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## “LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE LITERATURE: A WEBOMETRIC STUDY”

JAGANNATH V. PATAIT

Librarian – P.V.P. College, Patoda Dist. Beed. (M.S)

### Abstract:

*World Wide Web has created a sea change in information transfer. Information scientists have undergone a perceptible change and have become IT centered, which is evidenced by their citing pattern. This article examines the nature and pattern of citations of Information Scientists in state level seminar proceeding and one volume of an international journal in the field of the Library & Information Science. The study reveals that the trend of citations has changed over time and web citations would replace other citations in future.*

### KEY WORDS:

Science Literature , Webometric Study , Library & Information Science.

### INTRODUCTION

New technologies and applications have made the internet an important medium of communication and information dissemination. Internet is also an information processing platform constantly accumulating new layers of information. But the application potential of the internet platform goes beyond the promotion and retrieval of a huge amount of information. Internet has created a sea change in information transfer. The use of internet provides a much enhanced interface between the user and information. Further, the realization of it has been clearly seen by its utility in citations of journal articles. The Web, through its open standard, set the foundation for global communications and access to resources that millions of computer users enjoy today. It is commonly said that any system can prove to be only as good as the manner of its use and its upkeep. Increasing importance of Web is clearly seen in the form of references/citations in the present day publications. The reference to internet sources in articles has promoted this study.

### WEBOMETRICS

Research of all network-based communications using informetric or other quantitative measures is called webometrics. In World Wide Web (WWW), the Web pages are the entities of information, with hyperlinks from them acting as citations. Quantitative analysis on the WWW is being carried out in the same way as is tradition in citation databases.

### OBJECTIVES

#### The objective of the study is

1. To examine the nature and pattern of citations in the present day library literature.
2. To analyze how far library and information professionals have made use of web citations in particular.

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### HYPOTHESES

**In this study, the following hypotheses have been framed:**

1. Trend of citations has changed with time
2. Most of the journal articles carry web citations.
3. Web citations are more prevalent in conference proceeding vis-a-vis journal articles.

### METHODOLOGY

The methodology followed for this study consisted of studying the nature and pattern of citations in state level seminar proceeding and also one volume of international journal for the year 2011 in the field of Library and Information Science. Accordingly, the following two have been examined:

1. State Level Seminar on “IT Application TQM in Library Management” held at Beed. 28-29 January 2011.
2. Annals of Library and Information Studies, Vol. 60 (1), 2013

### DATA COLLECTION

The references cited in the articles of the seminar proceeding were tabulated according to their nature. There are 79 articles in the seminar proceeding, which had a total of 572 citations.

In a similar manner, the “Annals of Library and Information Science” was taken up for study. There are 9 articles in the seminar proceeding, which had a total 191 citations. On the whole, in this study 88 articles with 763 citations were analyzed.

### DATA ANALYSIS

It may be observed from tabel 1 that of the 88 papers, 89.78% are from seminar proceeding and 10.22% from the journal.

**No of Papers selected for study**

**Tabel -1**

<b>Description</b>	<b>No. of Papers</b>	<b>%</b>
Seminor Proceeding	79	89.78%
Journal	9	10.22%
Total	88	100%

### Authorship Pattern

The author wise distribution in the 88 papers is shown in Table 2.

### Author wise distribution

Table -2:

Description	Seminar		Journal		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Single Author	41	51.90	3	33.33	44	50
Two Author	28	35.45	3	33.33	31	35
Three Author	8	10.12	2	22.22	10	12
Four Author	2	2.53	-		2	22
Six Author	-	-	1	11.11	1	11
Total	79		9		88	100

As can be seen from the table 2, majority of the papers (85%) are either single or two authored. The pattern of distribution appears similar irrespective of whether it is a seminar proceeding or a journal.

**Citation occurrence in Seminar proceeding & Journal**

Table-3:

Description	Seminar		Journal		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Web citations only	-	-	-	-	-	-
Web Citations + others	28	35.44	5	55.56	33	37.50
Without Web citations	44	55.70	4	44.44	48	54.55
Without citations	7	8.86	-	-	7	7.95
Total	79		9		88	100

While in seminar proceeding, web citations are provided in 35.44% of articles, in Annals of Library and Information Studies, 55.56% of articles provided web citation. (Table 3) However, 62.50% of the articles have not provided any web citations. It may also be inferred that the profession is in a modification stage as indicated by the fact that both traditional documents and websites have been cited by 37.50% of the total sample.

Citation pattern in articles

Table -4

Item	Seminar		Journal		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Books	207	36	51	26.70	258	33.81
Journals	143	25	86	45.03	229	30.01
WWW	119	21	39	20.41	158	20.71
Others	103	18	15	7.86	118	15.47
Total	572		191		763	100

From the table 4, it can be seen that if considered individually, 21% in the seminar proceeding and 20.41% in journals are web citations, collectively, i.e. sample taken as a whole, web citations account for 20.71%. It may be observed that there is a perceptible change in the modern information professionals like their counterparts in other disciplines as they are citing websites. In other words, it appears that information professionals are becoming IT centered in their academic and research activities.

Analysis of Web cited articles

Table-5 Web citations

A-SEMINAR PROCEEDING				B- JOURNAL			
No. of citations	Web Citations	Others	%	No. of citations	Web Citations	Others	%
10	1	9	10	34	1	33	3
8	1	7	13	18	5	13	28
5	1	4	20	8	5	3	63
8	2	6	25	38	11	27	29
11	4	7	37	27	17	10	63
4	1	3	25				
7	2	5	29				
13	6	7	46				
5	1	4	25				
5	2	3	40				
12	10	2	83				
3	1	2	33				

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12	2	10	17				
6	2	4	33				
6	3	3	50				
13	4	9	31				
5	1	4	20				
14	8	6	57				
19	9	10	47				
6	1	5	17				
7	4	3	57				
43	30	13	70				
10	3	7	30				
14	5	9	36				
4	1	3	25				
10	5	5	50				
9	6	3	67				
8	3	5	38				
277	119	158	42.96	125	39	86	31.20

**ANALYSIS OF WEB CITED ARTICLES**

The articles that carry web citations from the seminar proceeding and journal have been analyzed further to determine the degree/depth of occurrence of web in individual articles.

From table5, it is observed that

- a)28 articles in seminar proceeding and the 5 articles in journal contain web citations.
- b)While 42.96% of citations are web citations in the seminar proceeding, only 31.20% are web citations in the journal analyzed.

**FINDINGS**

From the foregoing webometric analysis the following findings can be observed.

- 1.The study clearly exhibits that the trend of citations has changed with time (Table 3 & 4).
- 2.Less than half of the total articles carry web citations. (Table 3 & 4).

The above-mentioned findings are in conformity with the hypotheses mentioned in the paper. This is a pilot study and a detailed study covering a wider sample of conference proceedings and journals is in progress.

**CONCLUSIONS**

To conclude, it may be said that the library and information science professionals do not resist information technology applications. Contrary to the oft-repeated comments that library and information professionals are conservative in outlook, there seems to be a perceptible change in them as they, like their counterparts in other subject fields are becoming IT – centered. Perhaps, observations of Lancaster and Sandore that “...librarians are seeking new professional roles, and some see themselves as performing as knowledge engineers...” and De Buse “Some librarians will become hypertext enginners...” seem to be coming true.

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To be successful, however, there is a need for a rather different approach to education for the library and information professionals. The focus in curriculum necessarily should shift from library as an institution/building to a place wherever information exists. The implication is that library and information profession must change, if not others will replace it.

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