A Bibliometric Study of Journal of Web Librarianship from 2016 - 2022

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to conduct bibliometric analysis of Journal of Web Librarianship from the period of 2016 to 2022. The data for the study was obtained from the official site of the journal. Total of 230 articles were retrieved which was then subjected to bibliometric analysis. The aim of the study was to identify year wise and volume wise research output of the journal, length of the articles, geographical distribution of articles, authorship pattern etc. It was found that majority of articles were written by Single author. Degree of collaboration among the authors also showed fluctuation. Study revealed that maximum contributors to the journal were from USA.

Keywords: Bibliometric Analysis, Web Librarianship, authorship pattern, geographical distribution

Introduction

Journal of Web Librarianship is peer reviewed international journal. It publishes articles dealing with different aspects of Web Librarianship. The journal accepts empirical studies, usability test reports, survey results and analysis of web statistics. It also considers case studies, best practices and literature reviews. The journal follows anonymous double blind peer review process while accepting articles for publication. [1]. To study the different aspects of the journal, bibliometrics as a research method was employed. The term 'Bibliometrics' was coined by Mr. Alan Pritchard in the year 1969[2]. It is method which is used for quantitative analysis of the written work[3]. It is a tool to trace the intellectual structure of a specific field of research.[4].

Review of Related Literature

Basharat & Ahmad, 2018, conducted bibliometric analysis of Journal of Knowledge Management. The important bibliometric indicators that were used were citations per publications, number of citations up to 2016, number of citations in 2016 etc. it was found that leading institutions and authors were from Canada.[5]

Barik & Jena, 2013, studied 180 articles of 21 volumes from 2008-2012 of Journal of Knowledge Management. The study was conducted to reveal the year wise distribution of articles, authorship pattern, length of papers etc. it was found that single author publication were predominant. USA had contributed highest number of articles to the journal.[6]

Hassan, Shahza, & Fox, 2022, examined the Journal of International Women's Studies for period of 2002-2019. The study utilized Scopus database to identify most prolific writer and frequently cited paper of the

journal. The article considered 907 papers which offered map of the knowledge produced and circulated by the Journal.[7]

Djeki, J. Bondiombouy, & et.al, 2022, studied the e-learning research field by conducting bibliometric analysis of 12,272 publications between 2015 and 2020 from Web of Science Database. The main aim of the study was to know the research topics on which the researches have been conducted and examine the African contribution in the field. [8]

Nandiyanto & Husaeni, 2022, analyzed the bibliographic data of the engineering research articles indexed by Google scholar database[9]

Rojas-Sanchez, Palos-Sanchez, & Folgado-Fernandez, 2022 conducted a bibliometric analysis of the scientific literature to find main topics, authors, sources, most cited articles and countries on the subject of virtual reality in education. For extracting the relevant literature in the field web of science, Scopus and Google lens were used. [10]

Mukherjee, Kumar, Mukherkee, & K., 2022, aimed to map international business and management research on India. It was found that there is continuous growth in management research from 1974-2021. The study identified four major clusters of research themes. [11]

Objectives of the study

The study attempts to analyze the data collected from the Journal of Web Librarianship for the period of 2016-2022. The study was conducted on the basis of following objectives

- To study the research output of the publication year wise and volume wise
- To examine category wise contributions to the journal
- To investigate the authorship pattern of the journal
- To analyze the geographical distribution of the papers
- To identify average length of papers contributed to the journal
- To study contributions made to the journals as per the contributors designation

Methodology

Data for the study was collected from official site of journal for the period of 7 years i.e., from 2016-2022. Total 230 articles were published during this period. For each year every article was studied and relevant data was extracted. This data was then classified, organized and analysed using excel sheets.

Results and Discussion

Research Output of Journal Year wise

Table 1 displays the total output of the articles published in the Journal of Web Librarianship. Total of 230 articles were published in the journal during the period from 2016 -2022. It can be seen that there is fluctuation in the number of articles published in the journal. Maximum number of articles i.e. 46(20%) were published in the year 2016. Whereas only 15 articles were published in the year 2020. Covid 19 pandemic can be one of the reasons for low contribution in the journal in the year 2020.

Table 1: Research Output of the Journal Year wise

Year	Vol. no	Total Issues	Total no. of publications	Percentage%
2016	10	4	46	20
2017	11	4	44	17.39
2018	12	4	36	15.65
2019	13	4	34	14.78
2020	14	4	15	6.52
2021	15	4	30	13.04
2022	16	4	25	10.86
Total			**230**	

Category wise distribution of articles

Table 2: Category wise Distribution of the articles

Category of articles	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	Percentage %
Research Articles	11	12	12	14	5	17	6	77	33.47
Book Reviews	22	27	24	20	10	13	16	132	57.39
Personal Communications	9	3	0	-	-	-	3	15	6.52
Letters	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.86
Guest editorials	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.86
Misc	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.86
Total	**46**	**44**	**36**	**34**	**15**	**30**	**25**	**230**	

Journal of Web Librarianship publishes in its journal different categories of publication like research articles, book reviews, personal communications, letters and guest editorials. Table 2 shows category wise distribution of articles during the period of 2016-2022. Certain publications which cannot be grouped in any one of the above category were grouped in miscellaneous section. 57.39% i.e. 132 book reviews are major publication published in the journal followed by research articles i.e. 77 (33.47%)

Authorship Pattern of the Journal

Table 3 displays the authorship pattern of the journal. It was found that almost 76.52% of articles i.e. 176 were published by single author. Only 30 articles i.e. 13.04% of the articles were published by two authors. Thus it can be concluded that more number of articles published in the journal has single author approach rather than collaborative approach. It was found that Degree of collaboration is fluctuating.

Table 3: Authorship Pattern of the Journal

Authorship Pattern	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	Percentage
1 Author	35	34	31	23	11	23	19	176	**76.52**
2 Author	6	4	4	7	3	3	3	30	**13.04**
3 Author	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	11	**4.78**
4 Author	1	2	--	--	--	2	1	6	**2.60**
5 Author	--	1	--	--	--			1	**0.43**
6 Author	--	1	--	--	--			1	**0.43**
Others	1	1	--	2	--	1		5	**2.17**
Total	**46**	**44**	**36**	**34**	**15**	**30**	**25**	**230**	
Degree of collaboration	**0.21**	**0.20**	**0.13**	**0.26**	**0.26**	**0.20**	**0.24**		

Length of articles

Table 4: Length of articles

Pages\Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
01—05	26	29	23	20	10	19	15	142
06—10	1	2	1	--	--		2	6
11—15	8	6	4	4	2	4		28
16—20	4	5	4	5	1	3	4	26
20—25	4	2	1	1	1	3	1	13
26—30	3	--	3	3	1		1	11
More	--	--	--	1	--	1	2	4
Total	**46**	**44**	**36**	**34**	**15**	30	25	**230**

Table 4 represents the length of articles in number of pages. Though the number of pages does not reflect the quality of journal, it serves as a guide for future contributors. It was found that maximum number of contributors i.e. 142 were in the page range of 1 to 5. Whereas 28 publications were published in the page range of 11-15. More number of publications is in the range of 1-5 as maximum categories of publication contributed to the journal were book reviews during the period of 2016-2022.

Designation wise distribution of contribution

Table 5 presents data of contributors as per their designation. It was found that maximum contributions to the journal were made by practioners like librarian, Director, Head, and Manager etc. It was found that 151 articles were contributed by the librarian. Followed by practioners, teaching faculty, students and scholars have also contributed to the journal.

Table 5: Designation wise contribution to the Journal

Designations	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
PhD	2	2	1	--	--	4	--	9
Professor	8	8	3	3	1	9	9	41
Librarian	23	31	29	28	15	16	9	151
IT	6	3	--	2	--			11
Director	2	2	2	1	--	2	7	16
Head	1	6	--	--	1	2	2	12
Student	1	--	--	--	--	3	--	4
Electronic Publisher-in-Residence	3	4	3	3	1		--	14
Independent Scholar	3	5	2	4	2	--	--	16
Manager	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Project Manager	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Archivist	--	1	--	1	--	--	--	2
Other	1	2	--	--	--	3	2	8
Not Declared	8	--	1	1	--	8	6	24
Total	**60**	**64**	**41**	**43**	**20**	**47**	**35**	**310**

Geographical distribution of articles

Table 6: Geographical Distribution of the Articles

Countries	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
USA	37	52	36	37	16	41	34	253
Canada	7	5	4	3	2	2		23
Australia	4	--	--	--	2	1		7
Jamaica	2	--	--	--	--			2
Portugal	1	--	--	--	--			1
Russia	3	--	--	--	--			3
Georgia	2	--	--	--	--			2
Belgium	1	--	--	--	--			1
Ireland	1	2	--	--	--			3
Pakistan	2	--	--	--	--			2

Table 6 shows geographical distribution of the articles. Total 17 countries have contributed to the journal during the year 2016- 2022. Table 6 represents top 10 countries. It was found that USA is most productive country as almost 253 contributors were belonging to USA, followed by Canada and Australia.

Conclusion

Bibliometric analysis of the Journal of Web Librarianship has revealed that number of papers contributed to the journal has varied from volume to volume. Total 230 articles were contributed during the study period from 2016 to 2022. Category wise analysis has revealed that maximum contributions made to the journal were in the form of book review followed by research articles. Articles contributed to the journal

are contributed by the single author and are in the page range of 1 to 5 with maximum contributions coming from USA.

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