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Trends And Developments in Library and Information Science (LIS) Research in Sri Lanka: A Bibliometric Study

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ABSTRACT

Based on articles published in the Journal of the University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka (JULA) between 2014 and 2024, this study provides a bibliometric analysis of research patterns and developments in the field of library and information science (LIS) in Sri Lanka. Analyzing the growth of LIS research output during the last 11 years, as well as highlighting significant research themes, authorship patterns, citation trends, and notable contributors, is the primary objective of the study. Bibliometric parameters, such as publication frequency, authorship collaboration, subject coverage, and page and citation counts, were used for assessing 111 articles in total. The results show that LIS research continues to grow, with a discernible trend towards new topics including open access, digital libraries, and information literacy as well as an increase in collaborative research. The study explores the evolving environment of LIS scholarship in Sri Lanka and identifies the most prominent authors in the area. In order to better understand the research landscape and guide future scholarly communication and academic progress in the LIS area, the findings offer insightful information to LIS researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.

Keywords: Bibliometrics, Bibliometric analysis, Content analysis, Library and Information Science, Sri Lanka

INTRODUCTION

Bibliometric studies are frequently used to examine publication patterns and research trends in an array of disciplines. These studies offer insightful information about the development, areas of focus, and significance of intellectual contributions. In order to increase knowledge, enhance decision-making, promote collaborative effort, and guarantee that research and practice are supported by evidence, it is vital to study the analysis of research literature in any field. Over the past ten years, there have been significant advancements in library and information science (LIS) research in Sri Lanka. Such study is necessary to determine current research trends in LIS, as it is one of the subjects that are growing rapidly in Sri Lanka. It contributes in determining the scope and depth of LIS research.

In order to identify gaps and guide future advancements in the area, it is crucial to understand the patterns and focus of LIS research. LIS research is essential to the advancement of

knowledge sharing, dissemination of resources, and information management. Analyzing the trends in the field is essential for enhancing education, affecting professional practices, and changing government policy as it progresses. Studying LIS research trends provides valuable insights into the factors impacting academic and public libraries, which are essential to education and cultural preservation in Sri Lanka.

This study evaluates the scholarly output in LIS within Sri Lanka by analyzing data collected from the Journal of the University Association of Sri Lanka (JULA) between 2014 and 2024. This journal was chosen because it is the only Sri Lankan LIS journal indexed in the Library & Information Science Abstracts (LISA) and EBSCO database and consistently published without any gaps. Key aspects such as publication trends, authorship distribution, and subject coverage are explored to provide a comprehensive understanding of the growth and focus of LIS research in Sri Lanka. The findings aim to highlight significant developments, reveal emerging themes, and suggest potential directions for future research in the LIS domain.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Despite the fact that LIS research in Sri Lanka has expanded tremendously in recent years, there are not numerous comprehensive analyses that map this growth's direction and evaluate its thematic depth. There remain unanswered questions about the scope of subjects covered, the degree of collaboration between scholars, and the areas that need more investigation. Policymakers, educators, and practitioners are among the stakeholders in the LIS field who may find it difficult to change their methods to the developing goals of the profession in the absence of a systematic study. By using bibliometric methodologies to assess scholarly outputs in Sri Lanka's LIS field, this study fills these gaps and offers a guide for future study and use.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Many LIS community stakeholders will discover great value in this study. It provides insights for academics by disclosing unexplored topics and patterns that can motivate more research by identifying important research areas, patterns of collaboration, and developing trends. By assisting policymakers in understanding LIS research objectives, it allows them connect national policies with the demands of the discipline. The study also helps educators by providing information about recent findings which could guide the developing of curricula in LIS educational programs. The results also enable library personnel to engage with emerging problems and implement evidence-based strategies. The study promotes a culture of scholarly involvement and strengthens Sri Lanka's LIS research ecosystem through its comprehensive investigation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

For many years, bibliometric analyses have been used as effective methods for evaluating the output of research and identification of trends in particular academic domains. Bibliometrics, defined by Pritchard (1969), is the quantitative study of written communication that allows academics observe trends in citation and publication. Cronin (2001) and White & McCain (1998) are two examples of prior bibliometric studies that have shown their value in identifying research clusters and topic trends within LIS.

Analyzing the contributions of regional studies in LIS has become a more prominent subject of bibliometric study in the South Asian setting. For example, a study conducted in 2015 by Ghosh and Das demonstrated the increasing impact of collaborative research in LIS in India. Khan and Ahmed (2018) highlighted the growing interest in digital libraries, information literacy, and user-centric service models in their more comprehensive study on LIS trends in South Asia. Similarly, Singh and Bansal (2021) emphasized the growing importance of big data analytics and information retrieval in the LIS field. According to studies like Wilson et al. (2020), this examined the effect of technology developments on LIS research, which results line up with global patterns. Furthermore, Jabeen et al. (2015) explore the global perspective on LIS research, which highlights the significance of reporting growth and trends to comprehend the evolution of the field.

A few significant studies have shed light on the trends and advancements in the LIS field in Sri Lanka. A comprehensive bibliometric analysis of 141 articles published in two prestigious Sri Lankan LIS journals—the Journal of the University Librarians Association (JULA) and the Sri Lanka Library Review—between 1997 and 2007 was carried out by Gunasekera (2008). The study found that the research community at that time placed a strong emphasis on "LIS Activities" and "Information Seeking," underscoring the importance of the practical aspects of library operations and user behavior. A collaborative research culture was also revealed by the examination of authorship patterns, which showed a significant percentage of papers with multiple authors.

A bibliometric examination of Sri Lankan LIS literature was carried out more recently by Perera and Fernando (2020), however they only looked at the last five years. These studies highlight how crucial bibliometric techniques are to understanding the dynamics of research. Chandani and Nishanthi (2025) extended the focus to the broader social sciences by presenting a retrospective analysis of research output from Sri Lankan public universities covering 65 years. They found 3,953 social science research publications published between 1952 and 2024 using the Elsevier Scopus database. The results showed a significant rise in publications after 2020, indicating a recent increase in the importance of social science research. This study offers a contextual backdrop for understanding the growth of research objectives within Sri Lanka's academic scene, even though it does not solely concentrate on LIS.

Together, these studies highlight how dynamic Sri Lankan LIS research is, with changes in the topic focus and a growing interest in regional and international research communities. Future research directions and policy formulations targeted at increasing the influence and exposure of Sri Lankan LIS studies will greatly benefit from the insights obtained through bibliometric analysis.

However, there are still inadequacies in the Sri Lankan context. Digital libraries, information literacy, and knowledge management have all been the subject of international research, but not much thought has been paid to how these issues are explored in local studies. Additionally, no recent study has examined at the trends in LIS research in Sri Lanka over a ten-year period, especially in the context of JULA. By offering a longitudinal analysis of LIS research conducted in Sri Lanka between 2014 and 2024, this study intends to bridge this knowledge gap. The findings will provide a specific overview on the advancement of LIS research and supplement previous studies. In order to facilitate sound decision-making and strategic planning in the area,

this research builds upon earlier bibliometric studies to offer a comprehensive and contextualized understanding of LIS research trends in Sri Lanka.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The primary objectives of this study are:

1. To analyze publication trends in LIS research within Sri Lanka from 2014 to 2024.
2. To identify the key subject areas and thematic trends in LIS research.
3. To explore new and emerging topics in LIS research in Sri Lanka
4. To evaluate authorship patterns and levels of collaboration among researchers.
5. To identify and rank the most productive authors contributing to LIS research during the study period
6. To analyze the average length of research articles and the variation over time.
7. To assess the citation patterns and calculate the average number of citations per article.

METHODOLOGY

In order to investigate trends in Library and Information Science (LIS) research in Sri Lanka, this study used a Content Analysis Method. Since the journal of the University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka (JULA) is a prestigious LIS Journal that is indexed in Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA) and EBSCO databases, the analysis concentrated on articles published in JULA between 2014 and 2024. Järvelin and Vakkari's (1993) categorization framework, which divides LIS, research into 11 main areas such as information retrieval, library management, and bibliometrics, was used to systematically review and classify 111 research papers.

Using Subramanian's (1983) technique to determine the degree of collaboration, the study also examined authorship patterns and research collaboration. Descriptive statistics, trend analysis, and citation analysis were among the quantitative and qualitative methods used to investigate research impact, authorship distribution, and publication growth. Key findings were presented using methods for data visualization such line graphs and bar charts. This study provides significant insight into scholarly contributions in Sri Lanka by methodically examining LIS research trends. The technique provides an extensive understanding of the advancements in LIS research in the country while assuring comparability with studies performed globally.

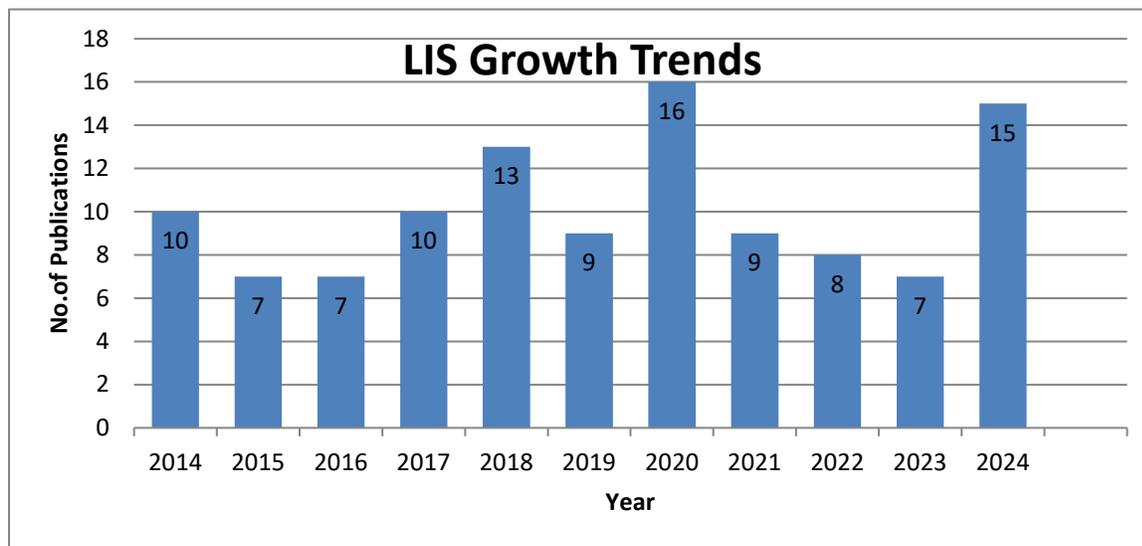
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Growth Trends (2014-2024)

The study of LIS papers from 2014 to 2024 is shown in Table 1 and Figure 1. A total of 111 articles are found in the analysis of LIS growth trends from 2014 to 2024, with 2020 being the most productive year (16 publications, 14.41%). In 2024, research activity achieved a new the height with a substantial contribution of 13.5%. With 7 publications (6.31%), lower outputs were identified in 2015, 2016, and 2023. The data shows inconsistent growth trends, with major expansions apparently brought on by external factors or scholarly activities.

Table 1: LIS Growth Trends during 2014-2024

s/n	Year	No. of Publications	% of publications
1	2014	10	9.01
2	2015	07	6.31
3	2016	07	6.31
4	2017	10	9.01
5	2018	13	11.71
6	2019	09	8.11
7	2020	16	14.41
8	2021	09	8.11
9	2022	08	7.21
10	2023	07	6.31
11	2024	15	13.51
	Total	111	100.00

**Figure 1: LIS Growth Trends (2014-2024)**

LIS research is growing consistently, according to the annual publication trends, with noteworthy peaks in 2020 and 2024. This expansion is consistent with an increasing emphasis on scholarly publishing and the integration of digital resources in Sri Lankan educational institutions. The decreasing figures for 2021–2023 point to possible disruptions brought on by the global pandemic, which affected scientific research all over the world.

Analysis of Distribution of LIS Topics (2014–2024)

The study used the Järvelin and Vakkari (1993) classification framework, which is commonly utilized in LIS research for its scientific topic classification. Table 2 lists the 10 key categories and subfields into which this paradigm divides LIS study, encompassing a wide range of subjects.

Table 2: Jarvelin and Vakkari's LIS classification

	Major Fields	Sub Fields
1	Profession	
2	Library History	
3	Publishing & Book Publishing	
4	Education in LIS	
5	Methodology/Analysis of LIS	
6	Library & Information Services Activities	Circulation &ILL, Information & Reference Service, User education, Building or facility, Administration of Personnel, Automation
7	Information & Storage and Retrieval	Cataloguing-Classification & Indexing, Information Retrieval, Bibliographic database or bibliography
8	Information Seeking	Information Dissemination- Use/Use of Information Channels/Sources, Use of Library & Information services, ISB, Information Use, Information Management
9	Scientific & Professional Communication	Scientific or Professional Publishing, Citation pattern, Other Aspect of Communication
10	Other LIS Topics	

Table 3 explicits the distribution of Library and Information Science (LIS) research topics by main the field between 2014 and 2024. Library and information services activities are the most examined topic, with 36 publications, and they have continued to contribute throughout time. Information Seeking follows with 28 papers, indicating its continued importance in LIS research. While Scientific and Professional Communication has 17 publications with consistent contributions over a number of years, other LIS topics have 20 papers. Topics such as Information Storage and Retrieval (5 papers) and Methodology/Analysis of LIS (2 publications) showed moderate interest. Only one study and two studies, respectively, have been published about library history and the profession at that time, whereas publishing, book publishing, and LIS education received minimal attention.

There are significant deficits in fundamental and historical disciplines, while practical and user-centered sectors are heavily emphasized, according to the analysis of LIS subject distribution

(2014–2024). By bringing in these gaps and creating a balanced research environment, LIS scholarship may adapt to the various needs of this sector and its stakeholders.

Table 3: Distribution of LIS topics (2024-2024)

	Major Fields	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
1	Profession	N/A	N/A	01	N/A	01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	02
2	Library History	N/A	01	N/A	01								
3	Publishing & Book Publishing	N/A	00										
4	Education in LIS	N/A	00										
5	Methodology/Analysis of LIS	N/A	N/A	N/A	01	N/A	N/A	N/A	01	N/A	N/A	N/A	02
6	Library & Information Services Activities	03	01	01	03	07	04	05	03	05	02	02	36
7	Information & Storage and Retrieval	N/A	N/A	N/A	01	02	01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	01	05
8	Information seeking	05	02	03	02	N/A	04	05	01	02	02	02	28
9	Scientific & professional communication	01	02	02	02	02	N/A	04	01	01	01	01	17
10	Other LIS topics	01	02	N/A	01	01	N/A	02	03	N/A	01	09	20
	Total	10	07	07	10	13	09	16	09	08	07	15	111

Chang et al. (2015) found that "Bibliometrics" and "Information Seeking and Information Retrieval" were two of the most popular research areas in the LIS field between 1994 and 2014. This study's findings were slightly supported by their findings. Astrom (2007) previously confirmed this by examining articles from 21 LIS journals published between 1990 and 2004. He discovered that the most popular LIS topics during the study period were eight clusters: experimental information retrieval (IR), IR/information search, IR/relevance, information seeking

and use/cognitive IR, information seeking and use/information behavior, bibliometric mapping, bibliometric distributions, and the world wide web/webometrics.

Emerging Trend Identification in LIS Research in Sri Lanka

Table 4 highlights the emerging topics in Library and Information Science (LIS) research in Sri Lanka, as identified through a time-series analysis of publications across multiple years.

Table 4: Emerging Trends in LIS field in Sri Lanka (New topics)

	New Topics	Year
1	Measuring service quality	2014/2017/2019/2020
2	Open access / Metadata harvesting / Institutional Repositories (IR)	2013/2014/2015/2019/2023
3	Webometrics / Sciencesometrics	2016/2017/2018/2020/2022/2023
4	Social media/ Social networking	2018/2020/2021
5	Tool & techniques of digitization	2014/2017

Recurring themes that indicate changing priorities in LIS research are shown by the study. With an emphasis on service improvement, measuring service quality has been a constant priority (2014, 2017, 2019, and 2020). Initiatives to improve digital access are highlighted by Open Access, Metadata Harvesting, and Institutional Repositories (2013, 2014, 2015, 2019, and 2023). Research impact analysis is emphasized by Webometrics and Scientometrics (2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2023). Digital engagement is shown in social media and social networking (2018, 2020, and 2021). Preservation and accessibility are the main topics of Digitization Tools and Techniques (2014, 2017). These patterns show how the field is always shifting to new technology. Studies on open-access publishing, bibliometric analysis, and digital preservation are examples of emerging topics that show how the area is responding to internationally trends in digitalization. Predictive analytics and AI integration, on the other hand, have received less attention, despite the fact that they may be worthwhile future prospects.

Analysis of Authorship Pattern

The distribution of publications by author number is highlighted in Table 5, which analyzes authorship patterns for LIS articles from 2014 to 2024. With 51 articles, single-author contributions predominate, suggesting an affinity for single research. With 45 publications, two-author research comes in second, indicating a strong preference for teamwork. Publications with more than three authors are uncommon, accounting for only three papers, whereas three-author publications are comparatively rare, contributing twelve papers. With nine two-author papers and three three-author papers, 2020 had the highest level of collaboration, indicating a peak in collaborative research.

On the other hand, there were very few multi-author contributions in 2015, 2016, and 2023. With a steady increase of co-authored works in recent years, the overall trend shows a balance between solo and group efforts. The data shows that after 2016, there was a comparable ratio of

single- and multi-authored publications, with single-author papers predominating in the early years (2013–2016). This pattern implies interdisciplinary methods and collaborations within the LIS community, as well as an increasing emphasis on collaborative research.

Table 5: Authorship pattern

s/n	Year	One Author	Two Authors	Three Authors	More than 3	Total Publications
1	2014	05	05			10
2	2015	05	02			07
3	2016	05	01	01		07
4	2017	06	03	01		10
5	2018	04	06	02	01	13
6	2019	05	04			09
7	2020	04	09	03		16
8	2021	05	03	01		09
9	2022	03	04	01		08
10	2023	04	02		01	07
11	2024	05	06	03	01	15
	Total	51	45	12	03	111

Degree of Collaboration

Subramanyam's formula (1983) is used to assess the degree of collaboration, and this metric gave information about the scope of collaborative research in the Sri Lankan LIS community. Using the ratio of multi-author papers (NM) to total publications (NM + NS), Figure 2 and Table 6 analyze the level of collaboration in LIS publications from 2014 to 2024. A small authority of joint efforts is indicated by the overall degree of collaboration for the decade, which is 0.54. With a degree of 0.75, 2020 has the highest level of collaboration, reflecting substantial multi-author contributions. The lowest levels of collaboration, 0.28, are found in 2015 and 2016, implying a preference for single-author works in those years.

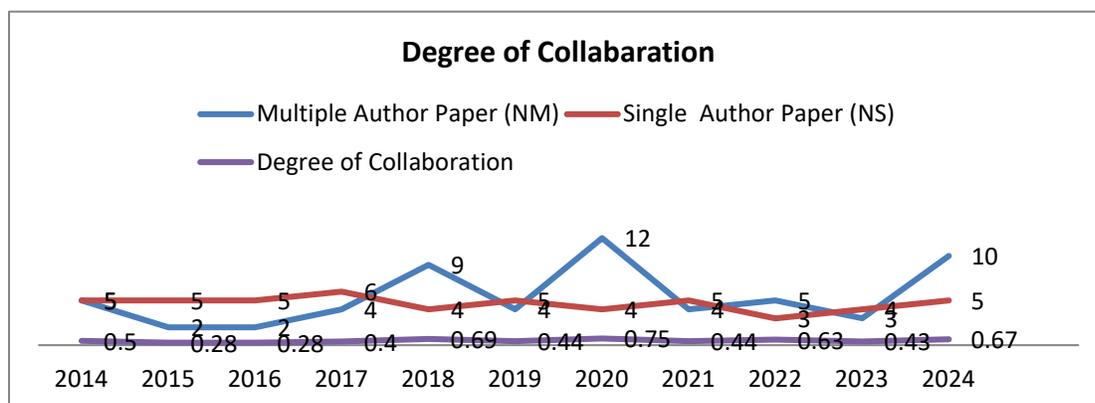


Figure 2: Degree of Collaboration

The average amount of collaboration is shown by the degree of collaboration in Sri Lankan LIS research, which was calculated to be 0.54. This shows that though the field's scholars are receptive to joint endeavors, they also appreciate individual contributions.

Table 6: Degree of Collaboration (Subramanyam's formula)

s/n	Year	Multiple Author Paper (NM)	Single Author Paper (NS)	NM +NS	Degree of Collaboration
1	2014	05	05	10	0.50
2	2015	02	05	07	0.28
3	2016	02	05	07	0.28
4	2017	04	06	10	0.40
5	2018	09	04	13	0.69
6	2019	04	05	09	0.44
7	2020	12	04	16	0.75
8	2021	04	05	09	0.44
9	2022	05	03	08	0.63
10	2023	03	04	07	0.43
11	2024	10	05	15	0.67
	Total	60	51	111	0.54

Analysis of the Ranking of Most Productive Authors in LIS Research

Based on the quantity of publications, Table 7 highlights the most productive authors in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS) research, emphasizing their contributions. The table provides information about the distribution of research productivity in the discipline by showing the leading contributors and the associated ranks.

With the most number of contributions (9), author T. Ramanan is at the top of the list. With eight contributions, S. Santharooban comes in second place. P. Wijethunga is ranked fourth with five contributions, followed by S. Weerasinghe and M. Marasinghe in third place with six. M.P. Dilhani and S. Somarathne are ranked further down the list with four contributions for each, placing them in fifth and fifth position, respectively. Thirteen authors, each with three contributions, share the eighth position. Nineteen authors with two publications are included in the ninth rank, and forty-seven authors with one publication each are included in the tenth.

With a considerable percentage of authors contributing fewer than three articles, this distribution shows a dramatic decrease in the number of publications as the rank drops. This pattern suggests that LIS research is driven by a core number of highly effective authors, who are supported by a larger base of periodic contributors. Lotka's Law, which states that a small number of authors frequently contribute disproportionately to the research output in a given field, fits in with this fact.

Table 7: Rank list of productive authors in the field

s/n	Name Of Author	No. of contributions	Rank
1	T. Ramanan	09	1
2	S. Santharooban	08	2
3	S. Weerasinghe	06	3
4	M. Marasinghe	06	3
5	P. Wijethunga	05	4
6	M.P. Dilhani	04	5
7	S. Somarathne	04	5
8	13 authors	03	6
9	19 authors	02	7
10	47 authors	01	8

Author Productivity (Average Papers per Author)

Table 8 and Figure 3 presents information on the number of publications, the number of authors and associated metrics like the Average Author per Publication (AAPP) and Productivity per Author (PPA) for the years 2014 to 2024. The data collectively highlights trends in authorship and productivity over the 11-year period.

Table 8: Author Productivity

S/n	Year	No. of publication	No. of Authors	Average author per publication (AAPP)	Productivity per author (PPA)
1	2014	10	15	1.5	0.67
2	2015	07	09	1.2	0.78
3	2016	07	08	1.1	0.87
4	2017	10	15	1.5	0.67
5	2018	13	26	2.0	0.50
6	2019	09	13	1.4	0.69
7	2020	16	31	1.9	0.52
8	2021	09	14	1.5	0.64
9	2022	08	14	1.7	0.57
10	2023	07	15	2.1	0.47
11	2024	15	31	2.1	0.48
	Total	111	191	1.7	0.58

A total of 191 authors contributed to 111 publications, as shown explicitly in table 8, suggesting that each author produced an average of 1.7 papers over the study period. According to the data, collaborative authorship has been increasing gradually over time, with AAPP reaching its peak (2.1) in 2023 and 2024. However, individual productivity (PPA) has decreased as a result of this increase in co-authorship, falling to 0.47–0.48 in recent years. Notably, authorship increased the most in 2018, but because there were less authors in 2016, individual productivity was highest in 2016 (0.87). Some years (like 2015 and 2016) record decreased AAPP despite collaboration, indicating that more contributors do not always equate to increased production.

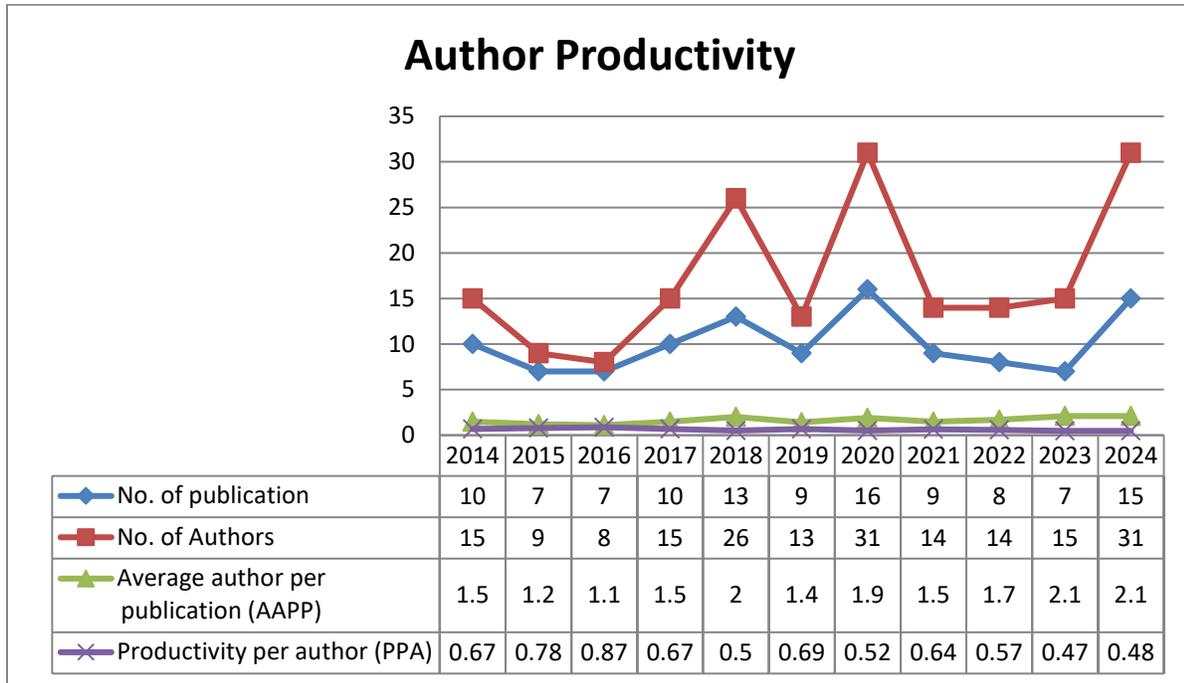


Figure 3: Author Productivity

The average productivity per author (number of publications per author) across all years is 0.58. This suggests that, on average, each author contributed to just over half a publication per year.

Analysis of Article Length Distribution (2014–2024)

Determining the average length of papers published in JULA is one of the study's primary objectives. Table 9 presents the findings. A total of 111 articles comprising 2,355 pages, with an average of 21.2 pages per article, are found in the study of the article length distribution from 2014 to 2024. Article depth varied throughout time, as evidenced by the annual average page length, which reached in 2022 at 27.8 pages. The trend toward longer articles in recent years is reflected in the cumulative averages, which indicate a steady increase. 2024 was notable for having the most pages (398 pages) and papers (15), indicating a notable increase in research output. All things considered, the data illustrates changing publication trends across the span of eleven years.

Table 9: Distribution of papers according to length

	Year	No. of articles	Cumulative total of articles	No. of pages	Cumulative total of pages	Average pages Per article	Cumulative average no. of pages
1	2014	10	20	176	176	17.6	17.6
2	2015	07	27	143	319	20.4	38.0
3	2016	07	34	114	433	16.3	54.3
4	2017	10	44	163	596	16.3	70.6
5	2018	13	57	236	832	18.1	88.7
6	2019	09	66	151	983	16.7	105.4
7	2020	16	82	327	1310	20.4	125.8
8	2021	09	91	247	1557	27.4	153.2
9	2022	08	99	222	1779	27.8	181.0
10	2023	07	106	178	1957	25.4	206.4
11	2024	15	111	398	2355	26.5	232.9
	Total	111	111	2355	2355	21.2	232.9

Papers have consistently fluctuated in length from 16 to 27 pages on average. The inclusion of longer bibliographies and higher rigorous methods in recent papers is an apparent trend that reflects the evolving standards of LIS research. After 2020, articles frequently explored challenging, data-intensive subjects, leading to more in-depth discussions and analysis.

Analysis of Citation Patterns (2014–2024)

Table 10 displays the papers' citation patterns. Between 2014 and 2024, 111 articles received 2,559 citations overall, with an average of 23.1 citations per paper. A higher scholarly impact in recent years can be observed in the yearly average citations per publication, which fluctuated until reaching a peak of 30.9 in 2024. Cumulative averages indicate a steady rise, with a total of 248.8 citations by 2024. Interestingly, 2024 had the most citations in a single year (463), which made a substantial contribution to the total. Variations in average citations reveal differences in the influence of articles and could affect research relevance. Growing acknowledgment of the published works over the decade is indicated by the steady rise in cumulative citations.

This data highlights a steady improvement in the standard of academic output and scholarly influence. According to citation analysis, the average number of citations per item has increased over time, peaking in 2024. These results show that the caliber and impact of LIS research in Sri Lanka is on growing, with 2024 having the highest degree of scholarly influence to date.

Table 10: Citation pattern

	Year	No. of articles	Cumulative total of articles	No. of Citations	Cumulative of Citations	Average Citations per	Cumulative. average no. of
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						article	citations
1	2014	10	10	140	140	14.0	14.0
2	2015	07	17	188	328	26.8	40.8
3	2016	07	24	139	467	19.8	60.6
4	2017	10	34	226	693	22.6	83.2
5	2018	13	47	259	952	19.9	103.1
6	2019	09	56	128	1080	14.2	117.3
7	2020	16	72	435	1515	27.2	144.5
8	2021	09	81	210	1725	23.3	167.8
9	2022	08	89	160	1885	20.0	187.8
10	2023	07	96	211	2096	30.1	217.9
11	2024	15	111	463	2559	30.9	248.8
	Total	111	111	2559		23.1	

CONCLUSION

From 2014 to 2024, this bibliometric analysis provides an in-depth understanding of how library and information science (LIS) research in Sri Lanka has changed. The results show that traditional themes like library services and information-seeking behavior are still relevant today, but there is also an increasing emphasis on newer topics like bibliometrics, digital repositories, and information literacy. This illustrates the adaptability the area is in response to new developments in technology and modern issues. With 46.46% of articles possessing a single author and 52.52% having two or more, the authorship patterns analysis shows a relatively balanced mix of single and collaborative authorship. A moderate but expanding tendency toward teamwork in scholarly production is shown by the calculated degree of collaboration (0.54). The distribution of scholarly contributions may be changing as a result of this trend, which encourages a more collaborative research culture but also correlates with a small decrease in individual author productivity (PPA).

A leadership-driven research atmosphere is shown by a dominance of research production among a relatively limited number of productive authors. Acknowledging and supporting those involved through organized mentoring and collaborative initiatives may encourage further involvement and raise the standard of LIS research broadly. The examination of citation trends also reveals a consistent increase in academic influence, which reflects the growing prominence and impact of LIS research in this country. There are still significant gaps, though, especially in areas like artificial intelligence, public libraries, and predictive analytics, which emphasize the need for innovation and diversification.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of recommendations can be made to improve the future direction of research in the subject based on the outcomes of this analysis of Library and Information Science (LIS) research in Sri Lanka. Diversifying study topics beyond the common themes of library services and information-seeking behavior is required. Researchers are urged to fill up the gaps and use creative,

multidisciplinary methods. The standard and significance of LIS research in Sri Lanka can be substantially enhanced with focused capacity-building initiatives and policy support.

Academic institutions and funding agencies should encourage collaborative research endeavors in light of the moderate amount of collaboration that has been seen. These initiatives can use interdisciplinary knowledge and offer a further, more comprehensive understanding of challenging LIS topics. In order to expose Sri Lankan LIS researchers to international trends and increase the visibility of local research on global platforms, international collaboration should also be made possible. It is advised that LIS literature be regularly and periodically analyzed in order to monitor changes in research goals and direct future investigations. In order to ensure that students are interested in the most current and pertinent subjects in the field, LIS educators should integrate these discoveries into their academic programs.

Interaction with policymakers is also essential. Policy decisions pertaining to digital inclusion, library development, and information access should be informed by research findings. Lastly, carrying out longitudinal studies would enable a deeper understanding of the sustainability and efficacy of research efforts by offering insightful information about the long-term effects of particular research trends and interventions.

In conclusion, this study provides proactive recommendations for the future of LIS research in addition to outlining its development over the past decade. The LIS community in Sri Lanka may significantly contribute to the development of the country's knowledge society and the advancement of the international LIS discourse by embracing both established concepts and new developments.

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