%), Library automation(3.85%), and library networking(3.85%), were found to be equally popular in LIS research.

Conclusion:

An attempt was made through this study to find out popular research area/s in LIS in respect of doctoral dissertations uploaded on Shodhganga of the universities of North East India from the inception of Shodhganga till March 31, 2017. Content analysis was used to find out popular research areas among researchers in LIS of North East India. The most popular area found was user study followed by Library profession. Besides these two research areas, E-resources, Library Administration and Management, LIS Education and Special Library were also found to be popular for LIS research at doctoral level.

The present study revealed that out of four universities of North East India, Guwahati University & Manipur University uploaded maximum LIS theses on Shodhganga. It is also experienced, after cross checking from the university's LIS departments, that the number of LIS doctoral dissertations submitted to universities, all were not uploaded to Shodhganga. In year 2015 & 2016 maximum no. of LIS doctoral dissertations were uploaded of North East of India. Male ratio of researchers as well as of supervisors was much higher than females. As was expected, senior faculty members were found to be supervising doctoral work more than junior faculty members. Except a few, most of the dissertations were supervised by single supervisors and the languages of all the doctoral dissertations were found to be English. Not a single dissertation was found to be in regional language.

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